

## Frequently Asked Questions

Answers to frequently asked questions regarding flood recovery projects as a whole:

### **The roads look fine. Why does CDOT need to do further work?**

Immediately following the September 2013 floods, emergency repairs were made to the roadways to restore access to homes and businesses and get people moving again. These emergency repairs were temporary in nature, however, and many of the repairs made in 2013 were not adequate to meet the long-term needs of the transportation needs of our state.

### **What roads are being repaired?**

There are 32 state roads undergoing some level of repair. In addition to these CDOT roads, there are another 46 local roadways being repaired by local jurisdictions and agencies. To view a map of all project locations, visit <http://cdotfloods.s3-website-us-east-1.amazonaws.com/>.

### **What work is being done to permanently repair the roads?**

Repair work being done around the state ranges from small debris removal projects to full-depth roadway and bridge reconstruction, depending on the type of damage the roadway sustained during the floods and the extent of this damage. In conjunction with these permanent repairs, CDOT is looking for opportunities to incorporate engineering advances and make these state roadways more resilient to minimize damage from future floods.

### **What is meant by greater resiliency? Does this mean the highway will withstand a future flood?**

In the process of rebuilding these roads, we will look at every opportunity to making the roadway more durable. This might include the use of better, stronger materials that weren't available years ago. It could include moving sections of highway farther from the water and closer to adjacent rock faces to build the roadway on solid bedrock. It could include raising the roadway in places, or it could be a combination of any or all of these options. These measures will make the highways more durable than they were before the 2013 flood, and because of this, we can expect the roadways will fare better in future flooding events. We can't, however, speculate on the extent of damage a future flood might cause.

### **When will all of these projects be done?**

The goal is to complete all 32 of the CDOT-led, permanent repair projects by December 2017. In terms of the 46 local agency projects, the goal is to complete these by December 2019.

### **How much will it cost to repair all these roads and where is the money coming from?**

It took about \$133 million to make the temporary, short-term fixes, and it will require about \$462 million to make the permanent repairs for a total of about \$595 million. Congress has already allocated \$450 million in emergency repair funding. CDOT may need to work with the Congressional delegation to secure another \$90 million from the Federal government. The \$35 million balance will come from a combination of CDOT funds, local agency funds and grant programs such as the Federal Lands Access Program that will provide funding to rebuild US 34 between Loveland and Estes Park because this highway is the major gateway road leading into Rocky Mountain National Park.

**Are there restrictions on how this money can be used?**

Federal dollars can be used to restore roadways to pre-flood conditions, but there are restrictions on using this money to improve roadways beyond what they were like before the flood. This would include doing things like adding travel lanes, widening pre-existing shoulders, adding shoulders for bike travel, or adding a climbing or turn lane.

**Will these projects fix local roads and bridges that connect to state roads?**

CDOT is only addressing state roads. Local roads and bridges that are maintained by local cities and counties are being repaired under a series of local agency projects in coordination with CDOT's efforts to permanently repair the state roads.

**Will these projects include restorations to the rivers and creeks?**

Where construction activities impact rivers or streams, restoration efforts will be made. If the river or stream is far enough from the roadway that it won't be affected by construction activities, no restoration work will be done in the water.

**The value of my home has decreased since the floods. What can I do about that?**

Property values are established at the local level by county assessors. Questions regarding the value of your specific property would need to be presented to your county assessor. A resident of Larimer County, for instance, would need to contact the Larimer County Assessor at 970-498-7050. Residents of Boulder County can call their assessor at 303-441-3530, Weld County residents should call 970-353-3845 ext. 3650 and Jefferson County residents should call 303-271-8600.

**Where can I go for financial assistance on rebuilding the bridge to my home?**

Beyond contacting your private insurance company, you can apply for assistance through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Contact them at 800-621-3362 or [www.disasterassistance.gov](http://www.disasterassistance.gov). The Small Business Association also provides loans to homeowners, renters, businesses and non-profit agencies. You must first register for help through FEMA before applying for an SBA loan. You can apply online at [disasterloan.sba.gov/ela/](http://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela/).

**I needed to proceed with rebuilding the bridge connecting my property to the highway. What if the permanent reconstruction process requires a significant grade change between the road and my bridge that affects access to my property?**

Before design and construction work begins, CDOT engineers examine each highway corridor to assess existing conditions. If any potential conflicts with adjacent properties are identified in this process, we will work with individual property owners to minimize the impacts and develop mutually acceptable solutions.