

Memorandum

To: Mayor and Council
From: John Wenzel and Tom Baker
Date: August 2, 2016
Re: Crosswalks Discussion

Purpose: The purpose of this item is to two-fold: first, to provide a response to the email/letter from Mr. Leo Williams' and Mr. Paul Gillis, (attached); and to give Council an overview of what is being done for crosswalks and trails and the cost of crosswalks.

Background and Discussion: Mr. Williams asks 4 questions, which I will paraphrase below and provide a response:

1. Are we planning a crosswalk at the north end of the pedestrian bridge? Yes. RFTA expects to install a crosswalk on US 6&24 at the intersection with CVB as part of the Park and Ride project. There are two other locations for crosswalks in that area – across CVB at this intersection and across CVB at Walters Lane.
2. Are we planning to install crosswalks on CVB between Wild Horse Drive and Kum and Go? Yes. PW is installing crosswalks at North Wildhorse and Faas Ranch Road.
3. On the east side of CVB between Shibui and sidewalk going into the mall there is no trail/sidewalk. This is an outside curve and perhaps dangerous. Without a crosswalk it can be difficult to cross to west side of the road where the trail is located. Additionally, the uphill speed is 30 mph and the downhill speed is 20 mph – should the speed be the same in both directions? A crosswalk is being installed at Fass Ranch Road. The 20 mph speed limit downhill is for safety reasons that do not exist in the uphill direction. If traffic speeds are lowered to unreasonable levels it creates unnecessary tension between the police and community.
4. Can we create trails for hikers only? Yes. I spoke with NCT representatives and while we are striving for multi-use trails as the most effective way to maximize resources. We are also committed to a strong signage and education effort to ensure that all understand trail protocol. That being said, we will have bad actors on bikes, walking with dogs, etc. At this time it is premature to identify all options but Medaris Trail on the ridge may be a hiker only trail.

Mr. Gillis letter asks if we can install a Crosswalk at Faas Ranch Road and CVB. Yes.

Financial Impact: The cost of a crosswalk with signage is approximately \$2,250 not including in-kind labor.

Recommendation: Staff will review all of our current crosswalk installations at the meeting. Also, staff recommends that Council fund a crosswalk across CVB at US6&24.

Subject: Some thoughts on pedestrain safety
From: Leo Williams <hlwms@hotmail.com>
Date: 7/3/2016 4:09 PM
To: Mary Metzger <lmetzger@sopris.net>

Hi, Mary:

Congratulations on your re-election. It's an indicator of the good job you've been doing, and the confidence people have in you.

Some items I'd like to suggest for consideration, that I believe would improve safety for pedestrians in New Castle:

1. It's been a surprise to me that no pedestrian crosswalk has been put in place at the north end of the new pedestrian bridge, to provide safe access to the westbound bus stop, as well as the restaurants, shops, and City Market.
2. There is no crosswalk across Castle Valley Boulevard between Wild Horse Drive and the Diner/Kum & Go. The significance of this is increased by the fact that the paved path on the west side of Castle Valley Blvd. ends near the fire station.
3. The path on the east side of Castle Valley Boulevard becomes the shoulder of the road, immediately below Shibui, and on the outside of that curve. I'm afraid that it's only a matter of time before a pedestrian is injured by a distracted driver. With no crosswalk(s), it can be difficult to get to the inside of the curve. It's also been a surprise to me that the uphill speed limit is not the same as the downhill limit. Reducing the uphill limit could improve the safety margin for pedestrians on the outside of the curve.
4. Regarding the partnership with the BLM to develop bike trails, it's been unclear to me whether that applies to existing trails around the edge of town. In any case, it would be nice if some trails were reserved for pedestrians. In general, bicyclists are considerate of pedestrians, slowing and making their presence known. However, there are those who behave as if the trail is their personal property, and are rude and aggressive toward pedestrians. It would be nice if pedestrians could have a few places where they can walk in safety. I mentioned to Jean Huyser that I would be contacting you about this, and she asked me to add her support to it.

Please let me know what you think of these items, and thank you for considering them.

Leo Williams

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Paul Gillis
136 Castle Ridge Drive
New Castle, CO 81647
970-987-0343

July 7, 2016

Mayor Art Riddile
New Castle Town Hall
450 West Main Street
PO Box 90
New Castle, Colorado 81647

Re: The need for a new crosswalk on Castle Valley Blvd. at Faas Ranch Road

Dear Mr. Riddile:

It was a pleasure to meet you at the Senior Lunch recently held at the Diner. I mentioned the need for a crosswalk, as above, so, this is a formal request for you and the town council to consider this issue.

First of all, it is a safety issue. Many people walk up and down Castle Valley Blvd. (CVB) and have the need to cross the street for any number of reasons. A crosswalk would give those of us who do walk for exercise, walk for the pure joy of being in New Castle, and walk to patronize the businesses that are near exit 105 of Interstate 70, a safe way to cross the street.

Secondly, I am fearful that the Town of New Castle could be sued if and when someone gets hit trying to get across CVB. It can be quite difficult and trying to get across, especially when the traffic is heavy. I believe that eventually someone is going to get hit if nothing is done. If nothing is done, the town could be held to be negligent.

Please feel free to call me if you have any questions or if I may be of any service. I respectfully request that you reply to this letter in a timely manner.

Sincerely,



Paul Gillis