



Board of County Commissioners

970-328-8605

970-328-8629(f)

eagleadmin@eaglecounty.us

www.eaglecounty.us

March 15, 2024

The Honorable Jared Polis
Governor, State of Colorado
State Capitol Building
200 E. Colfax Ave., Rm. 136
Denver, CO 80203

Ms. Shoshana Lew
Executive Director, Colorado Department of Transportation
2829 W. Howard Pl.
Denver, CO 80204

Dear Governor Polis and Director Lew,

We are writing to share our concern regarding the significant scope change to the West Vail Pass Project we were recently informed of. It is our understanding that CDOT has added \$89 million in additional infrastructure improvements and now to bring the project back into budget it is proposed that the Construction Package #4 scope will eliminate several pull-out areas, variable speed limit and variable message signs, improvements to the westbound curve at Mile Point 186, and a 1.8-mile stretch of the planned eastbound auxiliary lane.

Completing the eastbound auxiliary lane and the westbound curve at Mile Point 186 are foundational pieces of the project that are critical to delivering the Project's safety and mobility goals. Leaving these elements to be constructed in the future loses significant economies of scale, impacts travelers with an additional round of construction, and the cost of the work will only increase with time. We also have concerns as the climbing lane and curve straightening are not currently included in the 10-Year Plan, which means they would not receive funding for a decade or more.

We are equally concerned that this information has only recently been provided with only a week to offer a solution. This lack of communication and collaboration is counter to the CSS process and the years of success CDOT, local governments, Transportation Planning Regions, and other agencies have worked so hard to build.



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If these improvements cannot be funded with Construction Package #4 we ask that CDOT work with stakeholders to give an adequate amount of time to engage in meaningful efforts to identify resources to complete these elements in a defined time frame.

Please reconsider the scope reduction to Construction Package #4 of the West Vail Pass Auxiliary Lane Project.

Sincerely,

Matt Scherr
Chair

Jeanne McQueeney
Commissioner

Kathy Chandler-Henry
Commissioner



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