



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

Date: August 21, 2023

Purpose:

Combined Project Leadership Team (PLT) and Technical Team (TT) Meeting #38

Location:

Online Google Meet Meeting

Attending:

Attendance list:

- John Kronholm, Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) Region 3
- Sarah Navarro, CDOT Region 3
- Lisa Schoch, CDOT Historian
- Michelle Cowardin, Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW)
- Margaret Bowes, I-70 Coalition
- Marcus Dreux, U.S. Forest Service (USFS)
- Heidi Helling, USFS
- Stephanie Gibson, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
- Jeff Bellen, FHWA
- Dick Cleveland, Town of Vail
- Greg Hall, Town of Vail
- Pete Wadden, Town of Vail
- Robert Jacobs, Summit County
- Kevin Sharkey, Eagle County ECO Trails
- Larissa Read, Eagle River Water & Sanitation District (ERWSD)
- Adam Geis, Kiewit
- Randal Lapsley, RS&H
- Sam Stavish, CIG
- Tekla, Gaspar, CIG
- Mary Jo Vobejda, Jacobs
- Amy Hopkins, 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 hear updates on Construction Package (CP) #4 and CP #5 design, more details on the avalanche mitigation, and construction and public involvement updates.

2) CP #4 & CP #5 Update

a) Randal said there was an industry review meeting for CP #4 on August 18. We had a good turnout and reviewed the overlay, avalanche mitigation, and phasing changes. We had good attendance and got a lot of questions from the contracting community and are hopeful there will be more firms bidding this time. We will review the plans with CDOT on August 23 and incorporate their comments and the PS&E will be submitted on September 8. The project will be readvertised on October 19.

b) CP #5 design is nearing completion and final plans will be submitted to CDOT on September 15. Following that submittal there will be negotiations with Kiewit's independent cost estimator to agree on the price.

Construction on CP #4 & CP #5 will begin next spring.

3) Avalanche Mitigation Update

Randal said the plans haven't changed much from what we showed at our last meeting. It will be combination of rock and fencing. The fencing will be wire mesh with posts anchored into the ground to provide flexibility and durability for the harsh winter conditions. There are several companies that manufacture this type of product, and they are all a little different. We have included language in our specifications stating that the color of the materials has to be approved by the engineer. Our goal is to match it as closely as we can to the existing geology, however the manufacturers don't have an unlimited color palette to choose from.

4) Construction Update

a) Adam said the abutment 6 mechanically stabilized earth (MSE) walls are scheduled to be completed by August 25, the abutment 1 MSE walls scheduled to be completed by August 23. The bridge deck pours were completed on August 3, and the bridge rail and sleeper/approach slabs are about 80% complete, are

scheduled to be finished by September 1, and the water proofing membrane is scheduled to start on September 5 after the Labor Day holiday.

Wall 3-3 structural/architectural shotcrete has been completed on tiers 1 and 2. The soil nail installation has been completed on Tiers 1 through 3 and the soil nail installation on tiers 4 and 5 is scheduled to be completed by August 31. There have been over 41,000 linear feet of soil nails installed to date.

The sculptors will be out next week to continue the structural/architectural shotcrete on tier 3. Tier 4 will start September 12 and tier 5 will be started on September 25.

CP #3 trail paving will start on September 11 and the roadway paving will start on September 18.

- Comment #1: Mary Jo asked what the roadway travel lane configuration will be when this year's construction season ends.
- Reply #1: Adam said traffic will be moved over to the new bridge with 12-foot lanes in the fall.

5) Public Outreach Update

- a) Tekla Gaspar introduced herself and said she will be assisting Sam with the project's public outreach for the next few months. She said the bike events on the trail have been going great and they received several positive comments from riders. There was also a letter to the editor in the Vail Daily which rated the project an "A".

Mary Jo noted that Shannon Anderson from Bicycle Colorado couldn't attend today's meeting, but she emailed that she continues to get rave reviews on the new section of the bike trail, especially from riders in the Triple Bypass and Copper Triangle events.

Tekla said we continue to send out weekly email blasts to 775 recipients, which is an increase of 117 emails over the last year. We have a 50% open rate for the emails, which is well above the industry standard.

We've been averaging five or less hotline calls and email inquiries each week. There was an increase during the CDOT maintenance work, and we continue to get requests for East Vail noise mitigation and questions about safety and overall project questions.

- b) General comments:

- Comment #1: Dick Cleveland said they are still getting calls about sound mitigation and would like to know what response is being giving to the



people regarding the noise mitigation requests. We would like the Town to be consistent with what you are communicating.

- Reply #1: Tekla said they tell them a previous study was done and it didn't meet the criteria for noise mitigation to have barriers installed. If there is something that triggers another study, we will let them know.
- John said we have also let them know the only area that qualifies is Fall Line Drive and that noise mitigation wouldn't be installed until the third lane is added in that area.
- Comment #2: Greg Hall inquired about the erosion control breach about a month ago where Gore Creek was discolored for quite some time.
- Comment #3: Pete Wadden said he received communication from CDOT fairly quickly after the event with pictures showing Black Gore Creek was murky above the project site. He said Jason Keery, who is a hydrologist with River Restoration, said it might have been a failed retain slope above the project.
- Reply #3: Adam said the nearest close call that he can recall was closer to East Vail on the shoulder fill where some sediment escaped the silt fence, but it didn't enter the water.

6) Schedule and Next Steps

Mary Jo said we will not be having a meeting in September but will have one in October which will have updates on CP #4 & CP #5 design and a construction season wrap up. We will send out the invite once we determine the date.

Randal noted that since the design and construction will be completed, that we may not have another meeting after October's until the spring when construction restarts.

