

To: Minturn Town Council  
From: Michelle Metteer  
Date: April 3, 2024  
RE: Town Manager Update

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### **Main Street Intersection Bulb Outs**

With the costs to install permanent bulb outs at the primary intersections along Main Street increasing due to needed stormwater drainage improvements that would be required for such an undertaking, staff sought the guidance of the CDOT Grand Junction office to determine any possibility for finding approvals of a temporary solution. Staff is now working, with the guidance of the Grand Junction office, toward a temporary bulb out design that is more likely to receive CDOT approval.

### **Eagle Valley Transit Authority (EVTA)**

I attended the Eagle Valley Transit Authority board meeting on Wednesday, April 10<sup>th</sup>. The staff is moving quickly to complete the transition from ECO Transit to EVTA. One of the biggest takeaways from the meeting was the need to temporarily move to a two-week meeting cycle whereby the board will meet every two weeks until the transition is complete. These additional meetings will be conducted via a virtual platform and the public is encouraged to attend.

### **The Value of Community Plans; Newsletter Insert**

Community Plans are the guiding references when local government officials determine their decision-making objectives and determinations. The Town of Minturn wants to thank every resident who has taken the time to participate in these important documents as this is the most equitable way to ensure everyone's voice is heard. With the leadership teams of the planning commission, historic preservation commission and town council utilizing plans like the Imagine Minturn 2023 Community Plan and the 2023-25 Minturn Strategic Plan, it ensures all residents have had an opportunity to be heard because these plans are the voice of the community.

Leadership hearing from their neighbors on particular topics is valuable, but the Town wants the residents of Minturn to know that everyone is listened to, and you don't have to be the neighbor or friend of a person in leadership to have your voice heard. Minturn wants to take a fair equitable approach to local government and the Town will continue working to improve the community plans which are created by everyone and updated regularly! Thank you to everyone who participates in these processes, Minturn wouldn't be the amazing community it is without you!

### **Railroad Ave Pedestrian Safety Improvements**

The kickoff meeting for the Railroad Ave Pedestrian Safety Improvements was held on Wednesday, April 10<sup>th</sup>. At that meeting we discussed with CDOT the need for the project approval by the Public Utilities Commission which seemed to be acceptable to the CDOT representatives even though it was not a recognized step in the application submitted by the Town. I am now waiting to hear back from the PUC representative to start that process.

### **Community Survey**

The community survey is live! Residents are encouraged to participate via a text message link, the town website or by picking up a paper copy at town hall. Thank you to everyone who has completed the survey thus far, your time and feedback are greatly appreciated!

### **Out of Office**

I will be out of the office June 17-21 and not attending the June 19<sup>th</sup> Council meeting. Mike Sawyer will attend that meeting in person.

### **Gotta Brick?**

Through the continual research of looking for ways to improve vehicular and pedestrian safety along the HWY 24 corridor, I came across the following concept: crosswalk users in Vancouver are now encouraged to carry bricks as a form of visibility. Waving the bricks and showing them to cars who might dare to not stop for those crossing. Minturn is not recommending this as an option to increase pedestrian safety along HWY 24, but it is a unique idea. Here's a link to the concept:

[https://youtu.be/ZJOHBd\\_u-Fs?si=hApUskvTumcwW1dC](https://youtu.be/ZJOHBd_u-Fs?si=hApUskvTumcwW1dC)

### **Minturn HWY 24 Corridor**

I recently reached out to the CDOT Grand Junction office to understand the ability for local jurisdictions to overtake the jurisdictional responsibilities of a highway through their community. Similar to the concept where the towns of Eagle and Gypsum now have ownership of HWY from I70 through Grand Avenue, I wanted to better understand, knowing this would be an exorbitant financial burden requiring an increase in taxes, for Minturn to do something similar.

CDOT considers such requests when there lies a rational terminus which does not create, effectively, a hole in the middle of their service areas. With the Gypsum to Eagle transaction, no hole is created where CDDOT operations must maintain areas of road both before and after the acquired section of HWY. CDOT identified in the Minturn case, there is no scenario where a "hole" in CDOT services would not be created and therefore CDOT would be very unlikely to approve such an acquisition by the Town. To further the concern, CDOT expressed the exceptionally high cost of maintenance and labor for taking over a section of HWY which requires 24/7 plowing operations in the wintertime with HWY-grade plowing equipment.