



Administration Building  
West Hearing Room  
5334 S. Prince St.  
Littleton, CO 80120  
303-795-4630  
Relay Colorado 711

Kathleen Conti, District 1  
Nancy Sharpe, District 2  
Jeff Baker, Chair, District 3  
Nancy Jackson, Chair Pro Tem, District 4  
Bill Holen, District 5

## **Study Session**

**April 2, 2019**

The Arapahoe County Board of County Commissioners typically holds weekly Study Sessions on Monday and Tuesday. Study Sessions (except for Executive Sessions) are open to the public and items for discussion are included on this agenda. Agendas (except for Executive Sessions agendas) are available through the Commissioners' Office or through the County's web site at [www.arapahoegov.com](http://www.arapahoegov.com). Please note that the Board may discuss any topic relevant to County business, whether or not the topic has been specifically noticed on this agenda. In particular, the Board typically schedules time each Monday under "Committee Updates" to discuss a wide range of topics. In addition, the Board may alter the times of the meetings throughout the day, or cancel or reschedule noticed meetings. Questions about this agenda? Contact the Commissioners' Office at 303-795-4630 or by e-mail at [commissioners@arapahoegov.com](mailto:commissioners@arapahoegov.com)

### **Study Session Topics**

#### **1:00 P.M. \*I-70/Airpark And I-70/Watkins Interchange Improvement Study Update (WHR)**

Update on the C17-007 I-70 Airpark and I-70 Watkins Interchange Improvement Study. The purpose of this project is to assess the transportation demand impacts that could be generated by proposed Sky Ranch (I-70/Airpark) and Prosper (I-70/Watkins) developments, along with other developments within the project interchange study

*Request: Information/Direction*

*Bryan Weimer, Director, Public Works and Development  
Keith Ashby, Purchasing Manager, Finance  
Robert Hill, Senior Assistant County Attorney*

Documents:

[C17-007 BOCC UPDATE PRIOR TO OPEN HOUSE SS BSR 3-26-19 .PDF](#)

**\* To Be Recorded As Required By Law**  
WHR - West Hearing Room

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*Please contact our office at least 3 days in advance to make arrangements.*



**ARAPAHOE COUNTY**  
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**BRYAN D. WEIMER, PWLF**  
Director

## BOARD SUMMARY REPORT

**DATE:** March 26, 2019

**TO:** Board of County Commissioners

**FROM:** Bryan D. Weimer, PWLF, Director  
Public Works and Development

**SUBJECT:** **C17-007; I-70/AIRPARK and I-70/WATKINS INTERCHANGE IMPROVEMENT STUDY, UPDATE ON PROJECT PRIOR TO APRIL 4, 2019, PUBLIC MEETING**

### Direction/Information

The Public Works and Development Department (PWD) is holding this Informational Study Session to update the Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) on the above referenced project prior to the Public Open House scheduled for April 4, 2019.

### Request and Recommendation

Staff will be updating the BoCC prior the open house as a way to advise them on the status of the project and to provide an advance view of the graphics that will be presented. The BoCC is encouraged to provide feedback as they see appropriate.

### Background

The purpose of this project is to assess the transportation demand impacts that could be generated by proposed Sky Ranch (I-70/Airpark) and Prosper (I-70/Watkins) developments, along with other developments within the project interchange study areas and make recommendations of improvements accordingly.

The potential for development within certain areas of eastern unincorporated Arapahoe County has grown in recent years. Two (2) large developments, Sky Ranch and Prosper, have been rezoned to allow for mixed use development and required performing this study processes in order to move forward with construction. Because these interchanges are adjacent to each other and since there has been expressed concern regarding how these two developments will impact I-70 and CDOT frontage roads, Arapahoe County chose to combine the study for both interchanges so traffic impacts could be looked at holistically from both developments. Development is also



projected to occur within Adams and Arapahoe Counties outside of the two developments referenced above. The City of Aurora is planning for development in the area through the recently completed Northeast Aurora Transportation Study (NEATS).

Sky Ranch, split between 'Sky Ranch' (Arapahoe Case No. A04-010 and Z16-003) and 'The Hills at Sky Ranch' (Arapahoe Case No. Z04-005), is approximately 930 acres of mixed use. The overall Sky Ranch site is generally bounded by I-70 on the north, Alameda Avenue on the south, Hayesmount Road alignment on the east, and a ½ section east of Powhaton Road on the west. Primary access to the Sky Ranch development is via the I-70/Airpark (Monaghan Road) interchange.

Prosper is approximately 5,130 acres of mixed use. The Prosper site is generally bounded by I-70 on the north, Hayesmount Road on the west, Imboden Road on the east, and approximately one half mile north of Jewell Avenue on the south. Primary access to the Prosper development is via the I-70/Watkins interchange.

As part of the Prosper rezoning approval, an overall Traffic Impact Study (TIS) for the Prosper development was prepared and accepted by Arapahoe County. The Prosper TIS includes a Preliminary Potential Future Interchange Alternative analysis for the Watkins Interchange that was requested by CDOT to be later used within this study. Results were considered preliminary, but already ruled out initial evaluation of several concepts. Official screening as part of this process will be required for the universe of alternatives.

## **Align Arapahoe**

### **Quality of Life**

The I-70/Airpark (Monaghan Road) and I-70/Watkins interchanges were designed to serve traffic generated by the rural surrounding area. As Sky Ranch and Prosper develop, there will be a need to improve each interchange to accommodate the new development related traffic. In addition to meeting the requirements of Interchange Improvement Approval Process and FHWA Interstate Access Request, this study will identify a recommended alternative for design to carry forward in a staged build approach to serve the new development traffic as the need requires. Residents of each respective development will benefit by having access to I-70 from each interchange capable of providing the capacity to meet the demand. Air quality will be less impacted by reducing congestion from an otherwise capacity deficient interchange.

### **Fiscally Responsible**

The outcome of the study will identify phased improvements for each interchange as each respective development grows. By identifying a recommended alternative for design, stakeholders can financially plan for infrastructure improvements to be near construction or complete with construction as development warrants.

### **Service First**

This project will address needed improvements to the I-70/Airpark and I-70/Watkins Interchanges and identify triggers for implementation of the improvements along with funding so that the future residents of the development's as well as regional users will benefit from improved interchange improvements.

## **Discussion**

The open house will introduce the project to the public, give them an opportunity to provide feedback, and allow the study team to understand their perspective on the project and various issues. This project is unique in that it is planning for the future needs, as the existing interchanges have adequate capacity for current travel demand. In the past, similar projects were conducted to address existing interchanges that have failed. Therefore, the project is forward thinking in terms of developing plans and phasing of improvements that will meet demands as they occur as opposed to after they occur.

The open house will present information and graphics on the following:

**Study Introduction**

- Project Area
- Study Purpose and Objectives
- Study Process
- Project Schedule
- Project Process

**Regional Planning Context**

- City of Aurora Northeast Area Transportation Study (NEATS) Study Area Including Planned Developments
- City of Aurora Northeast Area Transportation Study (NEATS) Recommended Roadway Network

**Existing Study Area Conditions**

- Current Traffic Volumes and Operations
- Level of Service Descriptions (not stand-alone – will be small format attached to traffic board)
- Five-Year Crash Summary
- Existing Environmental Conditions

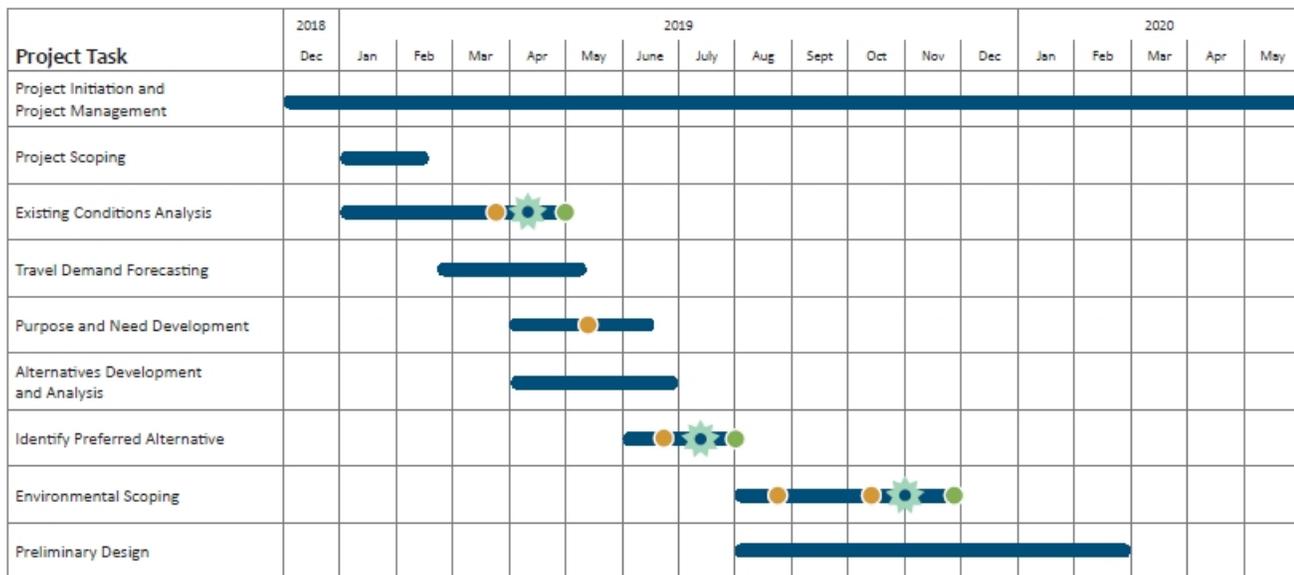
**Potential Improvement Concepts**

- I-70 & Airpark/Monaghan Interchange Potential Improvement Concepts
- I-70 & Watkins Interchange Potential Improvement Concepts
- Project Area Challenge Areas and Considerations

**Handouts**

- Meeting Overview
- Comment Form

The schedule of the project is generally as follows:



In addition, Staff reminds the BoCC that a designated Board member is needing to be appointed to the project Policy Advisory Committee (PAC). Also, Staff would ask that the Chair reach out to their peers in Adams County, City of Aurora, and CDOT that the PAC invite letters were sent to reminding them to appoint a members to the PAC.

## **Alternatives**

Since this study session is for informational purposes there are no alternatives to be discussed. However, Staff would like feedback from the BoCC, as offered.

## **Fiscal Impact**

There is no fiscal impact associated with this study session. The fiscal impact with the study has already been accounted for with the agreement with the consultant to perform the study.

Staff is also finalizing the agreements between the developers of Sky Ranch and Prosper for their financial contributions towards the study.

## **Concurrence**

The Public Works and Development Department has reviewed this Board Summary Report.

## **Attorney Review**

The County Attorney's Department has reviewed this document.

## **Reviewed By**

This Board Summary Report has been reviewed by the following:

Bryan D. Weimer, Director  
Robert Hill, Assistant County - Attorney Department

### **cc: Electronic**

Bryan D. Weimer, Director – Public Works and Development  
Peter Kozinski, Division Manager – Transportation Division  
Karl P. Packer, Acting CIP Manager – Transportation Division  
Charles V. Haskins, Division Manager – Engineering Services Division  
Robert Hill, Assistant County Attorney  
Joe Hart, DEA, Inc.  
File (C17-007)  
Reader

### **Hard Copy**

Kim Lynch, Support Services Division  
File (C17-007)