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A Message from CDOT's Director of Process Improvement:

At CDOT, we want to engage everyone in improving CDOT, and we want to ensure that each and every person can be successful with each and every change that impacts them. This Innovation Highway newsletter aims to accomplish all those goals and much, much more! We are hopeful that this issue of the newsletter helps to inform you about updates on new Lean Everyday Ideas (LEI), the FY25 CDOT Innovations Challenge, the impact of upcoming business improvement projects at CDOT, and more!

Best regards, Gary Vansuch, Director
of the Office of Process
Improvement

Excellence at CDOT

At CDOT, excellence isn't just a value, it is our promise to Colorado. We lead with quality, continuously improving our work to deliver the best in transportation systems for all.



Scan to visit us online!

Innovation Station

Safety in Seconds: Robert Jordan's Real-Time Rockfall Map

We want to recognize Robert Jordan for his innovative contributions to CDOT. Working in Region 3, Robert tackled the challenge of tracking rockfall locations, a critical safety issue across our Colorado roadways.

By using everyday tools like a phone, Google Maps, and Google Photos, Robert created a map overlay that showcases real-time rockfalls. His approach not only improves safety but also saves CDOT valuable time and money.

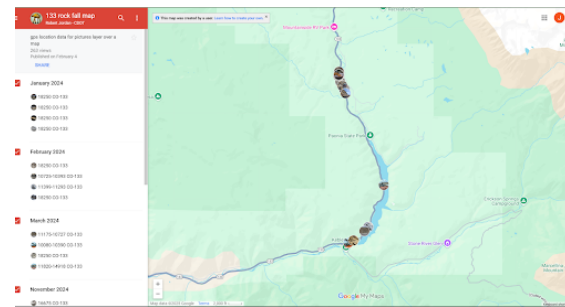
This innovation provides a clear, organized way to track rockfalls, making collaboration and response efforts faster and more effective. To access the CO 133 Rock Fall Map, click [Here](#):

[Google Maps CO 133](#)

Want to create your own Rock Fall Map? Robert's process is simple and easy to follow:

1. Sign in to Google Maps and click "Create a New Map."
2. Give your map a name and description.
3. If you have data to import, (like a KML file), do so in the Untitled Layer.
4. Rename the layer to match the current month and year.
5. Begin marking rockfall locations with a photo and description.
6. For each new month, add a new layer and repeat the process.

Thanks to Robert Jordan's innovation, teams now have a more efficient and effective way to respond to rockfalls. His work highlights how simple tools can lead to big improvements for CDOT.



Robert's Interactive Map



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2025 Innovations Challenge: Final Quarter Push!

We're entering the final quarter of the 2025 Innovations Challenge, and the race for the title of CDOT's most innovative region is closer than ever!

Region 4 is currently leading the pack with a strong lineup of innovations. HQ and Region 2 are tied for second place, each bringing forward impressive ideas. Region 3 and Region 5 are neck and neck, while Region 1 is right on their heels, still very much in the game.



Innovations like the Cable Rail Post Puller (Cameron Contreras, Region 4) and Extending the Sander Auger's Lifespan (Jaime Lawson & Craig Lee, Region 5) showcase how small ideas can lead to big improvements. Whether it's safety, efficiency, or saving money, every idea, no matter how small, makes a difference!

If you've seen an innovation worth spotlighting, now's the time to encourage your team members to submit it to the Innovation Catalog! Don't forget, innovators can choose to submit their ideas anonymously, making it easier than ever to share great work with your peers all across the state.

Let's finish strong and continue celebrating the incredible work happening across CDOT. Keep those ideas coming, we can't wait to see which region will rise to the top!

Round of Recognition

Sharpening Safety with Roger Kelly

Roger Kelly out of Region 3 is making a big impact at CDOT through innovative solutions. His ideas are helping folks work safer, faster, and smarter. We're here to give him a well-deserved round of recognition!

One of Roger's innovations addresses a common issue in the field: dull chainsaw blades. A dull blade isn't just inefficient, it's dangerous. To solve this, Roger introduced a precision grinder-guided chain sharpener, which gives old blades new life. This tool extends the lifespan of chainsaw blades, reduces waste, and improves safety for our teams.



Roger Kelly's Chainsaw Sharpener

Roger also found a clever fix for another tricky task: transferring hydraulic fluid. The original receptacle was awkward and messy, often leading to spills. Roger sourced a 5-gallon bucket and attached a pump to the lid, creating a cleaner, safer, and more efficient way to transfer fluid. This simple setup is now helping crews save time and reduce the risk of spills or injury.

These innovations reflect Roger's dedication to improving safety, and efficiency. We thank Roger for improving the experience for both CDOT employees and the public!



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Regional Rockstars

Region 2 Is Raising the Bar!

As we continue moving full speed ahead toward the 2025 Innovations Challenge, we're excited to spotlight the innovations being done in Region 2. From safety upgrades to creative tools that make everyday work easier, Region 2 is proving that even the smallest innovations can make a big impact.

We'd like to recognize two standout submissions from Region 2:

Walter R. Garcia tackled a long-standing safety issue related to climbing on and off flatbed trucks. His innovation? A folding step ladder with handrails that slides out from under the truck's bed and stows away when not in use. This simple yet effective solution significantly reduces the risk of slips, trips, and falls. It also makes it easier for workers to access equipment safely. Click on the [Folding Step Ladder](#) link to learn more about this innovation, or scan the QR code:



Meanwhile, Matthew Stearns developed a game changing tool for maintenance crews. This tool is the [Trash Picker](#). Designed to end bending and reduce hand and back strain, this tool allows workers to pick up pieces of trash with ease. It's a great example of how small modifications to our tools can lead to big improvements in efficiency and comfort.



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With just a few months left until the end of the Innovations Challenge, there's still time for every region to shine. Have an idea? Share it in the Innovation Catalog (<https://leanideas.codot.gov/>) by clicking the “+ New Idea” button. Remember, no idea is too small!

Learning Lounge

Learn, Lean, Innovate

Registration is now open for 2025 Change Management and Project Management courses! These courses are designed to help lead your team through change or sharpen your project management skills CDOT employees can explore and sign up for training classes anytime on SOC Learns. Below are a few of the upcoming offerings provided by C2P:

Change Management for Managers & Supervisors Start Date:

May 22, 2025 8:30am - 3:30pm

Change Management for Managers & Supervisors Start Date:

August 6, 2025 8:30am - 3:30pm

This year, we've partnered with CDOT's OED Team to bring back one of the most popular course, Franklin Covey Project Management Essentials! A huge



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thank you to OED for making this happen. This one day course gives participants a strong foundation in Project Management concepts.

Franklin Covey Project Management Essentials Start Date:

May 21, 2025 8:00am - 5:00pm

Note that registration closes around a month before the start date, so act fast! OPI and OED have worked together to bring you a variety of [Linkedin learning playlists](#). These playlists cover the basics of innovation and improvement, project management, and change management.

Innovate Your State Today!

Contact [Gary Vansuch](mailto:gary.vansuch@state.co.us) at (gary.vansuch@state.co.us) or [Michelle Malloy](mailto:michelle.malloy@state.co.us) at (michelle.malloy@state.co.us) with any questions or comments. Additional resources can be found below

- [C2P Hub](#)
- [CDOT Innovation Catalog: Submit your idea today](#)
- [Linkedin Learning Playlist](#)
- [OPI Website](#)
- [PITCH - Providing Information Technology Concepts Help](#)
- [Project Management Tools](#)
- [Change Management Tools](#)
- [Learning Lane](#)