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Innovation Highway

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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 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!



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Innovation Station

Welding Solutions Together: Donald Luntsford and Ed Skinner Innovate at CDOT

We want to recognize Donald Luntsford, for his various contributions to innovation. Working from region 4, he has been a driving force of constant improvement here at CDOT. One of his key innovations is the [Balance Point for Tall Truck Beds](#). By implementing a sturdy balance point to V-box ladders, Donald addressed the challenge of unsteady climbing and potential falls. This innovation not only improves safety. It also enhances the experience for his fellow CDOTers.

Donald's creativity doesn't stop there. He designed a [Rollup Sign Rack](#) that keeps signs organized and protected from damage. This simple, yet effective solution saves time. As employees are not having to search through disorganized storage. Additionally, Donald introduced the [Shovel Organizer](#). This is a rack that stores tools in a neat and secure fashion. This ensures that during transit, they're easy to access when needed.

We also wanted to give special thanks to Ed Skinner. His welding expertise brought the Balance Point and Rollup Sign Rack to life. Together, their efforts are making CDOT workplaces safer and more efficient!



Don Luntsford & Ed Skinner's
Rollup Sign Rack innovation



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2025 Innovations Challenge: Who Will Take the Lead?

The 2025 Innovations Challenge is heating up! The competition between regions this year is tighter than ever! This year, we're tracking submissions to crown the most innovative region at CDOT. With creative minds across the state stepping up, the race for the top spot is on.

Region 4 is currently in the lead, with innovations like [Adding a Balance Point to Tall Truck Beds](#) showcasing their Creativity.

But don't count out the others—Region 2 and HQ are currently tied for second place. While Region 5 and Region 3 are neck and neck, each aiming to break the tie and claim the top spot.

CDOTers are thinking outside the box to improve our workplace with innovative ideas like [Reducing Back Pain with a Trash Picker](#) by Matthew Stearns (Region 2) and [Extending the Sander Augers Lifespan](#) by Jaime Lawson & Craig Lee (Region 5). These submissions highlight the creativity and problem-solving skills across the regions. Keep the ideas coming to make CDOT even better!!

There's still time to [submit your ideas](#) and help your region take the lead! Visit the [Innovation Catalog](#) for inspiration and to learn more about the challenge. Let's see which region will rise to the top in 2025!



INNOVATIONS CHALLENGE
Innovate Your State

Round of Recognition

Revolutionizing Roadwork with Chris Enright

Chris Enright is making a big impact at CDOT through innovative solutions. One of his standout ideas is the use of tactical worksheets. Using these tactical worksheets, team leads can track employees during road closures. These worksheets help team leads keep better track of their crews. Improving safety and reducing the time workers are being exposed to traffic. This simple, but effective tool also saves time, improves safety and enhances the experience for CDOT's teams.

Chris also introduced Pi-lits as a safer, reusable alternative to road flares. Unlike flares, which are hazardous, & wasteful, Pi-lits are rechargeable and reusable. By switching to Pi-lits, CDOT is saving money and also improving safety for workers.

In addition to that, Chris also simplified guest Wi-Fi access. He did this by creating scannable QR codes, and putting them around the CDOT HQ office. This eliminates the frustration of handwritten codes. These innovations reflect Chris's dedication to improving safety, and efficiency. We thank Chris for improving the experience for both CDOT employees and the public!





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The C2P Change Corner

Navigating Success: A Guide to CDOT's C2P Change Corner



C2P aims to increase the success of business improvement projects happening at CDOT. To achieve this, the program has developed a collection of products and services to help you. This includes the Tools & Resources section housed on the C2P Website. It breaks down the steps to take for a successful business improvement project with C2P. It also provides you with accessible templates and documents that are free for you to use. These resources are divided into four project phases to serve as a guide for the process:

- Initiation Phase
- Design Phase
- Execution Phase
- Sustainment/Close Out Phase

Each phase has a checklist, with action items and links to tools to support your success. Not every business project will need to complete every item on the checklists. It is meant to help you consider what you may need for the projects you are managing. These checklists address both the technical side of project management and the people side using change management.

The C2P Website also has a section for Additional Tools & Resources that might be useful to your project's goals. If you ever have trouble accessing any of our resources, or have any questions about them, please contact Michelle Malloy at michelle.malloy@state.co.us



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Regional Rockstars

Region 4 Shines Bright: Acknowledging our Regional Rockstars in Innovation

It's official! We have passed the halfway mark to the 2025 Innovations Challenge. In honor of this milestone, we would like to take a moment to recognize the success coming out of Region 4. They currently hold the lead for having the highest number of innovations submitted. Congratulations! We would also like to commend the work done by Don Luntsford and Edd Skinner from Region 4. They have collaborated to contribute multiple submissions for this year's Innovations Challenge. Thank you for sharing your innovations and improving the way we work at CDOT.



Region 4 Headquarters in Greeley, CO

Region 4 has always served as a model for what it means to foster a culture of innovation at CDOT. According to Regional Transportation Director, Heather Paddock, it's a culture that was set up by prior leadership and one she continues to strengthen. Her "purpose and goal is to create an environment where every voice is heard and every idea to solve our complex problems has the space to fail, learn from the failures, and succeed in developing truly innovative solutions."

There's still time to catch up to Region 4 before the end of the Innovations Challenge in July 2025. We invite you to continue submitting your ideas to the Innovation Catalog (<https://leanideas.codot.gov/>) by using the '+New Idea' button. No idea is too small!



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Learning Lounge

Learn, Lean, Innovate

Registration for change or project management courses are open for 2025! These courses supply you with the basic tools to deal with change in the workplace. While also showing you how to put these tools into your environment. CDOT employees can find and register for upcoming training classes on SOC Learns. Here are a couple of the offered courses this year offered by C2P:

Change Management for Managers & Supervisors:

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

Change Management for Employees:

Start Date: April 23, 2025 8:30am - 3:30pm

This year we worked with CDOT's OED Team and they are bringing back the Franklin Covey Project Management course to CDOT. Thank you, OED!! This course gives employees an overview of Project management. Listed below are upcoming dates:

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 playlist](#). These playlists cover the basics of innovation and improvement, project management, and change management.



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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](#)