



October 17, 2013

Kerrie Neet, Transportation Director
Colorado Department of Transportation Traffic and Safety Unit
Region 5
3803 N. Main Avenue, Suite 100
Durango, CO 81301

Re: Salida US 50 CDOT Speed Study

Dear Ms. Neet,

The City of Salida has been working with employees from your office over the past 4 years to reduce speeds and create multi-modal options along the US Highway 50 corridor. The City has been fully committed to working with CDOT staff on these efforts. In fact, the City has spent \$455,315 and CDOT has contributed \$1,634,753 towards these efforts in the form of enhancement dollars. As you are aware the City and CDOT will be executing additional enhancement improvements along this corridor in the spring of 2014.

Several elected officials and members of our City staff met with representatives from your office in the fall of last year to discuss lowering the speed limit along the US 50 corridor. At that time, our community was advised again how speed limits are set. The City was instructed that a written request from the City was needed for CDOT to conduct the speed study. Your staff advised our elected officials and City staff to delay our request for a speed study to allow for additional enhancement improvements that our staffs have been designing over the past 2 years. The City was planning to request a speed study for our corridor after those improvements were completed.

City staff has worked on design solutions that are being sent to your engineers for their review and implementation along the corridor for 2014. These include additional improvements above and beyond the scope of the enhancement project including "Your Speed" radar signage and a Rapid Rectangular Flashing Beacon Pedestrian Crosswalk. These ideas were not conceived in a vacuum but after hours of meetings with our respective staff working on this key community issue of reducing speed and creating a safe multi-modal highway corridor.

To our surprise a speed study was conducted this summer prior to the implementation of the highway improvements. After conferring with our staff, no written documentation or request was ever sent by the City requesting this study. After all the efforts of our staffs, why did CDOT proceed with ordering this study? A great deal of time and money has been allocated towards these efforts.

We ask that CDOT delay implementation of the speed limit changes to allow our continued efforts to be implemented and our vision realized. I look forward to the opportunity to discuss this matter with you here in Salida on Tuesday, October 22nd.

Sincerely,



Dara MacDonald
Salida City Administrator

CC: Donald E. Hunt, CDOT Executive Director
Angie Drumm, Local Government Liaison
Michael McVaugh, Traffic and Safety Engineer
Senator Gail Schwartz
Representative James Wilson