

**Town of Blue River Board of Trustees Meeting
CDOT Chain Up Station Presentation
07/20/21**

Q&A

Kelly Finley, Blue River Trustee: CDOT said signs would only light up when Chain Law is in effect. This happens all winter. How bright will they be, and will homeowners see them flashing from homes?

Clark Roberts, CDOT Design Consultant: Flashing signs mean the Chain Law can be enforced. The sign will be located about a mile north of the bypass lane. We carefully selected this location because it was shielded by trees and not near houses, so it's as isolated as possible and protected by nature. Other signs using lights will point to the road and won't be placed intrusively.

Kelly Finley, Blue River Trustee: Who was consulted from Town of Blue River?

Response: CDOT met biweekly with Town of Blue River officials, including Michelle Eddy, Mayor Toby Babich, Trustee Mark Fossett, Town Attorney Bob Widner, Police Chief Ahmet Susic, and Jay Nelson from Red, White & Blue Fire. They collaborated on the design presented tonight, which is a result of the biweekly meetings and work done by all.

NOTE: Clark Roberts will email aerial pins and mile post locations to Michelle Eddy to show where signs are located

Kelly Finley, Blue River Trustee: If something changes with the design leading up to or during construction, how will you inform the Town?

John Hall, CDOT Region 2 Resident Engineer/Clark Roberts, CDOT Design Consultant: Our plan is to include the Town every step of the way. There would be opportunity to comment and share concerns through the design phase and leading into construction.

Toby Babich, Mayor of Blue River: Tonight's presentation can be found on the Town of Blue River's website - <https://townofblueriver.colorado.gov/proposed-cdot-chain-up-station>

Kenneth Robertson, Blue River Trustee: Glad to see there is reduced lighting and that the design addresses many of the concerns

Joel Dixon, Blue River Trustee: Having a bypass lane will be a good benefit for the flow of traffic when motorists make a left turn onto Whispering Pines. When the Chain Station is activated, will there be more assistance from law enforcement?

John Hall, CDOT Region 2 Resident Engineer/Clark Roberts, CDOT Design Consultant: While Colorado State Patrol likely won't actively enforce, they would be better able to write a ticket to a spun-out truck/vehicle if they weren't in compliance with the Chain Law.

Joel Dixon, Blue River Trustee: Why are we choosing this location instead of somewhere between Frisco and Breckenridge? There is a lot more real estate and safer areas.

Clark Roberts, CDOT Design Consultant: Chain station locations are selected so they are within close proximity to the mountain pass where a Chain Law would be put into effect. This is to help avoid wear and tear on the highway or creating a situation where a traction device wears off. Also, some motorists will pass a location thinking there will be place to chain up closer to the pass. We also try to avoid multiple small chain stations.

Ahmet Susic, Blue River Police Chief: Is CDOT talking about addressing the entire Traction Law

John Hall, CDOT Region 2 Resident Engineer: Yes, it will help support Traction Law for all vehicles. NOTE: CDOT cannot enforce.

Ahmet Susic, Blue River Police Chief: The Town of Blue River does not have the officers to respond and enforce.

John Hall, CDOT Region 2 Resident Engineer: The purpose of the chain up station is to get more vehicles to chain up and hopefully require less response from the Town of Blue River Police Department. There will not be any kind of advertisement that trucks should use this route.

Michelle Eddy, Blue River Town Manager: We have been working closely with CDOT, and they did a good job of addressing each concern. It was always friendly, but definitely required give and take to come up with the design. The new design takes away the lights and does a good job staying within the existing easement. It is not the huge impact we were originally thinking it would be.

Kevin, Blue River Citizen: Thanks to the Town of Blue River and CDOT for working together. The lights were the biggest issue. A big remaining factor is that trucks driving on CO 9 create noise and pollution. I talked with people in Summit County, and they aren't aware of the project. We moved here because we like the quiet and dark sky.

Emily Wilfong, CDOT Project Public Information Manager: Now that we have worked together with the Town of Blue River on a design and have presented the concept to the Board of Trustees and meeting attendees, our next step will be to push this information out Blue River residents and local stakeholders. This could be through public meetings and a website.

Blue River Citizen: Will there be any signs on I-70 that say there is a Chain Law in effect at Hoosier Pass or to advertise when Hoosier Pass is closed? When the Chain Law is not in effect, can cars pass slower moving trucks using the bypass lane? Can Breckenridge direct trucks away from Hoosier Pass during a snow event?

John Hall, CDOT Region 2 Resident Engineer/Clark Roberts, CDOT Design Consultant: We can look into that messaging on I-70. The ability for cars to pass left turners or slower moving trucks is one of the year round benefits of the bypass lane.

Dustin, Blue River Citizen: Who do we contact to see the data CDOT is using?

Michelle Eddy, Blue River Town Manager: Contact one of the design engineers, either Patti Henschen – patricia.henschen@state.co.us or Clark Roberts – clark.roberts@ulteig.com