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## MEMORANDUM

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P.O. Box 4100 ♦ FRISCO, COLORADO 80443

**TO: MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL**  
**FROM: ADDISON CANINO, CAPITAL PROJECT SENIOR MANAGER**  
**PETE SWENSON, NORDIC AND TRAILS MANAGER**  
**RE: COUNTY COMMONS NATURAL SURFACE TRAIL CONNECTION DATE:**  
**DATE: APRIL 9, 2024**

### **Summary and Background:**

During the realignment and upgrades that were made during CDOT's GAP project on CO Highway 9, a new pedestrian underpass was created to allow for better pedestrian access from the County Commons area to the Town's Peninsular Recreation Area (PRA). Now that several years have passed since its completion, upgrades to connectivity and wayfinding have been identified. In a meeting between Town and County staff in 2023, a discussion was had regarding the connectivity between County Commons and the PRA, and how that could be improved from not only the Summit Stage stop to the PRA, but also from the upper parking area of the County Commons that has a spur which connects to the county wide pathway system. Town staff identified a need for a natural surface trail connection that would help alleviate one of the connectivity and wayfinding issues brought up.

To note, the County is anticipating construction of a hard surface trail connector from the Summit Stage stop to the tunnel in 2024. This is a County project and not included in this license agreement.

### **Analysis:**

Currently there is not a good means of access from the natural trails that exist on the south side of CO HWY 9 to the PRA, and this connection will not only assist trail users to access the PRA easier, but also will allow those who park at the County Commons' upper parking area to easily use the pedestrian underpass to the PRA. There was a wayfinding issue that will be compounded with the installation of this natural surface trail, which will require additional wayfinding signage to help people where they need to travel more efficiently.

**Financial Impact:**

The financial impact on the Town of Frisco has already been accounted for, as this work will be coming out of the operating budget for the Recreation Department's Trails Division using Town Staff and equipment for an estimated cost of \$15,120.

**Alignment with Strategic Plan:**

This project will fall under Vibrant Arts, Culture, and Recreation. This new pathway will allow visitors to Frisco, and the year-round community, better access between the County Commons and the PRA. Both areas provide recreational opportunities, and this creates a more effective route for pedestrian travel.

**Environmental Sustainability:**

This pathway will be constructed by the Trails crew in a manner that keeps sustainability at the forefront of construction, without the need or use of heavy equipment or the import of non-native materials or soils.

**Staff Recommendation:**

It is the recommendation of staff that the Frisco Town Council support and approve the license agreement that has been proposed by Summit County. This natural surface trail will allow for better connectivity between the County Commons side of Colorado Highway 9 and the Town's Peninsular Recreation Area.

**Reviews and Approvals:**

- Tom Fisher, Town Manager
- Diane McBride, Assistant Town Manager
- Leslie Edwards, Finance Director
- Chris McGinnis, Town Engineer/Public Works Director

**Attachments:**

- Attachment 1 – County Commons Natural Surface Trail Connection License Agreement
- Attachment 2 – Exhibit A - Map of Trail Connection