



Date: May 13th, 2024

To: Mayor Kudron and the Trustees

From: Kim White, Community Development Director

RE: Request to Permit the Town Staff to Pursue the [Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program \(ATIIP\)](#).

Purpose:

To permit Town Staff to pursue an application to request funding for planning, design, and construction of a safer connection from Adams Falls, and the Continental Divide Trail to the entrance of Town and the post office along West Portal Road.

Background:

West Portal Road is paved at about 22' wide, with about 120' right of way. The shoulder is relatively non-existent, but there are frequently walkers on this road. Portal Road could be realigned to allow for safe pedestrian travel on one shoulder, but requires a design, engineered construction documents and plans. The current roadway has shoulders that jump from one side to the other, making it unsafe for the hikers, walkers and bikers that travel this route.

Staff Comments:

The FHWA will award planning and design grants for applicants to develop plans of at least \$100,000, and construction costs of a minimum of \$15m. The grant eligible transportation networks are recreation areas, businesses, workplaces and community areas. If we are awarded this, we could make a connection from the East Inlet Trailhead of Rocky Mountain National Park, northwest along Portal, picking up hikers from the Tonahutu Trailhead and the Continental Divide trail, taking them safely west towards the post office to pick up trail packages, and onward to the Thomasson Trail and the campground.

Suggested Action:

1. I move to direct staff to prepare a letter of support for the Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program (ATIIP) to be signed by the Mayor.
2. I move to deny the request



Red line illustrating the connection of proposed roadway from the East Inlet trailhead to the Thomasson trail.



Top view of a section of road showing the shoulder on the north side of the road.



Top view of a section of road with the should on the south side of the road