

# Colorado Boulevard Phase 3 – Design and Reconstruction

## Public Open House Summary and Analysis

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### 68 Attendees:

Representatives from the City of Idaho Springs	6
Steering Committee Representatives	6

### Corridor Plots

It was difficult to discern priorities from many of the red dots placed on the plans. Sometimes the red dots were placed in the midst of a conversation and often were placed due to a misconception.

#### **Minimize Footprint Alternative**

- Parallel parking between 20<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> on the north side of the street was not well received.
- Concern was expressed on this board regarding lack of left turns being illustrated to the post office and Safeway.
- An arrival sequence to downtown was requested.
- Parallel parking in front of the liquor store was not well received.
- Specific access for the businesses between Tops Motel and JC Suites was noted.
- Comment: Constant streetscape standards for leftover area?
- A curb pan detail, rather than standard curb and gutter was drawn on this plan.

#### **Maximize Mobility Alternative**

- Concern noted for residential garage access west of 20<sup>th</sup> Ave.
- Parallel parking in front of the liquor store was not well received.
- Specific access for the businesses between Tops Motel and JC Suites was noted.
- A curb pan detail, rather than standard curb and gutter was drawn on this plan.
- Raised median received negative feedback.

#### **Maximize Parking Alternative**

- The crosswalk between the post office and Safeway received negative feedback.
- Parallel parking in front of the liquor store was not well received.
- Specific access for the businesses between Tops Motel and JC Suites was noted.
- Raised median received negative feedback.

### Colorado, 23<sup>rd</sup>, and park reconfiguration

It was difficult to discern preference for the design ideas. The boards received a fairly even distribution of red dots. Sometimes the red dots were placed in the midst of a conversation and often were placed due to a misconception. Realigning Colorado as well as the different intersection recommendations received a mixed review. The comment sheets tend to have more positive reaction to expanding the park.

- A common misconception was that the bridge to the Argo development would be a part of this project.
- A common misconception was that any of the realignment proposals would cause problems with traffic flow to the businesses located in downtown.
- Many attendees expressed concern that the community garden would be removed or they would have to relocate it with their own time and money.  
The community garden is clearly an asset and is important to include in the future design concepts.
- The roundabout concept received a lot of negative dots on the board, however; in the comment sheets, it was very well received in the majority.  
The roundabout seems to be well received in the context of slowing visitor traffic, however; the reality that any traffic calming measures will apply to the residents too seems to have an adverse reaction.

- An offset intersection at 23<sup>rd</sup> received a more positive reaction.
- The idea of expanding the park was well received in conversation and on the comment sheets.
- The greenway trail was well received in conversation and on the comment sheets.
- Concern over the location of the Steve Canyon statue, public restrooms and the radio station was voiced and noted in the comment sheets many times.
- Safe crossing is a typical concern throughout the community.
- The playground is an asset, however; it could use some improvements:
  - Location along the street is not favored
  - Shade is needed
  - The black safety surface is hot
- The idea of off-street parking for the park seemed to be well received.
- The parking for the Visitors Center expansion did not receive much attention.
- Concern for bus circulation for the Visitors Center was expressed in conversation.
- Closing the western cut through access to Safeway from Miner Street was well received.
- Rafting activity in the park continues to be a concern to the residents.
- Educational opportunities were well received.

### Additional Program Recommendations from the Community

- Dog Run
- Place for food trucks
- Skate Park
- More picnic space

### Additional Conversation

Many residents expressed concern relating to construction. There has been a lot of construction around them and they are hesitant to encourage more.

There seems to be a bit of concern relating to the homeless community in Idaho Springs.

Many residents discussed concern for traffic when there is an accident on I-70. They wanted to know if cut-through can be reduced as well as how any new road alignments will affect the periodic high traffic flows.

### Comment Sheets

The opinions of the community were balanced regarding the reconfiguration of 23<sup>rd</sup> and Colorado. The comments regarding the intersection did not show a clear favorite or unpopular option. The idea of expanding the park was well received. There was clear concern expressed regarding the fate of the community garden and the radio station. Several community members expressed concern regarding how the realignment of the road might affect the Miner Street businesses.

### Summary

The results of the Public Workshop did not generate any unexpected issues or concerns from the community. It is the understanding of the design team, that the reconstruction of Phase 3 of Colorado Boulevard is viewed as a positive asset to the community.

An interesting difference of opinion seems to accompany a “generation gap”: residents who have lived in Idaho Springs for decades like things the way they are. Residents who are younger are interested in improvements and want change.

The community continues to express concern relating to funding, City budget, and long-term maintenance.