

NEWS RELEASE

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City Crews re-striping Winter-worn road lane Lines

Colorado Springs road lanes have worn down more than normal this year due to harsh winter conditions and as the weather warms, drivers will see City crews out repainting those road lanes.

For the first time, City crews are working both day and night, 20 hours a day, repainting streets. The night work allows crews to operate when there is less traffic on the roads to increase efficiency, cause fewer driver delays and decrease tracking caused when drivers cross freshly painted lane lines.

Each year, City crews re-stripe about 1,350 miles of lane lines using two long line paint striper trucks. The paint striper first lay down a layer of high build paint followed by a layer of tiny reflective beads. The glass beads embed into the paint and enhance night visibility.

The paint comes out of the sprayer hot and only takes about 90 seconds to dry. Even so, drivers are encouraged to obey signs on the following chase trucks and never dodge between the paint truck and chase truck to avoid the risk of having their vehicle painted. Crews attempt to position the chase trucks 90 seconds behind the paint truck so the paint is dry by the time the crews pass, but this isn't always possible. Therefore, City crews also ask drivers to avoid crossing freshly painted lane lines which can track paint across the road, get paint onto vehicles, reduce how long the lane line will last, and diminish the lane line's reflectivity.

In the three years since the Pikes Peak Rural Transportation Authority (PPRTA) tax was passed, the City has been able to make many improvements to its Traffic Engineering programs. With equipment and temporary staff expansions just in the area of road striping, PPRTA funds have allowed the City apply better quality high-build paint, which only has to be applied once a year rather than the previous paint which had to be applied as many as three times a year. The time savings have enabled those employees to work on other projects.

Examples of other projects enabled by the PPRTA funding that City crews are doing for the first time this year include the night work mentioned above and using thermoplastic material, instead of paint, to stripe lanes in high wear areas, such as near intersections.

Since PPRTA funds became available, the City has also purchased a thermoplastic machine and hired temporary employees, rather than contractors, to perform re-striping work. According to the City's Principal Traffic Engineer Dave Krauth, being able to hire temporary City staff rather than using contractors is resulting in better quality control and savings to taxpayers of more than 50 percent per painted lane mile.

The City stripes road lanes as a safety measure to help drivers stay in their lane of travel and ensure City roads meet federal road requirements.

Fast Facts:

- Roads are prioritized for re-striping based on need and areas surrounding high need areas.
- Paint striper trucks travel seven miles per hour while painting and hold 500 gallons of latex paint.
- Lane striping crews are made up of three to five employees.
- It takes about 17 gallons of paint to paint one mile of road lane.

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Photo Opportunity:

Call to set up a time on Tuesdays or Thursdays to ride in one of the City's paint trucks either up front with the driver or in back with the paint gunner. Also call to set up a Tuesday or Thursday interview with City of Colorado Springs Principal Traffic Engineer Dave Krauth.

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