

**Resolution # TC-17-5-9**

R4 PR US 34 Big Thompson Canyon Unit 2 Project, ER 0341-084, Project Code 20279

Authorizing the Chief Engineer to negotiate with the landowner(s) of the properties specified below.

**Approved by the Transportation Commission on May 18, 2017.**

**WHEREAS**, the Transportation Commission is authorized pursuant to Section 43-1-106(8), C.R.S. to formulate the general policy with respect to management, construction and maintenance of public highways and other transportation systems in the state and to promulgate and adopt all budgets of CDOT; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Colorado law at Section 43-1-208, C.R.S., the Colorado General Assembly has conferred the power of eminent domain upon the Transportation Commission to acquire private property necessary for state highways purposes; and

**WHEREAS**, on September 26, 2016 the Colorado Supreme Court announced its decision in *Department of Transportation v. Amerco Real Estate Company; U-Haul Company of Colorado; et al.*, 2016SA75; and

**WHEREAS**, the *Amerco Real Estate Company* opinion held that the Transportation Commission must decide that the public interest or convenience will be served by a proposed alteration of a state highway and that the Commission's decision must be made in consideration of the portions of land of each landowner to be taken and an estimate of the damages and benefits accruing to each landowner; and

**WHEREAS**, the *Amerco Real Estate Company* opinion also held that the Transportation Commission is authorized to either direct the Chief Engineer to make tender to a landowner or the Transportation Commission can proceed in the acquisition of private lands for state highway purposes, according to articles 1 to 7 of title 38, C.R.S., without tender to the landowner; and

**WHEREAS**, CDOT seeks to acquire properties, for the PR US 34 Big Thompson Canyon Unit 2 Project, Project Number ER 0341-084, Project Code 20279 ("Project").

**WHEREAS**, CDOT may negotiate with the property owners as specified in the attached Chief Engineer's Cost Estimate.

**WHEREAS**, CDOT seeks to acquire multiple properties, as specified in the attached Chief Engineer's Estimate for the Project ("Properties"). The Chief Engineer's Estimate specifies the landowners, property locations, proposed size of the acquisitions, and the estimated damages and benefits, if any, to the properties; and


**WHEREAS**, the Properties may include buildings, structures, or other improvements on the real Properties and may also include tenant-owned improvements, personal property, and other real estate; and

**WHEREAS**, the Transportation Commission acknowledges that it has reviewed the written report of the Chief Engineer, which included all information and documents required pursuant to Section 43-1-208(1), in relation to the Project and the Properties; and

**WHEREAS**, after reviewing the Chief Engineer's written report regarding Project and the Properties, the Transportation Commission has determined that the proposed changes to U.S. Highway No. 34 will serve the public interest and/or convenience of the traveling public and that acquisition of the Properties described in the report will serve the purpose(s) of the Project; and

**WHEREAS**, the Transportation Commission also approves the Chief Engineer's Cost Estimate of damages and benefits, if any, set forth in his written report.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the Transportation Commission hereby declares that the public interest and/or convenience will be served by the proposed changes to U.S. Highway No. 34 by virtue of the PR US 34 Big Thompson Canyon Unit 2 Project, Project Number ER 0341-084, Project Code 20279, parcels PE-258 and RW-264, and authorizes the CDOT staff to negotiate with the landowner(s) of the Properties the amount of estimated damages, as estimated by the Chief Engineer. If CDOT and a landowner reach a settlement amount that requires approval by the Regional Transportation Director and the Chief Engineer, as set forth in the CDOT Right-of-Way Manual, then the settlement amount is subject to Transportation Commission approval. If acquisition of the Properties requires acquisition of buildings, structures, or improvements on real property as well as acquisition of tenant-owned improvements both real and personal property, or other real estate, the Transportation Commission authorizes CDOT to negotiate for the acquisition of those items if necessary. At this time, the Transportation Commission does not authorize CDOT to initiate and conduct condemnation proceedings pursuant to Sections 38-1-101 *et seq.* CDOT shall seek separate approval from the Transportation Commission in order to initiate and conduct condemnation proceedings.

  
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Herman Stockinger, Secretary  
Transportation Commission of Colorado

5-18-17  
Date