



MEETING NOTES

PROJECT:	23982-23929 I-70 West Vail Pass Safety and Operations Improvements
PURPOSE:	Technical Team (TT) Meeting #16
DATE HELD:	May 17, 2021
LOCATION:	Online Google Meet Meeting
ATTENDING:	John Kronholm, Project Manager, CDOT Region 3 Karen Berdoulay, Resident Engineer, CDOT Region 3 Matt Figgs, CDOT Region 3 Rob Beck, CDOT Region 3 Patrick Chavez, CDOT, I-70 Corridor Operations Lisa Schoch, CDOT Historian Stephanie Gibson, FHWA Jeff Bellen, FHWA Michelle Cowardin, DNR Kristin Salamack, CDOT/USFWS Liaison Chad Salli, Town of Vail Dick Cleveland, Town of Vail Kevin Sharkey, ECO Trails Len Wright, PhD, ERWSD Larissa Read, Consultant to ERWSD Shannon Anderson, Bicycle Colorado Tracy Sakaguchi, Colorado Motor Carriers Association Pete Remington, Kiewit Jim Thomsen, Kiewit Mark Gutknecht, Kiewit Randal Lapsley, R S & H Jeb Sloan, R S & H Mary Jo Vobejda, Jacobs Jim Clarke, Jacobs Loretta LaRiviere, Jacobs
COPIES:	Attendees

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION:

1. Introductions & Meeting Purpose

- a. Karen introduced the attendees at today's meeting.
- b. Mary Jo reviewed the purpose and goals for today's meeting. She noted instead of CAP we will now be referring to the packages as Construction Packages which best describes the work being done.
 - ALIVE ITF Update
 - INFRA Grant Construction Package 1 Update
 - INFRA Grant Construction Packages 2, 3 & 4
 - Public Outreach

2. Review of Work Completed Since the Last Technical Team (TT) Meeting

- a. Mary Jo said there is a lot of design coordination going on for the roadway, drainage, and Recreation Trail alignments and impacts to the wildlife crossings, but we don't have a big

debrief for you for this meeting. That doesn't mean there isn't a lot of work being done. Work continues on the:

- Recreation Trail design
 - Roadway alignment
 - Wall locations and design
 - Wildlife crossing locations and design
 - Research on the anti-icing system
 - Engineering study for the highway closure system
- b. The ALIVE IFT Meeting #4 was held on May 3rd. We discussed the wildlife crossing locations and sizes. Some of the crossings have moved slightly. There are six crossings: two large crossings at MP 187.3 and MP 188.3 and four small and medium crossings at MP 185.8, MP 188.7, MP 189.0, and MP 189.6.
- i. Stakeholder's Comments included:
 - It was suggested we contact industry experts for additional feedback on the locations, sizes, and type of crossing materials.
 - The stakeholders prefer span bridges for large crossings rather than large culverts.
 - There was discussion about openings in the median for very long crossings that span the highway and median. Generally, the feeling is there will not be median openings in the wildlife crossings.
 - Tree cover and natural vegetation at the crossing ends is important to ensure animals can get quickly into these crossings
- c. Other ITF activities include:
- i. Aesthetic Guidelines relating to the first construction package have been submitted to SHPO and the Consulting Parties. Lisa said SHPO concurred with our recommendations. She mentioned she still has to respond to the Town of Vail's letter.
 - ii. The sections of the Aesthetic Guidelines that apply to the first construction package will be incorporated into that design.
 - iii. The Sediment Control Action Plan draft of the first sections is on schedule. The SWEEP ITF will be getting a draft of the sections prior to the next SWEEP ITF Meeting.
 - iv. The Emergency Services ITF meetings will now be organized by the construction team because this ITF will be most impacted by the construction packages and traffic control measures.

3. Construction Package 1 Update

- a. Karen said in the last few months we have been further defining which work will be in each package. The first construction package design is being finalized and will be completed by next month. This is one of the smaller packages which will include the

truck escape ramp at MP 182.5 and the westbound highway closure system which is located at MP 190 at the top of the pass. Construction will begin in August 2021.

4. Construction Package 2,3 & 4 Update

- a. Karen said Construction Package 2 will be the Recreation Trail and trail bridges because we have to first relocate the trail before we can widen the highway. Our goal is to build as much of the trail offline while keeping the existing Recreational Trail in use. Once completed, we will be able to shift the users to the new trail to minimize impacts for the users. Construction will start in 2022.
- b. Construction Package 3 is the bridge and the area under the bridge. The trail under the bridge will be relocated and it is best to do the trail work with the bridge because they overlap. One element in that design will be the best way to keep the trail under the bridge operational during construction. There will likely be some minor closures when doing overhead work for the safety of the trail users. The wildlife crossings are included in Construction Package 3 and the design will finish in June 2022. Some construction may happen in the fall of 2022 and will continue through 2024.
- c. Construction Package 4 design will be finished by the end of 2022 and construction of the improvements will extend through 2023 & 2024.
- d. To the general public it will feel like continuous construction from 2022 through 2024. Matt said the construction phasing option we've chosen will have reduced lanes in the spring, summer, fall months but we don't expect major construction activities or reduced lanes during the winter months. There is always the potential for construction through the winter, but the major construction periods will be during the spring, summer and fall months of 2023 and 2024.
- e. Because of input from Kiewit regarding the opportunity for cost savings and efficiencies, the majority of the large landscaping for the INFRA Grant project improvements will be done when the entire project is complete.

1. Dick asked when the TT would see the Recreation Trail design.

Karen said we're progressing to FIR 30% design in September, so we'll be ready to give an update in the next few months. We've been looking to see if it can be built with less impacts but so far haven't found anything better than the EA alignment.

2. Tracy asked if they will be receiving any communication for when the Lower Truck Ramp will be closed for construction. They want to get the word out to all the companies and the industry that the ramp will no longer be accessible and to proceed with caution.

Pete said the earliest they expect construction to start is the mid-August time frame.

Matt said Kiewit has a public information subcontractor they have hired that will be doing extensive public outreach. As we start getting closer to August we'll definitely be communicating any closures and impacts to the extent possible. We had a meeting last week where the importance of getting information to CMCA was mentioned. He said if Tracy has any ideas or concerns about getting the information out please reach out to him.



3. Tracy inquired if there will be additional pullouts during the time the Lower Truck Ramp is closed.

Karen said they are not able to add any additional pullouts but thinks they will be able to add some signage for the existing pullouts.

We are working closely with the other construction projects on the pass to make sure they will not be paving when we're closing the ramp.

5. Public Outreach

- a. Mary Jo said there are three large public outreach activities we are working on:
- b. The project website is being updated with a launch this summer. The URL will remain the same: www.codot.gov/projects/i70westvailauxiliarylanes. The website will be modified with a new landing page where you will be able to easily see information about the design of the INFRA Grant projects as well as the upcoming construction packages schedule. The Environmental Assessment and the work that has been done in the past will still be accessible on the website.
- c. In preparation for the start of construction we are working on a virtual public event to start in July 2021. It will be similar to what was done during the EA, however this will be a public information tool to get the word out about construction rather than giving the public an opportunity to comment on the design or construction. We will use our email lists and a press release to get the word out.
- d. A groundbreaking event is being planned August 2021 when construction begins to raise public awareness of the project and update the community on where we are in the process. This is planned to be an in-person event.
 1. Lisa inquired if the groundbreaking would be in person. She would like to attend.

6. Construction Schedule:

- a. Mary Jo said there haven't been any changes to the schedule since our last meeting. The ITF meetings will be wrapping up this year. The PLT & TT will go through next year and the PLT will continue after that. We have it scheduled quarterly and may occur when there are updates.

7. Next Steps

- a. Mary Jo noted the next steps are:
 - i. Design of Construction Package #1 with Truck Escape Ramp and Closure System will be finalized with construction start up in August
 - ii. Preliminary design on Construction Packages #2, 3, and 4 for 30% design review (FIR) meeting in September 2021 is on track.
 - iii. SWEEP Meeting #5 is May 24th. We will be presenting parts of the SCAP and Maintenance Manuals to that group and then there will be more SWEEP meetings later in the year.



- iv. The next 106/Aesthetics Meeting is scheduled for June 28th. At this meeting we will be presenting the entire Aesthetic Guidelines for the ITF to review and we expect that to be the last meeting because we will be finished with the deliverable.
- v. Karen said as we go through the design there could be more or fewer public outreach. We'll continue to keep the monthly Technical Team meetings but keep them short if there's not a lot to share.