

August 22, 2011

Nederland Phase II Pedestrian/Bicycle Project

Work Session to discuss adoption of an IGA (Inter-Governmental Agreement) between the Town of Nederland and CDOT (Colorado Dept. of Transportation)

What is the purpose of this work session?

The purpose is to provide the BOT (Board of Trustees) and the public with background information regarding the proposed adoption of an IGA with CDOT to begin implementation of a pedestrian/bicycle project. The BOT will discuss the possible adoption of the IGA at their September 6th meeting.

Who are the governmental entities involved?

The IGA will be between the Town of Nederland and CDOT and will address the proposed multi-use path between the Post Office and the Library. CDOT would be administering a federal TIP (Transportation Improvement Program) grant awarded to the Town of Nederland by DRCOG (Denver Regional Council of Governments). DRCOG awarded the grant in March of this year after the town applied for the grant with the assistance from the NDDA (Nederland Downtown Development Authority) in October of 2010. The NDDA will provide the local matching funds for the grant.

What is the project ?

The proposed project will be an extension of the existing sidewalks and will serve to connect the Post Office and Barker Reservoir with the Nederland Public Library and the RTD Park'n'Ride. The proposed path will be 8' wide to accommodate bicycles and pedestrians. The project will create new pedestrian crossings, provide 20 parking spaces, and will make improvements to existing bus stops. The bus stop improvements will include a shelter, covered bike parking for 10 bikes, and benches.

From the traffic circle to the Post Office, most of the path will be separated from the edge of the road and will be more like a trail than a sidewalk, with boulder retaining walls and a pedestrian bridge over North Beaver Creek. According to CDOT standards, this trail may be constructed as either a soft surface or hard surface trail. Along St. Rita's Catholic Church, a sidewalk is planned with a boulder retaining wall to accommodate the existing on-street parking.

From the traffic circle to the Library, the path will accommodate existing vehicular access to the Mining Museum, Smoker Friendly, and the Thai Restaurant with a walkway at pavement grade (no curb and gutter). This walkway will also serve to move water more efficiently in these flat areas of pavement.

The path will connect to the existing sidewalk on the east side of the Library. It will also add a pedestrian crossing between the Library and Jackson St. as well as a walk connecting the end of the existing sidewalks by Nikki's Nook with the RTD Park'n'Ride parking lot.

Why do the project ?

The proposed path was identified first on the Town of Nederland Trails Master Plan in 2005 and was incorporated into the NDDA Master Plan in 2007. The project will continue Nederland's path system by linking the lakefront area with the downtown area, and the downtown area with the regional transportation center and library.

It will provide connections to these areas without routing bicycle and pedestrian traffic through residential areas. It will also encourage use of mass transit and other non-motorized transportation.

When will the project be implemented?

The project is proposed to be designed and constructed over a three year period. If the IGA is approved, the scheduling of the project will be determined by the town. The timeline currently proposed is to complete the design phase of the project by summer/fall of 2012, bid the project during fall/winter of 2012/2013, and begin construction in summer of 2013 and complete the construction in 2014.

How much will the project cost?

The project is estimated to cost \$654,000, with \$486,000 being funded by federal sources and \$168,000 provided as local matching funds by the NDDA. This represents a three to one ratio of federal funding to local funding.

What will be the public process for the design?

If the IGA is approved, the town will contract with an engineering firm for the design of the path. The NDDA will be part of the decision making process since they are providing funding for the project, but final decisions will be made by the town. The town staff and the NDDA are committed to a public process which will allow for community voices to be heard and for consideration of alternatives during the design process.