

SR-12 Landslide

Public Information Fact Sheet

March 3, 2017



Background

A landslide beneath State Route 12 (SR-12) that runs through Bryce Canyon National Park has damaged the road, the south shoulder and adjacent safety barrier.

Immediate maintenance response to the event has prevented further road damage to date, keeping a single lane through the slide operational. Signals timed with a two-and-a-half minute cycle are being used to provide safe alternating passage while UDOT monitors the slide around the clock to prevent injury in the event of slide movement or undercutting of the roadway.

Various UDOT teams have been coordinating and consulting with private and public entities to rapidly determine best repair and functional options.

SR-12 serves as a primary arterial connection for Garfield County commerce and services and is a key tourism corridor and destination.

Actions to date

- Grading north shoulder for temporary pavement.
- Asphalt hot plant on standby.
- Sawcut of road to prevent erosive catastrophic failure.
- Crack sealing.
- Aerial drone survey
- Assessing spring on north side.

Actions to date (continued)

- Environmental initial observation.
- Department geotechnical investigation and placement of lathe markers to monitor movement.
- Around-the-clock human monitoring.
- Local Government outreach.
- UDOT Traffic App and Web alerts.
- Timed signals at each end of slide approximately .07 miles apart.
- Static warning signs.
- NPS coordination.
- Private industry geotechnical evaluation.
- Project Manager assigned and compiling contracts.
- Maintenance rotation of monitoring and shifting of resources to aid in snow removal and construction.
- Regular status reports between the field and UDOT executive leaders.
- Developing and implementing communications strategies for roadway operations, emergencies, projects and tourism.
- Construction oversight team.
- Speed reduction and traffic operations reviews.
- Media planning.
- Initiating public / business outreach and coordination.

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Frequently Asked Questions

Is it safe to continue traveling on the road?

The signals allow traffic to pass safely when obeyed and give UDOT the ability to stop traffic if movement is detected. Safety is the first priority.

Has the slide stopped moving?

There has been virtually no increase in crack sizes for the past week. The steep drop off has experienced some minor erosion. Rockfall outside of the damaged area has occurred.

When did the landslide occur and how long has UDOT known about it?

Sagging guardrail was noticed by UDOT Monday February 13th. The large slide moved either very late the following Saturday night or early Sunday morning. UDOT maintenance has addressed issues with spring water and soft soils here in the past.

Why do I have to wait at the signals?

To prevent serious collisions and to keep traffic from putting pressure on the vertical slope. Flagging around the clock is cost prohibitive at this stage.

Could this event affect the summer tourism season?

Single lane traffic must be maintained until we can build enough structural stability for two lanes. This may take several weeks.

How do I know my business interests are being considered?

By continuing respectful dialogue with UDOT. Communications staff will disseminate and respond to your inquiries. Construction and operations engineers seek to alleviate road conflicts with your interests in mind within geographic, safety, and time constraints.

What about emergency services?

Emergency response would get first priority through the workzone.

How long will repairs take?

UDOT is working with multiple contractors to determine realistic repair times.

Will the repairs be permanent or temporary?

UDOT is working to temporarily open two lanes as soon as possible while contracting for a permanent solution.

What can I do to help?

Communicate factual information. Consider TravelWise alternatives. Proactively prepare for potential transportation disruptions.

How will I get information?

UDOT's web page, social Media, Email, Phone, and face to face contact as needed.