I. PURPOSE

The Transportation Commission supports the Colorado Department of Transportation ("CDOT" or "Department") in elevating the needs of bicyclists and pedestrians in the planning, design, and operation of transportation facilities as a necessary component of all projects. The Department will promote transportation mode choice by enhancing safety and mobility for bicyclists and pedestrians on or along the state highway system. This includes all aspects of accommodating pedestrians and bicyclists, from planning, programming, design, construction, to operation, maintenance and education.

II. AUTHORITY

Transportation Commission pursuant to § 43-1-106(8)(a), C.R.S.

§ 43-1-120, C.R.S. (requiring that exemptions be documented)

See Appendix “A” for additional authority

III. APPLICABILITY

This Policy Directive applies to all branches, divisions, regions and offices of CDOT and consultants working for CDOT. All projects overseen by CDOT or within CDOT right-of-way shall adhere to this Policy Directive.

IV. POLICY

A. In conformance with § 43-1-120(2)(c), C.R.S., FHWA Guidance, and Procedural Directive 1602.1, the Department shall include the needs of bicyclists and pedestrians in the planning, design, operation and maintenance of transportation facilities as a necessary component of all programs and activities.

B. Any decision of the Department to not accommodate the needs of bicyclists and pedestrians in the planning, design, and operation of transportation facilities shall be documented prior to finalizing the decision. The decision must be based on at least one or more of the following
exemption criteria herein established by the Commission:

1. Bicyclists and pedestrians are prohibited by law from using the roadway; or

2. The cost of establishing bikeways or walkways would be excessively disproportionate to the need or probable use. (Excessively disproportionate is defined as exceeding twenty percent of the cost of the larger transportation project.); or

3. Where scarcity of population or other factors indicate an absence of need; or

4. In a resurfacing project on a state highway, if the only means of accommodating bicycle and pedestrian needs is adding a shoulder, the project shall be automatically exempted on the grounds that under CDOT's current asset management guidelines, resurfacing money cannot be used for shoulders; or

5. If the resurfacing project on a state highway runs through a town, consideration must be given to restripping that portion within the town to accommodate bicyclists and pedestrians. If the accommodation cannot be made, an exemption must be documented.

C. The Department shall follow the requirements of the bicycle and pedestrian program set forth more specifically in Procedural Directive 1602.1.

V. IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

This Policy Directive shall be effective upon signature.

The Office of Policy and Government Relations shall post this Policy Directive on the CDOT intranet as well as on the CDOT public announcements.

This Policy Directive applies to all projects scoped after the effective date. The Division of Transportation Development Bicycle and Pedestrian Program shall provide a copy of this Policy Directive to applicable CDOT personnel.

VI. REVIEW DATE

This Policy Directive shall be reviewed on or before January 2022.

Herman Stockinger
Transportation Secretary

Date of Approval
Appendix “A”

Authority Pertaining to CDOT’s Bicycle and Pedestrian Program


23 U.S.C. 104 (Federal funds)

23 U.S.C. 109 (existing routes)

23 U.S.C. 134 and 135 (planning for all modes)

23 U.S.C. 217 (due consideration for bicycles/pedestrians)

23 U.S.C. 402 (highway safety)

23 U.S.C. 652 (bicycle/pedestrian accommodation in projects)

United States Department of Transportation Policy Statement on Bicycle and Pedestrian Accommodation Regulations and Recommendations, March 11, 2010

Federal Highway Administration “Accommodating Bicycle and Pedestrian Travel: A Recommended Approach”
http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bicycle_pedestrian/guidance/design.cfm


§ 43-1-120, C.R.S. (requiring that exemptions be documented)
Resolution # TC-17-1-6

Updated Policy Directive 1602.0 “Elevating Bicycle and Pedestrian Opportunities in Colorado”

Approved by the Transportation Commission on Jan. 19, 2017.

WHEREAS, under § 43-1-106(8), C.R.S., the Transportation Commission of Colorado has the statutory responsibility to set policies for the Colorado Department of Transportation (“CDOT”); and

WHEREAS, § 43-1-120, C.R.S. requires the Department to include the needs of bicyclists and pedestrians in the planning, design, operation and maintenance of transportation facilities as a necessary component of all programs and activities; and

WHEREAS, the Transportation Commission has authority under § 43-1-120(2)(c), C.R.S. to set exemption criteria by which the Department will determine and document that the needs of bicyclists and pedestrians not be included in a given project; and

WHEREAS, in Policy Directive 1602.0 adopted on May 19, 2016, the Transportation Commission established three such exemption criteria; and

WHEREAS, two additional exemption criteria are needed to clarify whether bicycle and pedestrian needs can be included in resurfacing projects carried out by the Department; and

WHEREAS, updated Policy Directive 1602.0 includes the two additional exemption criteria set by the Transportation Commission under § 43-1-120(2)(c), C.R.S., thereby establishing a total of five exemption criteria;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Commission herein adopts updated Policy Directive 1602.0 “Elevating Bicycle and Pedestrian Opportunities in Colorado.”

Herman Stockinger
Transportation Secretary

Date of Approval