



MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** July 19, 2018  
**TO:** Transportation Commission  
**FROM:** David Eller, Kathy Young, Andy Karsian  
**SUBJECT:** Regional Off Highway Vehicle Pilot Project

Purpose

To hear about Region 3's ongoing efforts at finding a way to allow OHVs to travel on some state highways while maintain public safety. The pilot project will allow CDOT, State Patrol and local governments to promote OHV use in southwest Colorado and gather data that could impact future policy or legislative actions.

Action

Approve resolution outlining the parameters of the pilot project in Region 3 and possible future projects in other regions.

Background

There has been uncertainty about OHVs travelling on state highways for many years and multiple attempts at clarifying the policies and statutes have resulted in a variety of solutions, but none solving the underlying problem: how do OHVs get to connecting trailheads when a state highway separates the trail by miles.

Region 3 has worked with the local governments in southwest Colorado and using language included in recent legislation feel that there may be an opportunity to allow OHVs to travel on a state highway using a special permit developed through a pilot program for that specific area.

Next Steps

If approved, the region will work with State Patrol and the regional local governments to install specific parameters for OHVs to use while travelling on this state highway.

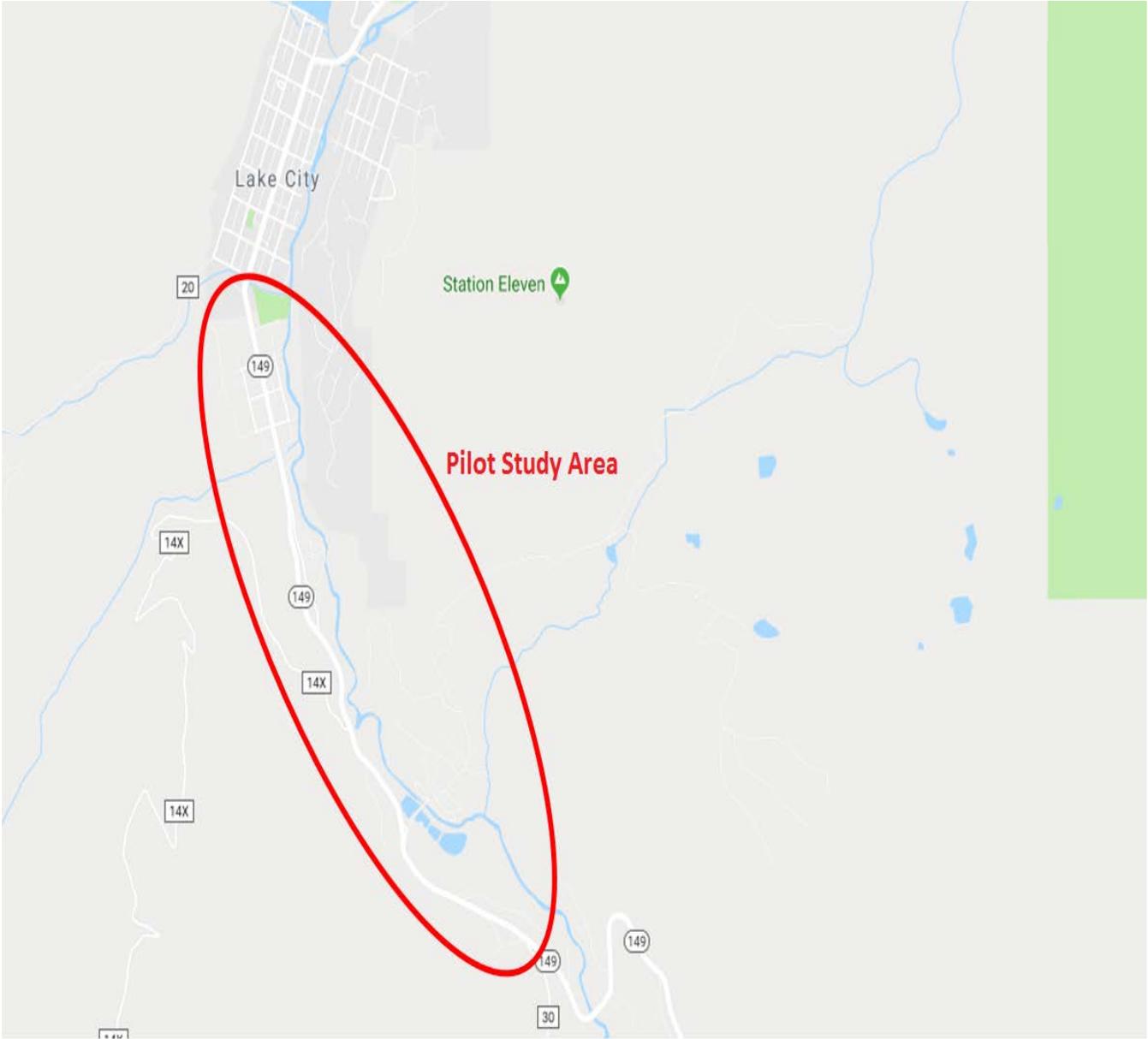
The region and the local governments will monitor the program and collect data on how the travelling public is impacted by the OHVs on the state highway and what, if any, safety factors come into play resulting from the OHVs using the road.

This information will help other regions work with local governments in developing other permits to allow OHVs to travel on other state highways using the criteria and outcomes from the pilot program.

**Attachments:**

Map of Region 3 pilot program area  
Transportation Committee Resolution





**Resolution #TC 18-07-xx**

Instructing the Colorado Department of Transportation Regions on Permitting of Off-Highway Vehicles for Travel on State Highways.

**Approved by the Transportation Commission on July 19, 2018.**

**WHEREAS**, off-highway vehicle tourism provides millions of dollars to the State of Colorado and local economies; and

**WHEREAS**, the State must balance the promotion of tourism dollars and public safety; and

**WHEREAS**, the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) regions know best what safety issues and concerns confront particular regions and have a working relationship with the local governments and local law enforcement in the region; and

**WHEREAS**, the CDOT regions have struggled for years to provide adequate direction to local governments on how off-highway vehicles could travel on state highways; and

**WHEREAS**, the General Assembly passed legislation over the last two years that provides a structure for local governments to work with their CDOT regions on providing safe travel for off-highway vehicles on state highways; and

**WHEREAS**, State statute, specifically Section 33-14.5-108(a), C.R.S., stipulates that the State may designate a road or highway open to off-highway vehicles; and

**WHEREAS**, CDOT regions have worked and will continue to work with the Colorado State Patrol and local governments to develop a process for designating certain roads open to off-highway vehicles; and

**WHEREAS**, CDOT regions wish to begin a pilot program, to last for the rest of 2018 and through 2019, for off-highway vehicles to travel on some state highways; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the Colorado Transportation Commission approves the regions ability to enter into agreements with the State Patrol and local governments to declare open and allow off-highway vehicles to travel on some state highways, under circumstances that could include but not be limited to:

- Outside CDOT right-of-way
- Outside of highway clear zone
- Off of the maintained highway surface
- On the highway shoulder
- On through lanes in single file rules of the road.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Commission believes that these pilot projects could offer an opportunity to gather data to direct future policy discussions,

provide additional resources for the safety of the travelling public, and make available other opportunities in other regions for state and local collaboration.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Commission instructs CDOT staff to bring this issue back to the Commission no later than September 2019 for a report on the pilot project and possible further action.

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Herman Stockinger, Secretary  
Transportation Commission of Colorado

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Date