



# TRANSPORTATION NEWSLETTER

**DATE: AUGUST 2021**

**Vince Rogalski, Chairman**

**Gunnison Valley TPR**

**[vrogal@montrose.net](mailto:vrogal@montrose.net)**

**If you haven't seen it in you local Newspaper or received it by email, here is an update on US 50 Little Blue Creek Canyon.**



**U.S. Department of Transportation  
Federal Highway Administration**

## **US 50 LITTLE BLUE CREEK CANYON IMPROVEMENTS**

---

### **PROJECT UPDATE | TRAVEL ADVISORY:**

#### **US 50 Little Blue Creek Canyon OPEN to two-way traffic through August 31**

**MONTROSE & GUNNISON COUNTIES** – Road closures associated with construction on the US 50 Little Blue Creek Canyon 4-mile critical safety improvement project located between Montrose and Gunnison (Mile Points 123 -127) will remain OPEN to two-way traffic through Tuesday, August 31. Regularly scheduled road closures will begin on September 1.

"This decision was made due to the ongoing coordination with the Colorado Department of Transportation and the most recent closures in the Glenwood Canyon," said Kathleen Wanatowicz, Public Information Manager for the Little Blue Creek Canyon project. "At this time, the project team is working with the Department of Transportation and CDOT to determine how the delay in the closures will affect the construction schedule in the future."

#### **Labor Day Weekend**

US 50 will be OPEN to two-way traffic beginning Friday, September 3 at NOON through the Labor Day weekend. Regularly scheduled roadway impacts begin Tuesday at 8:30 AM on September 7.

## **TRAFFIC & RECREATION IMPACTS [ Beginning after Labor Day Weekend]**

Motorists should prepare for long delays during the opening roadway windows and plan to take detour routes. Estimated delay times during roadway opening windows are between 30 minutes to one hour.

Travel impacts for motorists illustrated in the table below will be consistent throughout the project's first year. Motorists should plan for single lane closures, full roadway closures, reduced speed limits, and narrow roads. Significant delays are anticipated. If there is an emergency closure of Interstate 70, full closures on this project will be reduced.

US 50 will be open to two-way traffic with no delays from Friday at 5:30 PM – Monday at 8:30 AM.

Full roadway closures will be Monday – Friday 8:30 AM – 12:30 PM and 1:30 PM – 5:30 PM. Full roadway closures will occur through the night Monday – Thursday 7:30 PM – 6:30 AM. Plan your travel around the opening windows and be prepared to queue at designated areas.

### **Detour options during nighttime closures:**

When US 50 is closed, local passenger vehicles and small trucks can use Colorado Highway 92 as a local alternate route. All other trucks and recreation vehicles over 70 feet in length will need to use I-70 to the north, US 160 to the south, or wait for one of the planned openings. Please allow additional time due to the restricted open times and single-lane operations.

Vehicles carrying hazardous materials will need to use I-70 to the north, US 160 to the south, or wait for a planned opening. Please allow additional time due to the restricted open times and single-lane operations.

### **Local Detour:**

The CO 92 detour is for local traffic only and trucks less than 70' in length. No hazardous materials will be permitted on the detour.

## **PROJECT FUNDING AND PARTNERS**

American Civil Constructors West Coast (ACC) continues to work in partnership with the Federal Highway Administration, Central Federal Lands Highway Division (FHWA-CFLHD), and the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) to minimize impacts on local communities as much as possible. The US 50 Little Blue Creek Canyon improvement project is the result of a partnership with the FHWA-CFLHD and CDOT. Funding for the \$40 million project is provided by a \$20 million grant from the Colorado Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP), with CDOT providing the matching \$20 million. The project is also in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), Grand Mesa Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests, US Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and the National Park Service (NPS). Work also includes guardrail replacement, additional rockfall catchment area, new signage, and striping.

Travelers are urged to "know before you go." Gather information about weather forecasts and anticipated travel impacts, and current road conditions prior to hitting the road. CDOT resources include:

- Road conditions and travel information: [www.COtrip.org](http://www.COtrip.org)

- Sign up for project or travel alerts: [bit.ly/COalerts](https://bit.ly/COalerts)
- See scheduled lane closures: [codot.gov/travel/scheduled-lane-closures.html](https://codot.gov/travel/scheduled-lane-closures.html)
- Connect with us on social media: Twitter [@coloradodot](https://twitter.com/coloradodot) and Facebook [facebook.com/coloradodot](https://facebook.com/coloradodot)

---

## **While this will effect the 5 MPO's and CDOT more directly, it is a Statewide Rulemaking Process.**

### **Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for Rules Governing Statewide Transportation Planning Processes and Transportation Planning Regions, 2 CCR 601-22**

**CDOT Rules** <[cdot\\_rules@state.co.us](mailto:cdot_rules@state.co.us)>

Date: 08/16/2021 14:04

To: Natalie Lutz - CDOT <[natalie.lutz@state.co.us](mailto:natalie.lutz@state.co.us)>

Hello Stakeholder:

This email serves as notification that the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) on behalf of the Transportation Commission of Colorado (Commission) filed a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking with the Colorado Secretary of State to consider revisions to the rules governing the statewide transportation planning process and transportation planning regions, 2 CCR 601-22.

The Commission proposes to establish greenhouse gas (GHG) pollution reduction planning levels for transportation that will improve air quality, reduce smog, and provide more sustainable options for travelers across Colorado. I have attached the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and a PDF copy of the proposed rule revisions for your review. You can also learn more about the Pollution Reduction Planning Standards through the attached Press Release and Fact Sheet.

The Commission plans to hold eight (8) hearings across the State as listed in the attached Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to hear testimony and receive comments. The public hearings will be conducted in a hybrid format, both in-person and virtually. If you plan to attend any of the scheduled hearings virtually, please register through the registration links provided either on the attached Notice of Proposed Rulemaking or CDOT's website at <https://www.codot.gov/business/rules/proposed-rules.html> so we can provide instructions on how you can join the hearings of your choice virtually and provide testimony if you wish.

**Please submit all written comments to [dot\\_rules@state.co.us](mailto:dot_rules@state.co.us) on or before 5:00 p.m. on October 15, 2021.** All comments received from stakeholders will be posted on [CDOT's Rulemaking Web Page](#) and will be available for review during the public comment period. We will redact the following information for data privacy from the submissions prior to posting online: first and last names, contact information, including business and home addresses, email addresses, and telephone numbers.

Please feel free to contact me at [dot\\_rules@state.co.us](mailto:dot_rules@state.co.us) if you have any questions or would like to be removed from our stakeholder list.

Thank you for participating in the rulemaking process.

Thanks,  
Natalie

Publication of the draft standard begins a 60-day public review period. During this time, CDOT will host public hearings in Grand Junction, Glenwood Springs, Fort Collins, the Denver metropolitan area, Colorado Springs, Durango and Limon. The hearings will have a virtual option so that any interested stakeholders can still participate without attending in person.

## **The Revitalizing Main Streets**

### **Awarded Projects**

**16 Projects will be awarded in Round 1:**

- City of Aurora: Northwest Aurora Intersection Pedestrian Safety Enhancement (\$1,600,000)
- Town of Avon: US6 Multimodal Safety and Mobility Improvements (\$2,000,000)
- Town of Berthoud: North Berthoud Parkway Trail Gap Closure (\$500,000)
- City of Colorado Springs: Tejon Street Improvements - Phase 1 (\$1,600,000)
- Colorado State University: Center Bikeway/Mountain Loop Trail Separation and Safety Enhancement (\$581,735.64)
- City of Craig: Yampa Street Pedestrian Enhancements (\$480,000)
- **City of Delta: Hillside Street Rebuild Adding Multimodal Corridor (\$2,000,000)**
- City of Edgewater: 25th Ave Streetscape Project (\$841,000)
- City of Fort Collins: Laporte Ave Improvements (\$1,437,500)
- City of Greeley: 16th Street Corridor Enhancement (\$2,000,000)
- Town of Lyons: US 36 Broadway and Multimodal Improvements in Lyons (\$243,000)
- **City of Montrose: West Main Complete Streets (\$2,000,000)**
- City of Pueblo: Pueblo Downtown Multimodal Safety Improvements Project (\$2,000,000)
- Roaring Fork Transportation Authority: 27th & SH82 Pedestrian Underpass (\$1,000,000)
- City of Salida: Oak Street Corridor, Gateway to Downtown Salida (\$2,000,000)
- City of Wheat Ridge: Wadsworth Pedestrian and Streetscape: Phase 1 - Options #2 and #3 (\$1,360,000)

**72 Applications were submitted; totaling \$95M in requested funding**

- Represented large and small communities across Colorado.
- The committee was impressed with the level of interest, number of submitted applications, and overall quality of applications that were received.
- Staff believes that many additional projects merit further consideration for future funding.

**SB 260 allocates additional funding for the RMS program. Using some of those funds now, CDOT can deliver much-needed projects across Colorado without burdening local jurisdictions with an additional call for projects.**

- **Release a NOFO in August 2021 for additional round of funding.**
- **Applications due in September 2021; allow resubmittal of Round 1 application after reviewing the new NOFO and new applications will also be accepted.**

## **Transportation TPR Meeting**

**NEXT MEETING NOTICE TPR meeting September 30, 2021**

**Region 10 at 10am to Noon**