

Guidelines For Integrating Artwork Into CDOT Transportation Facilities

November 2008

Introduction

Art and artistic design help to create useful and visually appealing urban spaces. At its best, art enriches Colorado's quality of life, providing a sense of place and adding interest and vitality to the landscape. At its worst, art is divorced from essential considerations of site and user needs, resulting in works which fail to serve the users and purposes intended. Whether it is viewed as the lubrication needed to boost public acceptance or the right thing to do in the public interest, integration of art forms and artwork is an important tool available to help create a successful roadway environment.

Purpose

This technical memorandum covers integration of artwork and artist treatments within the right-of-way of Colorado state highways. It emphasizes the importance of designs sensitive to nearby communities, the surrounding environment and the safety of the traveling public. Because the context may vary, it sets minimum standards for Region Traffic Engineers to approve of and permit the installation of public artwork such that the highway can provide a safe and pleasing experience for all users and neighboring communities.

Questions

Questions regarding publication or distribution of these Guidelines should be referred to K. C. Matthews, Traffic Specifications and Standards Engineer, at (303) 757-9543 or K.C.Matthews@DOT.State.CO.US.

Application Process

This document covers a wide variety of diverse art forms and art features, including monuments, recognizable and abstract forms, logos, graphic designs, sculpture, municipal identification signs and related architectural treatments, added to or incorporated within highway elements to enhance the public space. The design of all artwork must be coordinated with the aesthetic design of the highway system and all its parts. Most importantly, it must respect the roadway circumstances, the clear zone, people and environment affected by the artwork.

Special Use Permits (Applications) for incorporating artwork into transportation facilities shall be submitted to the appropriate Region Traffic Engineer of the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT). The artwork must be sponsored by a local unit of government, accompanied by a resolution from the local governing body and the application shall contain the following information:

1. Name of artwork sponsor and designer. Include information about individuals responsible for the tasks that must be undertaken to achieve the project's goals.

2. Scaled preliminary drawings, models and presentation materials of the proposed artwork sufficient to communicate the design intent.
3. Complete written description of the project requirements. Include the key issues of project, such as, what is to be designed and built; where will (might) it be built; it's relationship to the roadway and other highway elements; levels of design quality and amenity; role of the proposed artwork in the highway and/or community; schedule requirements or constraints; target date for completion; budget estimate and sources of funding; codes, regulations and required design reviews; and maintenance requirements and responsibilities.
4. Samples of materials, showing type, quality, textures, colors, etc.

Applications shall be submitted to the Region Traffic Engineer for initial review and comment. The Region Traffic Engineer may convene an aesthetic and design evaluation team to assist in his evaluation. This team will consist of the Region Traffic Engineer, the CDOT Traffic Specifications & Standards Engineer, the CDOT Outdoor Advertising Manager and representatives from the CDOT Bridge Design & Management Branch, the CDOT Maintenance and Operations Branch and others, as needed.

The Region Traffic Engineer shall have final approval authority to permit the artwork or art-related features within CDOT ROW. That Special Use Permit shall contain provisions for State of Colorado and CDOT indemnification, including from the Visual Artists Rights Act of 1990, and Certificates of Insurance for the artwork.

Design Requirements

All artwork shall meet the following requirements:

1. Artwork must be located completely within the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) right-of-way (ROW). Maintenance shall be the responsibility of the sponsor throughout the life cycle of the artwork. All construction and maintenance activities shall be completed without access or egress from the traveled way on any Colorado State highway section where the posted speed is greater than 45 miles per hour, unless otherwise approved by the Region Traffic Engineer. Artwork that would require access or egress from the interstate mainline section for construction or maintenance activities will not be approved.
2. Artwork for highway structures, such as bridges or retaining walls, shall be harmoniously integrated with the architectural design of these structures. In general, artwork which meets the aesthetic requirements of the highway or its components and is integrally designed with them shall be approved. Artwork that is attached or hung from structures in a manner which detracts from the visual quality or functionality of any highway feature, will not be approved.

3. The content of all artwork must be socially acceptable. The artwork's appearance and visual relationships with the surrounding environment shall also be considered. Artwork which conflicts with local values or is determined to not be in the public interest will not be approved.
4. Artwork shall exhibit lasting qualities that are not trendy or subject to change within a short period of time.
5. As part of the application packet, the applicant shall demonstrate that the proposed artwork will not compromise motorist safety, road and roadside functions or highway design standards. No public artwork features shall be located within the clear zone. In addition, the proposed artwork location shall conform to the American Disability Act (ADA) design criteria, if applicable. The following design features will not be approved:
 - Artwork that is not going to be a public nuisance
 - Bold or vibrant colors, especially colors that can be mistaken for signal lights
 - Animation and moving parts
 - Water features
 - Lighting or reflective elements
 - Flashing disks that simulate lighting
 - Company logos or symbols
 - Living logos
 - Flags and banners
 - Text messages, except on local government signs
 - Artwork that requires electricity
6. Artwork shall not simulate a traffic control device. Artwork having a predominant red or orange background or any other MUTCD color will not be approved.
7. Artwork shall not be commercial signing or advertising of any kind. Signs associated with a business, including non-profit organizations, business complex or regional shopping center or event will not be approved.
8. Non-traffic-related signs that may be permitted along highways, include Municipal Entrance Identification Signs within the ROW, Community Identification Signs off the ROW and Community Recognition Signs
9. Artwork shall be permanent and maintainable. It shall be designed using long lasting materials and construction techniques which require minimal care and resist vandalism. Artwork placed on highway structures shall not be detrimental to the longevity of the structure. Neither shall it unduly inhibit maintenance of the structure by restricting access to inspect, paint or perform other maintenance operations. Artwork placed on highway structures shall have technical plans with a PE stamp signed by a professional engineer registered in the State of Colorado to assure the integrity of the structure is not comprised by the addition of the artwork.

10. Artwork damaged by vehicular accidents, vandalism, acts of nature or necessitated by maintenance operations or construction projects will be required to be repaired or removed by the local governing agency within 30 days of written notification. If the art work is not repaired or removed as required, the artwork will be removed by CDOT or its agents without commitment for restoration or replacement. When artwork removal is required, its sponsor shall be responsible for all of the costs involved. All graffiti shall be removed within two business days of written notice at no cost to CDOT.

Construction Requirements

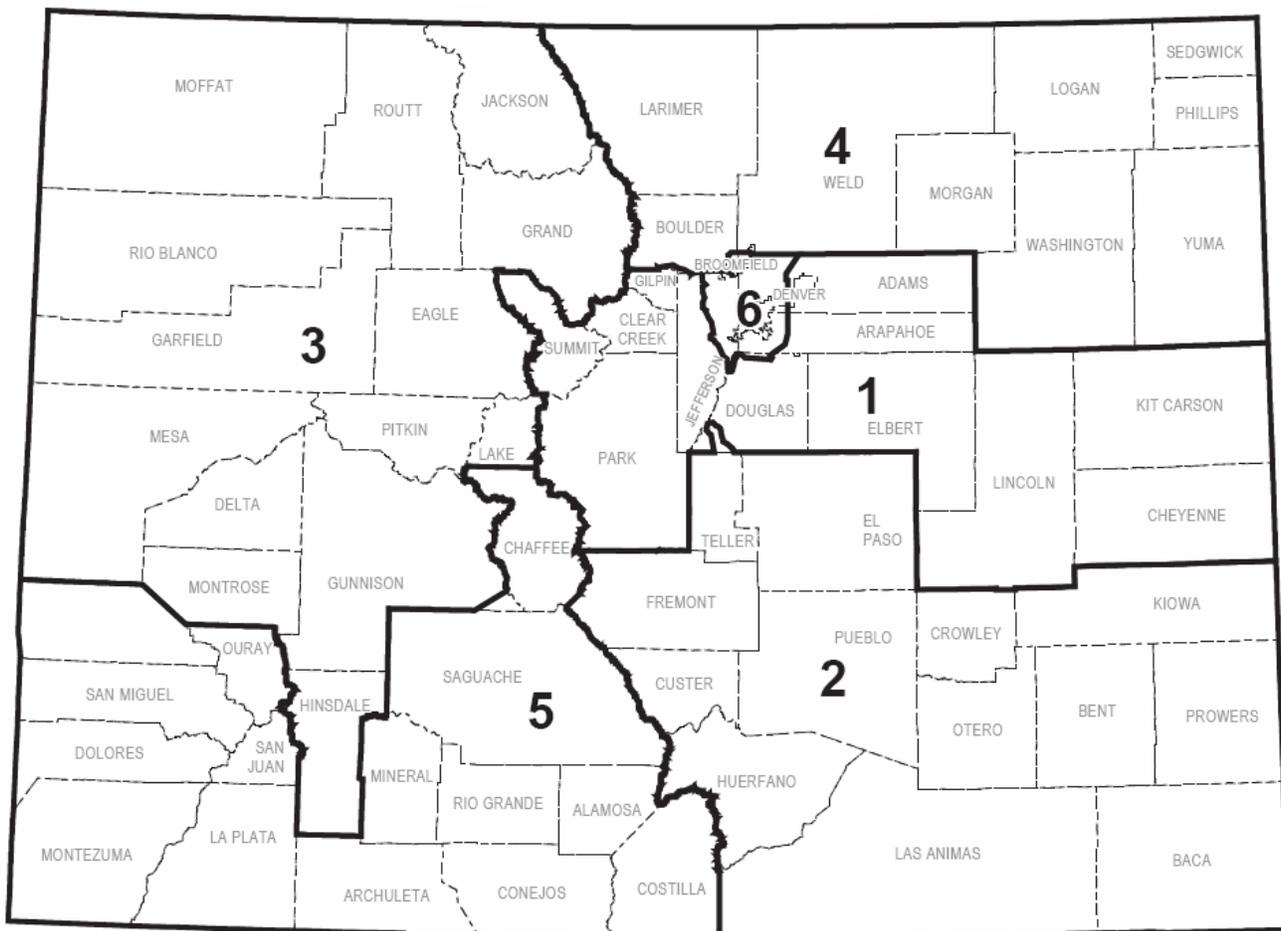
Artwork shall be constructed in accordance with a project work plan, developed as part of the process of negotiating intergovernmental agreements covering the the artwork. Installation shall comply with all Special Use Permit requirements, approved shop drawings and the latest edition of the CDOT's "Standard Specifications for Road and Bridge Construction." At no time shall any maintenance activity interfere with through traffic movements along the highway and construction activities.

Construction shall not begin until a Special Use Permit is fully executed by the Region. The NTP shall not be issued until the sponsor's local agency ordinance or resolution, Special Use Permit, Certificates of Insurance, complete plans and specifications (including Traffic Control Plan) and other documentation required by Region Traffic Engineer has been provided.

Approved Projects

The artwork sponsor shall have sole responsibility for all of the costs involved with the design, installation and maintenance of approved artwork projects. When proposals are linked to aesthetic requirements of the highway by enhancing aesthetic or architectural design themes, the cost of the artwork and/or artistic treatments may be eligible for CDOT participation. The artwork sponsor shall have the responsibility to make bi-annual inspections and provide written reports to the Region Traffic Engineer in accordance with a Special Use Permit.

CDOT Regional Boundary Map



CDOT Region Traffic Engineer Contact Information

Region 1 Traffic Engineer
18500 E. Colfax Avenue
Aurora, CO 80111
(303) 365-7301

Region 4 Traffic Engineer
1420 2nd Street
Greeley, CO 80631
(970) 350-2121

Region 2 Traffic Engineer
905 Erie Avenue
Pueblo, CO 81002
(719) 546-5411

Region 5 Traffic Engineer
3803 N. Main Avenue, Suite 300
Durango, CO 81301
(970) 385-1449

Region 3 Traffic Engineer
222 S. 6th Street, Rm. 100
Grand Junction, CO 81501
(970) 683-6275

Region 6 Traffic Engineer
2000 S. Holly Street
Denver, CO 80222
(303) 757-9942