

CDOT/CCA Partnering Mission Statement

CDOT and CCA are committed to advancing a culture of collaboration that focuses on “project first” solutions wherever possible. This will be achieved through a partnering strategy designed to foster mutual professional trust.

This strategy consists of 3 prongs:

- **Partnering Training**
 - *Mutual understanding will build trust.*
 - *Mutual understanding will promote empathy.*
 - *Both sides will look for opportunities to help partner.*
 - *Both sides will try to avoid the unnecessary creation or aggravation of problems for partner.*
- **Partnering on Projects**
 - *Executive Partnering*
 - *Executives will periodically check in to make sure things are running smoothly, and to ensure that issues aren't lingering and festering.*
 - *If things go off track, executives are committed to stepping in.*
 - *Vertical partnering*
 - *Mitigate risk to field personnel for making reasonable decisions, including consultants.*
 - *Mitigate risk to field personnel for asking supervisors for help/advice.*
 - *Horizontal partnering*
 - *Both sides will work together to solve problems at the project level.*
 - *Both sides will agree to escalate issues in a timely manner when needed.*
- **Partnering Tools**
 - *Constructability Reviews/Risk Registers*
 - *Flexible Start Dates on Appropriate Projects*
 - *Issue Escalation Matrix*
 - *Clearly define roles and responsibilities of CDOT, prime and consultants.*
 - *Promote timely decision making.*
 - *Collaboration with utility owners to minimize delay claims*
 - *Capture lessons learned at end of projects*

CCA members recognized the level of risk borne by the CDOT PE, RE and traffic engineers. They get blamed if anything goes wrong (up to and including personal financial liability for spending on projects and criminal liability for water quality violations, construction delays). It is with that in mind that I propose “Vertical Partnering.” There needs to be a way to mitigate the risk for PE or a consultant or a traffic engineer to make a reasonable decision, or else the safest decision will always be made.