



Town of Estes Park
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Town seeks public input on Estes Park Transit Facility and Parking Structure design

Community members are invited to join the Town of Estes Park and consultants to review a proposed new design for the Estes Park Transit Facility and Parking Structure, which is anticipated to be constructed in 2016 at the Estes Park Visitor Center parking lot south of the Big Thompson River. The meeting takes place Wednesday, June 10 at 6 p.m. in Rooms 202 and 203 of Town Hall, 170 MacGregor Avenue. Public input regarding the structure height and architectural features is desired. Funding for an initial phase with 98 new spaces on two levels is available, and the addition of more levels will be possible if future funding becomes available. A total of 296 new parking spaces could be achieved in a future four-level structure.

The Transit Facility and Parking Structure facility was originally designed with community assistance in 2014 to be built east of the Visitor Center off Big Thompson Avenue. This structure was designed to provide 101 new parking spaces. In December of 2014, the Town Board rejected all construction proposals due in part to the significant rise in construction costs following the 2013 flood. All bids exceeded the available funds for the project, ranging from approximately \$1.5 to \$2.5 million over budget. The board authorized staff to evaluate the feasibility of building the parking structure south of the Big Thompson River on the site of the Visitor Center south parking area. In future construction phases, this structure could provide nearly three times the parking capacity of the original site. Vehicles would access this structure from U.S. 36.

The relocation of the Estes Park Transit Facility and Parking Structure will require obtaining a permit from the Bureau of Reclamation to place the structure partially on its land. The remainder of the necessary land belongs to the Town. The Town and Bureau of Reclamation must complete a new National Environmental Policy Act assessment of the project impacts. If these steps are successfully completed, the project could be bid late in 2015. Construction could extend thru the summer of 2016.

The Estes Park Transit Facility and Parking Structure will increase parking availability in the downtown area, reduce emissions in the Estes Valley and Rocky Mountain National Park, and serve as another hub for transit systems. This project is currently funded by approximately \$3.9 million in grants from the Federal Transit Administration, Federal Highway Administration, CDOT and Rocky Mountain National Park. Grant funding is specifically designated for this structure to be located at the Estes Park Visitor Center. The Town has budgeted a matching contribution of \$1.7 million from its Community Reinvestment Fund

For more information, please visit www.estes.org/publicworksprojects or contact the Public Works Department at 970-577-3587. To receive Town news and/or meeting agendas in your email inbox, please visit www.estes.org. More Town news is available at www.facebook.com/townofestesparkco and www.twitter.com/townofestespark.

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