

# Support HB25-1303: Funding for Motor Vehicle Collision Prevention

Rep. Andy Buesenacker & Rep. Meghan Lukens | Sen. Faith Winter & Sen. Dylan Roberts

## THE ISSUE



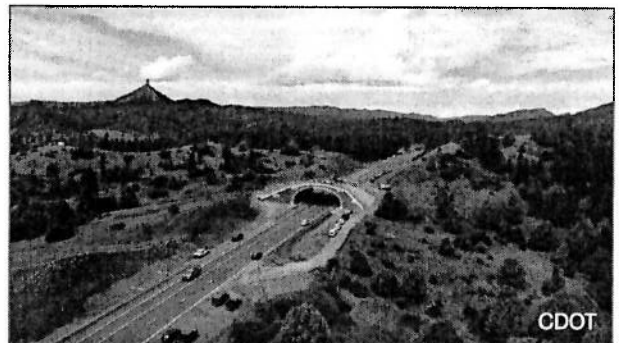
Vehicle collisions with wildlife, bicyclists, and pedestrians are a significant concern in Colorado, costing lives, damaging property, and placing financial burdens on families. Between 2014 and 2024, pedestrian fatalities increased by 73 percent. During this ten-year period, 1,131 bicyclists and pedestrians lost their lives on Colorado's roads. In 2023 alone, 156 bicyclists and pedestrians lost their lives—a record high in Colorado and up from 64 fatalities in 2013.

What's more, the total estimated annual cost of wildlife-vehicle collisions in Colorado is \$313 million—the *highest of any state in the West*—with the average cost of hitting a deer exceeding \$23,500. These incidents negatively impact the health of wildlife populations, diminish hunting and wildlife viewing opportunities, and other aspects of our state's robust \$62.5 billion outdoor recreation economy.

State transportation officials have identified a lack of funding as the primary barrier to building safer transportation infrastructure and wildlife crossing structures for drivers and other road users.

## THE SOLUTION

*Funding for Motor Vehicle Collision Prevention* (HB25-1303) aims to reduce both crashes with vulnerable road users like bicyclists and pedestrians, as well as wildlife. The bill proposes the creation of a *Crash Prevention Enterprise* within the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) to provide dedicated funding for proven transportation infrastructure improvements that will help prevent life-altering collisions, and save lives and money.



Experts agree that changing the built environment to prioritize safety is one of the most effective ways to reduce traffic fatalities. The Federal Highway Administration cites infrastructure such as raised medians and pedestrian refuge areas as an effective strategy to mitigate or prevent crashes. Wildlife crossing structures—such as overpasses and underpasses that allow animals to safely cross roads—have proven to yield a high return on investment by significantly reducing collision rates. For instance, a series of wildlife crossings installed in 2015 on State Highway 9 near Kremmling reduced crashes with wildlife by 92%.

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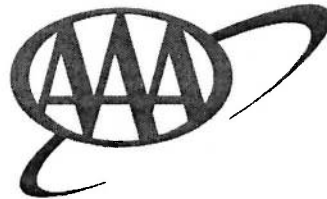
In addition to saving lives, these projects will reduce insurance claims, prevent increases in car insurance rates, and minimize costly road closures. According to CDOT, every hour the I-70 mountain corridor is closed costs the surrounding communities up to \$2 million in lost economic activity. Overall, HB25-1303 will make a dramatic difference for road safety and our state's iconic wildlife populations by addressing a critical lack of infrastructure funding. The new Crash Prevention Enterprise is a prudent investment that will significantly reduce accidents, thereby saving lives, lowering costs, and reconnecting wildlife habitat.

## COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR THE CRASH PREVENTION ENTERPRISE

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