

# **Mammoth Lakes Town Council Agenda Action Sheet**

**Title:** Update on Reds Meadow Road Project.

**Council Meeting Date:** 3/1/2023

**Prepared by:** Haislip Hayes, Pe Public Works Director

**Recommended Motion:** This is a presentation only and no Council action is required.

**Summary:**

Town staff and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Representatives will provide an update on the Reds Meadow Road Project.

**Background:**

In May 2017 Town Council authorized staff to submit an application for Federal Lands Access Program Grant Funds (FLAP Grant) for design and construction of the Reds Meadow Road Project. In March 2018 the Town received notification that it had been successful with that application. Shortly after award the Town entered into a memorandum of agreement (MOA) with the United States Forest Service (USFS), National Park Service, and FHWA. This agreement outlined the roles and responsibilities for all of the parties involved. The Town responsibilities included providing certain aspects related to public information, accepting a Highway Easement Deed, reviewing all compliance documents, providing overall direction regarding agency policy and administration, and being the lead agency for CEQA. In June of 2018 the Town Council adopted the CEQA environmental document. Work on the environmental process started in June of 2015 in anticipation of a project in some form moving forward. The USFS and FHWA were the original partners and developed a preliminary environmental linkages document which included public outreach. These efforts resulted in a number of alternatives that were refined into a CEQA document that was ultimately adopted by the Town Council by Resolution 2018-44.

Throughout 2019 FHWA and their consultants continued to refine drawings and host meetings with stakeholders. The meetings were used to develop a construction schedule and influence the specifications related to when and how the contractor would be permitted to work. These discussions were reported in a presentation to Town Council. In June of 2019, 70% construction drawings were received, reviewed, and approved by Staff. Development of the plans continued through 2020. Bids for the project were opened in November of 2022 and a contract was awarded in early January of 2023. Construction is expected to begin this year. FHWA is in charge of the project and will provide Council an update regarding the schedule, etc. No action from Council is required.

The purpose of the overall project is to improve the deteriorated condition of Reds Meadow Road and improve mobility, so as to continue to provide access to recreational resources. These improvements would facilitate emergency responses in the valley and the USFS goal of enhancing traffic safety by reducing the likelihood of a vehicular crash. The project scope includes 8.3 miles of Reds Meadow Road past the Minaret Vista entrance station. The upper 2.5 miles of the road are a single lane with turnouts, and it is experiencing pavement and fill slope failures in several locations. This portion of the project will be reconstructed to include a widened bench to accommodate two lanes of traffic. The lower 5.8 miles of the road, currently supports two lane traffic and will be rehabilitated.