

June 26, 2013

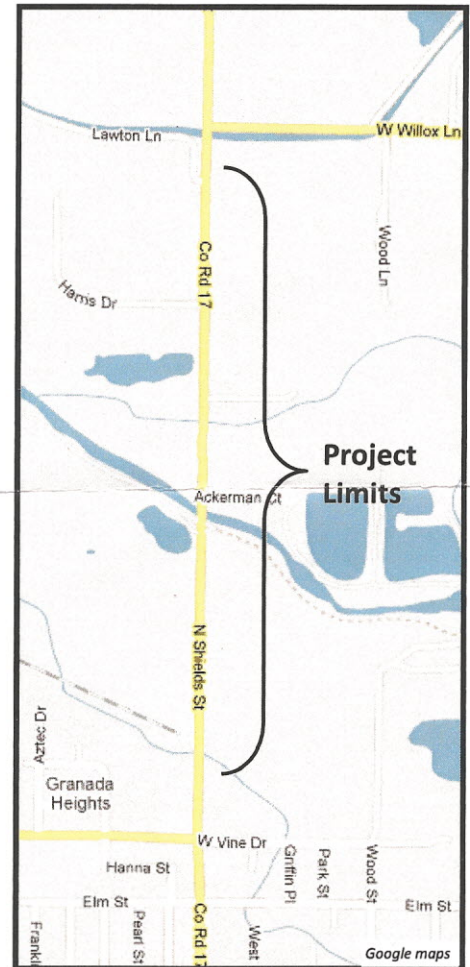
Project Update

As you may know, Larimer County is in the process to design and construct a project to improve the North Shields Corridor (Larimer County Road 17) from just north of Vine Drive (Arthur Ditch) to Willox Lane.

There are multiple reasons for the project, including a narrow road with substantial traffic, lack of shoulders, inadequate accommodations for driveways, hazardous parking and a structurally deficient bridge over the Poudre River. Because of all these issues, the area has become a safety concern with 21 crashes (or accidents) in the last 5 years.

The approximately \$5 million project is funded through several federal transportation funding sources and will be constructed in 2014.

The project is currently in the final design stage with very few changes from what was presented at the last open house held in August of 2012. Generally, the project will replace the Poudre River bridge, address parking and trail access and identify other improvements necessary to accommodate pedestrians / bike and adjacent property access. The proposed roadway will have a single through lane in each direction with a center turn lane and 6 ft. shoulder / bike lanes on each side. There will be curb and gutter with a 6 ft. attached sidewalk on each side south of the bridge. The curb, gutter and sidewalk will end just north of the bridge with a rural road section extending to Willox Lane. A parking lot will be constructed just northwest of the new river bridge with a trail underpass on the north side of the river under the bridge connecting to the McMurry Natural Area trail. A detached sidewalk will connect the parking lot to the North Shields Pond. More information on the project can be found at www.larimer.org/engineering.



Also, the City of Fort Collins has an adjacent project planned to improve the intersection of Vine Drive and Shields Street. The two projects have been and will continue to be coordinated.

What's the Current Status?

The right-of-way acquisition process for the project has begun and utility relocation coordination is underway. Due to the historic nature of several properties south of the river, a detailed reporting and review process by the Federal Highway Administration has been determined to be necessary by CDOT. This process will delay the construction schedule one year. Construction is now scheduled for January through June of 2015.

As always, visit our website for information, or feel free to contact Project Manager Ron Winne at 970-498-5713 or by email at rwinne@larimer.org if you have questions or comments.