

**Transportation Commission of Colorado  
Safety Committee Meeting Agenda  
June 18, 2015 @ TBD  
4201 East Arkansas Avenue; Auditorium  
Denver, Colorado**

**Darrell Lingk  
Director,  
Office of Transportation Safety**

**Herman Stockinger  
Secretary**

**Kathy Connell, Chair  
District 6, Steamboat Springs**

**Steve Hofmeister  
District 11, Haxtun**

**Vacant  
District 4**

**Sidny Zink,  
District 8, Durango**

**THE AGENDA MAY BE ALTERED AT THE CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETION**

- 1. Call to Order and Roll Call**
- 2. Discuss & Act on Safety Committee Minutes of March 19, 2015**
- 3. Loss History (Excellence In Safety Update) – 5 minutes**
- 4. Public Communications for Office of Transportation Safety– 5 minutes**
- 5. Geo Hazard Program – Ty Ortiz - 10 minutes**
- 7. Adjournment**



## COLORADO Transportation Commission

4201 East Arkansas Avenue, Room270  
Denver, CO 80222-3406

**DATE:** June 18, 2015  
**TO:** Transportation Commission  
**FROM:** Darrell Lingk, Director, Office of Transportation Safety and Risk Management  
**SUBJECT:** Safety Committee Meeting

### Purpose

Update the Safety Committee on our Loss History (Excellence In Safety Process), Public Communications for Office of Transportation Safety, and CDOT's GeoHazards Program.

### Action

Information only

### Background

Not Applicable

### Details

The Loss History Chart is intended to provide an overview of CDOT's workers compensation loss history for CDOT employees and the impact the "Excellence In Safety" process is having in reducing the frequency of on the job injuries.

The Public Communications presentation will review the variety of marketing and communications tactics used by CDOT to educate the public on traffic safety issues, including grassroots community outreach, earned media and paid advertising. These efforts are targeted to specific, at-risk audiences in ways that are relevant to them. A representative from CDOT's Office of Communications will provide a brief update on our current efforts, including impaired driving, drugged driving, seat belts, and motorcycle safety.

The Geohazards program will review their current projects and emergency responses.

### Key Benefits (if applicable)

Not Applicable

### Options and Recommendations (if applicable)

Not Applicable

### Next Steps (if applicable)

Not Applicable

### Attachments



TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION OF COLORADO  
SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
March 19th, 2015

Chairperson Kathy Connell called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. on Thursday March 19th, 2015 in the auditorium of the headquarters building at 4201 East Arkansas Avenue, Denver, Colorado.

PRESENT WERE: Commissioner Kathy Connell, District 6  
Commissioner Sidny Zink, District 8  
Commissioner Steven Hofmeister, District 11

ALSO PRESENT: Commissioner Shannon Gifford, District 1  
Commissioner Kathy Gilliland, District 5  
Commissioner Douglas Aden, District 7  
Commissioner Bill Thiebaut, District 10  
Darrell Lingk, Director of OTS  
Shailen Bhatt, Executive Director  
Scot Cuthbertson, Chief Operating Officer  
Herman Stockinger, Director, Government Relations  
Josh Laipply, Chief Engineer  
Heidi Humphreys, Director, Admin. & Human Resources  
Kyle Lester, Director of Highway Maintenance  
Tony DeVito, Regional Transportation Director, Region 1  
Karen Rowe, Regional Transportation Director, Region 2  
Kerrie Neet, Regional Transportation Director, Region 5

AND: Other CDOT & State Staff

One audiotape and supporting documentation is filed in the Transportation Commission office.

**December 18th, 2014 Transportation Commission of Colorado Safety Committee Meeting Minutes**

Commissioner Connell asked if there were any comments on the December Safety Committee meeting minutes. There were none and the minutes were approved.

**Loss History (Excellence in Safety Update)**

Office of Transportation Safety Director Darrell Lingk gave a 5 minute overview on the loss history results for CDOT employees.

Darrell presented 2 Loss History charts showing where CDOT stands regarding Worker's Compensation claims from the beginning of the fiscal year July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014 through February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Happy to report we are seeing significant

momentum in decreasing our on the job injuries. We are showing a 17% decrease in Worker's Compensation Claims and a 31% decrease in Lost Time Claims. When last reported in December, we were at 13% and 17% respectively. The Excellence in Safety program implemented in 2013 is starting to take hold and we are really starting to see progress with the results.

Commissioner Connell: The results are terrific.

Darrell added that there is no information included at this time about auto liability claims. He is currently conducting a detailed analysis and will present those results along with solutions that we have come up with to address them at the next Safety Commission meeting.

Commissioner Connell asks if there are any questions or comments and there were none.

### **Highway Fatality/Injury Update**

CDOT State Traffic Engineer Charles Meyer gives a 5 minute update on Crash and Fatality data.

Charles thanked the committee. He then presented a monthly report for 02/28/2015 showing that we are currently at a fatality rate 27% higher than the same time frame for the previous year. Analysis is being conducted but there is nothing jumping out as a trend at this time so he and his team continue to analyze the reasons for the rise in fatal crashes. Charles will also look at emphasis areas (contributing factors) like impaired driving, seatbelt use etc. We missed our target goal in 2014 of 476 fatalities by 1% – reducing the number by 12 so this year's target is 12 less than the 464 that is indicated in the chart. Question is how do we get there? The answer is through concerted efforts working with driver's education and through the adoption of a plan to work with our safety partners that encourages safety in the driving community. Charles then went on to speak about the, "Moving Towards Zero Deaths" campaign, no texting laws, and refining engineering programs so they are data driven and based on criteria that supports these efforts.

Commissioner Connell asked if there are any further questions.

Commissioner Connell: Are there any animal crossing related deaths and are we tracking that?

Charles: Yes and we are tracking and analyzing those as well.

Commissioner Connell: Are we analyzing older driver fatalities?

Charles: Yes – that is a particular emphasis area as it was identified as a concern in Colorado. Maile Gray of Drive Smart Colorado met with the Governor about our efforts in this area and a focus group has been created.

### **CDOT Rock Fall/Geohazards Report**

Ty Ortiz gave a 5 minute update on CDOT’s Geohazards Program. Slides were provided.

Ty presented highlights on what the Geohazards program is doing. He presented photos of Hwy 24 Tennessee Pass and a slope failure from December that has more work to be done. It is a very difficult area to access – you cannot be dropped in there by helicopter, it is a tough climb and it is very difficult to get equipment up there. The entire area has a potential for slide removal – we are going to start doing some remote sensing and photography there. If you see us making a “panic” recommendation to keep Hwy 24 closed for a little bit this would most likely be the reason.

Ty indicated that he is going to come up with a performance measure for measuring Geohazards and it is: Risk to Mobility, Risk to Safety, and Risk to Maintenance. We have given each Geohazard site a rating of A,B,C,D, E & F. That way – we can approach the Commission with a descriptor and say we would like to get a site or a corridor from an E to a D for example – explain how we intend to accomplish that and request the appropriate funding to do so. One more thing – now that we have more fences, walls and more of these devices that are designed to contain certain areas we are now starting to put a program together to inspect these locations regularly. Wolf Creek pass was given as an example – a task order is already in place.

Commissioner Connell asked if there are any questions.

Commissioner Connell: I was coming down at an unusual time of day on Hwy 9 near Green Mountain Reservoir - rocks were coming down. Is this something that you want myself or the public to report?

Ty: This can be normal for that area and time of year. We are not in a place right now to take in public inquiry but we might work towards that in the future. USGS can give data on this – you can find this on Google “Did you feel it?” for reporting earthquakes and we would like to have something similar. It would be interesting data to collect – as we know small Rockfall definitely can indicate a larger problem.

### **Other Matters and Adjournment**

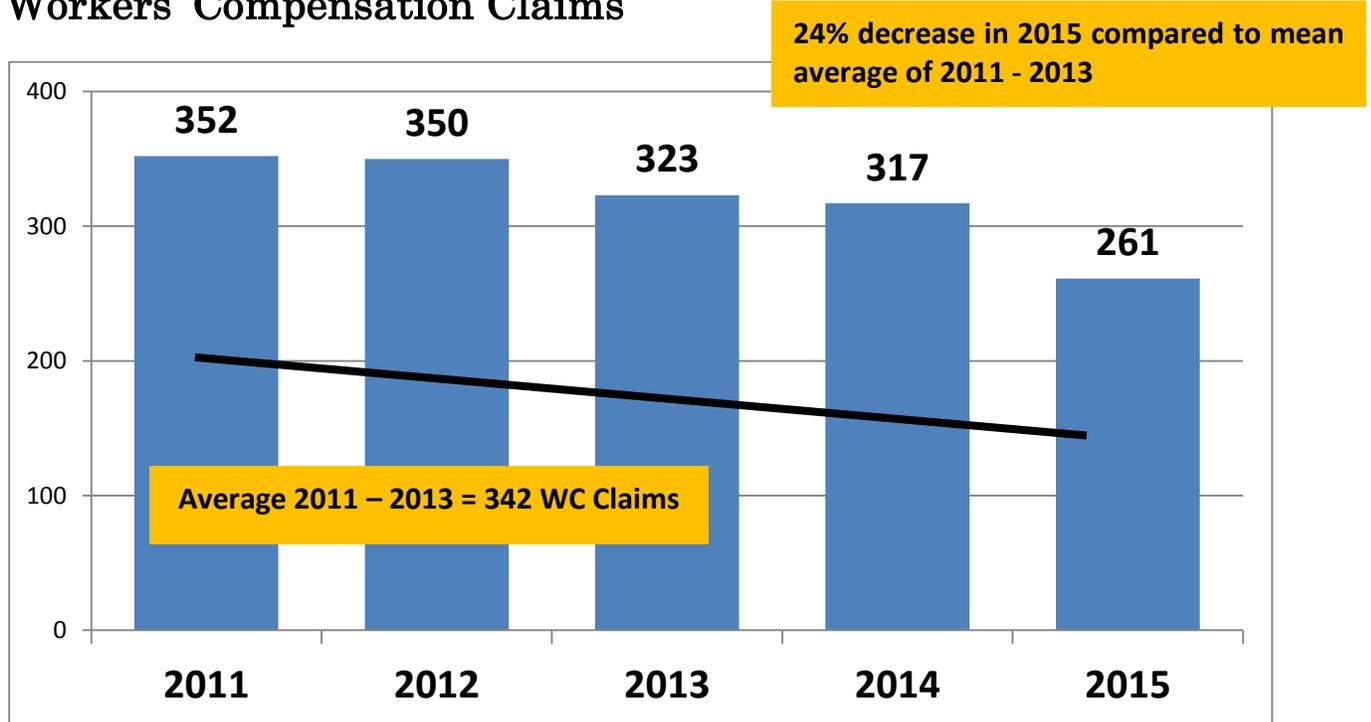
And there being no further matters to discuss, Chairperson Connell adjourned the meeting at 9:20 a.m. on Thursday, March 19th, 2015.

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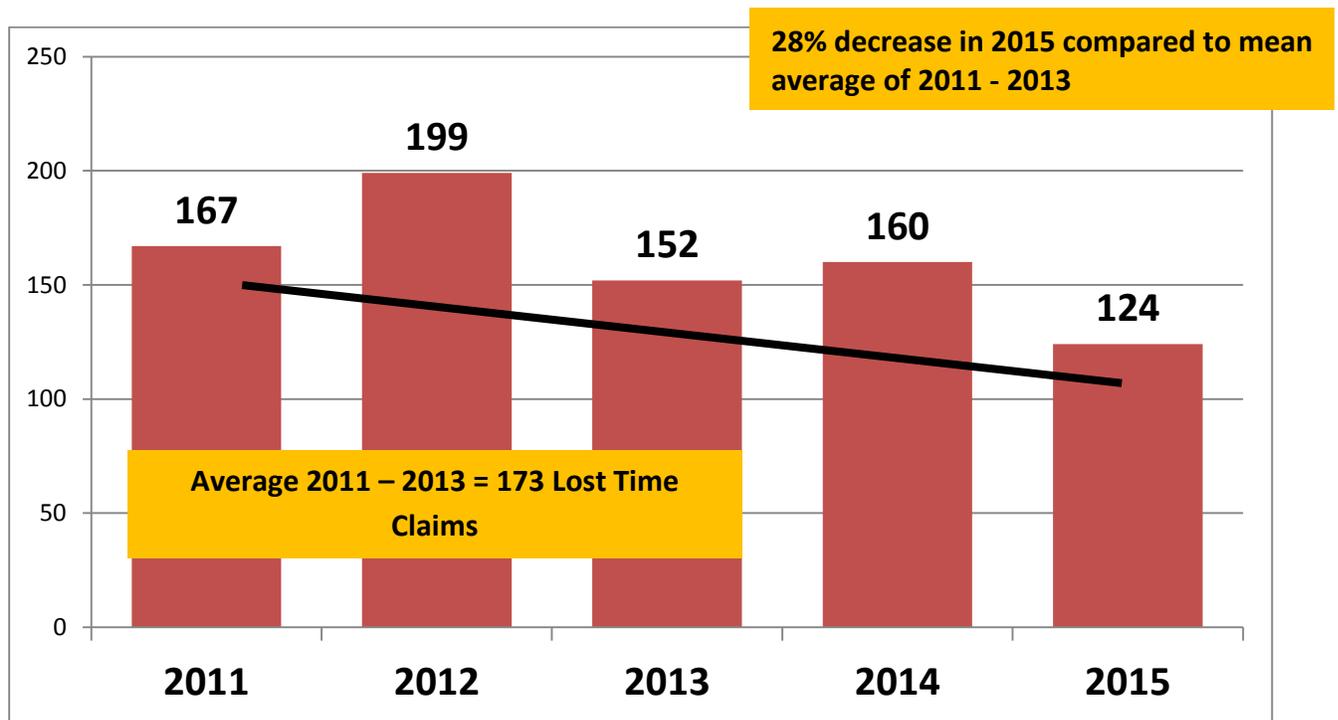
**Herman Stockinger, Secretary**  
**Transportation Commission of Colorado**

## Loss History Results July 1 - June 30

### Workers' Compensation Claims



### Workers' Compensation Lost Time Claims



\*All Claims valued as of July 1, 2015. Number is subject to change due to late reporting. Each bar represents the number of claims filed during the same time frame from 07/01 to 6/30 for each year represented.

### **Current Projects**

- R1 – US 6 Clear Creek Canyon Corridor – *No change from last quarter. Ongoing construction with feasibility and design for second phase in progress.*
- R2 – I 25 Raton Pass Corridor – *Project awarded to Midwest Rockfall of Brighton, CO. Construction expected to begin this spring. Design for second phase in progress.*
- R3 – I 70 Glenwood Canyon – *Work incorporated into the advertisement of a scheduled project in the canyon. Construction is underway and the updated rockfall fences is being installed by Advanced Shoring and Underpinnin of Utah.*
- R3 – SH 133 Paonia Reservoir – *Project awarded to TK Construction of Grand Junction, CO. Construction is underway.*
- R5 – US 550 Ridgeway – *Project awarded to Rock Solid Solutions of Palisade, CO. Construction is underway.*

### **Unmanned Aerial System**

In the fall of 2014 CDOT's "Low Altitude Large Scale" aerial reconnaissance work was put on hold pending the issuance of a Certificate of Authorization (COA) from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). On May 11, 2015 the FAA issued a COA to CDOT. The COA is effective until May 10, 2017 by which time a renewal request needs to be submitted. The COA is specific to areas mapped in the application, which focus on Geohazard Program needs. At the time the application was made, the Geohazards Program was the department's greatest user of UAS and as such it was thought that the initial COA application should be specific to geohazard needs.

### **Geohazard Response Highlights**

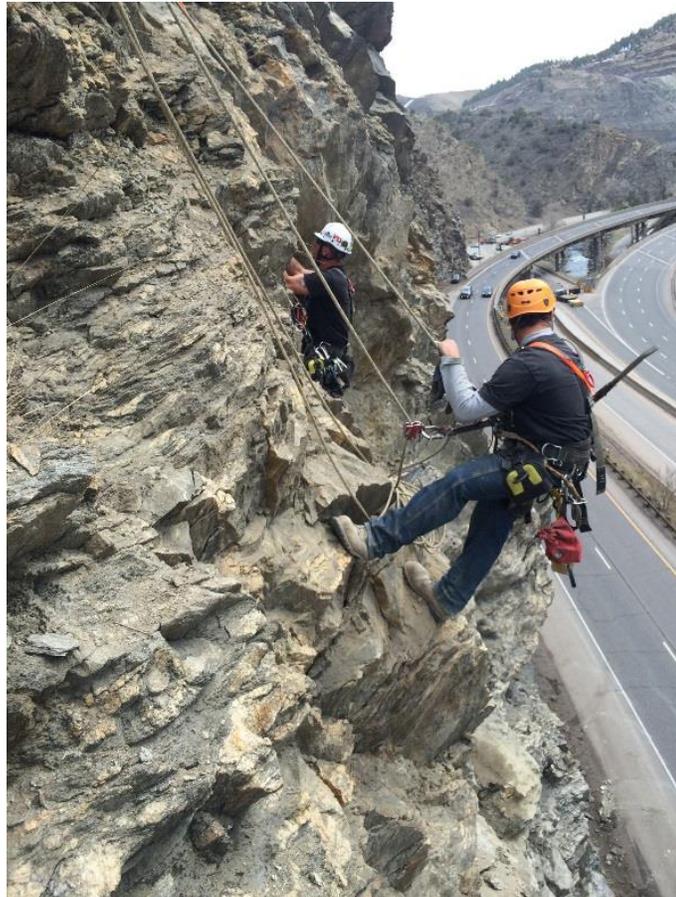
The Geohazards Program continues to work with Region personnel on several projects ranging from landslide investigation and design to embankment failure evaluation. With above average spring rain there has been an increase in the need to respond to geohazards. In addition to several rockfall incidents throughout the state there have been landslide and embankment failures that have been cause of concern to Region Engineering and Maintenance personnel. Of recent concern are rockfall on US 50 through Big Horn Sheep Canyon, US 6 Clear Creek Canyon, SH 74 between Morrison and Evergreen and US 24 through Ute Canyon. A recent landslide on US 285 near Tiny Town and an embankment/landslide failure on SH 13 near Rifle have been of significant concern as they have the potential to shut down the highway if left unattended. Others include a landslide on SH 9 Hoosier Pass and emergency rockfall scaling work on I-70 near the Twin Tunnels.

The following are photos of recent geohazards responded to on an emergency basis for safety and mobility purposes.

I-70 near Twin Tunnels

On April 17 a rockfall incident left residual rock and the potential for additional rockfall on the rock slope above I-70 mp 244 near the Twin Tunnels. Removing the residual material was determined to be in the best interest of public safety and on May 20 traffic control was put in place to close the interstate intermittently while rock scaling to remove the residual material could take place.

It should be noted that a CDOT employee who lives in the area was struck by a small rock while driving through the site after the failure occurred. The employee was not seriously injured,



US 285 near Tiny Town

On May 10, 2015 Region 1 Maintenance observed a mass of soil and rock separated from a slope face along US 285 near Tiny Town. After taking a closer look at the area they found the rock and soil mass observed from the highway was part of a larger landslide threatening US 285. The most efficient method of mitigation was to remove the separated mass. To monitor the slide between the time of the incident and the time the mitigation could begin, tell tales were installed on the slope to measure daily movement. Mitigation began on May 18, 2015.

