

TO: Dana Wood
FR: Greg Russi
DT: March 10, 2016
RE: New Castle bike / ped priorities

Dana:

New Castle's bike and pedestrian priorities are first and foremost, to complete a hard surface trail to Glenwood Springs, and second, to complete a hard surface trail to Silt. Currently we are awaiting a decision by the State Trails Program on a planning grant for ~ 4.0 miles of trail east of New Castle to Canyon Creek. If awarded, we will finish the planning this calendar year and be ready for construction in 2017.

However, LiveWell seeks 5-10 smaller projects which improve connectivity, give walkers and bikers plenty of access throughout town, enhance safety, and emphasize opportunities for seniors and school children. We have several of those as well, and may develop a longer list in talks with Town Council on March 15 and the Walking Tour on March 16.

These smaller project priorities include the following, which Council may prioritize prior to the walking tour:

1. Crosswalks at US 6 and I-70 overpass, which will improve connectivity and safety. New Castle has considered this as a part of a greater package which may eventually include a roundabout at this location but an interim solution is necessary to better connect this important and busy intersection in a safe way.
2. Main Street generally from the US 6 and I-70 overpass intersection to the Elk Creek Bridge - safety and connectivity improvements for bicyclists and pedestrians throughout the downtown corridor. North side of Main Street sidewalk from E Ave to Jolley trail and south side of Main Street sidewalk from E Ave to B Ave. These together with a Main Street bike lane, as an engineered group, would improve walkability and safety and provide marked bike lanes as well as better pedestrian access.
3. Castle Valley Boulevard trail/sidewalk from Shibui housing development to shopping area (at US 6 and I-70 overpass), and Castle Valley Boulevard trail/sidewalk from Fire District Station to South Wild Horse Drive. These heavily travelled pedestrian and bicycle corridors require upgrading and better access which should separate bicyclists from pedestrians and traffic for safety reasons.
4. Hard surface trail connection from Flat Top Pedestrian Bridge to River Park condo trail on the south side of Colorado River just east of the I-70 access and pedestrian bridge. We enjoy good access to the west but no dedicated bike and pedestrian corridor to the east where 135 + housing units and a ten acre park lie.

5. Midland Ave sidewalk from 1st Street to Castle Valley Boulevard (west side), also connecting to Buford Road. Currently the sidewalk connection on Midland ends at East First Street leaving two blocks without sidewalks. Currently, bikers and pedestrians can use the parallel Rio Grande Avenue which is lightly traveled by automobiles.