

Colorado Transportation - Environmental Resource Council Charter

Whereas, the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) are interested in developing stronger working relationships and better communications with State and Federal resource agencies in Colorado whose responsibilities and interests intersect with the state transportation system;

Whereas, the Transportation Commission has adopted policies guiding CDOT in its mission and activities as they relate to the environment; and

Whereas, the signatories to the Charter all have missions that effect each other in some way;

Whereas, there is a need for regular policy-level interactions among CDOT, FHWA and State and Federal resource agencies in Colorado concerning transportation related environmental issues, opportunities, and concerns; and

Whereas, CDOT and FHWA wish to host a forum in Colorado that includes representatives of these resource agencies to discuss key transportation related environmental issues, opportunities and concerns;

Whereas, CDOT and FHWA desire to use this forum to discuss and resolve policy issues in a timely, appropriate and beneficial manner with the resource agency representatives; and to inform and educate members and attendees of key issues unique to each agency;

Therefore, be it recognized that the Colorado Transportation Environmental Resource Council (Council) is hereby established in an effort to establish an effective forum for communications, cooperation and collaboration on matters of mutual interest to its members that address issues of transportation and environment.

Further, it is the purpose of the Council to (1) improve communications between CDOT/FHWA and resource agencies concerned with transportation development efforts by CDOT and FHWA; (2) improve communications between CDOT/FHWA and resource agencies regarding resource agency plans, regulation, and procedures as they effect the transportation system (3) to discuss key environmental issues, opportunities and concerns among the member of the Council; and (4) to address/resolve policy issues in a timely, appropriate and mutually beneficial manner.

Further, the Council members agree to cooperatively seek the most effective and innovative procedures for accomplishing the missions of each of our agencies; and

Further, the Council members agree to fully and openly air all related concerns at the Council meetings: and agree to fully consider issues and concerns expressed at these meetings in any associated decisions that are within the authority of each agency.

Further, the Council shall be chaired by the Division Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration and the Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Transportation;

Further, the membership of the Council will be composed of decision makers from the following resource agencies:

US Bureau of Land Management, US Army Corps of Engineers, US Environmental Protection Agency, US Federal Highway Administration, US Fish and Wildlife Service, US Forest Service, Colorado Department of Natural Resources, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Colorado Department of Transportation, and the Colorado Division of Wildlife.