



August 19, 2021

Dear Colleagues:

The purpose of this communication is to provide an update to the transportation industry summarizing the Colorado Department of Transportation's (CDOT's) proposed delivery of the I-70 Floyd Hill to Veterans Memorial Tunnels Project (Floyd Hill Project). It provides details on CDOT's overall project scope and schedule. This communication also intends to assist the transportation industry and public in understanding the current approach and schedule for the Floyd Hill Project and Early Projects and to outline CDOT's approach to being transparent and accountable for alternative delivery projects.

Project Status, Proposed Phasing and Funding:

The Floyd Hill Project Environmental Assessment (EA) was released for public review and comment on August 2, 2021. The design files used in development of the EA have also been made available to the public through the project website. It is the intent of CDOT to allow potential proposers time to review this information prior to beginning the procurement for project delivery.

As previously noted, given the size and cost magnitude of the Floyd Hill Project, the funding for the full project has not been fully identified. This requires CDOT to take a holistic approach to identify proactive measures to deliver as much of the project with available funding, while maintaining synchronicity with future funding allotments. To achieve this goal, CDOT has continued to refine the scope and has developed strategies to maximize and commit available funding as soon as possible. CDOT has updated the scope packages and delivery strategies associated with those packages:

Early Projects: (Available Senate Bill 267 Funding)

- Genesee Wildlife Crossing - Construct a wildlife underpass crossing near MM 254.5 to reduce animal vehicle collisions, improve wildlife connectivity and improve safety. The preliminary design consultant completed design to an approximate 30% level and a mini Request for Proposal (RFP) has been released to Non Project Specific (NPS) consultants for design services. Construction plans for this project will be advertised via Design Bid Build, with construction anticipated in 2022.
- Empire Wildlife Crossing - Construct a wildlife overpass crossing on US 40 near I-70 MM 232 Exit Ramps to US 40 to reduce animal vehicle collisions, improve wildlife connectivity and improve safety. The preliminary design consultant completed design to an approximate 30% level and a mini RFP has been released to NPS consultants for design services. Construction plans for this project will be advertised via Design Bid Build, with construction anticipated in 2022.
- Roundabouts and micro-transit infrastructure improvements - Construct two new intersection roundabouts to improve community access and operations at the top of Floyd Hill. Transit improvements will include upgrades to park and ride locations providing the infrastructure required to implement transit throughout the Floyd Hill Project and I-70 Corridor. It is intended to include a micro-transit plaza and parking area at the CR 65 and US 40 intersection. The preliminary design consultant completed design to an approximate 30% level and a mini RFP has been released to NPS consultants for design services. Construction plans for this project will be advertised via Design Bid Build, with construction anticipated in 2022.

Westbound I-70 Improvements (Available SB 267 Funding, Remaining Available 2022)

- Complete the reconstruction and realignment of Westbound I-70 to add a third lane, which will be an Express Lane, from the top of Floyd Hill through the Veterans Memorial Tunnel.
- Construct the westbound I-70 viaduct structure replacing a Bridge Enterprise eligible structure.
- Complete the westbound I-70 interchange reconfiguration/improvements at US 6.
- Complete the I-70 interchange improvements at Hidden Valley.
- Complete Clear Creek County Greenway improvements from US 6 to Hidden Valley.

Eastbound I-70 Improvements (Future funding needed)

- Construct the eastbound I-70 viaduct structure from the US 6 Interchange to Hidden Valley Interchange
- Construct the frontage road from the US 6 Interchange to Hidden Valley Interchange.
- Complete the eastbound I-70 interchange reconfiguration/improvements at US 6.
- Floyd Hill eastbound I-70 widening and auxiliary lane - Widen the east portion of the project and add an auxiliary lane for heavy vehicles to improve operations and mobility.

Current Delivery Strategy:

The current delivery strategy utilizes Design Bid Build for the Early Projects and the alternative delivery method Construction Manager/General Contractor (CM/GC) for the Floyd Hill Project. This approach provides benefits for both CDOT and the construction industry as the projects are spread throughout multiple contracts and delivery methods while still leveraging the strengths of alternative delivery for the larger project. This provides opportunity for several contractors to compete for work in this corridor.

Early Projects: Design Bid Build Delivery

Three separate projects noted above will be bid with construction expected to start in 2022. Design procurement is already underway.

Floyd Hill Project: CM/GC Delivery

This project scope will be delivered using the CM/GC delivery method. This approach provides the alternative delivery benefits by looking at the overall project scope, optimizing phasing/packaging and schedule, minimizing impacts to the public, and maximizing available funding. The Construction Manager (CM) RFP is scheduled for release on October 1, 2021. The Design RFP is scheduled for release on October 8, 2021. The scope for the design will look at the entire project in both directions. Successful Construction Agreed Price negotiations will begin with westbound I-70 construction and the remaining budget, along with potential savings, may be used to begin the noted eastbound improvements. As the current financial landscape is constantly changing, CDOT is evaluating all alternatives to fund the entire project prior to completion of final design.

The RFPs for Design and Construction Management Services will address potential scope and funding change deadlines.

Alternative Delivery Transparency and Accountability Approach:

As part of CDOT's continued accountability and transparency efforts associated with the use of alternative delivery, below is a summary of both completed and next steps as it relates to the Floyd Hill Project.

- 1) COMPLETED - Hold public meetings with the construction industry and the general public to discuss the justification for selecting the alternative delivery method.
- 2) COMPLETED - Obtain approval for the use of the selected alternative delivery method from the Transportation Commission.
- 3) COMPLETED - Publish the justification for selecting the alternative delivery on the CDOT website.
- 4) IN PROCESS - During the procurement process, include the justification for selecting the alternative delivery method in any Request for Qualifications and in the Request for Proposals.
- 5) IN PROCESS (IF APPLICABLE) - CDOT shall not exclude a participating entity from a short list, prepared and announced by CDOT of responding participating entities that have been determined to be most qualified to receive a Request for Proposals for an alternative delivery contract for a public project based solely on the participating entity's lack of experience in delivering a project in the State of Colorado by the alternative delivery method used for the public project.
- 6) FUTURE - Following the award of the alternative delivery contract to a participating entity, if CDOT awards a contract, CDOT shall publish on the CDOT website the evaluation scores for each step of the solicitation phase for all solicitations received and evaluated.
- 7) FUTURE - From the time the alternative delivery contract is executed until CDOT's final acceptance of the completed public project, provide, maintain, and update on CDOT's website a transparency platform such as a dashboard that indicates the ongoing status of the public project.