



COMMUNITY OUTREACH SUMMARY: RED LADY ROUNDABOUT PROJECT

Background:

On September 16, 2025, the Town of Crested Butte, Norris Design and Kimley Horne hosted an Open House for the Red Lady Roundabout project, followed by 3 community outreach focus groups on the 17th for immediate adjacent neighbors to the proposed roundabout. The Open House and focus groups took place at the Town Hall. The identified intersection of Hwy-135 and Red Lady has been studied and is failing current standards. Due to the intersection failures, CDOT requires a roundabout with the Crested Butte Community School expansion. Overall, there was general support for the roundabout design and community members appreciated the safety improvements that the traffic calming measures would provide. Some of the main concerns that were discussed included pedestrian safety, snow storage/removal, and the impacts on local traffic.

Key Themes/Takeaways:

1. Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety
 - a. Safe routes to school: Concerns regarding children getting to school and crossing over Highway 135 and areas west of 135.
 - b. Crosswalks: Attendees requested that crosswalks be well-marked and safe for pedestrian and bike crossings. Some discussion included the addition of flashing lights or signals that can be tested to see what the safest option may be. Additional discussion noted possible concerns that a new crossing might undermine the “safe route” training that is already in place for students. It was discussed that the design team should further study which crossings should be kept in the proposed design while others may be removed.
 - c. Bicycle access: Feedback noted a want for clear bike routes and safe options for cyclists, some suggested ramps and pedestrian alternatives.
2. Roundabout Design and Traffic Flow
 - a. Traffic calming: The roundabout is suggested in order to help mitigate stacking and congestion at key intersections.
 - b. Increased traffic: Concerns that this will encourage more traffic down 7th since it will be “easier to navigate”; more commercial vehicles seen on 7th; is it possible to close 7th to commercial use? Another suggestion was to alter the turn at 7th to discourage easy movement onto this alternate route.
 - c. Access/connectivity: Some residents showed concern about the roundabout’s shape and median- noting things like neighborhood access, noise, and potential for “bypass” traffic on side streets like Red Lady (West), 7th and 8th Street.; Mtn Express possible expansion of their route.
 - d. New Bus: Concerns about new bus stop at Red Lady and 8th Street about noise and emissions. Bus stop is proposed due to concerns about children getting to school from the 4-way intersection; request for intermittent pick-up locations and better utilizing school parking lots as a park-and-ride.
3. Snow Storage/Maintenance
 - a. General management: There were concerns about where snow would be stored and if it would occur in the median or center of the roundabout.
 - b. Further steps: Project team to connect with CDOT to make sure snow is removed properly and not stored in the roundabout or on median.
 - c. Maintenance: Further discussion regarding landscaping and art maintenance over time.



4. Landscaping and Design
 - a. Options: Different opinions at the Open House on whether to install new artwork, existing artwork (knight and dragon) or landscaping and a welcome sign only.
 - b. At the focus groups there was a consistent preference for simple landscaping and the addition of a welcome sign; there was a concern that the sculpture could be a large attraction and encourage unsafe crossings or vehicle distraction.
 - c. Water usage regarding appropriate landscape came up as a topic during the focus groups and utilizing native and adaptive xeric species for the roundabout design was discussed.
 - d. Trees: Discussion occurred regarding the preservation or replacement of existing trees that might be impacted by the project.
5. Cost, Timing, Construction
 - a. Cost: \$2.2 M in federal grants will cover 80% of the project, the rest from streets budget (property taxes). There is some interest in a possible public vote to increase transparency.
 - b. Timeline: Construction is projected to begin in fall of 2026 but mostly occur through the construction season of 2027.
 - c. Construction: During construction, the plan is to maintain two lanes of traffic in order to minimize closers or detours, noting the need for access to businesses and residents in the area. There are no plans for closures or shutting off of utilities. During the focus groups there was discussion to add landscape barriers by Stepping Stones's and their adjacent play area to provide safety buffer.
 - d. Noise: Construction and road noise concerns were brought up during the focus group with Stepping Stone's because the infant and toddler rooms are closest to Hwy-135/the construction area.