



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

Date: September 9, 2024

Purpose:

Combined Project Leadership Team (PLT) and Technical Team (TT) Meeting #43

Location:

Online Google Meet Meeting

Attending:

Attendance list:

- Karen Berdoulay, Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) Region 3
- John Kronholm, CDOT Region 3
- David Cesark, CDOT Region 3 Environmental
- Stacia Sellers, CDOT I-70 Mountain Corridor Communications
- Lisa Schoch, CDOT Historian
- Heidi Helling, U.S. Forest Service (USFS)
- Danielle Neumann, Colorado Parks & Wildlife (CPW)
- Dick Cleveland, Town of Vail
- Ben Gerdes, Eagle County
- Margaret Bowes, I-70 Coalition
- Jon Stavney, Northwest Colorado Council of Governments (NWCCOG)
- Justin Hildreth, Eagle River Water & Sanitation District
- Tracy Sakaguchi, Colorado Motor Carriers
- Ryan Konen, Kiewit
- Adam Geis, Kiewit
- Mark Gutknecht, Kiewit
- Randal Lapsley, RS&H
- Sam Stavish, CIG
- Laura Meyer, Jacobs
- Loretta LaRiviere, Jacobs

Summary of Discussion:

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

1) Meeting Agenda

Today's agenda is an update on construction, and a public information and outreach update.

2) Construction Package 6

The design team has wrapped up the design work for the project, including Construction Package #6, to ensure we have all the institutional knowledge recorded so that it will be ready when funding is identified.

3) Construction Update

- a) Demolition of the old westbound bridge in Construction Package (CP) #3 is almost completed.
- b) The following work has been completed for the eastbound bridge in CP 5:
 - Pier columns 2 - 5 have been installed.
 - Abutments 1 and 6 have been poured.
 - The roadway section for the new westbound lane has been paved.
- c) The schedule for the remainder of the work this year on the CP #5 Bridge includes:
 - Block 1: Place Type 9 barrier
 - Block 3: FPS bridge pier caps & install MSE Walls.
 - Block 4: Build the crane pad for girders.
- d) CP #4 westbound: the limits for this year are from milepost (MP) 190 at the top of the pass to MP 187. Work completed includes:
 - The detour paving has started for about the first four thousand feet.
 - The joint utility trench conduit for fiber and electric is about 70% complete.
 - The wildlife fencing installation started after the 4th of July holiday starting at MP 190 and are working their way down the hill fairly quickly.
- e) CP #4 eastbound: the limits for this season were mainly from MP 187 to MP 190. Work completed includes:
 - Drainage improvements along the shoulders.
 - Mill and overlay work from MP 179.5 to MP 185.

- Two soil nail walls have been completed at MP 187 and MP 188.
 - MSE walls have been started and will continue for the next two months.
 - Excavation for auxiliary lane widening was completed between MP 187 and MP 189.
 - Drainage improvements and SCAP ponds from MP 180 to MP 189.5 along the bike path.
- f) In the next month the following work is scheduled for CP #4:
- Block 1 westbound detour: the last 2000 feet of the joint utility trench and the detour paving will be completed.
 - Block 2 from MP 179.5 to MP 185 eastbound: mill and overlay of the eastbound right lane; poly and overlay of eastbound right lane bridge joints.
 - Block 3 Wall 4-2 MSE wall work will continue.
 - Block 4 Wall 4-3 Area the MSE Wall; roadway widening base course; roadway widening paving and SCAP ponds and headwalls work will continue.

4) Public Information and Outreach Update

- a) This summer has been the busiest since the project started for incoming messages. The majority have been about the construction, road conditions and various maintenance work. Some of these comments have been coming through CDOT's customer service line rather than our project hotline or email, which is an indication those are from people traveling through from other areas.

There was also a comment from a vendor participating in the concrete pavement trial, and comments about overhead lighting in east Vail.

We recently received some good publicity: 9 News Matt Renoux did a story on how CDOT is working to improve safety on Vail Pass and did an interview with CDOT on the lane/zipper merging that we have had as focus of our public information campaign this summer:

<https://app.criticalmention.com/app/#/clip/public/ba05213d-09af-4a6b-90e6-ffdb6975c163>

The Vail Daily News interviewed John about some of the wall work and the watershed and drainage in the area: <https://www.vaildaily.com/news/new-wall-on-vail-pass-is-an-example-of-the-technological-advancements-being-made-in-mountain-development/>

- b) PLT/TT Comments and Questions
- Comment #1 - Margaret asked what comments have been received about the recreation trail.

- Response #1 - Sam said the comments have been related to preparation for the three big bike events and nothing about other conditions on the trail.
- Comment #2 - Dick asked for more details on the concrete trial.
- Response #2 - Karen said the study is to look at the way asphalt and concrete wear in high alpine conditions. We have three concrete strips, each approximately 1,000 - 1,500 feet long. Concrete wears about a third as fast as asphalt, but it is a higher capital investment and the asphalt on the right lane of Vail Pass needs to be replaced every four years. If concrete would last for six years, we are looking at whether it would be worth the cost difference to replace the asphalt.
- Comment #3 - Dick said all the overhead lighting at Vail interchanges are dark and asked if this will be fixed when the new conduit wiring is completed.
- Response #3 - John said maintenance will install a temporary fix at the #180 interchange this fall.

Karen said we have some money left from VMS lighting project and while we have the contractor on site, we are looking to make other lighting improvements in the area.

- Comment #4 - Margaret said stakeholders along the I-70 Mountain Corridor continue to be committed to finding funding for CP #6. The Coalition has sent a letter to the Governor and CDOT Director Lew requesting they reconsider using redistribution funds for this project.

Colorado Senator Michael Bennet and Congressman Neguse have heard support for this CP #6 at their community meetings and they are also looking for funds at the federal level. We really appreciate their support.

5) Additional Discussion

John said construction will be wrapping up in late October or early November and asked the participants for their thoughts on the timing for another meeting?

Dick said he would like to have a recap when construction is done for the season.

The next meeting will be schedule for mid-November.

