

From: **Elke Boyd** <elkeboyd@gmail.com>

Date: Wed, Jul 31, 2024 at 10:03 PM

Subject: Improve I70 MoDOT Response to Bike/Ped Mtg Notes

To: <Cmo@como.gov>, <Mayor@como.gov>,

<Ward2@como.gov>, ward3@como.gov <ward3@como.gov>, ward4@como.gov

<ward4@como.gov>, ward5@como.gov <ward5@como.gov>, ward6@como.gov

<ward6@como.gov>, ward1@como.gov <ward1@como.gov>

Cc: Mitch Skov <Mitch.Skov@como.gov>, Timothy Teddy

<Timothy.Teddy@como.gov>,

<Shane.Creech@como.gov>, Gabe.Huffington@como.gov

Dear City Manager, Mayor, and Members of the Council,

As you are probably aware, the Bicycle and Pedestrian Commission has had two meetings with MoDOT staff to discuss possible integration of bike/ped related infrastructure in the ongoing Improve I70 Project - Columbia to Kingdom City. The first meeting took place on October 18, 2023, in an effort to see non-motorized transportation safety improvements listed as one of the goals of the Request for Qualifications - It was not. The second meeting took place on March 1, 2024, with the 30% design construction drawings forming the basis of discussion. Both meetings took place at the office of The Loop.

The Commission's notes for the March 1 meeting should have been previously forwarded to you on or shortly after March 12. These notes are also attached herein for your easy reference. In reading the notes, you will notice that there are several locations where significant non-motorized safety improvements could be incorporated in the current MoDOT project at reasonable cost. The "Top-10" request list at the end of the meeting notes is led by an east-west crosswalk across the 63 Connector on the southside of I-70 between Conley Road and I-70 Drive SE. During a May 21, 2024, interview with KOMU at this location, the reporter, Hunter Walterman, talked with several pedestrians and bicyclists crossing the 63 Connector at this location to visit medical facilities, the retail businesses and other locations.

We have now received MoDOT's response to the meeting notes, dated June 21, 2024. This MoDOT response is also attached. You will notice that the letter mentions several new sidewalk connections, which should result in great safety improvements both at the 63 Connector and the St. Charles

Road overpass. However, no sidewalk paralleling the east side of the 63 Connector or crossing it on the southside is planned. The letter does mention that the MoDOT team would be able to administer certain changes, if funding from another source can be provided. MoDOT offered to provide information on the Cost Share Program or State Infrastructure Bank. The Reconnecting Communities Grant may be another valuable funding source to consider.

The Bike/Ped Commissions supports the City's efforts to enhance non-motorized transportation safety as part of the current Improve I-70 project. As part of this effort, we request that the City identify any connections that may get funded by the referenced or similar funding sources in time for incorporation in the ongoing project.

Do not hesitate to contact us for any additional information or effort we can contribute.

Sincerely,

Elke Boyd
Chair, Columbia Bicycle and Pedestrian Commission