



POLLINATOR HIGHWAYS: Managing Roadways With Pollinators in Mind

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Photo by
Suddjian

Colorado Department of Transportation



Why?

One reason: Presidential Memorandum 2014

Creating a Federal Strategy to Promote the Health of Honey Bees and Other Pollinators

“The Department of Transportation shall evaluate its current guidance for grantees and informational resources to identify opportunities to increase pollinator habitat along roadways and implement improvements, as appropriate. The Department of Transportation shall work with State Departments of Transportation and transportation associations to promote pollinator-friendly practices and corridors...”



RE: Updated Procedural Directive 503.1 "Landscaping with Colorado Native Plant Species and Managing the Colorado Pollinator Hwy ”

- Rationale for Updating Directive: Updated PD 503.1 now includes reference to House Joint Resolution 17-1029, which designated I-76 from mile marker 1 to 183 as the "Colorado Pollinator Highway." Pursuant to this House Joint Resolution, CDOT is managing the right-of way to promote pollinator habitat on I-76. CDOT is also developing a statewide Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management program which will address pollinator habitat management for other highway corridors; it is intended that once the program is developed, the scope of this Procedural Directive may be broadened at that time.

- Individuals /Entities/Pro jec ts Impacted by Procedural Directive: All employees and consultants who work on landscape development and the management of pollinator habitat.

- PD 503.1 will be implemented by: Division of Transportation Development, Environmental Programs, and Division of Highway Maintenance.



Colorado House Joint Resolution HJR 17-1029

- Unanimously passed May 2017
- To raise awareness and educate people about the importance of pollinators.
- Recognizes that native ecosystems and agriculture benefit when pollinators are protected
- Encourages CDOT to implement **Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management** in coordination with local planners, governments, and landowners in order to:
 - better manage a right-of-way to promote pollinator habitat
 - reduce ROW maintenance costs
- Allows CDOT to accept and expend gifts, grants, and donations to place signs to mark Interstate Highway 76 from Mile Marker 1 to Mile Marker 183 as the "Colorado Pollinator Highway."

What it Does:

- Designated I-76 from Denver to Nebraska (MM 1 to 183) as the "**Colorado Pollinator Highway.**"

I-76/Colorado Welcome Center at Julesburg Pilot Project 2018



- CDOT with the help of community, agency partners and pollinator interests will plant adjacent roadside areas with pollinator plants.
- The Colorado Welcome Center with the help of county and local government will provide out reach at center and construct interruptive gardens.
- Combined efforts represent the pilot project.





Partnerships: 2nd Annual Pollinator Summit:

"Every Flower Counts: Cultivating Minds and Landscapes for Pollinators." Denver Botanical Gardens, Nov 2017

- Collaborative effort
- Included agencies, state legislators, businesses, educators, researchers, land managers, non-profits, advocacy groups
- Presentations and panel discussion sessions
 - Pollinator decline and synthetic pesticides (Neonicotinoids)
 - Integrated landscape approaches to pollinator conservation
 - Targeted tree & shrub planting for connective corridors and Living Snow Fence opportunities
 - Mowing and maintenance strategies



Colorado Department of Transportation



Statewide strategies- Integrated Veg Management: Mowing Zone 1 Spot Spraying Healthy Natives

Mowing along I-76

Mowing can occur outside
pollinator season, but most
Maintenance operators choose
not to mow zone 2 and 3



Future

Helping each other help pollinators
Understand habitats
Performance Measurement?
Specific pollinator species?
Involve community
Provide direction for/from leadership
Include Living Snow Fence projects
More designations
IVM-reduces costs
Training with Xerces Society

Pollinator Partnerships

Pollinators have raised the restoration expectation?

Maintenance

Context

Performance

Partnering and Policy



Thank you

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