

STATE OF COLORADO

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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March 7, 2008

To: Potential Registrants
TRB Summer Meeting of the
Environmental Analysis in Transportation Committee (ADC10)
Ecology and Transportation Committee (ADC30)
Transportation Needs of National Parks and Public Lands Committee (ADA40)
Denver, Colorado, July 28 - July 31, 2008

The Colorado Department of Transportation is delighted to welcome you to the Mile High City and the beautiful Colorado Rockies as host of the 2008 Transportation Research Board's (TRB) Summer Meeting of committees ADC10, ADC30, and ADA40. Attached is a packet of great information regarding the summer workshop, which is being held Monday, July 28th through Thursday, July 31st at the Comfort Inn Denver and the historic Brown Palace Hotel in Downtown Denver.

Denver is a wonderful place to live and visit. We enjoy a fantastic year-round climate that enables you to enjoy most any activity. We have the beautiful Colorado Rocky Mountains to explore with skiing, hiking, biking and rafting. Summer is an excellent time to visit Denver. There is an abundance of outdoor festivals and the mountains offer great beauty in the form of plenty of wildflowers and beautiful weather. Denver has a lot to offer and we hope you can extend your stay to enjoy a little of what our city has to offer. Take some time to visit Downtown Denver and our 16th Street Mall, which has many shops and a variety of restaurants. Perhaps you might enjoy Ely's Gardens Amusement Park, the Denver Zoo, the Forney Museum of Transportation or the Denver History Tour.

Working with committee chairs Mark Kross, Carol Zimmerman, and Tom Linkous, we created the technical sessions and field trips centered on this year's theme "Into the Rockies: Environmental Sensitivity in Transportation." The information presented will allow attendees the opportunity to share research findings and experience in formulating sensitive transportation and environmental solutions. One of the most valuable elements of this event, however, is the many networking opportunities. Between the technical sessions, transportation field trips, and social events, there is plenty of opportunity to share experiences with old acquaintances and new.

If you have any questions on the summer meeting, please feel free to contact Becky Sturgeon at (303) 757-9788 or at rebecca.sturgeon@dot.state.co.us.

Register today! Go to www.regonline.com/denverTRB2008

Thank you and we look forward to seeing you this summer.

Sharleen Bakeman
Environmental Policy and Planning Section Manager
Colorado Department of Transportation

Into the Rockies: Environmental Sensitivity in Transportation

Sponsored by TRB Committees on
Transportation Needs for Parks and Public Lands (ADA40)
Environmental Analysis in Transportation (ADC10)
Ecology and Transportation (ADC30)

Denver, Colorado
July 28-31, 2008

Preliminary Schedule of Events
(Subject to Change)

Monday, July 28, 2008

10:00am - 5:00pm **Registration – Brown Palace, 1st Floor Meetings Rooms**
1:00pm - 5:00pm **Committee Business Meetings (ADA40), (ADC10), (ADC30)**
6:30pm - 8:30pm **Welcome Reception**

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

7:30am - 5:00pm **Registration – Comfort Inn, 2nd Floor Conference Center**
7:00am - 5:00pm **Sponsor Exhibits**
8:30am - 9:45am **Welcoming Session**
9:45am - 10:00am **Break**
10:00am - 11:30am **Session 1 – Relevance of Climate Change to Transportation**

Session 1.1 Changes in Distribution of Wildlife and Plant Communities

Session 1.2 Considerations for Changes to the Transportation Infrastructure

Session 1.3 Changes in Environmental Assessments and Related Studies

11:30am - 1:00pm **Lunch Provided – Comfort Inn**
1:00pm - 2:15pm **Session 2 – Sustainability in Parks**

Session 2.1 Alternative Transportation for Parks and Public Lands Program

Session 2.2 Transportation Initiatives at Rocky Mountain National Park

Session 2.3 Grand Canyon Transportation Plan Environmental Assessment

2:15pm - 2:30pm

Break

2:30pm - 3:45pm

Session 3 – People and Environment

Session 3.1 Establishing User Capacity Thresholds for National Park Service Recreational Travel in Demand Models

Session 3.2 Effects of Economic Development on Mountain Park Resources

3:45pm - 4:00pm

Break

4:00pm - 5:15pm

Session 4 – Road Ecology

Session 4.1 Highway Eco-Systems, How Wildlife Adapts to Use Highways

Session 4.2 Issues in Wildlife Connectivity and Collisions

Session 4.3 Effects of Air Quality Degradation in Mountain Areas

5:15pm - 7:00pm

Dinner (*on your own*)

7:00pm - 8:30pm

Special Evening Workshop – Research Needs and Prioritization by the Three Committees

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

7:30am - 5:00pm

Registration – Comfort Inn, 2nd Floor Conference Center

7:00am - 5:00pm

Sponsor Exhibits

7:00am - 5:30pm

Transportation Tour Option 1 (All Day) – Rocky Mountain National Park

Space on this tour is limited. Tour includes a box lunch. Rocky Mountain National Park is a living showcase of the grandeur of the Rocky Mountains, with elevations ranging from 8,000 feet in the wet, grassy

valleys to 14,259 feet at the weather-ravaged top of Longs Peak. The park provides visitors with opportunities for countless breathtaking experiences and adventures. On this tour you will explore the park shuttle system, see the results of a major road reconstruction project, and learn about the many transportation challenges the park faces to meet the NPS dual mission of protecting resources while allowing for visitor enjoyment.

8:30am - 10:00am Session 5 – Sustainability

Session 5.1 Corps Proposed Rule and Watershed Approach

**Session 5.2 Transportation and Environmental Planning—
Measuring Performance**

Session 5.3 Cumulative Effects, Reaching a Critical Threshold

10:00am - 10:15am Break

10:15am - 11:30am Session 6 – Colorado-It's all Downhill from Here!

Session 6.1 Castlewood Canyon

Session 6.2 Plum Creek Habitat Conservation Bank

Session 6.3 Environmental Sensitivity in CDOT Projects

**Noon - 5:00pm Transportation Tour Option 2 (Half Day) – Castlewood Canyon
Ecological
Restoration Tour**

Tour includes a box lunch. The Castlewood Canyon project replaced an historical bridge over Cherry Creek in Castlewood Canyon State Park. Cherry Creek is occupied by the Preble's meadow provides habitat for a wide range of species including the jumping mouse. For this portion of the work, project designers and engineers devised and implemented innovative methods to prevent birds from attempting to nest on the bridge until project completion, and to prevent waste material from falling into the canyon below.

East Plum Creek through Castle Rock was downcutting due to excess flow from upstream development. This left its riparian vegetation above the water table and dying. In addition, a sewer line that had once been buried by several feet of sediment became perched well above the water line. CDOT stopped the downcutting. These efforts restored the ground water and subsequently the riparian vegetation and Preble's mouse habitat.

6:30pm - 10:00pm Conference Banquet and Festivities – The Denver Museum of Nature

& Science

A "strolling" reception with full meal, on two levels of the museum overlooking City Park and the Rocky Mountains. We will have private, after-hours access to many of the museum exhibit areas. Cash bar and access to outside veranda with views.

Thursday, July 31, 2008

- 7:00am - 12:00pm Sponsor Exhibits**
- 8:00am - 10:15am Session 7 – New Research Assessment Techniques and Tools**
- Session 7.1 STEP UP (Strategic Transportation, Environmental and Planning Process for Urbanizing Places)-The Next Step**
- Session 7.2 Landscape Level Assessments-What’s Worked, What Hasn’t**
- Session 7.3 A Case Study of North Shore Road (Great Smoky Mountain National Park)**
- Session 7.4 New Thoughts on Linkages between Transportation and the Environment**
- Session 7.5 Techniques to Assess Visitor Experience**
- 10:15am - 10:30am Break**
- 10:30am - 12:00pm Session 8 – Workshop Wrap Up**
- Session 8.1 How to Develop and Fund Research Efforts**
- Session 8.2 Concluding Remarks**
- 12:00pm Joint Summer Meeting Adjourns**

Transportation Research Board 2008 Joint Summer Meeting

Into the Rockies: Environmental Sensitivity in Transportation

Joint Summer Meeting of the
Environmental Analysis in Transportation (ADC10)
Ecology and Transportation (ADC30), and
Transportation Needs of National Parks and Public Lands (ADA40) Committees
Hosted by the Colorado Department of Transportation

Denver, Colorado
July 28 – 31, 2008

Registration

A breakdown of the registration fee is provided on the registration web site. Early birds register for \$250 for the conference until May 31, 2008. Late registration is \$285, so register early! Register online at www.regonline.com/denverTRB2008

Cancellations

If you submit your registration and conference fee, but you have to cancel, we require receipt of a written cancellation letter or email no later than July 15, 2008, for a **50 percent refund** of your total registration costs. Please note that all refunds will be returned to the registrant in August 2008 (after the conference). We are **not able to offer refunds for cancellations that take place after July 15**, due to our commitments for meals, transportation and other expenses. Individuals who must cancel their registration do have the option of sending another attendee, provided they inform Becky Sturgeon @ (303) 757-9788 or at rebecca.sturgeon@dot.state.co.us prior to the start of the conference.

Welcome Reception

The Committees will host a reception on Monday night, July 28, 2008, from 6:30 – 8:30 at the Brown Palace Hotel for all registrants. This reception offers an opportunity for the committees, firms, agencies, DOTs, and other organizations to promote their environmental efforts around the country. Hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar will be provided.

Conference Tours

Two exciting tours are being offered on Wednesday, July 30th! Read on for more information!

Expect temperatures in the 80s or 90s with possible afternoon thunderstorms. A box lunch and bottled water will be provided. All participants should bring:

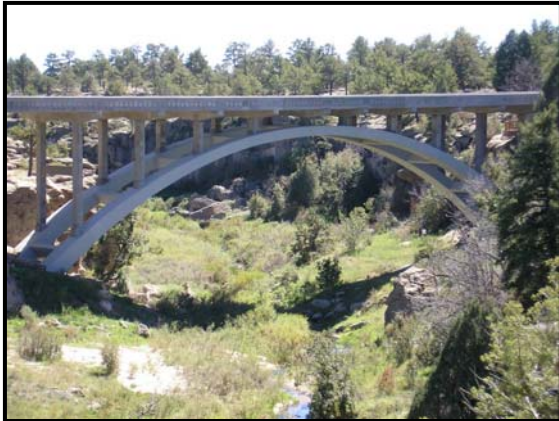
Comfortable Walking shoes
Hat or sunshade
Sunscreen
Light jacket for possible rainstorms

Optional but Recommended
Daypack
Camera
Binoculars for wildlife viewing
Notebook and pen

CDOT Environmental Mitigation Site Tours (July 30, 2008, 12:00pm – 5:00pm). Cost is \$20 and includes transportation and box lunch.

The tour will begin with lunch at the sheltered picnic grounds of Castlewood Canyon State Park in Colorado's famous Black Forest. In addition to the park's attractions of hiking trails, dramatic canyon walls and unique ruins we will see the site of CDOT's recent reconstruction of Castlewood Canyon Bridge which involved natural and cultural resource mitigation and avoidance. On the return to Denver we will stop and walk through CDOT's East Plum Creek Conservation Bank in Castle Rock. This restored riparian corridor serves as quality habitat and as a mitigation bank for future impacts to the threatened Preble's meadow jumping mouse, a species that occurs along the Front Range of Colorado.

The Castlewood Canyon project replaced a historical bridge over Cherry Creek in Castlewood Canyon State Park. Because the existing arches were repaired rather than replaced, disturbed areas were significantly minimized, as a new arch would have required extensive work across the canyon bottom.



Cherry Creek is occupied by the Preble's meadow jumping mouse, and the canyon also provides habitat for raptors, migratory songbirds, deer, and cougars. Project designers and engineers had to devise and implement methods to prevent birds from attempting to nest on the bridge until project completion, and to prevent waste material from falling into the canyon below.

East Plum Creek through Castle Rock was down

cutting due to excess flow from upstream development, leaving its riparian vegetation above the water table and dying. In addition, a sewer line that had once been buried by several feet of sediment became perched well above the water line. The corridor is occupied by the Preble's meadow jumping mouse, and is also owned by CDOT. The site is unusual in that it is highly urbanized, sandwiched by a major highway and commercial development, yet is inhabited by a rare species. CDOT recognized the situation as an opportunity to restore the mouse's habitat, as well as to create a habitat conservation bank to compensate for habitat lost due to future highway projects. In partnership with the Federal Highway Administration and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, CDOT stopped the down cutting of the drainage by installing several check dams through an approximate 2-mile reach. These efforts restored the ground water and subsequently the riparian vegetation and Preble's mouse habitat. Our field trip will begin near the center of the corridor, and we will have several people knowledgeable of different aspects of the project stationed along the corridor to answer questions.



Rocky Mountain National Park/Brainard Lake Tour (July 30, 2008, 7:00am – 5:00pm). Cost is \$40 and includes transportation and box lunch.

(Note: Although this tour is designed for the ADA40 Transportation Needs of National Parks and Public Lands Committee, approximately 25 spaces will be available to other attendees on a first-come, first-served basis)

Rocky Mountain National Park is a living showcase of the grandeur of the Rocky Mountains, providing visitors with opportunities for countless breathtaking experiences and adventures. Elevations range from 8,000 feet in the wet, grassy valleys to 14,259 feet at the weather-ravaged top of Longs Peak. Due to the spectacular scenery, the park has over 4 million visitors per year, of which 80% visit during the summer

months. The park has implemented several strategies to help manage their high levels of visitation, including an ITS system at their entrance station, a shuttle system that has been in operation since the 70's, and a road project that improves natural resources while supporting non-motorized transportation. The tour will highlight the many transportation challenges the park faces to meet the NPS dual mission of protecting resources while allowing for visitor enjoyment. On this tour you will explore the park shuttle system and hear about recent research on the shuttle system's effects on resource conditions and visitor experience. You will learn about the Bear Lake Road project that proposes to re-route the road away from Glacier Creek and utilize the old road bed for a bicycle and pedestrian path.

After a trip to Rocky Mountain National Park, we will visit Brainard Lake Recreation Area (BLRA), another popular front-range destination that is part of the Roosevelt National Forest. Just south of Rocky Mountain National Park, it also offers spectacular scenery and supports a wide range of recreation uses. As populations along the Front Range are increasing, recreation use of the area is increasing as well. The USFS proposed to better manage the increasing visitor use of this popular recreation area through the adoption of the BLRA Development/Management Plan. This plan includes a variety of projects aimed at improving the quality of recreation opportunities for the public while protecting natural resources. The plan includes projects to move vehicles away from the scenic and natural resources, while establishing a shuttle system. The plan aims to concentrate visitor use to designated roads and trails, closing and rehabilitating non-designated roads and trails and strengthening management regulations regarding vehicle access and parking.

Conference Banquet

Join us Wednesday night at one of the city's most distinctive settings for dinner and socializing, the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, located just 3 miles from the Brown Palace Hotel. Participants will travel by bus from the hotel to the museum at 6:30 to begin the evening festivities. Once at the museum, you will enjoy spectacular views of the Denver skyline and the Rocky Mountains through floor to ceiling windows. The reception lobby opens to an outside patio, where the beautiful Colorado evening can be experienced during the banquet activities.

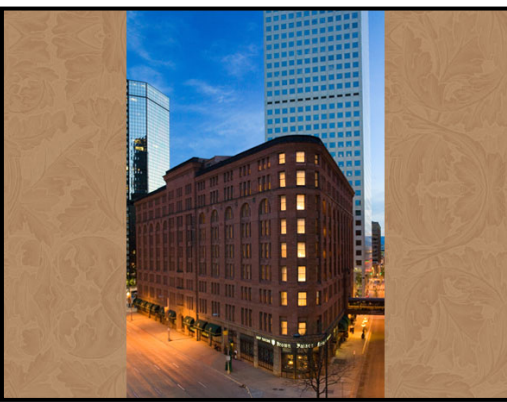


Hors d'oeuvres will be served promptly, and a cash bar will provide cocktails, wine, and beer. A custom menu prepared by the Museum and its exclusive caterer will be presented during the banquet starting at 7:30. Guests can take pleasure in this diverse culinary assortment.

Before or after dinner, guests can take a self-guided tour through three museum exhibits, including one displaying majestic Colorado wildlife. Wolves, bighorn sheep, and bison come alive in these life-like dioramas. You won't want to miss these beautiful museum displays!

A shuttle bus will provide transportation back to the hotel every thirty minutes beginning at 8:30. The last bus back to the hotel will leave the museum at 10:00pm.

Accommodations



This year's mid-year meeting will be held at the historic Brown Palace Hotel and its sister property, the Comfort Inn Downtown Denver. Both properties, which are connected by an enclosed skywalk, are located conveniently within walking and shuttle

distance from some of the city's best restaurants, shopping and entertainment.

The Comfort Inn Downtown Denver is a centrally-located and very comfortable AAA Three-Diamond hotel. We have reserved a block of 88 rooms here for July 28, 29 and 30, at the rate of \$130 per night for a Standard Room with one queen or two double beds, and \$140 per night for a Deluxe Corner Room with a king bed. The combined sales and occupancy taxes are 14.85%. The Comfort Inn is the location of the main ballroom where our general sessions will be held on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday and where our Registration Desk and vendor displays will be set up.

For those staying at The Comfort Inn a complimentary full breakfast is served every morning beginning at 6:00 am and featuring scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, hash browns, pancakes, French toast, waffles, breads, cereals, fruit, yogurt, juices, coffee and tea. Guest rooms include complimentary high speed Internet access, complimentary wireless Internet access complimentary access to the fitness center.

The Brown Palace Hotel and Spa is world-renowned for its 115-year tradition of elegance and impeccable service. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the Brown has also been awarded both the Mobile Four-Star and AAA Four-Diamond ratings. We will hold the ADC10, ADC30 and ADA40 business meetings here on July 28th as well as the Welcome Reception. Guest rooms are available at the Brown at a higher room rate. Information is listed below.

Conference attendees must make their own hotel reservations! **Room reservations at the Comfort Inn should be made by calling 303-296-0400 or 800-237-7431 no later than June 15, 2008.** When making your reservation please identify yourself as part of the "Denver TRB 2008" group and provide the hotel with your requested room type (standard queen, deluxe corner king, etc), check-in and check-out dates, and preference for a smoking or non-smoking room. If you wish to check on availability and costs for rooms at the Brown Palace call 800-321-2599 with the same information. The websites for the two hotels are www.BrownPalace.com and www.DenverComfortInn.com.

Once again, the room block for the Denver TRB2008 meeting will be held open through June 15. The reduced conference room rates will be available to you for two days prior to and following our meeting for those interested in enhancing your Colorado trip with a well-deserved vacation!

Transportation

There are several means of transportation from Denver International Airport to the hotel.

- Public Bus www.rtd-denver.com/skyRide -- round trip \$13-\$16
- Super Shuttle (800) BLUE-VAN or at www.supershuttledenver.com \$30-\$40
- Taxi – round trip \$25-\$50
 - Denver Yellow Cab (303) 777-7777
 - Freedom Cabs (303) 444-4444
 - Metro Taxi (303) 336-9127
- Rental Car (Cost Varies)
Denver International Airport has contracted with 10 rental car companies to provide a wide selection of vehicle rental opportunities to our customers. All the companies provide courtesy shuttle service to their facilities and have service counters located in Jeppesen Terminal, Level 5.
 - Advantage Rent A Car (800) 777-5500
 - Alamo (800) 462-5266
 - Avis (800) 331-1212
 - Budget (800) 527-0700
 - Dollar Rent A Car (800) 800-3665



- Enterprise (800) 261-7331
- Hertz (800) 654-3131
- National (800) 227-7368
- Payless (800) PAY-LESS
- Thrifty (800) 367-2277
- Hotel Parking is available at the hotel for \$17/day.

Climate and Attire

Denver has a mild climate, despite what out-of-state visitors might expect. On average, the city receives over 300 days of sunshine each year, and only a small amount of precipitation. During summer the region's low humidity means that temperatures in the 80s are quite pleasant. July in Colorado is our warmest and wettest month. The average temperature in July is 88 degrees with a chance of afternoon showers.



Due to the high altitude, it is recommended that you hydrate yourself prior to flying into Denver, Colorado and make sure while you are here to drink lots of water.

Conference attire is business casual except for the tours which are casual and comfortable. Plan for warm days and possible rain storms!

Area Attractions

Welcome To the Mile High City! Denver is full of fun and exciting things to do. We have something for everyone; all ages and interests, limited only by your imagination.

In the neighborhood

Within walking distance from the Brown Palace are great attractions you don't want to miss.



The golden dome of the state capitol will be 100 years old this year and on the western stairs you'll find a plaque marking the elevation at exactly 5,280 feet. (www.milehighcity.com/capitol) There are numerous memorials and beautiful gardens throughout the grounds. Don't forget your camera!

In the same area you could take a tour of the US mint (303-405-4766), get cultural in the Denver Art Museum (www.denverartmuseum.org), or learn all about Colorado's rich history at the Colorado Historical Society (www.coloradohistory.org).



Don't have a car but would like to see more that Denver has to offer? Try the Cultural Connection Trolley. The trolley stops at the Convention Center (a sight to see all in itself) and for \$18 per day, you get unlimited rides to locations such as the zoo, the Museum of Nature and Science, the Denver Botanic Gardens, Cherry Creek Shopping Center and the famous Molly Brown House.

On the town

The historic Lower Downtown area, commonly known as Lodo, is jam packed with adventure. Exquisite dining (www.denver.diningguide.com), upscale shopping (www.lodo.org) and the nightlife is always on tap (www.denver.com/nightlife). While you're here,



visit some of the many attractions located just blocks from your hotel.

Coming a week early? Take in a Rockies-Dodgers baseball game (www.colorado.rockies.mlb.com) (sorry, no games will be town during the conference!). Check out the Downtown Aquarium (www.downtownaquarium.com), or take a ride at Elitch Gardens Amusement Park (www.elitchgardens.com), formerly a Six Flags amusement park.

Outside the City

If you want to venture outside of Denver don't miss the Coors Brewery tour in Golden (www.coors.com), watch your favorite band perform at the world renowned Red Rocks Amphitheater (www.redrocksonline.com), or experience the quirky charm of Boulder (www.ci.boulder.co.us). Mountain biking, hiking the Flatirons and "hanging out" at the outdoor Pearl Street mall are all favorite activities of the locals. After visiting Boulder you'll understand why *Mork and Mindy* was set there.



Just up the road from Boulder, you can enjoy the rock shops and beauty of Nederland (www.nederlandchamber.org), once a hard rock mining town, now a quiet respite from the hustle and bustle of the city. Or, if you prefer, head out to Niwot (www.niwotcolorado.com) and see first hand how world-famous Crocs shoes are made (www.crocs.com).

If you want even more adventure, head up to Estes Park (www.estesnet.com). This town is full of history and sure to be a highlight of your trip. Eat lunch at the Stanley Hotel (www.stanleyhotel.com), made famous by Stephen King's movie "The Shining." Some say this elegant hotel and is still haunted. Who knows what awaits? Estes is also the gateway to Rocky Mountain National Park (www.rmnp.com).



Spectacular vistas await you as you as you drive over Trail Ridge Road. At 12,183 feet, this is the highest continuous motorway in America (www.rmnp.com/RMNP-Areas-TrailRidge.HTML). Other than breathtaking scenery, we can almost guarantee you'll run across a wide variety of wildlife. You may even catch a glimpse of Colorado's state animal, the majestic bighorn sheep.



If great family fun is on your agenda, try looking south of Denver to Colorado Springs (www.springsgov.com). Excite your senses in the spectacular Cave of the Winds (www.caveofthewinds.com). See pristine geologic formations that took thousands of years to form. Or if being above ground is more your style, take a stroll through the majesty of the Garden of the Gods (www.gardenofgods.com), a spectacular park filled with towering sandstone formations that are sure to awe you. Do you have small children? They would love to visit the North Pole, home of Santa's Workshop (www.santas-colo.com). This child oriented park is fun for all ages and has family friendly rides and entertainment including petting zoos, magic shows and yes, Santa will be there too!



Throughout the State

If this isn't enough, explore our numerous museums, history tours, and world class stage shows all within or near Denver. And don't forget what we're famous for! Take a day or two and explore our great Rocky Mountains, where the fishing is great, the scenery is magnificent, the camping is wild and the wildlife is abundant (www.fs.fed.us).

Whatever you do, we hope you have a great time while visiting us. We're glad you're here.