

STATE OF COLORADO

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**ITS Branch**

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CDOT Variable Message Sign (VMS) Usage Policy

1. It is CDOT's policy to use VMSs to the optimum extent, in accordance with this policy statement, the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), and the document "CDOT Guidelines on Variable Message Signs (VMS)".
2. The Colorado Traffic Management Center (CTMC) shall have the authority to place messages on VMS signs that the CTMC can control, statewide, when the message content is requested from a verified and credible source, (i.e., CDOT, Colorado State Patrol). The CTMC will be responsible for removal of said message when applicable.
3. Individual CDOT Regions will have over-ride authority for message boards located in their Region.
4. The CTMC will notify the Regions of intended sign usage and message content when a message board is going to be used for a planned event (e.g., bike race, controlled burn).
5. The CTMC will notify concerned parties of sign changes via VMS "sign logs". A new sign log will be generated for each sign change.
6. Messages dealing with traveler safety and road conditions take precedence over information messages.
7. Federal and CDOT guidelines suggest VMS messages be limited to road/weather safety. Due to the nature of travel across Colorado, messages such as controlled burn, forest fire and fire ban information are considered appropriate messages. For more information refer to "CDOT Guidelines on Variable Message Signs".
8. Messages considered to be advertising in nature are not allowed and will not be placed on VMSs.
9. Traveler information messages relating to information sources such as COTrip.org and CDOT's travel information signs will be permitted when applicable.