

To: Mayor Rogin and Member of the Board of Trustees
From: Tracy Sanders, Project Manager
Date: November 6, 2023
Re: St. Vrain Regional Trail Extension

Background:

The Town has been awarded funding from CDOT and Boulder County to extend the St. Vrain Trail from McConnell Road to the US36/SH66 junction to support the safety of pedestrians and cyclists.

Update:

The proposed trail alignment runs through properties that are leased from the Town by business owners along the Town-owned Right of Way behind the businesses. There has been much discussion and negotiation with these business owners regarding trail alignment and width. In addition, there are three ditch crossings where Crossing Agreements will need to be negotiated with each ditch company.

In speaking with Leasee Raul Vasquez, owner of Blue Mountain Stone, he expressed concerns with the trail width and requested a privacy fence for the safety of his business. The Trail is proposed to run along the southernmost portion of the Town Right of Way.

The current lease agreement does state that the trail width would be approximately 10 feet. The design consultant recommended a minimum of 16' to accommodate the 10' wide trail, a "clear zone" and fencing. (Clear Zone: an unobstructed, traversable area that allows multimodal traffic an area to stop safely or regain control.).

Town staff met with Raul Vasquez on site he requested the eastern portion of the Trail be no more than 14' wide with the eastern portion of the trail going up to 16' wide as recommended by the design consultant. Staff spoke with the design consultant, and they are confirming this can be accommodated.

In addition, Mr. Vasquez requested a 5-foot-tall wood picket fence, for privacy, on the north side of the trail with large gaps in the fencing to meet floodplain requirements. See below for two examples of proposed fencing that should meet floodplain requirements. On the south side of the trail, there will be a 3'-4' three-rail wood fence, similar to what we have in our parks. In the section of the trail behind the distillery patio (on the south side of the trail), the existing 6' chain link fence will be extended to the ditch crossing; the north side of the trail will have the 3'-4' three rail wood fence. It has yet to be determined if the shorter wood fencing would span the length of the remaining trail.

Direction Requested.

Staff direction/approval for the following items:

1. Revise Raul Vasquez lease agreement to show the larger width of the trail.
2. Allow picket fence through the Blue Mountain Stone leased area. Mr. Vasquez indicated that he would maintain the fence.

