



TRANSPORTATION NEWSLETTER

DATE: JUNE 2020

Vince Rogalski, Chairman Gunnison Valley TPR vrogal@montrose.net

Hwy 50 Work this Summer

Perhaps you seen the Hwy Signs making you aware of the work happening the Summer or read an article in your local newspaper about Hwy 50. I have supplied below an article from the May 28th Gunnison County Times for your info.

As for Little Blue Creek Canyon, it is my understanding that this project will go out for Bid this fall with construction beginning next Spring 2021.

Work begins on Hwy. 50

Chip sealing, other repairs to last four months

Times Staff Report

Beginning next Wednesday, June 1, the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) and contract partner United Companies will begin a chip seal project on US Hwy. 50. The project limits will begin at mile marker (mm) 116, east of Montrose, and will continue for 66 miles to mm 182, east of Gunnison. The project is expected to last approximately four months and has an anticipated completion date of September 2020. The cost of the project is estimated at \$3.7 million.

Crews will also remove the old epoxy striping and replace it with a temporary paint during construction. The chip seal does not adhere to the epoxy paint and to prevent future separation of the chip seal, the old epoxy is removed and temporary striping



Kate Gienapp

A sign on east Hwy. 50 near Jorgensen Park warns motorists that work will be performed beginning June 1.

is placed.

As part of CDOT's "Whole System — Whole Safety" initiative, this project will focus on a chip seal application and crack filling to protect and prolong the surface of the roadway. CDOT said in a news release that crews will also install rumble strips and new striping. The new surface will enhance safety for motorists by providing skid resistance and will prolong the life of the road-

way surface and reduce overall cracking. The new striping will offer better visibility for drivers while rumble strips will alert drivers if they are leaving the roadway.

The project will be in operation Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Motorists can expect single-lane, alternating traffic in work zones with 30 minute delays, and a 35 mph speed limit.

MMOF Funding

Resolution #TC 20-06-01s

Approve the use of the remaining \$4.1 million Senate Bill 18-001, Multimodal Options Fund dollars to create a Multimodal Options Fund Grant Program Approved by the Transportation Commission on June 4, 2020.

WHEREAS, COVID-19, and the corresponding need to use social distancing as a means of slowing the spread of the virus has made dramatic changes to the way in which we live, work, and travel in Colorado; and

WHEREAS, Coloradans must work together to protect health, while improving the economy, air quality, equity, and quality of life as we transition out of the Stay at Home and Safer at Home Executive Orders; and

WHEREAS, the Colorado Department of Transportation (“Department”) has an obligation to utilize available resources to help encourage safe, healthy active transportation that supports the State’s economic vitality; and

WHEREAS, the Department, along with other governments, businesses and residents has a role to play in enhancing quality of life by continuing to champion teleworking, health and safety for essential workers, and helping communities provide safe spaces for all to walk and bike; and

WHEREAS, the Department has \$4.1 million remaining in the Senate Bill 18-001 Multimodal Options Fund; and

WHEREAS, these funds, through grants of varying sizes, could bolster the ability of local communities to improve the built environment to facilitate safe and healthy active transportation and outdoor dining and business; and

WHEREAS, the Department will work with other state agencies and in collaboration with the state’s metropolitan planning organizations, transportation planning regions, and the Regional Air Quality Council to promote the grants and share best practices and other materials throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, upon approval of the Transportation Commission, the Department will announce the grant program and begin soliciting applications on a rolling basis to allow for quick implementation.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, after review and consideration of the proposed multimodal grant program, the Commission approves the use of \$4.1 million from the Senate Bill 18-001 Multimodal Options Fund to create the Multimodal Options Fund Grant Program, to be administered by the Department and made to local governments throughout the state.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, any lane reduction on a state highway would be temporary with review within six months from the start of the lane reduction by the Department.

Herman Stockinger, Secretary Date Transportation Commission of Colorado

June 4, 2020

The Resolution above is a result of the discussion of the info below at a Special Meeting of the Transportation Commission on June 4,2020. This funding will be for multi-modal improvements such as opening certain streets to multimodal traffic and allowing for use of outdoor space adjacent to small businesses. These small-scale grants are intended to support creative uses of public infrastructure in both cities and small towns across the state for low-cost, “quick win” activities.

I think it's fair to say that the majority of members supported this measure although many details need to be finalized. The intent of this notice is to make local communities aware that this funding may become available so that they can start thinking about projects and prepare for applications.

TO: THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
FROM: SHOSHANA LEW, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
DATE: JUNE 1, 2020
SUBJECT: MULTIMODAL OPTIONS FUND GRANT PROPOSAL

Purpose

COVID-19 has challenged our assumptions about mobility in unprecedented ways. As Coloradans prepare for a “new normal” that may need to be sustained for a longer period of time, we must think creatively about how to provide healthy and safe environments in which we can traverse public space through a variety of modes. In Colorado, as elsewhere around the world, communities are taking initiative to increase opportunities for social distancing through a variety of active transportation approaches – such as opening certain streets to multimodal traffic to allow for a six-foot distance between pedestrians, and allowing for use of outdoor space adjacent to small businesses. During this trying time, CDOT has a unique opportunity to utilize available resources to help communities adapt through supporting healthy and active transportation options. To that end, staff recommends approval to utilize the remaining \$4.1M multimodal options funds from Senate Bill 1 to support communities across Colorado in implementing active transportation options on an accelerated basis, and in a manner that responds to current public health needs.

Action

Staff recommends approval to utilize \$4.1M of the state portion of SB 1 multimodal options fund for this grant program.

Background

Coloradans must work together to protect health and improve the economy, air quality, equity, and quality of life as we come out of the Stay at Home and Safer at Home Orders and seek to prevent recurrences for the next year or more while vaccines or other solutions are being developed. One important aspect of this transition is making sure that there are healthy and safe ways for Coloradans to traverse and enjoy their communities while maintaining social distance in the open air. To that end, CDOT proposes to utilize the balance of the multimodal options fund to allow for small-scale grants that support creative uses of public infrastructure in both cities and small towns across the state. Examples of lowcost, “quick win” activities already being deployed include

- The City of Denver has selected some streets for more bike and pedestrian access, allowing for social distancing
- Carbondale is converting a block of Main Street to one-way and dedicating part of the street to outdoor dining.
- The City of Littleton, with support from the Littleton Business Chamber and the Historic Downtown Littleton Merchants Association, will be closing Main Street to traffic on weekends after 95% of 2,218 respondents who participated in an online survey said they are interested in such a program to help restaurants obtain additional outdoor seating and generate foot traffic for other downtown retailers.
- Seattle’s “Stay Healthy Streets” are encouraging safe biking across 20 streets in Seattle

-Oakland's "Slow Streets" are using barricades, signage and other tools to create more space for walking, biking, and recreating, and asking any cars to use these streets only when necessary and move at slow, cautious speeds

CDOT will work to ensure that low-income and vulnerable communities are included through this program, as they are some of the hardest-hit by the impacts of COVID-19, and in some cases face adverse air quality conditions that active transportation solutions can help to improve. This will include conducting community outreach to ensure that there is awareness of the program, as well as technical assistance to help disadvantaged communities develop applications that could qualify for the program.

CDOT is coordinating with other state agencies on the announcement and promotion of this program, including potential additional resources and programs, and will collaborate with leaders in this space, such as DRCOG, TMAs, and the RAQC to ensure that best practices and materials are shared throughout the state.

Next Steps

Pending Transportation Commission approval, CDOT will announce this program and begin soliciting applications on a rolling basis to allow for quick implementation.

CDOT will require data reporting and evaluation of projects to determine their impact on communities and which tools are most effective. Successful pilots could be highlighted by the Governor and possibly eligible for additional funding to make changes more long-lasting.

An email below sent out by Michelle Haynes gives a link:

The email below provides information on a CDOT funding opportunity for "*creative modifications to state roadways or other public spaces as a way of promoting public health during the COVID emergency, through socially-distant active transportation and economic development opportunities*" and a link to the website for an application.

Per the application guidelines, grants are available up to \$50,000 with a minimum 10% match.

We hope you will be able to utilize this unique funding opportunity.

CDOT offering \$4 million in Grants to promote Public Health and Economic Activity

DENVER - Communities wanting to make creative modifications to state roadways or other public spaces as a way of promoting public health during the COVID emergency, through socially-distant active transportation and economic development opportunities, can now apply for a grant from the Colorado Department of Transportation. The initiative is supporting the Can Do Community Challenge, as part of the Can Do Colorado campaign.

Revitalizing Main Streets is offering small-scale grants for low-cost, immediate actions to help safely improve the economy and enhance healthy activities in cities and towns across Colorado. This could include changes like temporarily reducing traffic in a downtown area or providing for more bicycle and pedestrian access along the state highway system to ensure that Coloradans are able to enjoy vibrant communities while maintaining social distancing.

"Through this program, we will partner with local governments across Colorado to support them as they work to safely reopen sectors of our economy as well as improve the health and vitality of communities across the state," said CDOT Executive Director Shoshana Lew. "Since many of

our roads are part of the ‘Main Street’ environment through towns and cities, this is an opportunity for us to do our part for healthy communities and a healthy economy.”

CDOT is providing a total of \$4.1 million in grants for its Revitalizing Main Streets program. The grant application is now available at: <https://www.codot.gov/programs/community-challenge/about>.

For projects on the state’s right-of-way, temporary special use permits will be required, including safety plans that address traffic flow for vehicles, bike, pedestrians, freight/delivery and detour plans. More information on these permits can be found here: <https://www.codot.gov/business/permits/utilitiesspecialuse/online-permit-application>.

More information about the Can Do Colorado campaign is at: www.CanDoColorado.org.

Multimodal Options Fund Update – Rebecca White (DTD) and Jeffrey Sudmeier (CFO)

a) Funding and application announcements coming next week for the Revitalizing Main Streets Program, which will have a rolling application period designed to get funds out the door quickly. **(See above)**

b) The \$1M Transportation Services legislative transfer will support 5310 senior transit agencies left out of the CARES Act grants; money to be distributed based on operating budgets; DTR will return in July with more details.

c) MMOF Local projects:

i) A total of 106 projects selected, including 19 transit, 68 Bike/Ped construction, and 19 multimodal studies;

ii) \$2.4M remaining to be programmed;

iii) Approximately 21 IGAs and award contracts either underway or executed currently;

iv) CDOT is utilizing the \$4M admin set-aside to ensure we have the resources and staff needed to manage the awards and projects, including additional staff for contracting;

v) Contracts can be delivered to sponsors in under a month once they’ve provided project scope and budget

STAC Discussion:

Questions arose as to whether the MMOF funding expiration may be extended due to the COVID impacts. Staff indicated that if it becomes clear that is needed as we draw closer to expiration dates, CDOT will return to the legislature with a request and justification for an extension.

Gardner Announces \$60.7 Million Grant for I-70 Vail Pass Project

Gardner advocated for this funding to bolster safety and reduce closures

Washington, D.C. – U.S. Senator Cory Gardner (R-CO), a member of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, announced today the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) will receive a \$60.7 million Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) to make considerable improvements to I-70 between mile post 180 and 190 in Eagle County. Gardner [pushed the DOT](#) to make this project a priority earlier this year.

“Interstate 70 is an important economic driver in our state, but I’ve heard from countless Coloradans who are frustrated with congestion, unsafe driving conditions, and frequent closures due to weather events,” **said Senator Gardner.** “That’s why I advocated for this funding to improve I-70 and am proud to have helped secure this grant of more than \$60 million to improve the infrastructure that millions of Coloradans rely on. This funding will help facilitate improvements aimed at reducing the number of road closures and delays, making commutes more reliable and greatly improving the quality of life for the Western Slope.”

According to the DOT, the funding will be used for constructing an eastbound auxiliary lane, reconstructing the eastbound bridge over Polk Creek, shoulder widening, westbound curve modifications, reconstruction of a truck ramp, dynamic message signs, a variable speed limit system, and automated anti-icing technologies.

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Transportation TPR Meeting
NEXT MEETING NOTICE TPR meeting July 30, 2020
Region 10 at 10am to Noon
Possible
Video Conference Only