

# Transmission Corridors and Powerline Trails

## Powerline Trail Examples in Colorado



Facility: Del Camino–Rinn Valley  
115kV Transmission Line  
Underground portion between  
structures 47 and 48  
Owner: Tri-State



Facility: Bromley–Henry Lake  
115kV Transmission Line  
Owner: Tri-State

On April 13, 2022, Governor Jared Polis signed HB 22-1104 which requires all transmission providers (i.e., Tri-State) to develop, maintain, and distribute informational resources to encourage, facilitate, and streamline the construction of new powerline trails in transmission corridors that are suitable for the construction and maintenance of a powerline trail.

House Bill 22-1104 does not require a powerline trail within transmission corridors. Under the new law, Tri-State is required to consider trails within planned transmission line corridors and notify local governments of the potential for a powerline trail.

Under HB 22-1104, the entity owning and constructing the trail is required to carry insurance for the trail and its use, not the landowner.

Tri-State will engage in the following activities in accordance with HB 22-1104:

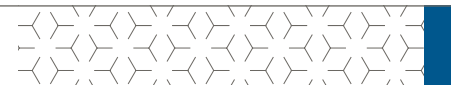
- coordinate with the division of parks and wildlife in the design and construction of a powerline trail to minimize adverse impacts to state and federally listed species and species and habitats of conservation concern;
- consider any issues unique to an area of significant rural character prior to constructing a powerline trail in the area;
- develop informational resources to encourage the construction of new powerline trails;
- notify local governments of the potential for a powerline trail in the associated transmission corridor when siting or expanding a transmission line;
- demonstrate compliance with the requirement to notify local governments of the potential for a powerline trail and to develop and maintain informational resources encouraging construction of new powerline trails when applying for a permit with a local government to develop in an area of state interest; and
- work with local governments, parks departments and landowners to facilitate and allow the construction of trails under powerlines where the co-existence of the trail is welcomed by the landowners and consistent with the surrounding land uses.

## DESIGN REQUIREMENTS AND BEST PRACTICES

The following special conditions apply to the developer of any trails located within Tri-State power line easements:

1. Developer shall notify Tri-State’s System Operations Outage Coordinator (“Coordinator”) no less than thirty (30) calendar days (the “Notification Time Frame”) before performing any excavation or using any oversized equipment in the Easement area. The Coordinator can be contacted Monday – Friday, 7 AM – 4 PM at 303-254-3645 or TSGTOutage@tristatgt.org. If notification is sent to the Coordinator before 10 AM, then day one of the Notification Time Frame shall begin the same day; or if notification is sent to the Coordinator after 10 AM, then day one of the Notification Time Frame shall begin the following day. (This Notification Time Frame is necessary to allow Tri-State’s Transmission System Operations Department time to review, evaluate and submit the system information to its balancing authorities and reliability coordinator and to allow time to have an observer/certified switchman at the worksite.)

2. Developer shall restrict construction equipment height under Licensor’s transmission line to fourteen (14) feet.





Facility: Tap-Ridge and Lookout-Ridge  
230kV Transmission Line

Owner: Public Service Company of Colorado



Facilities: Del Camino Tap-Meadow  
115kV & Fordhan-Fort Saint Vrain  
230kV Transmission Lines

Owners: Tri-State; Platte River  
Power Authority

3. Developer shall limit the height of signage under Licensor's transmission line to eight (8) feet.
4. Developer shall restrict vegetation and plantings to grasses, shrubs, bushes, and "dwarf" tree species with a maximum height of (14) feet under Licensor's transmission line.
5. Developer shall ensure that all workers in proximity of energized lines are qualified. "Qualified" is defined in O.S.H.A. 29 CFR 1910.269, latest edition.
6. The Facilities must be located a distance of at least twenty-five (25) feet from Licensor's transmission structure foundations (footers and guy anchors).
7. If directed by Tri-State (or designate representative of Tri-State), Developer shall provide shoring or other supportive devices to protect the foundation of the Licensor's structures (footers or guy anchors or both) at Developer's expense.
8. Developer's design shall maintain and preserve the clearance distances between Developer's powerline trails and related facilities to Licensor's conductor wires and meet the more stringent requirements of either the latest version of the National Electric Safety Code or the RUS standards per RUS Bulletin 1724E-200 and any related criteria stated therein as referenced on the internet at [https://www.rd.usda.gov/files/UEP\\_Bulletin\\_1724E-200.pdf](https://www.rd.usda.gov/files/UEP_Bulletin_1724E-200.pdf) (as updated).
9. The Design and/or construction of a power line trail shall not interfere with Terms and Conditions of the underlying Transmission Line easement, or the landowners' underlying land rights.
10. The Design and/or construction of a power line trail shall not interfere with the Utilities' ability to Own, Operate, Maintain, Design, Construct, Upgrade, Uprate, or Reconstruct the Transmission line.

## SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

The entity owning and constructing the trail shall have a risk management plan for their trail to optimize trail safety and reduce the possibility of litigation. Components of a risk management plan include: inventory hazards, inventory uses, inventory the law, inspect, and mitigate.

Transmission lines have inherent danger because they transmit high voltage.

Do not climb towers.

Do not shoot or otherwise damage insulators.

Never touch or get near a fallen line.

Do not attempt to dismantle tower steel members.

Do not cut or remove tower or pole ground wires.

Do not apply additional loads to tower members for temporary support of a structure or vehicle.

Stay away from towers and lines during extreme wind storms, thunderstorms, ice storms, or under other extreme conditions.

**Contact Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association  
at 303-254-3212 with any questions.**

