

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

SUBJECT: I-25/SH 392 Interchange Project
Fort Collins City Council and Windsor Town Board Joint Work Session

DATE: August 26, 2009

STAFF: Mark Jackson, Transportation Group Director
Rick Richter, Program Manager
Dean Klingner, Project Engineer
Chuck Seest, Fort Collins, Finance Director
John Frey, Town of Windsor, Project Manager
Alan Eckman, AECOM, Consultant Project Manager

SUBJECT FOR DISCUSSION

The purpose of this Joint Work Session is to present the final plans for the I-25/SH 392 Interchange. Upon approval from the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) Transportation Commission on January 21, 2009, and subsequent approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with the City of Fort Collins (City), the Town of Windsor (Town) and CDOT, an accelerated design process was undertaken and is now in the final days. Items to be discussed include project design, mitigating environmental impacts, and Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant funding.

Presentations will be made by the project's technical team on mitigating environmental impacts, architectural concepts, the State Highway 392 cross-section and the right of way acquisition process. An outline of the remaining action items will also be provided.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

City Council and the Windsor Town Board have held four joint work sessions to discuss the I-25 and State Highway 392 Interchange Improvements, System Level Study (1601 Process) and design. The System Level Study for this interchange was approved by the CDOT Transportation Commission on January 21, 2009. This approval, along with a signed IGA, has allowed the project to move into the final design phase. The accelerated design process for this project is in the final stage. This accelerated design process will make this project "shovel ready," thereby enhancing the possibility of obtaining ARRA funds for construction.

The design followed the intent of the guiding principles adopted by the City Council and the Town Board in August of 2008, specifically the community character guiding principle that states: "The I-25/392 Interchange is an important 'gateway' feature for both Fort Collins and Windsor. It is viewed as Fort Collins' southern gateway and the main gateway into the Town of Windsor. The design of the interchange, sensitivity to view sheds and associated land development shall enhance the gateway concept."

If the project were funded for construction, CDOT would normally require an IGA between CDOT, Fort Collins and Windsor to identify the capital construction cost distribution,

maintenance responsibilities and construction management responsibilities. Given the fact that a construction schedule is not defined for this project, staff will work with CDOT to develop a Memorandum of Understanding outlining responsibilities for these items. This Memorandum will be presented to the City Council and Town Board for approval at a later date.

GENERAL DIRECTION SOUGHT AND SPECIFIC QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED

No direction is sought; the purpose of this work session is to present the final design of the Interchange.

BACKGROUND

The two-year process to develop the I-25/SH 392 Interchange Improvement Plan was completed in early 2008. The System Level Study established a foundation for implementing improvements needed and financing tools available to the Town of Windsor and the City of Fort Collins.

The City of Fort Collins and the Town of Windsor decided to proceed with an accelerated environmental clearance process for the I-25/SH 392 interchange improvements. The process was referred to as the 1601 process, including environmental clearance under a Categorical Exclusion. In order to accelerate the construction of this much needed interchange, this process utilized the North I-25 Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) environmental data and the “tight-diamond” interchange design. Fort Collins and Windsor staff members worked along with a consultant team to complete the 1601 requirements of the CDOT and the Federal Highway Administration. The CDOT Transportation Commission approved the 1601 package on January 21, 2009. An IGA between the City, Town and CDOT has been approved, allowing the design funding in the amount of \$1.9 million to become available from CDOT for the interchange design. That design effort is now in the final stage, allowing the project to be ready for construction when funding is available.

In previous joint work-sessions, potential methodologies for public and public-private financing options were outlined by Chuck Seest, Finance Director for Fort Collins. While those options remain available, the current efforts of the project team have been directed to positioning the project for ARRA funding.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Agenda
2. Power Point Presentation
3. Milestone schedule