



23982-23929 I-70 West Vail Pass Safety and Operations Improvements Meeting Notes

Date: May 15, 2023

Purpose:

Combined Project Leadership Team (PLT) and Technical Team (TT) Meeting #36

Location:

Online Google Meet Meeting

Attending:

Attendance list:

- John Kronholm, Project Manager, Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) Region 3
- Karen Berdoulay, CDOT Region 3
- Sarah Navarro, CDOT Region 3
- Tyler Weldon, CDOT Bridge & Tunnel Enterprise
- David Cesark, CDOT Region 3
- Lisa Schoch, CDOT Historian
- Stacia Sellers, CDOT Communications
- Kristin Salamack, CDOT U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Liaison
- Michelle Cowardin, DNR
- Marcus Dreux, USFS
- Heidi Helling, USFS
- Dick Cleveland, Town of Vail
- Ben Gerdes, Eagle County
- Robert Jacobs, Summit County
- Kevin Sharkey, Eagle County ECO Trails
- Larissa Read, Eagle River Water & Sanitation District (ERWSD)
- Shannon Anderson, Bicycle Colorado
- Mark Gutknecht, Kiewit
- Jon Stavney, NW COG
- Randal Lapsley, RS&H
- Sam Stavish, CIG
- Mary Jo Vobejda, Jacobs

- Jim Clarke, Jacobs
- Laura Meyer, Jacobs
- Loretta LaRiviere, Jacobs

Summary of Discussion:

The following is a summary of the subjects discussed during the meeting.

1) Introductions & Meeting Purpose

Mary Jo said today we will review work completed since the last PLT/TT meeting, provide a Construction Package (CP) #4 update, design status update, 2023 construction plan update, public outreach plan for the upcoming construction season, and the schedule and next steps.

2) Review of Work Completed Since the Last PLT/TT Meeting

- a) John said the CP #4 bids were received in April and were rejected. CDOT is in the process of formulating a plan and hope to repackage it and go out to ad in fall to attract better bids.
- b) Karen said this repackaging will definitely result in schedule changes to the previous commitment. The options we are considering could include scope cutting and/or separating it into one more package. Any added package would be delivered later in the project, therefore the project may go on longer than the current plan of 2025. Most likely lasting, at least, into 2026. There-advertised CP #4, may even go later. It depends on when we can find funding to make up the shortfall. We should have more information next month on how we think we will be proceeding.
 - Comment #1: Dick asked with the delay with CP #4 and the extended construction timeline, do you know when you will be looking at the at the design and construction in the lower section from mile post (MP) 182 over to MP 180? There are sound mitigation issues that will have to be addressed and people are just curious if that's even on the radar.
 - Reply #1: John said he can't give a date for adding the third lane in that section because it isn't funded right now. There is some money in the 10-year plan, but the updated estimate for the overall project is around a billion dollars and we don't have the money for that right now. But when we do have funding for that portion, we would do the mitigation work that goes along with it.
- c) Randal said CP #5 design is progressing towards FOR on June 13. This package includes the eastbound bridge replacement and the approach roads to that. There are two SCAP ponds, one underneath the bridge and one at the very west

end of the eastbound lanes. There will be a little bit of the bike trail work. Some of the work originally anticipated in CP #3 was moved to CP #5 for better sequencing.

- d) Construction has started for the 2023 season and Kiewit will give an update on that later in the presentation.

3) Recreation Trail Update

Randal shared two YouTube visualizations videos of the recreation trail:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xprfRKLZ0JI>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bu205g4Ghx0>

4) 2023 Construction Update

- a) Mark gave a recap of the work in progress for CP #3:
 - i) Girder fabrication was completed by Plum Creek on April 20 and post tensioning work is in progress
 - ii) Girder installation was scheduled to start May 13, but it has been delayed until May 19 because of the additional snow that has fallen
 - iii) Precast deck panel installation was scheduled to start May 23 but will be pushed back until after Memorial Day
 - iv) Work resumed on April 17 on Wall 3-1
 - v) Drill and install of remaining temporary drains has been completed
 - vi) Soil nail and shotcrete installation on Wall 3-1 is in progress on tiers 1, 2, and 3. There will be a total of five tiers
 - vii) Architectural shotcrete on Wall 3-1 is scheduled to start on May 18
 - viii) CP #2 punchlist items will start on June 12
- b) Mark reviewed the schedule for the recreational trail:
 - i) Sections of the trail to remain closed until May 26 to allow installation of bridge girders.
 - ii) Trail will be open for Memorial Day weekend starting on June 12; the punch-list activities and tie-in paving will be done and completed by June 24 and the trail will be fully opened.
 - iii) Flagging and temporary holds will be utilized to safely get trail users around work areas.

5) Public Outreach Plan for 2023 Construction Season

- a) Sam said they have started the project startup notifications. The press release generated media attention and John did a good interview with Matt Renoux from Channel 9 news.
 - Comment #1: Shannon asked if you have reached out for interviews with any of the other news stations.
 - Reply #1: Sam said that Elise Thatcher is the CDOT media relations contact, and all inquiries are sent to her. We would be happy to set up interviews with other stations if they request it.
- b) Sam said there have been weekly blasting schedule forecast notifications sent out through the usual channels over the past few weeks. Go/no-go notifications were sent out in the afternoon of the day of scheduled blasting and all-clear notifications were sent out when blasting was complete.
- c) The next step will be reaching out to the recreation providers, event organizers and citizens in Vail and surrounding areas to make sure they are aware that overall, the trail will be open and accessible for riding this season but there will still be some minor impacts for users.
 - Comment #2: Marcus asked if they have been contacting the shuttle companies and permit holders for the big races directly.
 - Reply #2: Sam said they have been using the list the Forest Service provided them last year.
 - Comment #3: Marcus said he will send him Sam Shelby Pierce's contact information. She does the permits for organized events and Sam should contact her to make sure the list he has is the most current.
 - Comment #4: David thanked Sam for the clarification on the trail and letting the public know we're not closing the trail, but there are going to be some minor inconveniences of possible holds and detours in place in early summer.

6) Schedule and Next Steps

- a) Mary Jo said as we discussed earlier, the schedule has been revised and we are now showing construction for CP #4 starting next year and it may extend past 2025.
- b) Mary Jo said we plan to continue to have monthly meetings over the summer and then start to have quarterly meetings in September which would coincide with the completion of design for CP #5. We can give construction updates but there might not be enough information to warrant a meeting every month. We

start to plan about 3 weeks ahead for these meetings, and if we have no significant updates to pass along, we will cancel that month's meeting. Given the CP #4 changes, we will probably have the next meeting scheduled for June 26.

