



**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF THE COUNTY OF GUNNISON, COLORADO**

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-18

**A RESOLUTION AND DECLARATION CONTINUING THE HIGHWAY 50 CLOSURE
LOCAL DISASTER EMERGENCY IN GUNNISON COUNTY**

WHEREAS, at approximately 3:37 p.m. local time on April 18, 2024, the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) closed a bridge located between Mile Post 138 and 141 on United States Highway 50 in Gunnison County;

WHEREAS, CDOT closed the bridge at the urging of the Federal Highway Administration and state bridge engineering experts due to the findings of an ongoing safety inspection, which identified anomalies in the bridge that could pose a risk to public safety;

WHEREAS, this closed portion of Highway 50 serves as a critical transportation artery between communities in Gunnison County and cities and towns both east and west of the County;

WHEREAS, CDOT has declared that the foregoing closure may continue for an indefinite period of time;

WHEREAS, closure of this portion of Highway 50 is likely to have a major impact on the lives and well being of Gunnison County residents and visitors;

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Gunnison County has previously adopted Resolutions, including Resolution Nos. 2006-19 and 2007-09, imposing temporary and seasonal closures on County Roads, including roads in the vicinity of the Highway 50 closure;

WHEREAS, pursuant to the authority vested in him by Gunnison County Resolution No. 2022-32 and other applicable law, the County Manager, as part of his 2024 Local Disaster Emergency Declaration, and subject to ratification by the Gunnison County Board of County Commissioners, temporarily suspended the above-referenced Resolutions for the limited and temporary purpose of emergency alternate routes for motor vehicles to bypass the Highway 50 closure;

WHEREAS, pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-33.5-709(1) “[a] local disaster may be declared only by the principal executive officer of a political subdivision. It shall not be continued or renewed in excess seven days except by or with the consent of the governing board of the political subdivision”;

WHEREAS, “The effect of a declaration of local disaster emergency is to activate the response and recovery aspects of any and all applicable local and interjurisdictional



disaster and emergency plans and to authorize the furnishing of aid and assistance under such plans.” C.R.S. § 24-33.5-709(2); and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners, Gunnison County, Colorado, pursuant to the foregoing authorities and other applicable law, has promulgated Resolution No. 2022-32, as amended and supplemented, setting forth procedures and protocols for addressing local disaster emergencies and related County actions, funding and functions; and

WHEREAS, on or about April 18, 2024, pursuant to the authority provided by law and delegated by the Board of County Commissioners, the Gunnison County Manager declared a local disaster, and his declaration has been properly executed and recorded with the Gunnison County Clerk and Recorder; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners has confirmed the continued existence of such emergency; and

WHEREAS, the Board finds that there remains an emergency present which necessitates continuation of the use of emergency powers granted by C.R.S. § 24-33.5-709 and other applicable law, as well as those authorities and obligations set forth in Board of County Commissioners, Gunnison County, Colorado, Resolution No. 2022-32;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Gunnison County, Colorado **THAT**:

1. The Board of County Commissioners hereby adopts the findings of the County Manager contained within the 2024 Local Disaster Emergency Declaration referenced above.
2. It is hereby declared that there continues to be a local disaster emergency in Gunnison County due to the closure of Highway 50 and its related effects.
3. This local disaster emergency declaration shall continue until amended, extended, or rescinded by the Board by duly enacted subsequent Resolution.
4. The temporary suspension of all resolutions imposing seasonal closures on county roads deemed necessary for emergency alternative access, including but not limited to Resolution Nos. 2006-19 and 2007-09 imposed by the 2024 Local Disaster Emergency Declaration is hereby continued, affirmed and ratified *nunc pro tunc* as if fully set forth herein. County staff are instructed to take all reasonable and appropriate steps to mitigate any harm that may arise as a result of the temporary suspension of these Resolutions, including but not limited to threatened and endangered species habitat and brooding or rearing sites. Further, such temporary suspension shall be limited to only those roads deemed necessary to open as a response to the Highway 50 closure emergency.



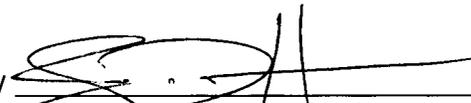
5. To the extent any provision of this Resolution is deemed unenforceable or ineffective by any Court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Resolution shall continue in full force and effect.

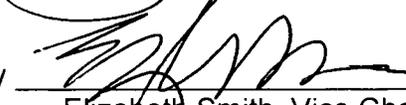
6. This Resolution and local disaster emergency declaration is necessary for the public health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the County of Gunnison, State of Colorado.

7. This Resolution shall be promptly recorded with the Gunnison County Clerk and Recorder and filed with the Emergency Management Office within the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, Colorado Department of Public Safety.

INTRODUCED by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Puckett Daniels, and adopted this 23rd day of April, 2024.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF THE COUNTY OF GUNNISON, COLORADO

By 
Jonathan Houck, Chairperson

By 
Elizabeth Smith, Vice Chairperson

By 
Laura Puckett Daniels, Commissioner

ATTEST:


Deputy County Clerk

