



Town of Johnstown

MEMORANDUM

FROM: Tony LeFevre, Planner I

CC: Matt LeCerf, Town Manager
Tyler Smith, Planner II
Jason Elkins, Public Works Director

TO: Kim Ogle, Principal Planner

DATE: December 7, 2023

RE: Loveland Ready Mix – Haul Route Improvements in Johnstown

As previously noted in communications with Weld County, the Town of Johnstown would strongly prefer that these trucks *not* be routed through Hwy 60 and our small downtown area at Parish Ave/WCR 17 as proposed with Haul Route #3. The Town's preference is for Haul Route #2 that does not directly or adversely impact the Town's transportation network and utilizes existing major roadways and state highways intended for regional traffic, but the Town is happy to work through the improvements at WCR 48½ and WCR 17 if Haul Route #1 remains the preferred route of the applicant and becomes the approved route for this USR application.

Haul Route 3 TIS

Regarding the Updated TIS Haul Route 3 study, the Town of Johnstown offers the following questions. The Town did not receive any direct inquiry regarding planned development along the WCR 50/Veteran's Parkway corridor which may have significant impacts to the projected traffic counts and LOS resulting from the increased traffic.

- Does the TIS consider the impact of recent preliminary plat approvals in the Town of Johnstown that will ultimately go final in the next 3-4 months? These initial platted lots will create an additional 753 single family lots in the next 4 years. An additional ~700 lots and ~250 multi-family lots. All lots referenced here are on WCR 50 west of the WCR 50 and Colorado Blvd intersections.
- Does the TIS incorporate the Purvis Subdivision consisting of 382 single family lots approved and planned for development in 2024 on Colorado Boulevard between Highway 60 and WCR 50?

List of Improvements that would be needed to accommodate the impacts to the Town's transportation system from the proposed truck traffic:

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Haul Route #1 – WCR 48½ to WCR 17 (Parish Ave) to WCR 54

- Pave WCR 48½ to Town standards where in Town limits (one half-mile east of WCR 17); and
 - LRM agrees that the Long Range traffic counts warrant this improvement. (from LRM Letter dated Nov. 9th 2023)
- Add WB dedicated right turn lane on WCR 48½, possible accel receiving lane needed; and
 - The Highway-Rail Crossing Handbook (U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Railway Administration) references the use of right turn lanes at railroad crossings to prevent vehicles from trying to pass on the left. However, at this intersection with the low train speeds, limited train traffic, clearing site distances, and long-range traffic counts do not warrant a WB dedicated right turn lane on CR 48 ½ because passing is not anticipated. (from LRM Letter dated Nov. 9th 2023)
 - Johnstown staff is still concerned that there is not enough storage space for a WB truck to stop at this intersection without encroaching onto the railroad tracks. Turning north on WCR 17 is not a free right movement. To prevent this, staff recommends an NB acceleration lane be added to WCR 17, so that if northbound traffic prevents a truck from turning right off WCR 48½, a truck could still turn right and store itself in the acceleration lane should a train approach. This added lane would help prevent a truck from being stuck on the tracks and avoiding a train collision.
- Add SB dedicated left turn lane on WCR 17 at the WCR 48½ intersection; and
 - The current background traffic on WCR 17 already triggers this improvement. LRM agree to participate in the construction of this improvement. (from LRM Letter dated Nov. 9th 2023)
- Improve RR crossing safety at WCR 17 and WCR 48½ with warning lights, warning and other signage and pavement markings, to be based on design requirements by G.W.R.R. and accepted by the Town. *Additional Comment:* Signalization of the intersection of WCR 17 and WCR 48½ should also be incorporated for overall safety so the intersection does not function like the WCR 17 and WCR 50 intersection.
 - LRM has submitted a Preliminary Engineering application to OmniTRAX in order to receive confirmation of their requirements for improvements at this intersection as warranted by the Long Range traffic counts. (from LRM Letter dated Nov. 9th 2023)
 - Please provide Johnstown staff the crossing safety improvements recommendations from OmniTRAX once available.

Haul Route #2 – Hwy 257 to WCR 54

This route has no impacts to current Town roadways and utilizes existing major roadways and state highways intended for regional truck traffic. The Town is in favor of this haul route and has no further comments regarding its use.

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Haul Route #3 – Hwy 257 to Hwy 60 to WCR 13 with a “jog” at WCR 50

- Improve two of the RR crossings on Hwy 60, west of WCR 19 (currently two have traffic signals and signage; two have only non-illuminated crossing signs and minimal pavement markings), with warning lights, and warning and other signage, to be based on design requirements by G.W.R.R. and accepted by the Town and CDOT.
- Participation in intersection improvements at WCR 13/Colorado Blvd. and Hwy 60 which would have otherwise been Developer responsibility:
 - Add WB dedicated right turn lane to Hwy 60, with accel receiving lane on Colorado Blvd; and
 - Add SB dedicated left turn lane to WCR 13/Colorado Blvd
- WCR 50 & 13 improvements are needed. Note that this intersection is not in Johnstown but would greatly and directly affect the Johnstown area’s transportation network.
 - Work with the County on hastening the design/construction of the proposed realignment of WCR 13 to address the current “jog” and turning movement concerns (see Exhibit A for reference), **OR**
 - Add NB dedicated right turn lane to WCR 50 – to provide a right and left turn lane at this intersection; and
 - Add SB dedicated left turn lane to WCR 13 – to provide a right and left turn lane at this intersection.

All improvements within the Town’s jurisdiction will require Town-approved civil engineering plans, a development agreement, performance and maintenance surety obligations, and road maintenance plan and agreement. Improvements to Hwy 60 will involve CDOT review and approval.