



TRANSPORTATION NEWSLETTER

DATE: OCTOBER 2024

Vince Rogalski, Chairman

Gunnison Valley TPR

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GOOD NEWS WEEKLY REPORT

US 50 Emergency Bridge Project Update Oct. 14-18

US 50 Middle and Lake Fork Bridges open to all vehicles on Wednesday, Oct. 16. Pilot car operations continues

- The Colorado Department of Transportation is pleased to announce significant progress on major structural repairs on the US 50 Middle Bridge. This will allow the bridge to open in a single lane configuration to all legal loads Wednesday, Oct. 16, 24 hours a day, seven days a week with pilot operations.
- Final construction activities will continue during overnight hours, from 11:30 p.m. to 6 a.m., and late-night travelers can expect longer wait times, similar to what they have been encountering at the Lake Fork Bridge. The remaining construction activity will prepare the bridge for normal, two-way traffic, with both lanes open, ahead of winter.
- Traffic over the Middle Bridge will continue to be piloted in one direction at a time, and heavier vehicles - including semi trucks, charter buses and class A motorhomes - will be released one at a time over the bridge while the temporary work deck is removed from below the structure. Anyone traveling over the Middle Bridge should continue to plan for delays.
- Opening the bridge to all vehicles will bring an end to pilot car operations on County Road 26. This road will remain open for travel and can continue to be used as a local alternate route as long as weather conditions allow.

Vehicles approved for crossing over the US 50 Middle Bridge:

- Passenger vehicles
 - Pickup trucks (including pickups with in-bed camper tops)
 - Vans
 - All Class A motorhomes
 - Larger Class C motorhomes
 - Semi-Trucks
 - Commercial Buses
 - Pickup trucks with a gooseneck trailer or a 5th-wheel camper or trailer
 - Motorcycles
 - Emergency vehicles, ambulances and fire trucks
 - School buses
 - ¾ ton or smaller pickups with bumper pull trailers (boats, campers, side-by-sides)
 - Compact Class C motorhomes
 - Small single rear axle box trucks
 - Tow trucks
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US 50 Lake Fork Bridge Update

Traffic on the US 50 Lake Fork Bridge continues to be led by pilot vehicles to keep speeds low while construction crews work on temporary scaffolding decks under the bridge.

Crews will be conducting repair work on the bridge overnight. Motorists should expect longer wait times to cross the bridge during this time frame.

- The US 50 Lake Fork Bridge is open to all legal loads.

STAC ELECTION RESULTS

Date/Time: Thursday, October 3, 2024; 8:30 a.m.- 11:30 p.m.

STAC Election of Officers (Action Item)- Darius Pakbaz, CDOT Division of Transportation Development

- Gary Beedy (Eastern TPR) was elected as STAC Chair.

- Holly Williams (PPACG) was elected as STAC vice chair.
- Heather Sloop resigned from STAC and will resign from the Northwest TPR Regional Planning Commission as Chair.
- STAC celebrated Vince Rogalski's 20 years serving as STAC chair. Vince will continue to serve on the STAC representing Gunnison Valley TPR

Planning update from STAC

2050 Statewide Plan Update (Informational Update)

Jeff Sudmeier, Chief Financial Officer

- STAC members were concerned about the target of 10% of strategic funds going towards multimodal and transit improvements vs. highway capacity improvements. Some members felt this was especially unrealistic for rural communities and growing areas of the state.
- STAC members were concerned about the increase in funds going to Enterprises and the diminishing funds for the 10-year Plan projects and how this might affect their ability to effectively plan and prioritize their project lists.
- STAC members wanted more transparency with the decision making processes within CDOT enterprises, and wanted more opportunities for participation and input on their decision making in terms of how funds are invested.
- STAC members generally wanted to see as much fund expenditure flexibility as possible, and were concerned with the restricted funding uses of the Colorado Enterprises established.

Transportation TPR Meeting

Planning meeting #2

November 14, 2024

1:30 to 4:00pm

