

**MINUTES
OPEN SPACE AND TRAILS BOARD
REGULAR SESSION
June 3, 2025
530 East Main St. Aspen, CO 81611
Zoom Video Conference**

OSTB Present:

Graeme Means Dist. 1	Howie Mallory Dist. 2	Amy Barrow Dist. 3, Chair	Michael Kinsley Dist. 4	Wayne Ives Dist. 5
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Staff Present: Gary Tennenbaum, Dale Will, Kim Arensdorf, Paul Holsinger, Carly O’Connell, Ted O’Brien, Richard Neiley, Drew Walters

Others Present: Tony Kronberg

Amy Barrow called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Toni Kronberg thanked OST for the new Aspen Village “Dolores Stutsman” Bridge and provided support for the Aspen Airport Business Center (AABC) to Brush Creek Park and Ride (BCPR) trail connection.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Howie Mallory motioned to approve the 05/01/2025 OSTB Regular and Executive Session Draft Minutes. Wayne Ives seconded. Motion passed (4-0).

Michael Kinsley entered at 9:10 a.m.

Budget Supplemental

Rio Grande Trail Capital Improvement & 2025 Trail Paving Project

Ted O’Brien explained that the underestimation of project costs is partially due to the construction bid being higher than the engineer’s estimated costs. He stated that during excavation it was discovered that there was old railroad beds left underneath the trail which interfered with the construction of the retaining walls and required removal. Additionally, the engineer’s specifications for base course required for the Crystal Trail repaving project were underestimated, therefore also increasing the cost.

Graeme Means asked how staff can anticipate contingencies in the future. Gary Tennenbaum explained that there is difficulty in accurately estimating project costs due to fluctuating market conditions. He noted that staff will have to increase contingency estimates for future projects.

Michael Kinsley expressed concerns about existing trail conditions and safety at the Wheatley Gulch culvert section. Tennenbaum explained that it will be addressed in future capital improvements.

Board action below.

Rio Grande Interim Trail Easement Extension

Dale Will explained that in 1997 the OST program acquired an interim trail easement along the Rio Grande Trail from Glenwood Springs to Woody Creek. Discussions were underway at that time regarding the use of the right of way for a light rail system, and everyone expected that this would be in place by 2020. Will stated that the recommendation is to extend the interim trail easement to 2050 to preserve the flexibility to plan for light rail should that become desirable in the future.

Board action below.

BOARD AND STAFF COMMENTS

Tennenbaum recommended that improvement planning efforts for the Snowmass Creek Trailhead area be moved up on the project priority list for this summer. For this project to take place this year he suggested moving the Rio Grande Trail Node Plan project to the future. Carly O'Connell explained that the planning efforts will utilize the Watershed Biodiversity Initiative and Utah State University Recreation Study data to determine the scale and size of the trailhead area.

Wayne Ives asked if there are any implications to the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) proposal. Dale Will stated that LWCF is anticipating improvements at Snowmass Falls Ranch, and the Forest Service is having a retreat there in July.

The OSTB agreed to move the Rio Grande Trail Node Plan project to prioritize planning efforts for the Snowmass Creek Trailhead improvements.

BOARD ACTION

Rio Grande Trail Capital Improvement & 2025 Trail Paving Project Budget Supplemental

Wayne Ives motioned to recommend the Board of County Commissioners approve the Rio Grande Trail Capital Improvement & 2025 Trail Paving Project Budget Supplemental. Howie Mallory seconded. Motion passed (5-0).

Rio Grande Interim Trail Easement Extension

Michael Kinsley motioned to recommend the Board of County Commissioners approve the amendment to the Interim Rio Grande Interim Trail Easement. Howie Mallory seconded. Motion passed (5-0).

JOINT OSTB – BOCC WORK SESSION
Commissioners Meeting Room; 530 E. Main St., Aspen

OSTB Trustees Present: Amy Barrow (Chair), Graeme Means, Michael Kinsley, Wayne Ives, Howie Mallory

BOCC Present: Kelly McNicholas Kury (Chair), Francie Jacober, Greg Poschman, Patti Clapper, Jeffrey Woodruff

Staff Present: Gary Tennenbaum, Dale Will, Kim Arensdorf, Paul Holsinger, Ted O'Brien, Richard Neiley, Kara Silbernagel

Others Present: George Newman, Ashley Cline, Andrew Potter, Mark Frymoyer, John Spiess, Tony Kronberg

Media Present: Grassroots TV, Josie

Kelly McNicholas Kury called the joint work session to order at 12:04 p.m.

Honoring Tim McFlynn

The OSTB, BOCC, Pitkin County Staff, friends and family provided testimonials on the significant impact Tim McFlynn had on the Open Space and Trails program, the environment and the community.

Patti Clapper left at 11:40 a.m.

Aspen Airport Business Center (AABC) to Brush Creek Park and Ride (BCPR) Trail Feasibility

Gary Tennenbaum explained that based on the feasibility study conducted by SGM, staff's recommendation is to stop funding on the analysis of attaching the AABC to BCPR trail to Highway 82. He noted that the feasibility study for a connection near the AABC is ongoing, and the results will be presented later this summer for review by both boards.

Tennenbaum stated that Roaring Fork Safe Passages will be involved in all future discussions with the Boards.

Andrew Potter noted maintenance challenges with limited access points along Highway 82 corridor. He stated that additionally there are erosion issues along the shale bluff area and geotechnical concerns. Extensive construction closures would also need to take place with the Highway 82 alignment, he said.

Ashely Cline stated that the cost to complete additional investigations for Highway 82 trail alignment would cost ~\$150-\$250k. Feasible construction costs would be ~\$20-27m (pending additional investigation) and the design and engineering costs would ~\$4.7m.

Cline noted that this trail option would not be viable for a year-round connection due to debris and snow plowing hazards. Additionally, the trail would not connect to the Rio Grande Trail.

Graeme Means commented that the fatal flaw with the Highway 82 alignment is the lack of connectivity to the Rio Grande Trail and to all valley communities. He suggested changing the name of the project to include all corridors as it is not just connecting the AABC to the BCPR.

Amy Barrow noted that while the Highway 82 trail alignment is a more direct option, it is not feasible due to safety and environmental impacts.

Jeffrey Woodruff provided support to discontinue spending funding for the Highway 82 alignment.

Greg Poschman expressed concern with environmental issues with building bridges as an alternative option. He commented that better maintenance from CDOT along Highway 82 specifically through the shale bluffs should be considered as a cheaper solution. Tennenbaum stated that all the findings for alternative trail options will be brought back to the Boards.

ADJOURN

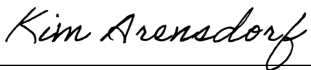
The OSTB and Joint OSTB-BOCC meeting of June 3, 2025 adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

Approved:

Signed by:

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Amy Barrow, Chair
Pitkin County Open Space & Trails Board

Attest:


Kimberly Arensdorf
Pitkin County Open Space & Trails
Administrative Specialist