

# STATE OF COLORADO

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
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## Position Statement:

Prairie dog eradication at the request of adjacent landowners

There have been several occasions when an individual or municipality has requested that the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) eradicate prairie dogs that have colonized CDOT's right-of-way (ROW). These requests typically stem from the prairie dogs expanding their colony off CDOT ROW and onto the adjacent property.

The purpose of this statement is to clarify CDOT's position on this issue. Without justification directly related to CDOT or its activities, prairie dog eradication will not be carried out on any CDOT ROW at the sole request of an adjacent landowner or their representative. It is the responsibility of the landowner to manage any unwanted wildlife on their land in a legal manner, despite the source of that wildlife. This includes any damage, real or perceived, caused by the aforementioned wildlife. CDOT's current policy involving black-tailed prairie dog (*Cynomys ludovicianus*) can be found at: <http://www.dot.state.co.us/environmental/Wildlife/pdpolicy0605.pdf>. Part of this policy states that prior to prairie dog manipulation on CDOT ROW, the Colorado Division of Wildlife's District Wildlife Manager should be contacted. Additionally, coordination with the Food and Drug Administration should be initiated prior to the transportation of any prairie dogs, dead or alive. For the purposes of this statement, CDOT's black-tailed prairie dog policy is applicable to all species of prairie dog on CDOT ROW.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brad Beckham', is positioned above the printed name and title.

Brad Beckham  
CDOT EPB Manager