



OPEN LANDS ADVISORY BOARD (OLAB)

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 22, 2016

7:00- 8:30 PM

Horsetooth Area Information Center at 4200 West County Rd. 38E, Fort Collins, 80526

The mission of the Larimer County Open Lands Program is to preserve and protect significant open space, natural areas, wildlife habitat, and develop parks and trails for present and future generations. These open lands provide opportunities for leisure, human renewal and protection of our natural and cultural resources.

Members Present	
Sherry Valentine	At-large
Jason Brothers	At-large
Suzan Fritchel	At-large
Pete Kelly	At-large
David Marvin	At-large
Ward Nelson	Town of Estes Park
Carl Sorrentino	At-large
Nancy Wallace	Planning Commission
Members Absent	
Trudy Haines	At-large
Jeff Hindman	Town of Berthoud
Gerry Horak	City of Fort Collins
Hugh McKean	City of Loveland

Staff Present
Gary Buffington, Natural Resources Director
Kerri Rollins, Open Lands Program Manager
Charlie Johnson, Senior Land Agent
Alex Castino, Land Agent
Meegan Flenniken, Resource Program Manager
Sandy Werkmeister, Department Specialist
Chris Fleming, Open Space Operations Manager
Danielle Levine, Resource Ecologist

1. CALL TO ORDER / INTRODUCTIONS

2. PUBLIC COMMENT - None

3. AGENDA REVIEW - No changes

4. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF LAST MEETING MINUTES

Motion by Dave Marvin and second Suzan Fritchel to approve the *August 25, 2016* meeting minutes as submitted in this month's packet. Motion carried unanimously.

5. INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. Help Preserve Open Spaces 20th anniversary celebration is on 9/22 4pm-7pm, before this board meeting at Horsetooth South Bay pavilion. It'll be great to see you there!
- b. Filled Fund Development & Special Projects position – Jennifer Almstead starts on October 3.
- c. Blair Kelly's last day was Aug. 31; posted Graphic Designer position, which closes Sept. 20
- d. Processed submitted open spaces passports (39 so far!).
- e. Small Grants for Community Partnering applications were distributed to the committee for review. The committee, along with Jennifer Almstead (her first task!), will conduct site visits in October.
- f. Attended New West Fest (Aug) and Nature's Harvest Fest (Sept)
- g. Met with CDOT regarding design and location of potential parking area/day use at Forks and Cedar Cove areas in tandem with Hwy. 34 designs.
- h. Hermit Park Open Space new trail name selected. We received a bunch of ideas, but we are rethinking how we are segmenting the trail system. We may be using more than one of the names.
- i. Lions Open Space Bank Stabilization Phase II construction is scheduled to begin in September on the east bank only. Additional work will not occur on the west bank.

- j. Natural Resources was not awarded the CPW wetlands grant applied for in June to support River Bluffs Restoration and Resiliency project t implementation however we will seek a GOCO river restoration grant this fall.
- k. Roberts Ranch tire cleanup is complete. 673 tons of tires were taken out of Campbell Creek and valley. The projections were much higher.
- l. The Colorado Open Space Alliance (COSA) conference was 9/12-14 in Estes Park. Many staff contributed to and led field trips. Pete Kelly co-led a mountain biking field trip around Homestead Meadows with Dan Marotti. Sherri Valentine attended two days of the conference and had only good feedback. Almost 300 people attended overall.
- m. Open Space Operations District Reports
- n. July sales tax revenue distribution
- o. 2015-2018 CapDev&Acq Summary 09-22-16
- p. Natural Resources events/registration and NR News

6. DISCUSSION & UPDATES

- a. **Poudre River Trail and I-25 bridge project** – Suzette Mallette, Engineering Department
Suzette presented on the North I-25 (Johnstown to Fort Collins) project. A North I-25 Fact Sheet and Suzette’s presentation is attached to these minutes.

7. ACTION ITEMS

- a. **Recommendation for adoption of Little Thompson Farm Stewardship Plan**
Meegan reminded the Board that she presented this stewardship plan to the Board last month. It will serve as an interim plan for 3-5 years. She thanked the Board for their feedback, particularly from Jason and Sherri. One key thing added was wording to clarify the main goal of the property as agricultural production, and that we would apply the Energy by Design process for any demand of oil or gas from the property. Motion by Jason Brothers and second by Dave Marvin to recommend adoption of the interim stewardship plan for the Little Thompson Farm. Motion carried unanimously.
- b. **Lions Open Space riverbank restoration**
Danielle and Meegan went over the history of work on the Poudre River at Lions Open Space and the recent decrease in allocation from FEMA (due to a philosophical difference of opinion on measuring damages.) Motion by Dave Marvin to recommend allocating the Lions Park Bank Stabilization project for an additional \$160,000. Second by Suzan Fritchel. Motion carried unanimously.

- 8. OTHER BUSINESS: Nancy found a historical spreadsheet and map on the website that she thought might be interesting to others and passed them around.
- 9. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Pursuant to C.R.S. 24-6-402 (4)(a) for discussion regarding the purchase, acquisition, lease, transfer, or sale of any real, personal, or other property interest, there was a motion by Suzan Fritchel for the Board go into Executive Session. Second by Dave Marvin. Motion carried unanimously at 7:50 p.m.
- 9. ADJOURN - The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.



I-25 Express Lanes: Johnstown to Fort Collins

The Colorado Department of Transportation, in collaboration and partnership with Larimer County, Weld County, the North Front Range Metropolitan Planning Organization and the Cities and Towns of Berthoud, Fort Collins, Johnstown, Loveland, Timnath, and Windsor, is developing a project to replace aging infrastructure to provide critical safety improvements, congestion relief, trip reliability, and increased travel choices along the I-25 corridor from Colorado 402 to CO 14.

Project Highlights

Improve I-25 mainline:

- Add one Express Lane (toll/HOV) in each direction
- Rehabilitate and reconstruct pavement throughout the corridor
- Incorporate state-of-the-art intelligent transportation technologies

New underpass at Kendall Parkway

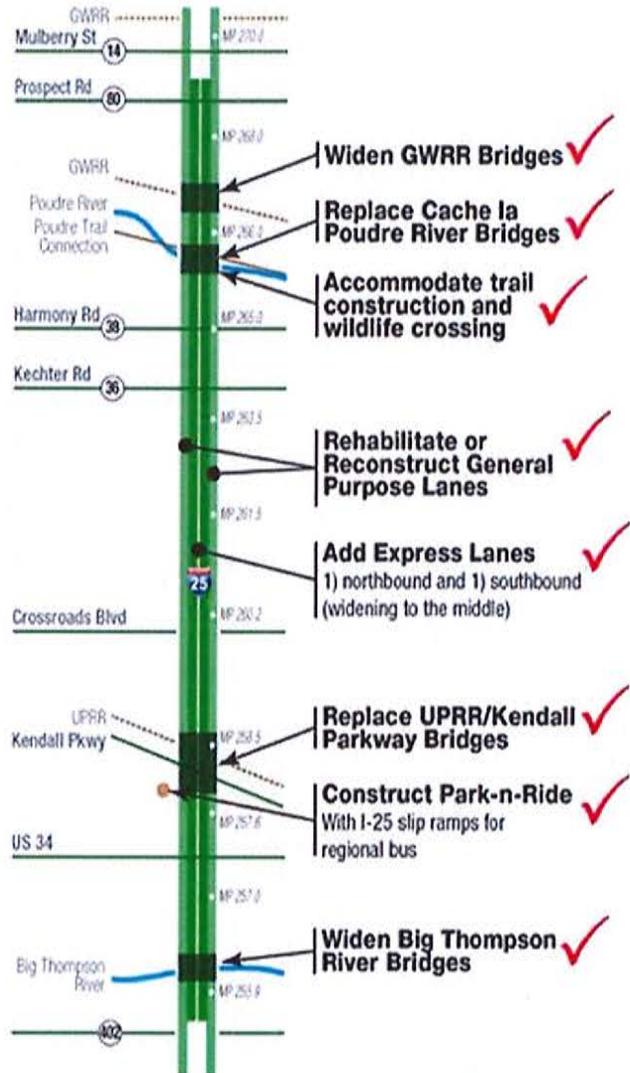
- Replace and widen the UPRR bridge to allow room for Kendall Parkway to be completed, which creates a new pedestrian, bicycle and vehicle connection under I-25
- Build a new Park-n-Ride at Kendall Parkway with 200 parking spaces
- Add express bus slip ramps to allow easy bus access to the Park-n-Ride

Replace Cache la Poudre River Bridge

- Replace bridge and raise the bridge out of the floodplain
- Accommodate the extension of the Poudre River Trail

Widen Great Western Railway Bridges

Widen Big Thompson River Bridges





Financial Feasibility

The planning and design phases are still in early development. As currently envisioned, the project budget is \$237 million. The precise cost estimates will be refined as the project continues to be developed.

Funding Sources

Federal Funds:

- o \$30M (13% of total project cost) from the National Freight Program
- o \$15M (11% of total project cost) in potential funding from USDOT TIGER grant award

State and North Front Range MPO Funds:

- o \$50M (21% of total project cost) commercial loan against anticipated tolling revenue
- o \$107M (43% of total project cost) in potential contributions from CMAQ, RPP, Transit, STP Metro, RoadX, and FASTER funds

Local Government and Private Funds:

- o \$25M (11% of total project cost)
 - o Metro District, Larimer and Weld counties as well as Berthoud, Fort Collins, Johnstown, Loveland, Timnath, and Windsor

Proposed Schedule

This project is expected to begin construction in February of 2018, ending in December of 2020.

What are Express Lanes?

Express lanes provide travelers with more reliable, predictable travel times. Anyone can use Express Lanes. A solo driver in a passenger vehicle can use an Express Lane by paying a toll. A traveler can choose to travel for free with a motorcycle and as a carpooler with two passengers. ExpressToll accounts are required for toll-free HOV travel. A traveler can also use the lane without cost via transit providers like Bustang.

Express Lanes reduce delay on most seriously congested corridors, use toll pricing to manage congestion, maintain reliable travel times now and in the future, promote transit and carpooling. The addition of an Express Lane on the I-25 corridor does not mean that existing general purpose lanes will be tolled.



Open Lands Advisory Board

I-25 Presentation
September 22, 2016



CDOT

I-25 Expansion Base Case

- Construct 14 miles of Managed Lanes, High Occupant Vehicles/Tolled Express Lane (HOV/TEL) from the Highway 14 exit in Fort Collins to the Highway 402 exit in Johnstown/Loveland
- Replace 2 aging bridges and widen 2 additional structures
- Relocate the US 34 Park-n-Ride to Kendall Parkway, improving regional bus service performance
- Create new pedestrian and bicycle access under I-25 at Kendall Parkway
- Connect 34.4 miles of the Cache la Poudre Regional Trail under I-25. The trail will also serve as a wildlife corridor.



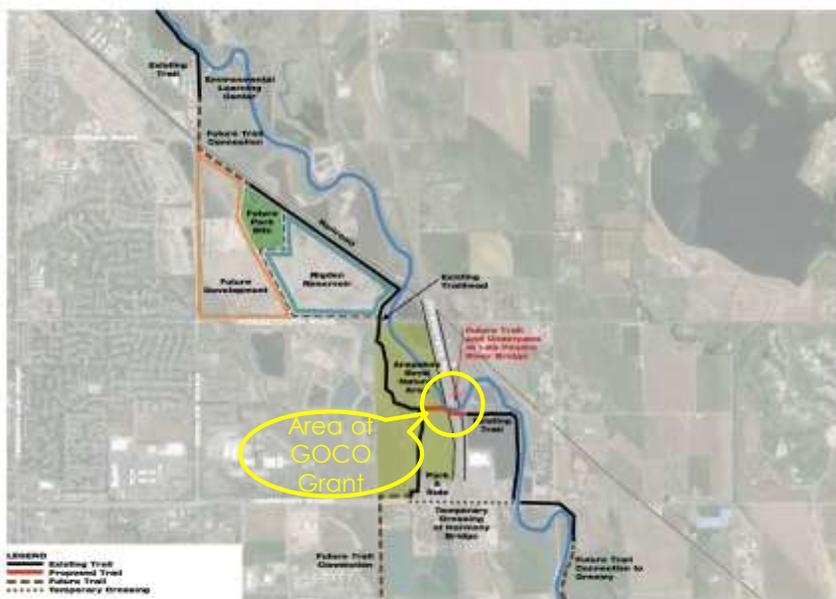
Funding of overall I-25 Project - \$237M

- \$157 million CDOT State Funds, including up to \$50 million in tolls from High Performance Toll Enterprise (HPTe)
- \$30 million Federal Funds
- \$25 million Local and District Government Contributions
 - Larimer County Mill Levy, \$10m
 - Metro District, \$6m
 - City of Fort Collins, \$2m
 - City of Loveland, \$2m
 - Weld County, \$2m
 - Town of Johnstown, \$1m
 - Town of Windsor, \$1m
 - Town of Berthoud, \$500k
 - Town of Timnath, \$500k
- \$15 million TIGER
- \$10 million Other state funds, GOCO, and others



Crossing I-25 and headed to Fort Collins

Save the Poudre



Grant Application Components

- GOCO Connect Initiative – dates not announced for 2017 yet but expected to be concept papers (March), full application determination (April), grant awards (October)
- Trail Construction Estimated (~1 ¼ - 1 ½ miles total) - \$1,778,000
- Bridge (4' lift) and trail Estimated - \$1,120,000
- **TOTAL Estimated grant budget = \$2,898,000**
- Partners – Fort Collins, Larimer County, Timnath, CDOT
 - Need trail connections to increase chance of success
 - Traditionally we have request 50/50 on match

Contact Information I-25 Liaison

- Suzette Mallette
- smallette@Larimer.org
- 970-498-5731