

-MEMORANDUM-
E-470 Hazardous Material Designation

Summary:

Adams County and several municipal and county partners have been promoting the option of turning E-470 into a designated hazardous material (hazmat) route. Adams County and municipal partners both submitted letters urging consideration of hazmat designation. It is Adams County's position that E-470 is a safer and more efficient route for transporting hazardous materials than local highways and arterial streets. Due to proximity (West of HW-85 and East of I-76) the City of Brighton is a key partner in ensuring the success and efficiency of designating E-470 a hazardous material route. There are three major reasons for designating E-470 a hazmat route; Safety, Efficiency & Reduced Congestion, and Community Support (See "Purpose of Designation" on Page 3).

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Background

Current Process:

Title 42, Article 20 of the Colorado Revised Statutes governs the routing of hazardous materials by motor vehicles on all public roads in Colorado. To designate a state highway in Colorado as a hazmat route, CDOT staff members, local governments, or private entities must request the Mobility Section of the Division of Transportation Development to perform an analysis of the route. To perform this analysis the Mobility Section will convene a Hazmat Advisory Team to determine if the proposed route meets the *Required Criteria*. If the *Required Criteria* are met, and approved by the Transportation Commission, CDOT will file a petition with the Colorado State Patrol (“CSP”) for approval. If CSP approves the petition, the route will be designated a hazmat route.

Hazmat Advisory Team Required Criteria:

- The route(s) under consideration are feasible, practicable, and not unreasonably expensive for such transportation.

- The route(s) is continuous within a jurisdiction and from one jurisdiction to another.
 - The route(s) does not unreasonably burden interstate or intrastate commerce.
 - The route(s) designation is not arbitrary or intended by the petitioner merely to divert the transportation of hazardous materials to other communities.
 - The route(s) designation will not interfere with the pickup or delivery of hazardous materials.
 - The route(s) designation is consistent with all applicable state and federal laws and regulations; and
 - The route(s) provides greater safety to the public than other feasible routes.
- Considerations include but are not limited to:
- AADT, crash and fatality rates
 - Population within a one-mile swath of each side of the highway
 - Locations of schools, hospitals, sensitive environmental areas, rivers, lakes, etc.
 - Emergency response capabilities on the route
 - Condition of the route, i.e., vertical and horizontal alignment, pavement condition, level of access to the route, etc.

For further information on the *Required Criteria*, please see [here](#). A map of all hazardous material designated routes can be found [here](#). Safety oversight of hazardous material transport is the jurisdiction of the Colorado State Patrol. The current head of the Colorado State Patrol (Department of Public Safety) is Commander John Hahn.

Colorado General Assembly 2019 Regular Session Bills Under Consideration

1. **SB19-032 (Hazardous Materials Transportation Routing):**
 - a. This bill authorizes a public highway authority or a governmental partner in a public-private partnership to apply to the Colorado State Patrol (CSP) for a new or modified hazardous materials route designation for a road or highway that it directly or indirectly maintains.
 - b. The bill also requires the department of transportation (CDOT) to conduct a study to assess the feasibility of allowing the transportation of hazardous materials through the Eisenhower-Edwin C. Johnson Memorial Tunnel and prepares a study report that includes findings and recommendations as to whether and under what conditions the transportation of hazardous materials through the tunnel should be allowed. CDOT must solicit input from representatives of specified counties, towns, communities, ski resorts, industries, organizations, emergency services providers, and the CSP regarding the scope of the study and must consider specified information and criteria and conduct specified types of analysis when conducting the study.
2. **SB19-032 & Adams County/E-470:**
 - a. Neither Adams County nor E-470 designed or brought forward SB19-032. These are not in any way, shape, or form our bill.
 - b. This bill was initiated by Grier Bailey of the Executive Director of Colorado Wyoming Petroleum Marketers Association, Tim Stewart. E-470's only involvement in the bill is that Director Stewart was contacted to provide input on the bill. Adams County was not involved in the stakeholder process and/or the development of SB19-032.

Hazardous Material in Colorado 101

- Hazardous Materials Carriers are subject to Colorado Public Utility Commission (PUC) registration and insurance requirements. Safety oversight is the jurisdiction of the Colorado State Patrol. Colorado statutes require that any person transporting hazardous materials that require placarding to obtain a Hazardous Materials Permit from the Public Utilities Commission.
- Many small businesses are likely to produce hazardous wastes that require disposal under state Health Department regulations. Many of these products are every-day hazardous material and travel along major designated roadways each-and-every day (such as I-25).
- Most likely generators include businesses like: dry cleaners, bakeries, newspapers/printing shops/graphic arts, wineries, breweries, distilleries, organic and inorganic chemical formulators and manufacturers, wood finishers, furniture manufacturing and repair, paint manufacturers and applicators, metal finishers, foundries, auto body shops, lumber mills and paper product manufacturers, cement plants, leather finishers and manufacturers, photo equipment and supply manufacturers, hospitals, funeral homes, general contractors, rubber and tire manufacturers, canneries, gasoline service stations, gasoline tank trucks/bulk terminals, producers of natural gas liquids, manufacturers of plastic and synthetic materials, explosives manufacturers, agricultural chemical manufacturers and applicators, meat packing plants, refineries, manufacturers and applicators of asphalt and tar paving mixtures, manufacturers of soap/detergent/cleaning and polishing products, refrigerator/air conditioner service/repair shops, photo finishing labs, utilities, laboratories, and pest control operators.
- The area of hazardous waste is heavily regulated at the local, state, and federal level. All generators of hazardous waste are required to have an “identification number” from EPA. The EPA program is administered through the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment, Waste Management Division. The division can provide generators with the regulations they will need to meet in disposal of their wastes and with more information on resources available to small generators in disposing of their wastes. Colorado solid waste laws forbid the disposal of any non-residential hazardous waste in state solid waste landfills.

Purpose of Designation

Safety: E-470 is a safer and more efficient route for transporting hazardous materials than local arterial streets because of almost uninterrupted traffic flow from a multitude of grade-separated crossings. Allowing this type of transportation on E-470 will minimize the number and severity of potential conflicting transportation movements and risks. The physical proximity of E-470's traveling lanes are much further away from homes, schools and business than the local streets in the unlikely event of an emergency situation.

Efficiency & Reduced Congestion: Given the nature and character of these types of hazardous material vehicles, the design and construction specifications of the E-470 transportation system is suited far better than the local transportation systems. Due to design, major hazardous material roadways such as I-25, US-85, and I-76, cause vehicles to have to exit onto local side streets in order to move between hazardous material routes. Allowing E-470 as an option would allow hazardous material trucks to circumvent the main arterial streets that run through our local communities, avoid urban centers and reduce traffic congestion. Allowing an additional hazardous material route that can be easily accessed from the north-east metro area will help disperse the concentration of hazardous material along an additional roadway.



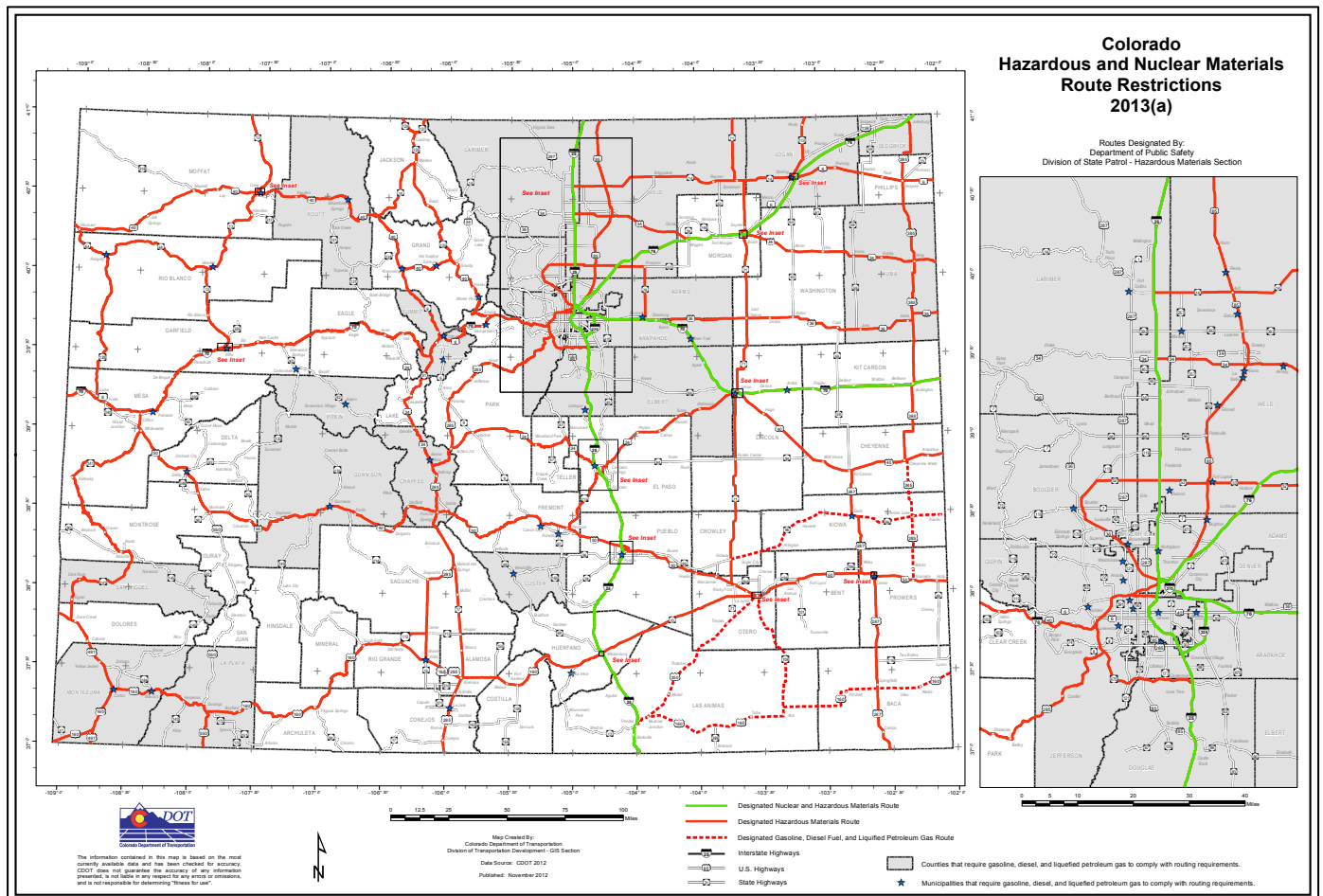
Community Support: Adams County is not alone in advocating for the designation of E-470 as a hazardous material route. Adams County, Douglas County, the Town of Parker, Commerce City, and the City of Thornton have all expressed the same sentiment. We want to keep hazardous material movement on the perimeter of our communities and not right through the center on our local roadways. The Greater Brighton Fire Rescue District (whose emergency services area includes nine miles of E-470) have stated that a majority of their calls regarding hazardous materials take place on local roads, and as such, would support getting these materials on roadways that are more conducive to the transportation of these materials. Further, the fire district views the hazmat designation as a way of moving these materials away from more densely populated neighborhoods. Additionally, our energy industries are supportive of this proposal, as it would generate more efficiency in transporting hazardous material across the state.

Additional Talking Points

Economic Development & Conservation: There has been some concern raised that the proposed designation might hinder economic development within the region as well as impact open space. Economic development and preserving the open space we all love continues to be a priority for Adams County and community partners. Designating E-470 as a hazmat route now, before major development along E-470 in the north-east metro area occurs, allows local governments to plan growth in an intelligent, thoughtful way that ensures communities/businesses that have yet to be developed are located in appropriate proximity from the roadway. Additionally, current roadways that are designated as hazardous material routes have not prevented growth or open space development within areas along the roadway (I-25, I-76, etc.).

Multiple Hazmat Roads: It has been suggested that the designation of E-470 as hazmat route would mean that the City of Brighton may be taking on more than its fair share of hazmat routes as compared to other communities. Communities such as Denver, Colorado Springs, and Pueblo all have multiple hazardous material routes running through their communities. Further, the goal of designating E-470 as a hazmat route is to remove hazardous material traffic from local roadways, not to increase the amount of hazardous material going through the region. This designation would more equitably disperse hazardous material.

Current Hazardous and Nuclear Materials Route Restrictions



(Zoom-in should be enabled to see listed roadways)

E-470 General Fact Sheet



FACT SHEET

Facts that our customers should know.

OUR FOCUSED GOALS ARE TO PROVIDE:
SAFETY • SERVICE • STEWARDSHIP • SPEED



47 MILES 8 MEMBERS

The E-470 Public Highway Authority is a political subdivision of the State of Colorado and it consists of 8 voting member jurisdictions.



COUNTIES:

1. Adams County
2. Arapahoe County
3. Douglas County

MUNICIPALITIES:

4. City of Aurora
5. City of Brighton
6. Commerce City
7. Town of Parker
8. City of Thornton

E-470 ROAD STATS:

47 Miles Long
96 Bridges
16 Interchanges
24 Snow Plows
Lanes are 12' Wide

NO TAX DOLLARS FUND E-470

The operation and improvement of the road is funded entirely through toll revenue. Tolls are the largest source of revenue, which is applied toward bond debt payments, in addition to the operating and maintenance costs of the road.

\$1.5 BILLION IN BOND DEBT IS SCHEDULED TO BE PAID OFF BY 2041

It is required to pay off in accordance with the Plan of Finance that was established in 1995 and amended in 2010.

Through this Plan of Finance, scheduled toll increases were put in place to ensure that E-470 could continue to meet its bond debt obligations.

Vehicle registration bonds will be paid off in 2018.

Our debt ratio requirement is 1.3.

Debt obligation increases each year by an average of \$6.5 million until 2020. These increase then level off at \$125 million annually until final maturity 2041.



A BRIEF HISTORY OF CONSTRUCTION COSTS

Historic Highway Construction Costs

On average, E-470 construction costs and debt are higher than older toll roads in the United States. This is primarily due to the time period it was built and the higher cost of materials and labor during the initial construction period of 1988-2003.

After the Federal Aid Highway Act of 1956

Construction on federally funded toll roads began during this era in the 1950s & 1960s. In contrast, E-470 has received no federal or state funding for its construction and maintenance. E-470 is funded nearly completely by tolls generated by the road.



CONSTRUCTION & BOND DEBT A TIMELINE OF EVENTS

1987	Public Highway Authority Act Signed
1991	First segment of E-470 opens
1995	Plan of finance established
2003	Final segment of E-470 completed
2017	Board approves toll rate adjustment & ExpressToll rate freeze
2018	Vehicle registration bonds mature
2020	Debt obligation increases from \$101M in 2018 to \$113M in 2020
2041	Final maturity of outstanding debt

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT: **EXPRESSTOLL.COM**

Adams County Support Letter

Mary Hodge
COUNTY COMMISSIONER
DISTRICT 5



Commissioners' Office
4430 South Adams County Parkway
5th Floor, Suite C5300
Brighton, CO 80601-8218
PHONE 720.523.6110
FAX 720.523.6120
www.adcogov.org

July 26, 2018

E-470 Board of Directors
Tim Stewart
Executive Director
22470 E. 6th Parkway, Suite 100

RE: E-470 Hazardous Material Route Designation

Dear E-470 Board of Directors and Mr. Stewart:

The purpose of this letter is to communicate and document Adams County's support for the designation of E-470 as a Hazardous Material Route. It is the County's position that E-470 is a safer and more efficient route for transporting hazardous materials than local arterial streets. Allowing this type of transportation on E-470 will minimize the number and severity of potential conflicting transportation movements and risks. Further, given the nature and character of these types of vehicles, the design and construction specifications of the E-470 transportation system is suited far better than the local transportation systems. Also, the physical proximity of E-470's traveling lanes are much further away from homes, schools and business than the local streets in the unlikely event of an emergency situation.

Please let me know if you have any questions about the County's position or rationale for supporting this designation.

Sincerely,

Mary Hodge
Adams County Commissioner

City of Thornton Support Letter



Thornton City Hall
9500 Civic Center Drive
Thornton, CO 80229-4326
www.cityofthornton.net

Office of the Mayor
PH 303-538-7200

February 15, 2018

E-470 Board of Directors
Tim Stewart
Executive Director
22470 E. 6th Parkway, Suite 100
Aurora, Colorado 80018

RE: E-470 Hazardous Material Route Designation

Dear E-470 Board of Directors and Mr. Stewart:

The purpose of this letter is to communicate and document the City of Thornton's support for the designation of E-470 as a Hazardous Material Route. It is the City's position that E-470 is a safer and more efficient route for transporting hazardous materials than the City's local arterial streets. Allowing this type of transportation on E-470 will minimize the number and severity of potential conflicting transportation movements and risks. Further, given the nature and character of these types of vehicles, the design and construction specifications of the E-470 transportation system is suited far better than the City's local transportation system. Also, the physical proximity of E-470's traveling lanes is much further away from homes, schools and business than the City's streets in the unlikely event of an emergency situation.

Please let me know if you have any questions about the City's position or rationale for supporting this designation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H. Williams", written over a horizontal line.

Heidi K. Williams
Mayor

cc: City Council
Kevin Woods, City Manager

Commerce City Support Letter



January 7, 2019

Executive Director Tim Stewart
Board of Directors
E-470 Highway Authority
22470 E. 6th Parkway, Suite 100
Aurora, CO 80018

RE: E-470 Hazardous Material Route Designation

Dear Members of the Board and Mr. Stewart,

The purpose of this letter is to formally communicate the City of Commerce City's support for evaluating the designation of E-470 as a hazardous material route. With oil and gas operators looking at potential locations adjacent to E-470 within the city, this designation offers the opportunity to minimize the number and severity of potential conflicting transportation movements and risk on local arterials. The city believes any E-470 hazardous material route designation needs to be regional, extending beyond Interstates 25 and 76 to maximize local benefits.

The City believes advancing a criteria-driven review process will yield the necessary data to determine whether such a designation will improve safety and efficiency for transporting these materials as well as provide benefit to our local transportation network.

Please contact City Manager McBroom at 303-227-8814 with additional questions.

Sincerely,

Mayor Sean Ford
City of Commerce City