Study Background

- **Colorado Front Range Trail (CFRT) by Colorado Parks & Wildlife**
  - Planned Multi-use Trail from Wyoming to New Mexico
  - Identified the Scenic Highway of Legends (SHOL) Byway as the Southern Mountain Loop (SML)

- **Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Grant**
  - Advance the planning of the CFRT along the SML
  - Submitted by Huerfano/Las Animas Counties – administered by SCCOG

- **CDOT** – Interested in highway safety along the SHOL

- **SCCOG/CDOT Partnership** – Perform an integrated highway safety and trail planning study as a Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study
What is a PEL Study

• Planning-level study for transportation issues and environmental concerns along a corridor.
• Decision-making tool for “projects”.
• Enables CDOT and local agencies to advance projects into next steps based on priorities and funding.
  • NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act)
  • Permitting
  • Design and Construction

Planning Decisions
• Scope and limits of projects
• Environmental setting and issues
• Plan for implementation

Planning Analysis
• Travel characteristics and demand
• Economic development and land use
• Natural and manmade environment
• Agency and public involvement
## PEL Process: Enabling Action

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Planning Context</th>
<th>Project(s) Design and Construction</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CDOT Safety Reports</td>
<td>CDOT Safety Highway (W/ Bike/Trail) Projects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CDOT/CFRT/County/City Trail Plans</td>
<td>Local Agencies Off-Highway Bike/Trail Projects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CDOT Byway and SHOL Corridor Plans</td>
<td>SHOL (W/ CDOT) Pull-Offs and Signage Projects</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
• Consistent with CFRT Master Plan
• Aligns with Scenic Highway of Legends Byway (US 160 and SH 12)
• Encompasses range of alternative routes
• Communities:
  • La Veta
  • Cuchara
  • Stonewall
  • Historic Mining Communities
Draft Purpose and Need

PURPOSE
The purpose of the project is to improve highway safety and provide a regional and local multi-use trail along the Scenic Highway of Legends Byway between Walsenburg and Trinidad.

NEED
Integrated improvements to address:

• Highway Safety
  • Wildlife Crossings
  • Substandard Roadway Configurations
  • Rural-Urban Transitions
  • Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety

• Regional and Local Multi-Use Trail
  • Accommodations
  • Connections
Study Process and Schedule

Agency/Public Information

- Study Intro – June/July 2019
- Existing Issues – Aug/Sept 2019
- Alternatives – Dec/Jan 2020
- Recommendations – April/May 2020
- Implementation Plan – July 2020
Agency/Public Involvement

• Goal – Active engagement with local opinions/views
• Study Committees (Technical/Steering/Stakeholder)
• Public Open Houses
• Communication Tools:
  • Website (SCCOG/CDOT)
  • Press Releases
  • Social Media
  • Newsletters/Fact Sheets
  • Email
  • Posters
  • Postcard Mailings

Study Stakeholder Committee with Signed Charter – June 19, 2019
Status of Study – Recent Events

• Existing Conditions Analysis:
  • Purpose and Need
  • Safety Assessment Study
  • Existing Corridor Conditions Report
  • Two Rounds – Committee Meetings

• Local Coffee Chats – August
• Community Events – August
• Public Open House – Sept. 18th
• Next Phase – Alternatives Development
Potential Alternatives

What are the issues and problems to be addressed?

Inventory

Analysis

Existing roadway and bridges

Safety Assessment

Highway Geometry

Existing trails

Bicyclist Stress Analysis

Roadway Compatibility

What improvements potentially solve the identified issues and problems?

Potential Alternatives (by Segment)

Alt 1 - No-Build

Alt 2 - Safety Improvements

Alt 3 - On-Highway Trail

Alt 4A - Off-Highway Trail (Route A)

Alt 4B - Off-Highway Trail (Route B)

Alt 4C - Off-Highway Trail (Route C)

Alt 4D - Off-Highway Trail (Route D)

What is the best combination of improvements and how should they be implemented?

Recommended Alternatives

Alternatives Evaluation Process

Range of Alternatives:

• No-build

• Highway Safety

• On-highway Trail

• Off-highway Trail

• Byway-related Features
Highway Safety Alternative

- General - Edge Rumble Strips, Review Signage (Curves)
- Wildlife Crossings (4 Locations) – Evaluate mitigation options
- Widen Roadway Shoulders
- Roadway Configuration (3 Locations) – Evaluate improvements
- Access & Intersections (3 Locations) – Evaluate improvements
- Bicyclist Safety – Signage and pavement markings
- Pedestrian Crossings – Assess and correct as appropriate
  - La Veta, Cuchara and Stonewall

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Recommended Shoulder Width</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Walsenburg to US 160/SH 12 Intersection</td>
<td>8'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US 160/SH 12 Intersection to La Veta</td>
<td>6'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>La Veta to Cuchara</td>
<td>8'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cuchara to County Road 47.7 (Valdez)</td>
<td>4'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County Road 47.7 (Valdez) to County Road 18.3 (Madrid Bridge)</td>
<td>6'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County Road 18.3 (Madrid Bridge) to Trinidad</td>
<td>8'</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Multi-use Trail Alternatives

On-Highway
- Within CDOT ROW

Off-Highway
- Outside CDOT ROW
On-Highway (Buffer) Trail Alternative
On-Highway (Separated) Trail Alt.
Multi-use Trail Design Standards

- Colorado Front Range Trail
  - Not regulations or requirements
  - Meet ADA and AASHTO standards
  - Separated shared-use trail is ideal
  - Separation from road by open space or barrier(s)
    - 5 –foot (horizontal) or 42-inch vertical
  - Non-motorized uses only
  - 10-foot wide is ideal
  - Surface type depends on location and use
- CDOT
  - Trail and shoulder Width
  - Cross-Slope
  - Vertical Gradient / Slope
  - Intersection Site Distance
  - Vertical clearance (i.e., underpass)
Trail Routing Considerations

• Purpose and Need
• Improving Safety for bicyclists, pedestrians, equestrians of all ages and abilities
• Access to/for greatest number of residents and visitors
• Connections to/between communities
• Recreational amenities (campgrounds, trailheads, trails)
• Cultural features/landmarks (plazas)
Trail Routing Considerations

- Avoidance of Adverse Environmental Impacts
- Feasibility (Engineering/Cost/Right-of-way)
- Implementation in segments or phases
- Marketability (Tourism/Visitation)
- Long-term ownership & maintenance
Byway-related Features

- Pullofs
- Need for public restrooms and refuge
- Public areas for picnics
- Interpretive signage expanded
- Cultural amenities for the greatest number of visitors
- Focal point for each community
- Access to cultural amenities for the greatest number of visitors
Next Steps – Upcoming Events

- Existing Conditions Analysis – Wrap up
- Level 1 Alternatives Screening – October 2019
- Local Coffee Chats – Winter
- Committee Mtgs. No. 3 – February 2020

Study Hotline = (719) 427-1078
Discussion and Questions