

**TOWN OF NEW CASTLE, COLORADO
RESOLUTION NO. TC 2013-13**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF NEW CASTLE TOWN COUNCIL SUPPORTING
THE APPLICATION OF A RESPONSIBLE ACCELERATION OF MAINTENANCE
AND PARTNERSHIP (RAMP) GRANT FROM THE COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION (CDOT) FOR THE COMPLETION OF THE TOWN OF NEW
CASTLE PEDESTRIAN SAFETY ENHANCEMENTS AT THE I-70 EXIT 105
(PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE)**

WHEREAS, the I-70 exit 105 bridge spans I-70, the Colorado River and the Union Pacific Railroad;

WHEREAS, the I-70 exit 105 bridge was constructed in 1971 with the intention of providing vehicle access to and from I-70 to ranchers, residents and businesses in the New Castle/Garfield County area;

WHEREAS, 42 years ago, when the bridge was designed and constructed, a bridge that allowed for two lanes of vehicle traffic seemed adequate for an area with modest travel needs;

WHEREAS, in 2013 the New Castle area population is now 10 times greater and residential settlement patterns, as well as commerce and industry exist on both the north and south sides of the interstate, railroad, river corridor;

WHEREAS, in 2013 with high energy prices, the need for multi-modal travel options, including pedestrian and bicycle, is essential for a community to have adequate connectivity, safe travel options and adequate quality of life;

WHEREAS, the exit 105 bridge is 25 – 27 feet in width, which is adequate for two vehicle traffic lanes but provides no shoulder for safe pedestrian and bicycle travel;

WHEREAS, the exit 105 bridge is the only bridge across the river, railroad and I-70 within four miles of New Castle;

WHEREAS, the New Castle Town Council has rated the pedestrian bridge a top priority in the 2011, 2012, and 2013 Strategic Plans;

WHEREAS, the Town of New Castle, DOLA and Garfield Federal Mineral Leasing District have invested over \$370,000 in project scoping, planning and design for the pedestrian bridge;

WHEREAS, the Town of New Castle, Garfield County and Garfield Federal Mineral Leasing District have committed over \$1.2M for construction of the pedestrian bridge;

WHEREAS, the New Castle area has many residents that due to age, access to automobile or income must travel by foot or bike to reach shopping, transit, employment, home or school;

WHEREAS, the Town recently conducted a mail survey of the residents on the north side of the I-70, river, railroad corridor: of the 18% who responded to the survey 63% would use a pedestrian bridge frequently or often and 30% would use the pedestrian bridge periodically. Respondents stated that the purpose of their trips on the pedestrian bridge would be as follows: 78% shopping, 89% recreation, and 26% work. Additionally, written comments on the returned survey speak to the danger and near miss events that pedestrians have already experienced while walking across the existing bridge;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF NEW CASTLE, COLORADO THAT:

Section 1: The Town Council supports the construction of the pedestrian bridge adjacent to the I-70 exit 105 bridge to eliminate very dangerous conditions for pedestrians and bicyclists;

Section 2: The Town Council estimates that the pedestrian bridge construction will cost \$2,031,000.

Section 3: The Town Council and Garfield County commit \$1,231,000 to the construction of the pedestrian bridge project, which is a match of 61% of project construction cost.

Section 4: The Town Council authorizes the submission of the RAMP grant with a request for \$800,000 of funding for the pedestrian bridge.

Introduced, Read and Adopted at a Regular Meeting of the Town Council of the Town of New Castle, Colorado, on June 18, 2013.

TOWN OF NEW CASTLE

Frank Breslin

Frank Breslin, Mayor

ATTEST:

Melody L Harrison

Melody L Harrison, Town Clerk

