

Planning Connections - November 2016

CDOT planning news you can use.

CDOT Hosts Peer Exchange with Hawaii DOT



Peer Exchange - From left to right, Kathleen Chu, CH2M project manager, Pat Tom, Hawaii DOT STIP manager, and Ken Tatsuguchi, Hawaii DOT planning manager, listen to William Johnson, Jamie Collins, and Jeff Sudmeier of CDOT during the Nov. 14 peer exchange at CDOT headquarters.

Hawaii Department of Transportation (HDOT) staff and a consultant visited CDOT on Nov. 14 as part of a three-state tour, seeking ideas and advice on improving its planning and programming process and bridging long-range plans with project delivery and budgeting.

Attending the peer exchange from Hawaii were Ken Tatsuguchi, HDOT Planning Branch Manager; Pat Tom, HDOT Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) manager; and Kathleen Chu, CH2M project manager.

CDOT staff provided an overview of statewide and regional planning process, 10 Year Development Program, STIP, performance measures and reporting process, public outreach tools and approaches, a demonstration of ArcGIS Online (C-Plan) and OTIS, and a discussion about CDOT's ArcGIS Online-based project selection and bundling tool. To follow up on the peer exchange, CDOT staff is planning a webinar with HDOT that will include a demonstration of economic tools developed at CDOT, in particular the Project Cost Planner and the Economic Tool Kit.

During the exchange, CDOT attendees learned that Hawaii has wildlife habitat/nesting seasons that limit construction and that Google has contacted HDOT for testing of autonomous vehicles because the state is self-contained on islands.

Findings from the peer exchanges with CDOT, Wyoming DOT, and Minnesota DOT and interviews with DOTs in Alaska, Washington State, and Rhode Island will be used to develop a best practices document with recommendations from the six states.

CDOT Embraces FHWA's Every Day Counts Weather Initiative

CDOT's Division of Transportation Systems Management and Operations (TSM&O) has embraced an FHWA Every Day Counts initiative called Pathfinder to improve weather messages to the public with the ideal goal of becoming a "Weather Ready Nation". This will result in:

- Better public decision support;
- A weather forecast translated to a transportation impact message;
- Data sharing and collaboration over the message; and
- Provision of a consistent message from all public sources.

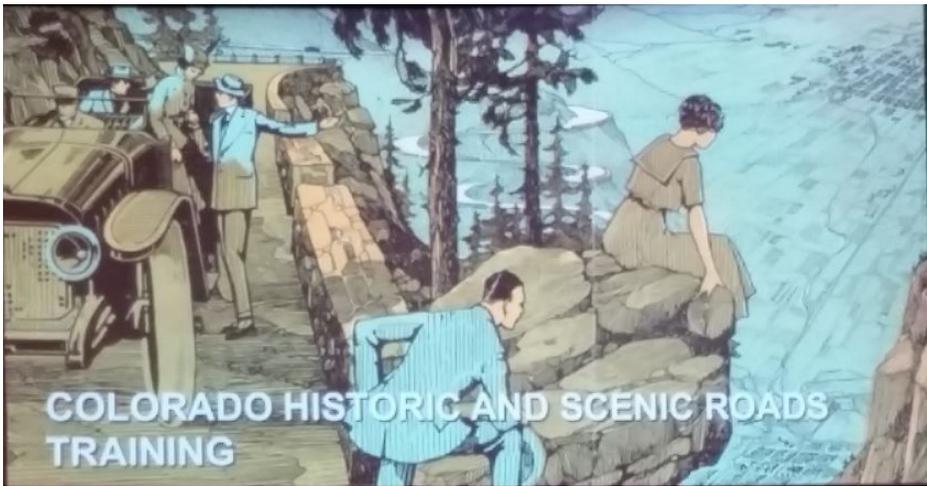
TSM&O will be working closely with FHWA, CDOT Division of Maintenance, the Office of Communications, the Colorado Traffic Management Center, the Colorado Avalanche Information Center (CAIC), the National Weather Service (NWS), and the weather forecasting company, Iteris, to collaboratively implement Pathfinder. (Iteris is the supplier of the CDOT MDSS-Maintenance Division Support Software system for Maintenance staff to use for weather forecasting, roadway conditions, and appropriate treatment of roadways for snow and ice.)

To implement Pathfinder, CDOT will take the following steps:

- Integrate data acquisition and forecasting for weather events.
- Centralize communication with key agency contacts through the Colorado Traffic Management Center (511, VMS-variable message signs, dispatching Colorado State Patrol, or Maintenance).
- Further integrate weather forecasting data into Maintenance roadway treatment strategies (staffing levels, pre-staging, selection of activities, timing of activities, and resource management for equipment and materials).
- Coordinate both operational and traffic management strategies (ramp metering, temporary closures, tractor/chain rule implementation, and speed management).
- Use advisory strategies to develop clear consistent messaging to the public about road weather conditions in the format of 'impact based' messaging. This will describe the event, where and when will it occur, potential impacts to the road conditions, and actions travelers should take.

Pathfinder will track storms, collect data on before-and-after treatment conditions, examine changes in traveler behavior based upon impact-based messaging, conduct post-storm reviews, and document all this information in reports for future reference. For more information about Pathfinder, contact [Lisa Streisfeld](#) of TSM&O.

Colorado Byways Workshops Draw 51 Participants



Packet Cover - An old poster of Lookout Mountain Drive above Golden was featured on the cover of the training packets.

A total of 51 persons attended two Colorado Byways workshops in Golden and Durango in mid-November to learn about new insights on management and safety for Colorado's Scenic and Historic Byways. The Lariat Loop is the byway closest to Golden; San Juan Skyway, Trail of the Ancients, and Tracks Across Borders are all near Durango.

Presenting the two workshops was Paul Daniel Marriott, principal and founder of Paul Daniel Marriott + Associates, a historic landscape preservation firm. The all-day workshops covered a brief introduction to historic roads and scenic byways in Colorado; historic periods of road building in the United States and the history of scenic roads and touring in Colorado; types and structures of historic roads; viewsheds, tourism, and communities; and safety and policy planning. Persons who attended came from CDOT, Bureau of Land Management offices, counties, historical societies, a county historical society, a chamber of commerce, a couple of towns, two byways (Tracks Across Borders and Trail of the Ancients), a city parks and recreation department, San Juan National Forest, Mesa Verde National Park, various associations, and consultants.

Resources referenced during the two workshops presentations included: [The CDOT Road Design Guide](#), [CDOT Landscape Architecture Manual](#), [Colorado Downtown Streets: A Tool for Communities, Planners, and Engineers](#); [Practitioner's Guide: Consulting Under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act](#), and the [Preservation Office Guide to Historic Roads](#).

Updates in Brief

- **Colorado Driver's Handbook:** Transportation System Management and Operations has been coordinating with the Colorado Department of Revenue in providing several editorial and illustrative updates to the *Colorado Driver's Handbook*. Information

about traction regulations, "Move Over Law," managed lanes, new signs, marijuana and driving, and new types of interchanges will be included. Also the *Handbook* will be updated with details about how drivers can obtain information about roadway conditions. Staff from the Public Information Office and the Office of Transportation Safety assisted with the CDOT updates.

- **Planning Rules Review:** For the next planning cycle, DTD staff is beginning a review of the Planning Rules regulations, [2 CCR 601-22](#). If you have any thoughts about needed changes to the descriptions of the transportation planning regions or to any other part of the Rules, contact [Gail Hoffman](#).
- **Colorado Airports and Sustainability:** The Colorado Division of Aeronautics received an honorable mention on Nov. 1 for the Colorado General Airport Sustainability Program. The program helps Colorado's 74 public-use airports become better stewards of the environment with a no-cost, easy-to-use online toolkit that allows airport management to develop goals, implement strategies, and create a measurable sustainability plan. The honorable mention came from the international [2016 Airports Going Green Award program](#), a program founded nearly 10 years ago by the Chicago Department of Aviation.

Transportation Commission and STAC

- A [summary](#) of the Transportation Commission's Oct. 19-20 meeting can be found on the STAC webpage.
- Notes from the October 28 STAC meeting will be available in the STAC packet for the Dec. 2 meeting, also located on the [STAC webpage](#). (The November meeting was moved to Dec. 2 due to Thanksgiving.)

*If you have suggestions for topics or updates to submit, etc. please send to gail.hoffman@state.co.us. Copies of past issues of *Planning Connections* are available [here](#) under *Planning Process*.*