

**CITY OF BOULDER  
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD  
AGENDA ITEM**

**MEETING DATE:** April 14, 2014

**AGENDA TITLE:**

Update on the Diagonal Highway (28<sup>th</sup> – Independence Road) Transportation Improvements Project

**PRESENTER/S:**

Tracy Winfree, Director of Public Works for Transportation  
Stephany Westhusin, Principal Transportation Projects Engineer  
Jason Fell, Project Manager  
Noreen Walsh, Senior Transportation Planner

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

The Diagonal Highway (28<sup>th</sup> – Independence Road) Transportation Improvements Project began planning and design in 2013. Initially funding was available for the 28<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> street section but the city applied for and received additional funding from the Colorado Department of Transportation's (CDOT) Responsible Acceleration of Maintenance and Partnerships (RAMP) funding program for the section from 30<sup>th</sup> Street to Independence Road. Improvements include a street reconstruction, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, transit stop amenities, landscaping and public art to enhance the street's gateway feature.

The community was recently notified of the additional funding and scope of improvements through a mailing. Feedback received thus far has been minimal and includes requests for trees to be planted adjacent to the Aspen Grove residential community, additional access from an adjacent commercial property and improvements to the connection between Wonderland Creek Path and 30<sup>th</sup> Street.

Construction is expected to begin in the Fall of 2014 and take 15-18 months to complete.

**COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENTS AND IMPACTS:**

The project helps the city achieve its economic goals by replacing and adding transportation facilities and access for residents, businesses, employees, customers and visitors along the Diagonal Highway in Boulder. This multimodal infrastructure contributes to the quality of life and creating a more welcoming entryway into Boulder, which can help to attract, sustain, and retain businesses and entrepreneurs. The project design is being coordinated with potential adjacent redevelopment projects.

The project helps the city achieve its environmental goals by providing a complete street for all transportation modes in this section of Diagonal Highway and provides travel options for

property owners, residents, visitors and employees to use. A decrease in single-occupant vehicle use is anticipated, which would reduce and minimize the use of non-renewable energy resources and greenhouse gas emissions (GHG). As cited in the project's federal grant funding application in 2010, it is estimated that over 43,000 lbs of carbon dioxide emissions will be reduced annually.

This project anticipates an additional 300 to 400 new trees to be planted along the public right-of-way of the Diagonal Highway between 28<sup>th</sup> Street and Independence Road as well as shrubs and other landscaping materials. Boulder's urban forest helps to improve the community's air quality, protect water, save energy and provide food and shelter for wildlife. The trees help to remove carbon and air pollutants such as sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, ozone, carbon monoxide and particulate matter through the photosynthetic process. Approximately 25 Russian Olive trees will be removed as part of the project.

The project helps the city achieve its social sustainability goals by expanding transportation options for all members of the community to use and improving public safety by completing a missing link in the bicycle and pedestrian network. During the planning and design of the project, the team implemented a variety of outreach tools to inform and engage the public in the project, including InspireBoulder.com, public open-house meeting and mailings.

#### **OTHER IMPACTS:**

Fiscal Impacts:

Budgetary: The total project funding is now \$9.97 million and includes city transportation funds (\$2.31 million), State transportation funds (\$4.86 million) and federal transportation funds (\$2.8 million).

Staff Time: Staff time costs are included in the current project budget.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

The highest priority budget item in the City of Boulder's Transportation Master Plan (TMP) is maintenance and preservation of the transportation system. With its heavy use, and the relative age of the existing pavements, Diagonal Highway/SH119, from 28th Street east to the City Limits, is in deteriorated and poor pavement condition. It is rated by the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) as 0-Poor in their pavement management system and is the lowest rated state owned roadway in the City of Boulder. The Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) for this section of the corridor is approximately 28,000 vehicles per day.

This corridor also lacks complete and continuous bicycle, pedestrian and transit facilities. The two transit routes that operate on this roadway are the BOLT service from Boulder to Longmont and the BOUND. This section of roadway is a gateway to northeast and central Boulder but the lack of facilities, medians, and the wide roadway cross section does not support the multimodal gateway nature of this roadway. The TMP supports maintaining the existing transportation infrastructure in good maintenance condition and providing travel options by constructing multimodal facilities (bicycle lanes, sidewalks, transit stop amenities, curb & gutter) and supporting regional travel to/from local and regional transit services and the bicycle system.

In 2013, the project team began designing improvements for the section of the Diagonal Highway from 28<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> streets including a street reconstruction, new bicycle and pedestrian facilities, urban design, public art and landscaping. The project had received federal transportation funds through the Transportation Improvements Program (TIP) process with a local match from the City of Boulder and the Colorado Department of Transportation. The Board was updated on this project at their June 10, 2013 meeting.

**PROJECT UPDATE:**

In 2013, the City of Boulder also submitted an application and was awarded additional funding for the 30<sup>th</sup> Street to Independence Road section of the Diagonal Highway through CDOT's Responsible Acceleration of Maintenance and Partnerships (RAMP) funding program. The scope of improvements for the project include:

- Reconstruct the existing roadway of the Diagonal Highway (SH 119) between 28<sup>th</sup> Street and the west side of Foothills Parkway, and restriping the roadway to add on-street bike lanes along the section between Foothills Parkway and Independence Road.
- Construct a new multi-use path, off-street bicycle lanes/cycle tracks, new curbs and gutters, medians, transit stop bus pads and other transit amenities along the Diagonal Highway from 28<sup>th</sup> Street to Independence Road.
- Incorporate public functional art, new landscaping and trees, into this “gateway” to/from the City of Boulder.
- Install new storm drainage, water quality, and irrigation systems.

**Attachment A** includes the most current version of the project plans including the proposed landscaping improvements and public art.

The adjacent residents, property owners, businesses and other interested parties received a project update postcard in February 2014. The updated project and landscaping plans were posted on the project's webpage and available at the Main Library for review. The public were invited to comment on the project via webpage or by phone. Questions and comments about this project received as of March 20 include a request for more trees to be planted at the adjacent Aspen Grove residential property, improved connection between the Wonderland Creek path and 30<sup>th</sup> St, and a request to add an access from a property southeast of the 30<sup>th</sup> St and Diagonal Highway intersection.

**NEXT STEPS:**

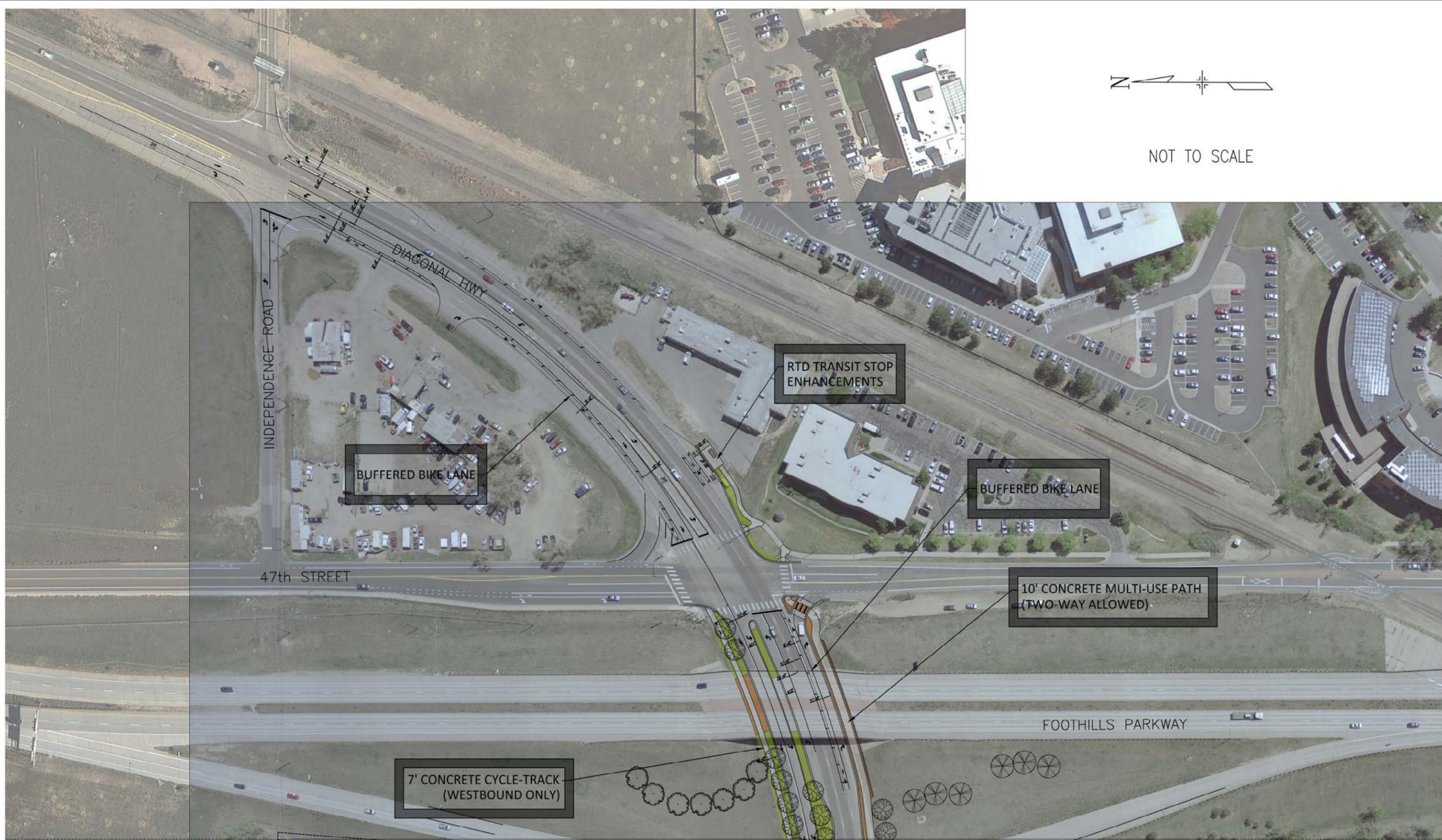
Staff is updating the Boulder Arts Commission on the public art component of the project on April 16. Staff is finalizing the construction plans and will go out for bids in the summer of 2014. Construction is anticipated to begin in late 2014 and take 15-18 months to complete.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Attachment A – Diagonal (28<sup>th</sup> to Independence) Transportation Improvements Project – Conceptual Plan including Landscaping and Public Art.



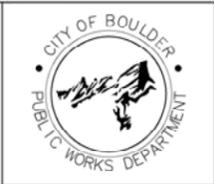




Print Date:  
 File Name: 4-2014 TAB Memo - Dwg Sheets.dwg  
 Horiz. Scale: Not to Scale      Vert. Scale:

Sheet Revisions		
Date:	Comments	Init.

**Loris and Associates, Inc.**  
 818 W. South Boulder Road,  
 Suite 200  
 Louisville, Colorado 80027  
 303.444.2073  
 www.LorisandAssociates.com



**Colorado Department of Transportation**  
 1420 Second Street  
 Greeley, CO 80632  
 Phone: (970) 350-2103  
 FAX: (970) 350-2198  
 Region 4      LHN

As Constructed  
 No Revisions:  
 Revised:  
 Void:

DIAGONAL (SH119) RECONSTRUCTION - 28th ST. to INDEPENDENCE RD.  
**CONCEPTUAL DESIGN LAYOUT**  
**ATTACHMENT A - TAB MEMO (APRIL, 2014)**

Designer:            KFD      Structure  
 Detailer:                        Numbers  
 Sheet Subset:       -      Subset Sheets:       -

Project No./Code  
 STE M870-001  
 163739  
 Sheet Number    3 of 3