



INTERSTATE HWY 76 “COLORADO POLLINATOR HIGHWAY” Managing Roadways With Pollinators in Mind

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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 Highway"

- 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/Projects :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.**"

Research

- Findings
- Determined CDOT roadsides to be non native grasses (smooth brome, crested wheat) and aggressive native grasses (western wheat, switchgrass)
- Determined native pollinators on Hwy 24 and Hwy 115 where less than 2% of cover (CSU survey)
- Sparse density due to previous broadcast spraying or aggressive natives? Or combination.
- Focus became restoration of existing roadsides.
 - I-76
 - Other corridors
 - Consider Living snow fence during the plantings?

I-76/Colorado Welcome Center at Julesburg Pilot Project- volunteers working with CDOT Maintenance



- 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



Mowing Zone 1

Mowing along I-76

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



Integrated Habitats



Seed Mix

- *Dalea purpurea* Purple Prairie Clover
- *Linum lewisii* Blue Flax
- *Ratibida clunifera* Prairie Coneflower
- *Cleome lutea* Yellow spiderflower
- *Verbena stricta* Purple verbena
- *Machaeranthera tanacetifolia*
- Tansyleaf tansyaster
- *Asclepias speciosa* Showy milkweed
- *Gaillardia aristata* Blanket flower
- *Coreopsis tinctoria* Golden tickseed
- *Cleome serrulata* RM Beeplant
- *Gaillardia pulchella* Indian blanket
- *Heterotheca villosa* Hairy yellow golden aster
- *Helianthus annuus* Annual sunflower
- *Schizanthus angustifolia* Copper globemallow
- *Solidago rigida* Stiff goldenrod
- *Eriogonum heracleoides* Parsnipflower buckwheat





Future

Helping each other help pollinators

Understand habitats

Performance Measurement?

Specific pollinator species?

Involve community

Provide direction for/from leadership

Planning and Design

Pollinator Partnerships

CDOT Maintenance

Pollinators have raised the restoration expectation?

Maintenance

Context

Performance

Partnering and Policy



Thank you

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