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Department of Transportation

Chief Engineer Delivery Method Approval Request

US160 Piedra River Bridge – ER Permanent Work

Date: 11/24/2026

To: Keith Stefanik, P.E. Chief Engineer

From: Douglas W. Mize Jr., P.E., CFM, Hydraulic Engineer

Subject: Alternative Project Delivery Method Recommendation for Chief Engineer Approval

As stated in the Project Delivery Selection Guidelines, Chief Engineer approval is required for a project to be delivered using any Alternative Delivery Method.

On November 9, 2026, Region 5 held a Project Delivery Selection Matrix (PDSM) workshop facilitated by Casey Valentinelli, Alternative Delivery Program Manager, to analyze the potential benefits of using an Alternative Delivery Method to deliver the Piedra River Bridge Emergency project. The workshop evaluated Design Bid Build (DBB) with the potential to prequalify contractors, Construction Manager/General Contractor (CM/GC), and Design-Build (D-B)

Recent severe flooding events in Southwest CO have caused critical structural instability to the existing Piedra River bridge's intermediate support piers and abutments. The structure on US160 has been deemed a severe safety hazard, causing a vital regional transportation corridor to be closed.

A permanent replacement structure must be designed and constructed immediately to restore public mobility, ensure regional access, and eliminate ongoing channel instability.

ANALYSIS:

Based on the evaluation across all primary factors (project complexity, delivery schedule, cost, level of design, and risk), CM/GC was determined to be the most appropriate delivery method. Additionally, all secondary factors (staff experience, owner control, and contractor competition) were evaluated for CM/GC on a pass/fail basis, and each resulted in a pass.

Design-Bid-Build (DBB) - Not Recommended:

- While the emergency declaration allows CDOT to shorten bid windows and solicit prequalified bridge contractors, DBB still requires substantial design finalization prior to package release and bid.
- DBB does not allow contractor input during the design phase which could result in poor means and methods assumptions or unknown site conditions to force shutdowns in time-critical work or redesign in the field.
- The agency would retain all subsurface, hydraulic, and differing site condition risks, exposing the department to high change order costs.

Design-Build (DB) / Progressive Design-Build (PDB) - Not Recommended:

- The agency is not currently positioned from a process, staffing, or institutional readiness standpoint to procure and manage an Emergency project with Progressive Design-Build (PDB) delivery.
- Standard two-phase best-value Design-Build would introduce extensive front-end schedule delays.
- Transferring high-risk, unverified conditions to a design-builder in a fixed-price environment would result in prohibitive risk contingencies and inflated bid prices.

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Construction Manager/General Contractor (CM/GC) - Recommended Method:

- CM/GC allows the agency to invoke streamlined emergency qualification-based selection procedures, contracting a qualified bridge contractor immediately without waiting for design maturity.
- Construction can overlap with ongoing design. The agency can execute early work packages and procurement of long-lead items while the design is finalized.
- The CM/GC contractor will collaborate directly with the designer during preconstruction to resolve complex foundation, scour, and constructability issues before pricing is finalized.
- Work is priced transparently via an open-book process, validated against an Independent Cost Estimator (ICE) to negotiate fair Construction Agreed-upon Price (CAP) packages. The agency retains full design control and structural oversight throughout.

RECOMMENDATION:

Based upon the findings of the Project Delivery Selection Matrix Workshop summarized above, and in consultation with the CDOT Alternative Delivery Program, it is recommended that the most appropriate delivery method for this project is **CM/GC.**

The Project Management Team is requesting concurrence and approval to proceed with our recommendation to use **CM/GC** to deliver the Piedra River Bridge Permanent Repair Emergency Project.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Completed Project Delivery Selection Matrix

Signed:

Douglas W. Mize Jr, P.E., CFM
Digitally signed by Douglas W. Mize Jr, P.E., CFM
Date: 2026.11.25 11:11:38 -07'00'

Douglas W. Mize Jr., Region 5 Hydraulics Engineer

I concur:

Casey Valentinelli
Digitally signed by Casey Valentinelli
Date: 2026.11.25 11:20:14 -07'00'

Casey Valentinelli,
Alternative Delivery Program Manager

I concur:

Julie Constan
Digitally signed by Julie Constan
Date: 2026.11.25 12:50:26 -07'00'

Julie Constan, Region 5 Transportation Director

I approve:

Digitally signed by Keith J Stefanik
Date: 2026.11.25 12:54:53 -07'00'

Keith Stefanik, Chief Engineer

Cc: So Kato, Region 5
Andy Wilson, FHWA
Jan Walker, Alternative Delivery Contracts Officer