



May 13, 2015 Meeting Notes

In Attendance:

Betsy Jacobsen, CDOT
Karen Schneiders, CDOT
Leslie Beckstrom, Weld County Public Health and Environment
Wade Willis, Town of Windsor
Jeffrey Boring, Larimer County
Tom Selders, Poudre River Trail Corridor
Tessa Gregor, City of Fort Collins
Kurt Friesen, City of Fort Collins
Suzette Mallette, Larimer County
Matt Blakely, Town of Timnath
Josh Johnson, NFRMPO
Alex Gordon, NFRMPO

Discussion

- Economic Benefits of Trails Proposal
 - Boring opened the discussion and stated his interest in developing a document to describe economic impacts of bicycle infrastructure
 - Document should include research to show trails raise adjacent property values and create jobs
 - Jacobsen stated there may be funding available for economic research through CDOT's Research Group through an application process. Applications are typically due in November
 - Boring stated the importance of involving multiple stakeholders, such as municipalities, universities, and development companies that may be interested in planning and constructing bicycle and pedestrian networks
 - Schneiders mentioned it may be of interest to think about having a Masters or Doctoral candidate at a local university develop the research as part of a thesis / dissertation
 - Willis asked what agency would sponsor and oversee the project
 - The group discussed the possibilities of several organizations: private firms, public agencies, or a university planning program
 - The Collaborative will organize elements of the study and possibly develop an RFP for a private firm, public agency, or university (student thesis)
 - Selders mentioned the benefits of looking at recent local and regional bicycle plans (i.e. Greeley and Fort Collins) for economic impact information contained in those plans
 - Boring will organize a steering committee of interested individuals from the collaborative to develop a research proposal

- I-25 Trail Crossing
 - Boring and Friesen presented a map depicting existing and planned Poudre Trail segments as the trail approaches I-25. The current plan for crossing I-25 along the trail is for a temporary crossing using the existing Harmony interchange. Boring stated previous funding from GOCO was being repurposed to extend the trail to the Harmony Transfer Center.

- The group discussed plans for the Poudre River Bridge replacement and a possible trail underpass with the new bridge
 - Schneiders clarified that the bridge is not slated for replacement in the near future (did not sustain catastrophic damage during 2013 floods and is not required to be replaced)
 - The group discussed constructing an underpass along the Great Western Railroad corridor utilizing the existing bridge structure and grade separation
 - There is not enough room immediately adjacent to the RR tracks under the existing bridge
 - The group discussed the possibility of punching a new underpass under the existing bridge grade
 - Schneiders mentioned that the group should remain in close discussion with CDOT on any plans to bore/punch a new underpass under existing grade as it technically breaks the plane of I-25
 - Boring mentioned having a discussion with key players in the Poudre River Trail crossing including NoCo Bike and Ped, affected municipalities, and CDOT
 - Next Steps: Schneiders agreed to discuss possibilities with CDOT representatives and continue a discussion with affected parties
- Conference Planning Updates
 - Beckstrom discussed the slated topics and speakers including:
 - Local project success stories
 - Walk Audit with Mark Fenton
 - Funding (CDOT, Crowd Funding, Colorado Department of Health)
 - Commissioner Freeman will do welcoming remarks
 - Mark Fenton will do a panel discussion on health with Dr. Mark Wallis
 - There is a possibility of having either the Governor or the Executive Director of CDOT do closing remarks and final thoughts
 - Updates / Other Business
 - Beckstrom mentioned the Bidding for Bikes event in Greeley on Sunday, June 14th
 - Greeley will be hosting a series of Family Bike Rides throughout the summer months
 - Fort Collins is hosting an Open Streets event on Elizabeth Street on Sunday, June 7th
 - Jacobsen mentioned an initiative to develop a state-wide trails map