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Colorado State University
Alternative Transportation Fee Advisory Board
2024-2025 Project Proposal Form

Fill out and return proposal documents via email to ATFAB_CSU@colostate.edu and Aaron.Fodge@colostate.edu. ***Deadline for final submissions — Friday, January 24, 2025***.

If the project involves infrastructure construction, ***CSU Facilities must review cost estimates and proposal schedule. Facilities Deadline — Friday, December 6, 2024.*** Please email to Gargi Duttgupta at gargi.duttgupta@colostate.edu.

Note: If the proposal is accepted for funding consideration, you will be asked to give a 30-minute formal presentation to ATFAB.

Project Overview:

Project Name/Location: Meridian Avenue Corridor Improvements

Estimated Initial Cost: **$3,870,242.82**

Estimated Recurring Cost (if applicable): **Maintenance levels and costs TBD and included in later application**

Funding Request from ATFAB: **$774,048.56 (matching funds for potential federal grant)**

Matching Funds (if applicable): **$3,096,194.26 (targeted Federal grant amount)**

Please Attach the Full Budget: Include total cost, amount requested from ATFAB, breakdown of all expenses, funding from other sources, etc. Please be thorough and specific.

Please see attached.

Submitting Unit:

Name: Spencer M. Smith, P.E.

Telephone: 970-416-8054

Email Address: smsmith@fcgov.com

Department: Engineering – Special Projects

College or Division: City of Fort Collins

Approvals (Signatures):

Provost/VP: Brendan Hanlon, VP of University Operations

Signature: _____ Date: _____

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Department Head/Director*

Name: **Brad Buckman – City Engineer, City of Fort Collins**

Signature: Brad Buckman (DocuSigned by: 1FFA5163614F48B...) Date: January 15, 2025

*Whomever oversees the areas affected by the proposed project. For example, if the proposal was to add covered bike parking near the LSC, you need to contact the Director/Department Head in charge of the LSC. Please contact ATFAB with any questions.

Facilities Management Approval of Estimated Budget/Schedule (If Applicable)

Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Full Project Description:

As an attached document, please answer the following:

1. Please describe the project (limit description to 500 words or less).
2. Approximate timeline for the project (have you contacted Facilities for a bid and proposed schedule, if applicable?).
3. Describe how users will be supported by the project (limit to 250 words or less).
4. Describe the benefits to students in accordance with ATFAB By-Laws (see Article VII Funding Rules on the Website).
5. Please provide any evidence that there is student support for the proposal (i.e. petitioning, letters of support, requests for proposal by students, ASCSU resolutions, college council approvals, etc.). It is highly recommended that proposers reach out to students; the level of student support for your proposal will likely affect the board's decision to fund it.
6. Is your project mentioned in any of the CSU Campus Master Plan documents? Have any campus advisory committee discussed this project? It is recommended that you consult an applicable planning or advisory committee for letters of support and advice regarding your proposal. Please attach any documents if applicable.
7. Please include anything else you would like to communicate about your project.

Please see attached.

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Full Project Description:

1. **Please describe the project (limit description to 500 words or less).**

   Scope: Design and construction of Meridian Ave. corridor improvements between Hughes Way and Plum St. Proposed roadway section includes 24' wide 2-way transit guideway, 8' sidewalks, 2-way bike path separated from the guideway by a 4' raised median. Mini roundabouts are also planned for the Hughes Way and University Drive intersections. See accompanying conceptual exhibit for conceptual plan/extents.

   Project Need: The Meridian Corridor project aims to enhance the transportation infrastructure in the West Elizabeth Corridor, which supports the efficient operation of campus routes and contributes to overall mobility improvements. The West Elizabeth Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) route will operate on campus East-West along Plum from Shields to the CSU Transit Center. A key component of the Meridian Corridor initiative is the permanent dedication of this Corridor as a designated transit and multimodal guideway. This move is designed to significantly improve trip times for transit routes serving CSU Main Campus, ensuring a smoother and faster travel experience for passengers. Additionally, the project includes the creation of separated bike infrastructure as part of the City of Fort Collins' Center Bikeway. This addition will provide safer and more accessible routes for cyclists, promoting sustainable transportation options and encouraging greater use of cycling as a mode of travel. By improving both transit and biking options, the project contributes to a more integrated, efficient, and sustainable transportation system in the area, supporting both local mobility and broader environmental goals. The project length is defined as improvements along Meridian Corridor from Plum Street to Hughes Way. The limits of Plum to the north and Hughes Way to the south were defined in the City of Fort Collins Active Modes plans. If awarded this ATFAB grant, the City plans to apply for a federal grant through the Bus and Bus Facilities Program (5339b) for design and construction of the corridor. The ATFAB grant request is for funds to meet the local match requirements of the federal grant (20%). This is also a factor in the selection of the proposed corridor and scope.

2. **Approximate timeline for the project (have you contacted Facilities for a bid and proposed schedule, if applicable?).**

   Assuming that the City is successful in securing federal construction grant funding and that the upcoming grant opportunity follows the previous year's timeline:

   - *2025 Federal grant notice release* — *February 2025*
   - *Grant application due* — *April 2025*
   - *Grant awards announced/funds available* — *July 2025*
   - *Design* — *Aug 2025 - Jul 2026*
   - *Advertise/Bid for Construction* — *Oct 2026*
   - *Construction* — *Nov 2026 – May 2027*

3. **Describe how users will be supported by the project (limit to 250 words or less).**

   Users will be supported by the Meridian Corridor project through improvements to efficiency and safety of transportation options in the area. This project will particularly benefit transit riders, pedestrians, and cyclists. The corridor improvements will tie into the W. Elizabeth and Plum St. corridor improvements and future Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) route, mentioned in the project description. Meridian corridor improvements would provide an enhanced, safe connection for

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bikes and pedestrians between Hughes Way/University Avenue, the Green Trail and future BRT route. By allowing Transfort routes to stay on campus while traveling north/south, the need to use Shields Street is eliminated, reducing delays and enhancing overall speed of service. This change will reduce trip times, especially for routes with high student ridership, making travel more efficient and reliable for passengers. In addition to the improvements for transit, the project introduces new separated bicycle infrastructure, keeping cyclists safely away from traffic. A bike roundabout will also be implemented to facilitate the crossing of the Green Trail, further supporting safe and efficient cycling options. This combination of improvements aims to create a more streamlined and integrated transportation network for both transit users and cyclists, promoting convenience, safety, and sustainability in the community. Moreover, the intersection of Hughes and Meridian has experienced several serious crashes in recent years. This project will mitigate the risk of crashes and contribute toward the City's Vision Zero Action Plan goal to focus on vulnerable road users as a fundamental part of making roads safer for all road users.

4. **Describe the benefits to students in accordance with ATFAB By-Laws** (see Article VII Funding Rules on the Website).

   The proposed Meridian corridor improvements would provide students with a safe corridor to walk and bike between Hughes Way and Plum Street, to access transit along Plum Street, the CSU Tranit Center, the future BRT transit route between CSU's main and Foothills Campuses and the MAX line. Safety is improved with raised, protected bike lanes and sidewalks and raised median that provides separation between the transit guideway and bikes/pedestrian users. The improved roadway section should help to reduce ongoing maintenance costs of roadway repairs/reconstruction. Environmentally, the corridor improvements would encourage higher transit ridership as well as other active modes of transportation including bikes and pedestrians.

5. **Please provide any evidence that there is student support for the proposal (i.e. petitioning, letters of support, requests for proposal by students, ASCSU resolutions, college council approvals, etc.). It is highly recommended that proposers reach out to students; the level of student support for your proposal will likely affect the board's decision to fund it.**

   Two students from the Associated Students of Colorado State University (ATFAB) sit on the West Elizabeth Stakeholder Committee, ensuring that student interests are represented in transportation planning and decision-making. Transfort, the city's public transit service, also engages with ATFAB by presenting updates semi-annually, fostering a collaborative relationship between the student body and transit authorities. Additionally, ATFAB plays a crucial role in managing a multi-million dollar transit contract that directly benefits students, ensuring that funding and services align with the needs of the campus community. This active involvement allows ATFAB to advocate for improvements and maintain a student-centered focus in the region's transit developments.

   Additionally, the City has engaged in outreach efforts with the campus community and received positive feedback regarding the project. Outreach has included a presentation to the Campus Bicycle Advisory Board and discussions with CSU Vision Zero Program staff and at the CSU/City of Fort Collins Transportation Planning Meeting. The City believes that there is support among the CSU community for improvements along the Meridian corridor.

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6. **Is your project mentioned in any of the CSU Campus Master Plan documents? Have any campus advisory committee discussed this project? It is recommended that you consult an applicable planning or advisory committee for letters of support and advice regarding your proposal. Please attach any documents if applicable.**

   This project was included in the CSU Bicycle Master Plan completed in 2014 and is also included in the City's Active Modes Plan, which was a joint planning effort between the City and CSU (see accompanying excerpts of plan). Most recently, this project was presented to CSU's Campus Bicycle Advisory Committee on December 12, 2024. Moreover, two Senior Engineering Design Teams have previously worked on designs for this project as capstone projects.

7. **Please include anything else you would like to communicate about your project.**

   - ATFAB and the City of Fort Collins have collaborated previously on successful federal and state awards. If the local match for this project is funded through this call for project, this would be the largest project awarded to date.
   - This project would formalize CSU's plans to convert this section of the Meridian corridor to a transit guideway and multi-modal corridor that have been in place since the construction of the on-campus stadium at Meridian and Pitkin.
   - The project aligns with and supports multiple City of Fort Collins City Council priorities and objectives related to Environmental Health and Transportation and Mobility, as outlined in the City's 2024 Strategic Plan. The project also aligns with several other adopted City plans such as the Active Modes Plan, Vision Zero Action Plan and Our Climate Future Plan, among others.
   - As discussed previously in this application, the project is able to be a stand-alone project and not dependent on funding of the W. Elizabeth BRT project. It is anticipated that if this project is funded, it would be able to move forward through design and construction without the W. Elizabeth BRT project or if the BRT project moves forward on a different timeline.
   - The annual maintenance cost for the corridor is being estimated at $10,000/year. This would include sidewalk maintenance, pavement markings, bike lanes, crosswalks, patching, crack seal, seal coat, etc. That cost does not take into account future repaving/reconstruction of the roadway. This estimate is based on historic maintenance estimates for the corridor and assumes an asphalt paving surface. The design process would determine what the ideal paving surface (asphalt vs. concrete) should be for the corridor. The actual maintenance costs could vary depending on the surface type and the final design.
   - The scope of the Meridian Corridor improvements can be revised as needed, based on available funding. If the ATFAB award is not for the full local match needed for the federal grant, aspects of the project could be scaled back, removed, revised to fit the budget. Some potential areas that could be revised are the two mini roundabouts and the raised landscaped median.
   - The following graphic from the CSU Vision Zero Initiative dashboard illustrates the history of crashes with 6 total crashes along this corridor, with two of those being severe. The City believes that the proposed corridor improvements are much needed and will have a significant positive impact on safety for all modes of transportation along this corridor, particularly bike and pedestrian.

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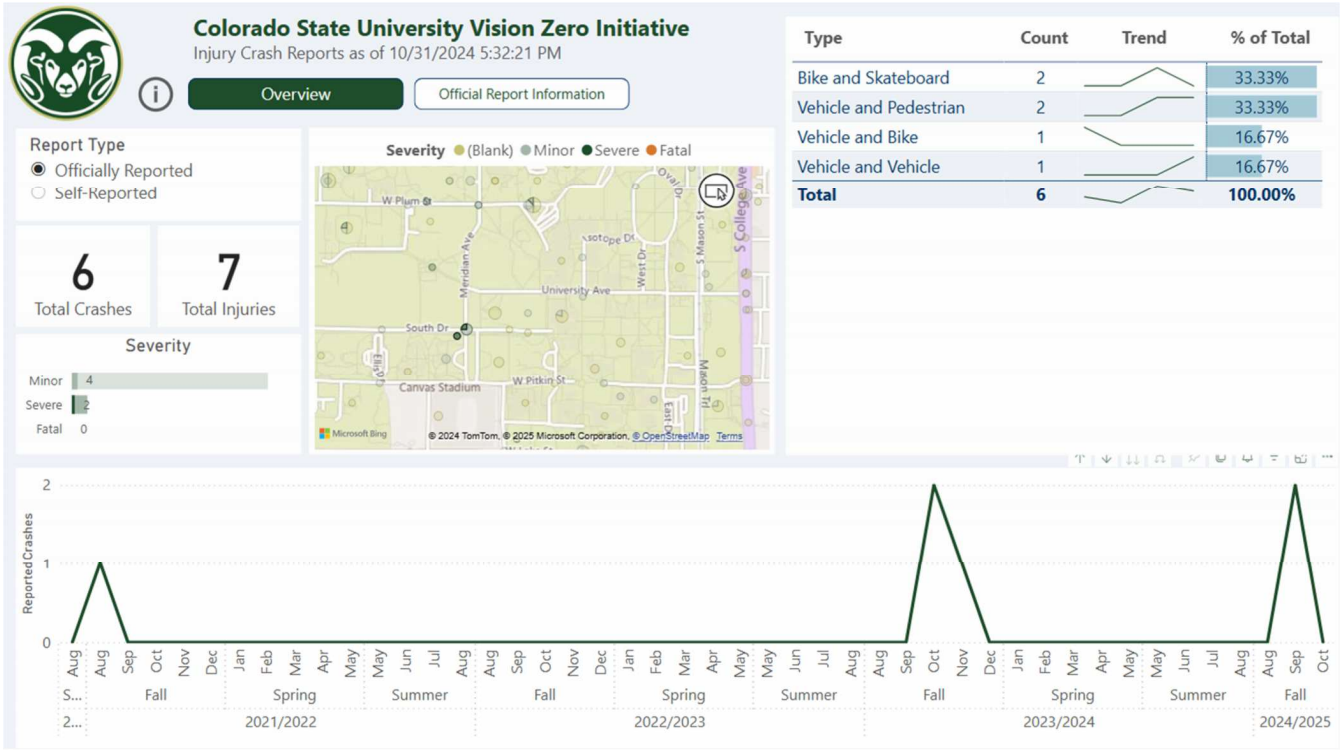
Meridian Corridor Improvements
1/15/2025



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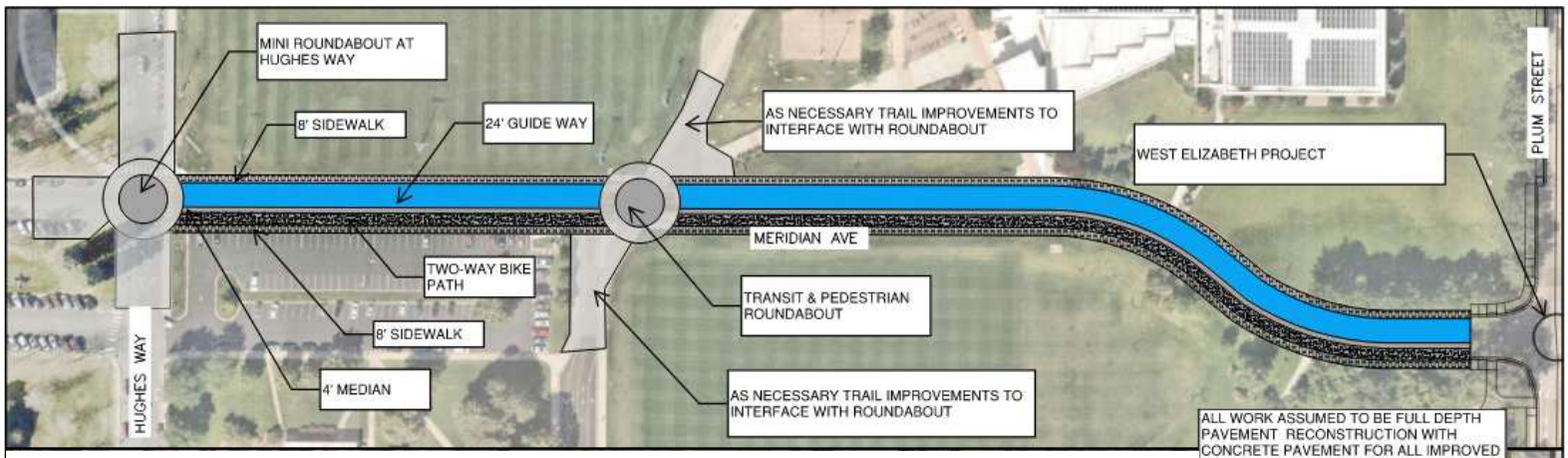
MERIDIAN AVENUE



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Prepared BY: MKS
(Rev SMS CoFC)
Date: 1/15/25

Meridian Opinion of Probable Construction Costs (mid 2026 Dollars)

Item	Description	UOM	QTY	Unit Cost	Extended Cost
1.0 - General Conditions					**$ 419,148.32**
1.1	GC's @ 12% of Total (Items 2 thru 5)	LS	1	$ 239,970.41	$ 239,970.41
1.2	Overhead and Profit @ 8% (GCs + Items 2-5)	LS	1	$ 179,177.91	$ 179,177.91
2.0 - Removals					**$ 237,426.62**
2.1	Demo 6' Wide Sidewalk	SF	9900	$ 4.24	$ 41,976.00
2.2	Sawcut Asphalt	LF	1100	$ 9.54	$ 10,494.00
2.3	Asphalt Removal	SY	1711	$ 16.96	$ 29,018.56
2.4	Roundabout Removals	SF	5390	$ 3.18	$ 17,140.20
2.5	2" Cold Plane Milling	SY	0	$ 7.42	$ -
2.6	Meridian Material Removal	SY	2133	$ 28.62	$ 61,046.46
2.7	Unclassified Excavation	TN	967	$ 74.20	$ 71,751.40
2.8	Transit Stop Removal	EA	2	$ 3,000.00	$ 6,000.00
3.0 - Concrete					**$ 1,003,267.74**
3.1	8' Wide Sidewalk (Both Sides)	SF	23200	$ 17.49	$ 405,768.00
3.2	Curb & Gutter	LF	5800	$ 57.24	$ 331,992.00
3.3	12' Bike Lane (Two-Way)	SF	17400	$ 10.60	$ 184,440.00
3.4	Roundabout Cover Materials	SF	273	$ 15.90	$ 4,340.70
3.5	Curb Ramps and Bulbouts	SF	1392	$ 55.12	$ 76,727.04
4.0 - Pavement / Groundcover					**$ 642,148.00**
4.1	4' Landscape Bike/Ped Median	SF	5800	$ 5.30	$ 30,740.00
4.2	Concrete Pavement (9.5")	CY	3900	$ 137.80	$ 537,420.00
4.3	ABC (4")	TN	775	$ 84.80	$ 65,720.00
4.4	Tree Protection	LF	1300	$ 6.36	$ 8,268.00
5.0 - Pavement Markings / Miscellaneous					**$ 73,927.50**
5.1	Pavement Markings	LS	1	$ 11,527.50	$ 11,527.50
5.2	Miscellaneous	LS	1	$ 42,400.00	$ 42,400.00
5.3	Transit Stop Replacement	EA	2	$ 10,000.00	$ 20,000.00
6.0 - Utilities / Lighting					**$ 42,983.58**
6.1	Relocations	LS	1	$ 17,193.43	$ 17,193.43
6.2	Resets	LS	1	$ 8,596.72	$ 8,596.72
6.3	Lighting	LS	1	$ 17,193.43	$ 17,193.43
Subtotal					**$ 2,418,901.76**
Contingency, Design, CM, Project Management					**$ 1,451,341.06**
Estimating Contingency				15%	$ 362,835.26
Engineering Design and CM				20%	$ 483,780.35
Owner Contigency				15%	$ 362,835.26
CSU Project Management				10%	$ 241,890.18
Construction Total					**$ 3,870,242.82**