



COLORADO

Department of Transportation

Office of the Chief Engineer

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MEMORANDUM

TO: RTDS, PROGRAM ENGINEERS, RESIDENT ENGINEERS AND CONSTRUCTION PROJECT ENGINEERS

FROM: JOSHUA LAIPPLY, CHIEF ENGINEER 

DATE: DECEMBER 10, 2018

SUBJECT: IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECT FIRST - PHASE 2

This Memo is to inform you of progress and implementation related to the Project First initiative. Almost all of our pilot projects for Project First are completed. Lessons have been learned and CDOT, in cooperation with CCA have decided to move into Project First Phase 2. Phase 2 incorporates the new Project First specification, a requirement of Project First on most projects, and utilization of developed tools on the updated website, The updated CDOT Project First website <https://www.codot.gov/business/designsupport/projectfirst> includes the Project First tools and information for our staff and Contractor staff to utilize during construction. Please share this information with your consultant Project Engineers.

1. DEFINITION:

One lesson learned is that the Project First Program needs more definition. Please refer to the Project First Program Specification and Construction Bulletin for more information.

- A. Project First is identifying and understanding the project's risks. The project's risks include risks to CDOT, the Contractors, the traveling public, business owners, etc.
- B. Project First involves each party evaluating the risks, creating solutions to mitigate or manage the project's risks, regardless of which party bears the risk, and actually performing the mitigation or management of the risk.
- C. Efforts related to mitigating or managing risks do not include relaxing or changing contract requirements, unless the solution is mutually beneficial to each party. The "mutual benefit" concept is similar to the concept of value engineering per section 104.07. If the mitigation or management action is only benefiting one party, or is unacceptably over-weighted to one party, it is not Project First.
- D. Project First is not a reason to justify or approve a change order.

2. PROJECT FIRST ON PROJECTS:

Due to the benefits experienced on the pilot projects, Phase 2 will require Project First on all projects with an Engineer's estimate over \$1 million and is optional for smaller projects. A new Project First specification has been issued on December 3, 2018, and replaces the current partnering specification. It will be used on projects advertised on or after January 3, 2019. An update to the Preconstruction Conference agenda to include Project First is forthcoming.

3. TOOLS/RESOURCES:

The Project First website includes tools to utilize for implementing Project First, the tools are in the process of being updated and more will be added. Please refer to the website provided above or included in the Project First specification for the link to access this information. Also, please contact your Construction Area Engineer if you have any questions.

