



## *“Voice of the Western Slope since 1953”*

A coalition of counties, communities, businesses & individuals

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### **02-3 TR 4**

### **Highway Safety and Winter Road Maintenance**

**WHEREAS** Colorado’s highway system contributes to the economies of rural communities through the transportation of goods, services and people, and

**WHEREAS** Colorado’s winter recreational traffic and interstate highways require that the Colorado Department of Transportation maintain more winter mountain passes than any other state, and

**WHEREAS** CLUB 20 recognizes the important role of de-icer highway applications such as mag chloride in CDOT’s road maintenance plan, but we also recognize the concerns that many have raised about the potential adverse environmental and corrosive impacts to which mag chloride contributes, and

**WHEREAS** as traffic demand on Colorado’s highway system continues to increase, so too does the number of traffic-related accidents and the corresponding need to maintain the safety of our highways during adverse winter conditions;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that CLUB 20 encourages the Colorado Department of Transportation to:

- 1) Work closely with local governments to develop a road-maintenance strategy which utilizes a combination of tools (including, but not limited to mechanical treatments, chemical applications, salt and sand applications, reduced winter speed limits, and reduced access) to achieve CDOT’s goals of highway safety and access while being sensitive to the unique concerns and needs of each community.
- 2) Maintain an ongoing campaign to educate the public (and themselves) on the benefits and costs of each alternative, including both short- and long-term impacts on the environment and economic impacts caused by corrosion to vehicles and adjacent infrastructure. Along this line, CDOT should more aggressively utilize the communications technology at their disposal (i.e. website and email distributions) to communicate their efforts, observations, knowledge, and future intent to interested parties and to keep the public informed of available and emerging studies and/or research regarding the costs and benefits of various road maintenance alternatives.
- 3) Be prudent in the application of highway anti-icing and de-icing materials (including Mag Chloride, sand and salt) and continue efforts to develop a Mag Chloride product mix that balances maximum ice prevention with minimum corrosion and minimum environmental impact.
- 4) Actively promote enforcement of Colorado's existing winter driving laws including chain requirements, speed limitations, snow tires and 4WD-only conditions.

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that, as concerns the chain law, CLUB 20:

- Believes that penalties for infractions of the chain law should be consistent in severity to penalties for other moving violations, including both appropriate fines and penalty points against the driver’s license.
- Believes that revenues generated from the collection of chain law penalty fines should be dedicated to ensuring enforcement of the chain law.
- Urges the Colorado Department of Transportation to make it a priority to construct and maintain adequate chain-up areas necessary to allow full compliance with the chain law.

*Approved March 8, 2002*

*Amended September 10, 2004*

*Amended April 6, 2007*