

Plan Ahead for Lincoln Ave Reconstruction!

If you have had your head in a hole for the last several years or you are new to the community, you may not be aware that Lincoln Avenue between 3rd and 13th Streets is slated for total reconstruction this spring. Construction is scheduled to happen between April 5 (weather permitting) and June 30.

Planning for this reconstruction project was brought to the attention of MainStreet about 5 years ago. CDOT made a presentation to the Routt County Commissioners about a planned mill-and-fill project that would have meant tearing up the current asphalt and replacing it with new asphalt. MainStreet, prompted by the desire to implement the Mountain-Town Sub-Area Plan improvements to downtown, was, at the same time, working on a more pedestrian-friendly design for Lincoln Ave. The M-TSP included bumpouts at the corners with signalized intersections, colored crosswalks at those intersections, new curbs and gutters with accessible ramps, and other amenities that would encourage walking and enhance pedestrian circulation. MainStreet encouraged CDOT to coordinate efforts so that the projects could take place simultaneously rather than doing one project just to tear it up to work on another (ie: as happened with the Big Dig in Boston where they kept finishing one project, closing it up, just to open it up again to do something else).

If you recall, traffic on Lincoln Avenue for the past several years has been extraordinarily heavy with huge trucks hauling gravel and construction materials through downtown Steamboat. Because of this heavy traffic, wear and tear on the travel surface, and tightening of money within the CDOT maintenance budget, CDOT has decided that, rather than doing the original Mill-and-Fill project, they will do a total reconstruction of Lincoln Ave. While this may seem like a more expensive project than the original one, the reasoning is very sound. The reconstruction will now include tearing out the asphalt, fixing the subgrade, and replacing the asphalt with concrete. Where asphalt must be replaced about every 10 years, concrete can last up to 30 years meaning less expense for CDOT and less disruption to Lincoln Ave businesses. In the long run, this will save CDOT and the taxpayers money.

The CDOT/City project will start on April 5 (weather permitting) and work in 6 phases. The first phase will be from 13th to 11th on the river side of Lincoln. Each phase, although they will overlap, should take about 20 days. The next phases will be 11th - 7th, 7th - 3rd, and then repeated on the north side. Since one side of the road will be closed, traffic will be rerouted from its current configuration. **PLAN AHEAD. THERE WILL BE DELAYS! Patience will be required while this project takes place.**

MainStreet is working hard to help coordinate communication with the public during this construction. Working with Jody Patten of Scott Contracting, Steamboat Pilot, the radio stations, TV 18 and email lists, the idea is to keep everyone as informed as possible. If you would like to receive current information through emails, you must opt-in by giving your email to Jody at jody@pattencom.com.