

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS SUMMARY MEMORANDUM

Date: February 4, 2020

To: Eric King, Michael Baker International

CC: Omar Lopez, El Paso County Department of Public Works

From: Kate Turner

Pinyon Project Number: 119061501

Subject: **Environmental Considerations Summary Memorandum,** Beacon Lite Road Improvements, El Paso County, Colorado

El Paso County (the County) will use local funds to upgrade Beacon Lite Road for safety purposes. The County will redesign the geometry and repave the roadway. There will be impacts outside the existing right of way (ROW). Along the southern portion of the project, the design will flatten a curve which will extend into a hillside east of the existing alignment. The project expects cuts approximately 30 feet deep into the hillside. In other areas along the roadway, the proposed project will remain on the existing horizontal alignment but will need to adjust the vertical profile to meet minimum design criteria. This will result in cuts and fills up to approximately 10 feet. One of the biggest cuts on the existing alignment will be at the intersection of Beacon Lite Road and County Line Road. Currently this intersection has very poor vertical sight distance because of its position on the hillside. The proposed project will flatten the hill for safety purposes which will likely result in cuts (estimated to be approximately 15 feet) along County Line Road.

Pinyon is contracted through Michael Baker International (Michael Baker) to provide an environmental considerations report to describe existing conditions, identify potential environmental concerns, and provide recommendations for mitigation measures.

Environmental Considerations Summary

Beacon Lite Road is a rural residential transportation corridor and there will be limited impacts to environmental resources as a result of the proposed project. This summary can be used for the County's documentation and provides environmental recommendations for construction purposes.

Methods

Pinyon specialist Mark Fletcher conducted a desktop analysis and visual site assessment of the study area (maximum limits of disturbance provided by Michael Baker) for potential environmental concerns.

A summary of environmental resources within the study area is provided below in Table I.

Table 1: Environmental Considerations Summary

Resource	Existing Conditions	Recommendations
Hazardous Materials	<p>Land use surrounding the study area is rural residential. There is a church at the northwestern portion, residential homes, a water tank, a concrete outbuilding (likely utility-related), and vacant land.</p> <p>There are electrical poles and transformers located within the ROW of the project.</p>	<p>Based on the site visit, it is unlikely that hazardous materials will be encountered by the proposed action; however, Pinyon recommends the following text be included with the project General Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workers on this project should follow a revision of Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) Specification 250 – Environmental, Health and Safety Management. Although encountering impacted soil or groundwater is not expected, workers shall be alert during excavation for any visual or olfactory signs of impacts. If impacted soil and/or groundwater is encountered, work will stop immediately, and the procedures outlined in the CDOT Specification 250 and subsection 107.25.8 shall be followed. Although encountering impacted soil or groundwater is not expected, workers shall be alert during excavation for any visual or olfactory signs of impacts. If impacted soil and/or groundwater is encountered, work will stop immediately, and the procedures outlined in the CDOT Specification 250 and subsection 107.25.8 shall be followed. In the unlikely event that suspected asbestos containing material (ACM) is encountered, including with buried utilities, workers must follow CDOT Specification 250.07 – Asbestos-Containing Material Management and CDOT Regulated Asbestos-Contaminated Soil Management Standard Operating Procedure. Additionally, depending on the type of ACM, this material must also be abated in accordance with either Section 5.5 of the Solid Waste Regulations, or Regulation No. 8 of the Air Quality

Resource	Existing Conditions	Recommendations
		Control Commission Regulations. Workers on this project must follow CDOT Specification 250 – Environmental, Health and Safety Management.
Wildlife	<p>Due to the close proximity of Interstate 25 and other development, wildlife that utilize the study area are expected to be common species that are adapted to human disturbance related to transportation activities. The following wildlife could be expected to occur in the study area or in the surrounding area: white-tailed deer (<i>Odocoileus virginianus</i>), mule deer (<i>Odocoileus hemionus</i>), elk (<i>Cervus canadensis</i>), raccoon (<i>Procyon lotor</i>), coyote (<i>Canis latrans</i>), and red fox (<i>Vulpes Vulpes</i>).</p> <p>Black-tailed prairie dogs (<i>Cynomys ludovicianus</i>) were not observed in the study area.</p> <p>Based on a review of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service online Information for Planning and Consultation System and the results of the site visit, habitat for federally listed species is not expected to occur in the study area.</p> <p>During the site visit, raptor nests were not observed in the study area or surrounding areas; however, there are many large trees present within the study area and in the surrounding areas that may be suitable for nesting raptors. There are also numerous trees and shrubs in the study area that could provide nesting habitat for migratory birds.</p>	<p>Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) recommends seasonal restrictions and buffer zones for several species of Colorado raptors that range from ¼ mile to ½ mile, depending on the species (CPW, 2008). Prior to construction, surveys should be conducted nesting raptors. If raptor nests are found, the contractor should follow CPW guidelines.</p> <p>The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) protects migratory birds, their nests, and their eggs. Due to the potential for MBTA constraints, Pinyon recommends that the contractor follows MBTA nest survey guidelines during the nesting season, which are outlined in CDOT Revision of Section 240-Protection of Migratory Birds.</p>
Vegetation	Habitat in the study area consists of upland herbaceous vegetation typical of roadsides in the Front Range. Dominant species included smooth brome (<i>Bromus inermis</i>), western wheatgrass (<i>Pascopyrum smithii</i>), and ponderosa pine (<i>Pinus ponderosa</i>). Much of the vegetation	The contractor should follow the CDOT Revision of Section 217-Herbicide Treatment. The contractor should comply with the best management practices in all construction areas to prevent the spread of noxious weeds and minimize potential effects from treatment.

Resource	Existing Conditions	Recommendations
	<p>within the study area was mowed. Several noxious weeds including diffuse knapweed (<i>Centaurea diffusa</i>) and common mullein (<i>Verbascum thapsus</i>) were observed in the study area.</p> <p>There will be trees removed as a part of the proposed actions. Per County guidance via coordination with John LanAtz, it is recommended that property owners should be engaged on any tree removals outside of County ROW, minimizing removal and compensation as necessary. However, once a tree is removed, there are no mitigation requirements for replacement.</p>	
Wetlands/Waters of the US (WUS)	No wetlands or WUS are present in the study area.	None
Parks and Recreation	There are no parks within the study area.	None
Cultural Resources	<p>The study area is within a previously disturbed area. Paleontological and archaeological resources are unlikely to be found within the study area.</p> <p>The proposed project will not change the setting of the current landscape. No structures will be impacted by the roadway improvements; therefore, impacts to historic resources are unlikely as a result of the project.</p>	<p>The following cultural resources notes should be included in the plans in the event that resources are uncovered during construction:</p> <p>Archaeological Resources</p> <p>1. If any subsurface archaeological resources are found, work will be immediately halted in the vicinity of the find. If bones of potential human origin are discovered during construction, ground-disturbing work must be stopped near the discovery, and the the El Paso County Sheriff (719) 520-7100), and the Colorado State Archaeologist (303-866-2736) will be promptly notified. Work cannot resume in the vicinity of the find until clearance is granted.</p> <p>2. The Contractor shall comply with a revision of CDOT standard specification 107.23 (Archaeological and Paleontological Discoveries).</p> <p>Paleontological Resources</p>

Resource	Existing Conditions	Recommendations
		3. If any subsurface bones or other potentially significant fossils are found, work will be immediately halted in the vicinity of the find. The Contractor shall comply with a revision of CDOT standardspecification 107.23 (Archaeological and Paleontological Discoveries).
Farmlands	Prime and/or unique farmlands were not evaluated for this assessment.	The study area is within a previously disturbed area. Prime and unique farmlands are unlikely to be found within the study area.
Noise	<p>A noise study was not conducted for this analysis. Noise-sensitive receptors are facilities that are considered susceptible to stress from noise pollution. These include residences, hotels/motels, hospitals, nursing homes, schools, and libraries. There are noise receptors adjacent to the study area.</p> <p>Because the project will be funded by the County with no state or federal nexus identified, a noise analysis is not required.</p>	<p>During the construction period, recreational visitors may experience an increase in noise levels from equipment. However, following the construction period of approximately 3-6 months, noise levels will return to its normal level. There may be additional traffic due to the paving of the roadway, but no significant long-term adverse impacts are expected as a result of the proposed actions.</p>
Air Quality	<p>An air quality analysis was not conducted for project. There are likely facilities within the study area that have potential to be sensitive air quality receptors.</p> <p>Because the project will be funded by the County with no state or federal nexus identified, an air quality analysis is not required.</p>	The contractor should take appropriate measures to minimize fugitive dust during construction.
Visual	As the area is a transportation corridor and improvements do not convert a land use, there will be no significant change in visual context.	None
Socio-Economic Resources including Environmental Justice	No affects to economic, or social resources will occur as part of the project.	The proposed action should benefit the entire community.

Resource	Existing Conditions	Recommendations
Water Quality	The proposed project will have multiple areas of new curb and gutter instead of the existing roadside ditches (south of the water tower). A new storm sewer system will be designed according to the new urban section. From the north of the water tower, the project will continue to use the existing rural section with open channel ditches alongside the road and no curb and gutter will be necessary. In this area, the project will replace the existing culverts with new culverts in generally the same location.	A Stormwater Management Plan will be developed and implemented to address temporary construction impacts. Sediment control measures including using adequate best management practices to collect and remove pollutants from runoff before it is discharged should be developed prior to construction activities. Disturbed areas should be re-seeded with a native seed mix.
Geologic/Soils/Groundwater	The excavation is not expected to be affected by geology/soils/groundwater.	No permits are specs are anticipated to be required for geology/soils/groundwater. If the construction activities are expected to impact groundwater, a dewatering permit may be required.

References

CPW, 2008b. "Recommended Buffer Zones and Seasonal Restrictions for Colorado Raptors," Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Revised February 2008

Attachments: Photolog

Photo 1.
A view of the
northern end of
Beacon Lite
Road. Photo
taken facing
south.



Photo 2.
A view of the
church in the
northwest
portion of the
study area.
Photo taken
facing west.



Photo 3.
A view of the
water tank on
the east side of
Beacon Lite
Road. Photo
taken facing east.



Photo 4.
A view of the
concrete
outbuilding east
of Beacon Lite
Road. Photo
taken facing east.



Photo 5.
A view of
electrical poles
and
transformers
located within
the right-of-way.
Photo taken
facing south.



Photo 6.
A photo of
Beacon Lite
Road. Large
trees are visible
in the right-of-
way. These trees
could serve as
nesting habitat
for raptors and
other migratory
birds. Photo
taken facing
south.



Photo 7.
A view of the
southern end of
the study area.
Photo taken
facing north.

