

# Top DOT Actions for Pollinator Conservation

The list below can be useful for communicating within your department or agency and highlighting some of the most important actions that DOTs can take to contribute to pollinator conservation.

- Reduce mowing frequency beyond the mown strip in the recovery area so flowering plants have a chance to bloom and support pollinators.
- Use native plants in revegetation projects because native plants support more pollinators than nonnative plants.
- Protect butterfly host plants, especially the host plants of imperiled butterfly species.
- Target herbicide use so that nontarget plants, including those that are host plants or that provide nectar and pollen to pollinators, are not affected.
- Time maintenance activities to avoid key breeding periods for imperiled species.
- Control noxious and invasive weeds.
- Increase diversity of native plants in revegetation areas, which will make the habitat more resilient and able to support a diversity of pollinators.
- Prioritize revegetation projects along roadsides where they will be most beneficial for pollinators, such as areas near natural areas or near populations of imperiled pollinators.
- Inform the public about the work you are doing to protect pollinators.
- Increase the mowing height to 8 to 10 inches to leave vegetation for pollinators to use.
- Use adaptive management for managing roadside vegetation; learn from what is working and what needs tweaking.
- Experiment with vegetation management techniques; learn from local land managers and peers in surrounding states.
- Provide training for staff members so they stay up to speed on new management techniques and plant identification and understand how these measures fit into the goals of the DOT and why they are important.
- Communicate early with native plant vendors so that they can accommodate your needs, such as growing out any plant material needed for your projects.
- Control weeds during construction, before planting, and during revegetation establishment.
- Design staff should coordinate with maintenance staff about future maintenance needed for pollinator habitat revegetation projects.

For more information refer to: Pollinator Habitat Conservation Along Roadways, Volumes 1-16. National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press.

Project materials available here: <https://www.trb.org/NCHRP/NCHRPWOD362.aspx>

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