



MEMORANDUM

P.O. Box 4100 ♦ FRISCO, COLORADO 80443

TO: MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL
FROM: ADDISON CANINO, CAPITAL PROJECT SENIOR MANAGER
RE: CDOT – EXIT 203 IMPROVEMENTS UPDATE
DATE: MAY 23, 2023

Summary and Background:

In 2019, the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) conducted a feasibility study for I-70 exit 203 and an eastbound I-70 auxiliary lane. In that study, CDOT utilized the current condition of both the exit and eastbound I-70 and forecasted its usage all the way to 2045. To initiate the study CDOT gives a grade to the existing infrastructure, and how that will degrade up to the target year. While there are current issues of long queues on the westbound exit 203 off-ramp, the current rating does not warrant a change, other than routine maintenance. Utilizing the current design in 2045 would rate all the infrastructure as unacceptable in a roadway network and be graded as a F, on a scale of A-F. Taking that information, and utilizing the peak volumes of traffic, during the height of the ski season, CDOT engaged in the feasibility of five high-capacity interchange designs that could possibly work for the exit and the Lusher/Dam Road intersection. CDOT then presented their findings of the feasibility study to the Frisco Town Council on May 26, 2020. Also in 2020, CDOT ended up having funding to complete the design and advertise for the construction of the eastbound I-70 auxiliary lane. Construction began in the spring of 2022 and will continue to the fall of 2023. With that funding becoming available for that project, CDOT opted to table Exit 203 for the time being.

Analysis:

Based upon the feasibility study conducted in 2020, and with the eastbound auxiliary lane already funded and currently in construction, state funding has been earmarked in the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) for the exit 203 project in the amount of \$44 million. CDOT's ten-year plan has \$25 million in funding from 2023-2026, and \$19 million from 2027 on. With advertisement potentially scheduled for the fall of 2024 or the winter of 2025, some of the planning for the project will dictate how the project will be phased. Now the project leadership team (PLT) is meeting once again to ensure that CDOT is working closely with local agencies and partners to make this project welcome to the community and satisfy the needs of their roadway network past 2045. Since some of the data used in the 2020 study is now outdated, CDOT has reevaluated that to accommodate the higher density for the proposed Lake Hill project or housing additions of that magnitude. The first reconvening of the PLT was on May 15th, 2022, which discussed the next steps in the design process, and the best ways to engage with user groups and the community. Both Tom Fisher, Town Manager, and Addison Canino, Capital Project Senior Manager, are the Town of Frisco representatives on the PLT and have

been tasked with assisting CDOT in reaching out to business in the surrounding project area, in addition to pedestrian advocacy groups for their input on the project.

Financial Impact:

There will be no financial impact to the Town at this time, but the Town of Frisco's Capital Plan will connect some of the pathways that are proposed in the CDOT design in the future.

Alignment with Strategic Plan:

While CDOT's roadway network impacts the Frisco community, the Town of Frisco will ultimately being the entity in charge of maintenance for the redesigned intersection at Lusher/Dam Road. This will eventually fall into the quality core services, a thriving economy and vibrant recreation. Outside of the maintenance of the new infrastructure, the new pathways that CDOT will construct with the project will provide access to recreation areas and trails.

Environmental Sustainability:

With this new design working well into 2045 and beyond, the access to Frisco will be more sustainable, and will ensure that traffic, even during peak times of the year, can more efficiently move throughout one of the gateways to Frisco; keeping traffic moving and not queuing through intersections will reduce emissions affecting our community.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends that we continue our standing partnership with CDOT and work closely with them to ensure that the project is a success not only for the state but for the community as well.

Reviews and Approvals:

Tom Fisher, Town Manager
Leslie Edwards, Finance Director

Attachments: