

Colorado



2004

Colorado Department of Transportation US 85, Platte River Valley

Running between Denver and Greeley in the Platte River Valley, this 4.8-mile stretch of Colorado U.S. Highway 85 carries substantial commuter traffic as well as heavy truck traffic coming from the produce farms and gravel pits in the area.

The road was opened in 1957. It was constructed with a 4-inch aggregate base and 3 inches of hot-mix asphalt (HMA). Part of the original pavement was overlaid with 1.5 inches of HMA in 1971 and the rest with 1.25 inches of HMA in 1972. The entire section was overlaid with 1.5 inches of HMA in 1986. Both northbound and southbound sections received another 4-inch HMA overlay in 2004. Crack sealing and surface sealing were performed as needed before the overlays.

Although the original pavement was designed for 2 million equivalent single axle loads (ESALs), to date it has withstood a much heavier estimated load of 7.9 million ESALs. The average daily traffic on the road is 19,000 vehicles.