

Meeting Summary

Date: February 2, 2024

29 Road Interchange at I-70, NEPA/1601 Project

Meeting Name: NEPA Scoping

Meeting Date: November 27, 2023

Attendees:

Invitee	Organization	Invitee	Organization
Kevin King	Mesa County	Alex Pulley	FHU
Scott Mai	Mesa County	Amanda Cushing	FHU
Trent Prall	Grand Junction	Brigid Miller	FHU
Dave Cesark	CDOT	Jake Lloyd	FHU
Cinnamon Levi-Flynn	CDOT	Jake Fritz	FHU
Paula Durkin	CDOT	Neal Goffinet	FHU
Carol Storey	CDOT	Troy Halouska	CDOT
Lisa Schoch	CDOT	Greg Wolff	CDOT
Nicole Peavey	CDOT	Chris Laplante	CDOT

Project Overview

Text that is **red** includes questions and discussion that occurred during the meeting.

- ▶ Previous PEL Study (2020); FHWA signature in 2021.
- ▶ The PEL was completed to provide network connectivity and improved access to/from I-70 between Horizon Drive and I-70B, and plans have been in place to provide this connection for 40 years. The interchange will also extend the functional longevity of the existing transportation system connection to I-70.

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- ▶ FHU has completed Level 1 and Level 2 screenings including an evaluation of the 29 Road alignment alternatives and the interchange types.
- ▶ Currently working through the system level study and 1601 process as well as the corridor cross section, ROW access, and interchange design specifications.

Project Description

- ▶ The project consists of constructing an interchange on I-70 and extending the 29 Road alignment to connect with the existing 29 Road (graphic on next page). The study area includes the existing 29 Road corridor from Patterson Road at the southern termini to the proposed interchange at the northern termini.
- ▶ The 29 Road corridor cross section will include a two-lane section with the potential for an on-street cycle track or bike lane.
- ▶ Other project features such as Travel Demand Management details, auxiliary lanes, and the 29 Road and Patterson Road intersection are currently under review.
- ▶ The project is listed on the Regional Transportation Plan and it is anticipated that that project will be locally funded.

Project Schedule

- ▶ TBD – hopefully more information regarding the footprint in the Spring.

Expected Level of NEPA Class

- ▶ A documented CatEx is anticipated; however, this is still unknown.
- ▶ There is a specific process if it will be an EA. The process includes completing a “decision matrix” spreadsheet and CDOT sending a letter to FHWA. The preparation of an EA is likely if significant effects are anticipated, including public controversy.

Environmental Resources

- ▶ Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas (Chris LaPlante and Jake Fritz)
 - ▶ There are new requirements under Senate Bill 260 that must be reviewed.
 - ▶ Is the project a regionally significant/transportation capacity project? **The team will look into that detail.**
 - ▶ Has the FHU traffic team reviewed the project's Transportation Capacity? **The team will look into that detail.**
 - ▶ Is this anticipated to be a Type I project? **Yes, this is a new interchange on I-70.**
 - ▶ Chris and Jake will set up a separate meeting and discuss the project level air quality guidance (PLAG) and greenhouse gases.
- ▶ Biological Resources and wetlands (Cinnamon Levi-Flynn, Paula Durkin, and Neal Goffinet)
 - ▶ Neal intends to prepare a biological resources report (BRR) including a review of Senate Bill 40 resources, wildlife, threatened and endangered species, and noxious weeds.
 - ▶ Neal reviewed the existing conditions based on field work that was completed in May 2023. There are wetlands along Indian Wash, some fringe along the Govt Highline Canal.
 - ▶ It is not anticipated that SB 40 resources would be considered along the Government High Line Canal; however, SB 40 resources will be considered along Indian Wash.
 - ▶ Indian Wash has some cattails, some willow areas, but very much an urban stream. **Is Indian Wash considered to be an intermittent, ephemeral, or perennial waterway? The team will look into that detail. Wetlands were mapped along the Indian Wash bank on the southern portion of the study area.**
 - ▶ Are burrowing owls likely present within the prairie dog colony areas? **Prairie dog colonies were observed during the field survey.**

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- ▶▶ Will there be trees removed for the roadway widening (concerns with migratory bird surveys)? **This will likely be addressed later in the project.**
- ▶▶ CDOT will be interested in the potential replacement of culverts and reviewing the hydrology report. **FHU will share this information at the appropriate time.**
- ▶▶ How does the city characterize Indian Wash? **It is part of their stormwater network? The permit will need to include that information. The Bureau of Reclamation property is present to the north of the project area and Indian Wash may be part of that system, which was part of a post flood mitigation in the 1960s.**
- ▶ Hazardous Materials (Carol Storey and Brigid Miller)
 - ▶▶ Brigid reviewed the existing conditions based on field work that was completed in May 2023.
 - ▶▶ There is a fueling station at the southern end of the project corridor that will need to be considered for the 29 Road and Patterson Road intersection improvements. A few aboveground storage tanks/drums were present on private property adjacent to the project corridor.
 - ▶▶ **CDOT stated that there are likely radiological soils in the study area, under roadways, sewer piping, and curb and gutter.** Mill tailings were mixed in with concrete and used as base course for roadways and pipelines and other utilities (between 1940s and 1970s).
 - ▶▶ **There is a Region 3 specific Specification 250 Project Special and worksheet to help determine costs associated with handling and managing the radiological soils. Carol will send the worksheet to Brigid. The City has had success with not** having to excavate and remove all the soil and we might be able to keep some in place.
 - ▶▶ At I-70 and Horizon Drive, there are several fueling stations and groundwater appears to be flowing in multiple directions.

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- ▶ Historic (Lisa Schoch and Jake Lloyd)
 - ▶▶ The Government High Line Canal may be the biggest concern due to the potential of a new bridge spanning the canal.
 - ▶▶ There are mostly “unsurveyed” properties along the corridor which may require a more thorough review.
 - ▶▶ FHU inquired about the following:
 - 1) Do subdivisions need to be evaluated?
 - Need to do some research into the subdivisions to determine applicability. Use the Denver one and others as a starting point.
 - 2) Do roads segments need to be evaluated?
 - What can be done from an easy standpoint, not to get out too far. Local roads don't have a context like the State facilities.
 - ▶▶ The next step includes developing an “Area of Potential Effect (APE);” however, it may be a good idea to project further develop. The project team is currently looking the effects of the potential interchange to I-70. Design along the 29 Road corridor may be further along in late winter/early spring 2024.
- ▶ Non-Historic Section 4f (Troy Halouska and Amanda Cushing)
 - ▶▶ There are two trails along the project corridor and two schools within the study area which may be impacted by the project; however, the impacts will be evaluated as design advances.
 - ▶▶ Matchett Park and its associated Rec Center will be developed with multi-model access in the very near future.
- ▶ Section 6f (Troy Halouska and Amanda Cushing)
 - ▶▶ No Section 6f properties are within the study area.
- ▶ Social, Economic, and Environmental Justice (Troy Halouska and Amanda Cushing)
 - ▶▶ Because it is likely a Regionally Significant Capacity Transportation Project, we'll need to look at DEI, LEP, etc. to meet the state requirements.

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- ▶▶ The Colorado EJ requirements (disproportionally impacted (DI) and limited English proficient (LEP) communities) must be reviewed using the CDPHE's tool. The Colorado thresholds are different than federal thresholds.
- ▶ Paleontology (Nicole Peavey)
 - ▶▶ There does not appear to be concerns within the immediate study area, except for Mancos shale which is considered to be "middle sensitivity." Nicole will complete the initial review.
- ▶ Archaeology (Greg Wolff)
 - ▶▶ There is a very large area on the northern portion that would be too much for CDOT to take on and an outside archaeologist will be needed.
 - ▶▶ It is important to remember that an evaluation cannot be completed if snow is present on the ground.
 - ▶▶ Some areas have been surveyed with negative results. But there is a high potential for archeological resources.
- ▶ Visual Resources
 - ▶▶ FHU will reach out to Jen Klaetsch once the corridor design has advanced enough to complete the visual inventory assessment.

On November 30, 2023, FHU held a separate kick-off/scoping meeting with Rose Waldman (CDOT) and Jake Fritz and Amanda Cushing to discuss noise.

- ▶ Noise
 - ▶▶ The area to the north of I-70 is zoned as commercial.
 - ▶▶ It is too early to determine receptors, noise study zone, etc.

Next Steps

- ▶▶ Chris and Jake will set up a separate meeting and discuss the PLAG.
- ▶▶ Carol will send the Region 3 specific Specification 250 Project Special and worksheet to Brigid (completed).

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- ▶▶ The CDPHE's tool for DI and LEP communities must be reviewed using the CDPHE's tool.
- ▶▶ An outside archaeologist will be needed for the archaeology evaluation.
- ▶▶ FHU will reach out to Jen Klaetsch once the corridor design has advanced enough to complete the visual inventory assessment.