

Memorandum

To: Mayor and Council
From: Tom Baker, Town Administrator
Date: February 17, 2015
Re: CDOT Devolution Process

Purpose: The purpose of this item is to discuss the idea of the Town Council requesting CDOT to begin the Devolution Process for a portion of Main Street.

Background and Discussion: The term “devolution” is used by CDOT when a roadway classification is changed. In our case the devolution would change the roadway from one that is intended to carry traffic through town as efficiently as possible to one that is intended to serve downtown land uses, reduced travel speeds, parking, pedestrians and bicyclists in the most safe and effective manner possible. In order to do this CDOT will turn over control and ownership responsibilities of the road (or portion of the road) to the Town.

At this time it appears that the Town has three options:

1. Do not pursue devolution.
2. Pursue devolution of the original town-site portion of Main Street – 8th Street to east of E Avenue (approximately 4.8 lane miles). This will allow for angle parking in the downtown area. It also allows for reduced traffic speed through the downtown and also the addition of a 3-way stop at 7th and Main Street, if desired.
3. Pursue devolution from 8th Street to CR 240, including the CVB/SH6&24 intersection (approximately 6 lane miles). In addition to the above benefits, this option **may** provide funding for the round-about.

Annual maintenance cost per lane mile is \$1,800; however, downtown snow removal with angle parking will be more extensive.

It is our understanding that once the Town decides which option(s) is/are preferred, then CDOT staff will evaluate to the cost of devolution. The cost is a calculation of what CDOT will spend on this portion of the roadway for maintenance over the next 20 years – this is a negotiated number between the Town and CDOT, but has some CDOT parameters that are not available to us. Once the Town and CDOT staff agree on cost and length of roadway portion for devolution and CDOT staff completes its process, then the Town appears before the Transportation Commission to seek approval. It is our belief that CDOT staff support is vital to secure Transportation Commission approval.

While devolution can provide urban design, traffic and pedestrian safety, parking and economic development benefits. It also puts an increased burden on our small public works crew and equipment. Therefore, any financial payment that CDOT provides as part of devolution must be banked, in part, for increases in public works staff (which is an ongoing cost) and additional equipment (snow removal, street sweeping, etc.). Also, the annual road maintenance budget, which is currently underfunded, will need to be increased.

Request: Staff requests Council begin these discussions and direct staff to obtain further information or develop a direction to pursue with CDOT. Both Jeff Simonson and John Wenzel will attend the meeting.