



## CO 74 Rockfall Mitigation Project Fact Sheet

Starting on Tuesday, Sept. 8, the Colorado Department of Transportation and contractor Midwest Rockfall, Inc. will begin full closures of Colorado Highway 74 between Morrison and Idledale for a rockfall mitigation project. The activities will take place between Mile Point 16.1 and MP 18 with a goal of project completion in February 2021.

Work on this project is set to be completed within 80 working days. The full closures will begin Tuesday, Sept. 8, and occur Mondays through Thursdays from 4:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and on Fridays from 4:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

### Why is the work being completed?

CDOT's Geohazard Program listed CO 74 as a priority area for a preventative rockfall mitigation project. CDOT took into consideration a recent rockfall incident in that area. In 2015, a natural rockslide resulted in the closure of CO 74 between Morrison and Kittredge for several days. CDOT maintenance crews worked for days to clear the road and ensure the safety of the traveling public.

This project is being completed for the safety and mobility of the traveling public. During the last several years, there have been numerous instances of natural rockslide events that have either closed the roadway for several days or required extensive cleanup by CDOT maintenance forces.

The project's design and funding phases, which began in late 2017 and were completed in May 2020, took into consideration the historical and ecological importance of this canyon. Key elements of this project are to preserve the natural contours and shapes of the canyon, known for its beauty and recreational opportunities, and to maintain compliance with state and federal regulations regarding the protection of the wildlife and its habitat. It is important to note that portions of this canyon are on the National Register of Historic Places, meaning only certain mitigation efforts were allowed so as to preserve the history.

Upon completion of this work, the corridor will be safer for the traveling public and less likely to be closed due to rockfall events.





## Why are full closures needed?

To ensure the work can be completed within 80 working days, CDOT and Midwest Rockfall, Inc. will use a combination of rock scaling, mechanical reinforcement, and Polyurethane Resin (PUR) injections, an innovative technology applied to fill the void between loose rocks. Crews will work concurrently at three separate areas and use a combination of heavy equipment, including:

- Cranes
- Two extended boom forklifts and four manlifts
- One long-reach excavator
- Two large loaders
- Air compressors and other miscellaneous equipment

The set-up of this equipment takes at least 1.5 hours each working day, which is why the start time for the full closures is 4:30 a.m.

With multiple work zones in this narrow part of the canyon combined with the type of equipment used for the operation, CDOT determined full closures are needed as it is not safe to maintain a single-lane configuration during working hours. There is limited right-of-way for the public to travel through the work zone while work crews maneuver their equipment. In addition, rock scaling operations may result in some rockfall on the roadway, which causes an unwanted hazard to the traveling public.

Full closures are more efficient than intermittent traffic stops in this case, because of the significant amount of time it takes crews to set-up and breakdown the equipment each day. With intermittent traffic stops, valuable time is lost for actual rockfall mitigation work and would extend the project completion date by several months. All of these reasons led to the decision for full closures of CO 74 between Morrison and Idledale during work hours.

## What are the detour routes?

Motorists are advised to follow the detour signs and seek alternate routes. Interstate 70 is the general detour route for east and westbound motorists.

- Local traffic on CO 74 can take Parmalee Gulch Road southbound from Kittredge and use US 285 to connect with CO 8 and C-470. This route will add 20 minutes to the driving time.
- Another detour route is to head northbound via S Grapevine Road to connect with I-70. This route will add 20 minutes to the driving time.
- **Please note the county roads are for local traffic ONLY. Trucks or large vehicles should detour via I-70.**

## PROJECT CONTACT INFORMATION

Sign up to receive regular project updates via email. If you have questions or comments, please contact us!

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