AGENDA ITEM or FINAL CONTRACT REVIEW SUBMITTAL FORM

Agenda Item: Cottonwood Pass Construction Closures

Action Requested: Motion

Parties to the Agreement:

Term Begins: **Term Ends:** **Grant Contract #:**

Summary:

The FHWA needs the Board to authorize construction delays for submittal of the environmental work on the project.

Fiscal Impact: Construction closures will save costs on the project

Submitted by: Marlene D. Crosby **Submitter's Email Address:** mcrosby@gunnisoncounty.org

Finance Review: ○ Required ◉ Not Required

Comments:

Reviewed by: Discharge Date:

County Attorney Review: ◉ Required ○ Not Required

Comments:
no legal issues - gs

Reveiwed by: GUNCOUNTY1\gstuhr Discharge Date: 10/29/2015 Certificate of Insurance Required

Yes ○ No ◉

County Manager Review:

Comments:

Reveiwed by: GUNCOUNTY1\mbirnie Discharge Date: 10/30/2015

○ Consent Agenda ◉ Regular Agenda ○ Worksession Time Allotted: 10 minutes

Agenda Date: 11/3/2015

Revised April 2015

GUNNISON COUNTY
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

195 Basin Park Drive
GUNNISON, CO 81230
970-641-0044

MEMORANDUM

TO: **Board of County Commissioners**
Matthew Birnie, County Manager

FROM: **Marlene Crosby, Public Works Director**

DATE: October 23, 2015

SUBJECT: **Construction Closures Cottonwood Pass**

At the last field review for the Cottonwood Pass project there were representatives from the Federal Highway Administration, the Forest Service and Gunnison County present. We looked at the construction project, the realignments that had been previously proposed, and the realignments/changes in proposed construction techniques needed to address wetland issues.

We also spent time discussing the construction schedules and traffic management during the project. We are looking at a project in 2017 and 2018. There will either be one project that does the dirt work in one year and the asphalt and final reclamation in the next year, or if funding is not available for one large contract, it may be divided into two separate projects with one being done each year. The preference of all agencies is one large project, but without a long term transportation bill that might not happen.

I know that it probably seems early to have to make a decision on construction closures, but the matter in which traffic is managed is an important part of the environmental work that is currently being done. They need a decision from the Board and the Forest Service to include with the submission of all the environmental work in November.

During our review of the options we discussed impact on the motoring public, impact on the businesses in Taylor Park, and ways to expedite the project both from a time and money perspective. There is no way to work on the upper portion of the Pass and keep traffic moving even with long delays. In addition they would possibly encounter 3-4 long delays during the course of the project. We offer the following options:

1. Close the Pass for the entire 2017 construction year and for as much of 2018 as it takes to complete the work.

2. Close the Pass from 8:00 AM -6:00 PM Monday through Thursday and 8:00 – Noon on Fridays
   Maximum 20 minute delays Noon to 6 PM on Fridays
   Night work allowed 3 weekday nights per week, Monday-Thursday with maximum delays of 20 minutes
   Emergency vehicle access provided at all times
   No closures or delays allowed on weekend from May 15 to September 15. Outside of those dates, maximum 20 minutes delays will be allowed on weekends.

Both of the options will have impacts, but there is an alternate route and hopefully this schedule will accommodate the traffic that comes from the front range for the weekends.