

**Transportation Working Group Meeting: Highway 40 Congestion  
August 13, 2008**

**I. Introductions**

John Spezia, Laura Anderson (City Public Works), Joe Cabela, Harry Thompsen, Steve Elkins, John Fielding, Danny Mulcahy, Fred Duckels, John Eastman (City Planner)

**II. Overview**

Sub-committee mandate summary:

1. Scope of Congestion on Highway 40
2. Timeline for consideration
3. Information already available from City/County/State
4. Document the status quo
5. Request for proposal
6. Costs
7. Baseline trends
8. Community will
9. Chamber Committee message to the Community
10. Creation of a mission statement

**III. Review Categorical Exclusion RFP – Laura Anderson, Public Works Engineer, City of Steamboat Springs**

Laura discussed the studies from 1978 on bypasses and she will get these studies to everyone and Joe will get the Access Control Plan to everyone on CD. The Access Control Study defines specific access points, and identifies consolidation with redevelopment. A question was posed regarding the widening of Hwy 40 and whether it would hasten the access control plan. John Eastman felt that this would be good to ask in the Categorical Exclusion study.

The 2004 Mobility and Circulation Plan would also be helpful to look at and it is available online at the City's website.

Laura explained that the Categorical Exclusion study is very important for the NEPA process which is required for any federal or state funding. She will get the scope of work out to the sub-committee to read. The study will look out at the next 20 years and the current proposed scope of work is following the area community plan which prefers multi-modal alternatives with widening of Hwy 40 rather than bypasses. The current community plan does constrain looking at a bypass or 6 lanes. The study would also include Victory Hwy and Slate Creek. The proposed study would do a 'no build' scenario as well as a 'full build' scenario, looking at interim 5 year increments.

Is there a full destination/origination traffic model? Laura said she would look at what was done in the needs analysis and see what Craig volume is.

The project goals for this study will be decided at public meetings. There will be scenario building. This study will help update the community area plan for transportation. Public input and study results will determine whether EA/EIS are going to be needed, which is required by the NEPA study. Laura felt that this study would take approximately one year to complete. The timing will be to let the RFP out August 22, hire a consultant in mid-October, and hold public meetings in the winter.

Can a project be funded privately without regulations? One would have to go through CDOT for connections to Hwy 40.

How do we gauge political will? Possibly a survey could be conducted. Sandy discussed the need for transparency throughout the process. First it's important to look at all the alternatives and information available before ruling things out. Then we want to engage the public. The Chamber will bring potential funding mechanisms to the full group to educate everyone.

Jim Gill will work on a mission statement to bring to the group at the next meeting.

**Next meeting: Wednesday, September 17 at 4:00 p.m. at Duckels Construction**