Colorado Flood Response and Recovery Impacts to Planning

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Flood Recovery

- Historic Rainfall/Damage

- Cities with no Front Range access to reach their communities

- Road closures and imposed detours for the coming weeks to months

State Highway 257 near Johnstown
Transportation Damage

**Impacts**

- **Estimated Costs** – over $400 million estimated in total state highway damage (excludes local roads)
- **State Highways** – approximately 200 lane miles of state highways closed, damaged, or destroyed
- **Local Roads** – unknown total damage to county and city roads
- **Bridges** – 102 bridges damaged and requiring repair
Flood Recovery

Waldo Canyon – U.S. 24

• **Flooding** – 2012 fire burn scar resulted in flooding of Manitou Springs in 2013

• US 24 closure imposed when one-quarter inch of rain is detected or NWS issues a flood warning. US 24 East Business Loop is expected to open this week.

• **Long-term** – new culvert to be installed by April 2014, will alleviate future runoff that can lead to flooding; re-vegetation of the watershed may take up to 10 years.
Conversations with Vermont

* Representatives from VTrans (Vermont DOT) visited CDOT on Sept. 17th to share their expertise from the Hurricane Irene recovery in 2011.

* Marathon not a sprint!
**Phases**

- **Rescue (First few weeks – Get people out!)**
- **Response (Rest of this year – Get roads open!)**
- **Recovery (Next 2 years - Rebuilding)**

Photo: Military helicopter lands at Boulder City Airport after rescuing people from Jamestown where they had been trapped because of flooding in the mountains.
GIS Work

- Big initial challenge of evaluating the total damages to our transportation network.
- Coordination and communication is key to piece all the information together (data, estimates, maps).
- Daily Map Production by GIS Staff. Maps show status of flood impacted infrastructure and repair progress.
Progress Made - Baseline
Progress Made – 10 Days
Progress Made – 3 Weeks
CDOT / Regional Partnership Recovery Meetings immediately following flood.

Flood Information Hotline

Incident Recovery Center – Separate Office and Location with staff pulled in from across the state
Flood Recovery

Executive Orders

D 2013-026 & D 2013-027

- Declares a disaster emergency zone in over a dozen counties
- Declares that the damage to the state’s federal-aid highways constitutes a “disaster,” which allows CDOT to seek FHWA emergency relief funds
- Suspends certain statutes and rules if strict compliance would delay recovery efforts

Statutory Changes

- CDOT continues to monitor for possible statutory changes needed to ensure a swift recovery and rebuilding process
CDOT granted ability to process STIP amendments for Flood Recovery prior to MPO TIP amendment processing.

This is a reversal from the usual process, where projects must be adopted in an MPO’s TIP before being programmed in the STIP.

No delays in the movement of recovery funds.
Environmental Coordination

- Held meeting with both State and Federal agencies prior to government shut down
- Good cooperation in processing forms and meeting requirements
- Next steps to outline process for recovery phase
Environmental Coordination

- Working out process to meet FEMA requirements for reimbursement, such as tracking where flood debris is being disposed.
- Information is shared with our health department partners at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE).
Statewide Plan and RAMP – Moving Forward

* Priority #1 will be response and recovery from floods.
* However, CDOT will still continue to work on existing projects in areas not impacted by the flood.
* Will continue other ongoing efforts such as Responsible Acceleration of Maintenance and Partnership Projects (RAMP) and Statewide Plan.
Governor John Hickenlooper, who was on hand to officially commemorate the reopening of Highway 119 very early on Monday, Oct. 7, said CDOT "moved heaven and earth, mostly earth, to get this highway open."