

February 4, 2014 6:00pm
West Fork Road Construction Meeting
Minutes

Present: Greg Gifford Western Federal Lands, John Prinkki Commissioner, Angela Newell, Administrative Assistant, Bill Foisy, Alistair Baker, Seth Berglee, JoAnne Blyton, Don Blyton, Grant Barnard, Barb Beck, Gary Scarborough, Sheri Scarborough, Jim Vorachek, Catie Owen.

John Prinkki opened meeting. Attendants introduced themselves. Greg gave an agenda overview.

Design Progress

Roadway design is now approximately 80% complete.

Design Elements

30' roadway (11 foot lanes with 4' shoulders) from 212 to Bannock. Originally proposed narrower section from Bannock to Ski Run with bike trail. Trail construction is not something that the County Road crew would be able to construct, and would add considerable costs to the project. The proposed change is to continue 30' roadway all the way from 212 to ski run. This change would require moving historic ditches. It appears that historic ditches will be easier to move than work around. Proposed bike trail would have had out of direction sections so looked at other options. There are two tight spaces just to the west of Bannock Trail, ditches on both sides of the road and working with a consultant regarding historic nature of ditches. Also still working on some engineering aspects of ditch relocation. Other section where Wapitti intersects. Can probably move ditch or may fill in old gravel pit to get full width on road.

ROW Acquisition

Working mostly within the existing County row, acquiring row and temporary easements from six properties (prior to proposed changes). Currently working on appraisals for .51 acres of row to purchase Julias Pilatti.

Funding Federal Highways

Preliminary engineering out of Forest Hwy funding, also funding part of construction (carry over funds). The remaining funding funded with MAP-21. Lewis and Clark Co. returned Forest Hwy Funds which reduced the amount of funding that was subject to match requirement

County Match Funds

Significantly reduced amount. Roughly \$50k/yr for 4 years of RLM resort tax \$30,000 ROW, \$150,000 post construction chip seal,

Schedule

Plan Completion Fall'14, ROW'14, Advertise project Fall'14, Construction Spring'15-Fall'16. Road will remain open during construction.

Q&A

Grant Barnard, huge improvement w/ continuous 4' shoulders to accommodate bicycle traffic. Typically 2-3' is adequate. In proposed trail asked if it was paved, design work did not get that far, if county built it would not have been paved.

Does design have remedy for frost heaves? They hope so. County's previous project did not have funding to excavate to the depth necessary to address the issue. Western Federal lands project plans to excavate and put in material that is less susceptible to frost heaves.

Grant asked about tree cutting, there are some plans to cut back trees through ROW to open sunlight.

Bill BRTA letter question regarding environmental assessment, procedurally categorical exclusion does not need EA. Would like written response to letter. Would like crosswalks.

Barb good evolution to addressing ditches would like to work with Historical Preservation Office. Concerned about ditch changes impacting water table as ditches feed wells. Concerns about speed and would like that to be factored into design. Greg 11' lanes were kept to help mitigate speed. John also discussed rumble strip to help keep vehicles within 11' lanes.

Tight spot at Thompsons ? about removing trees. John, ditch has migrated and can gain 2' road width by putting ditch bank where it should be. Old gravel pit 3,000-4,000 cu yds to reclaim gravel pit which would give more road width. May also change alignment of Wapitti road approach to avoid having to purchase row from 6 more land owners. Would extend culvert at Thompsons and make changes to S. side of road.

White & 212 junction, will there be a turn lane onto White? Greg is not sure but does not believe so. County would plow shoulders in winter. RLM would still maintain Ski Run Road in winter.