



## Bat Boxes



*Photo Source: Jeff Peterson Colorado Department of Transportation*



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Despite their scary reputation fueled by Hollywood vampire movies, bats are an essential and beneficial part of the ecosystem. Bats play critical roles in insect control, plant pollination, seed dissemination, cave ecosystems, and provide food for other animals. Recognizing their importance, the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) is doing its part to avoid, minimize and mitigate adverse impacts to bats when conducting highway maintenance and construction.

One aspect of the CDOT effort is installation of man-made “bat boxes” to provide a place for bats to roost. Some bats spend winter months in caves, but most bats spend summers in trees, under bridges or in old buildings, where they give birth and rear young. For members of the public interested in installing their own bat boxes, various Internet sites provide instructions for how to build and install them.

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