



## **1<sup>st</sup> Avenue and Emery Street Intersection Improvements – Project Update (9/18/20)**

Construction on the 1st Avenue and Emery Street Intersection Improvement project began in April 2020, but due to unexpected design issues and the potential for utility relocations, the City suspended the construction to coordinate design revisions with the BNSF Railway (BNSF), the Colorado Public Utilities Commission (PUC), the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) and affected utility companies.

The primary issue dealt with the design and construction of a complex bore under the railroad tracks to facilitate the installation of electrical and communication conduits for the new traffic signal. The City explored options with the contractor to change the bore; however, there were various factors that made moving forward with a change order to this element of work extremely risky. These include, but are not limited to the length and depth of the bore under multiple RR tracks, the potential for utility relocations, and the process (i.e. timeline) to amend a BNSF permit for a change in the bore location and casing material. Due to the potential for lengthy project delays and associated costs, the City decided to suspend the construction and subsequently terminated the construction contract.

Over the past several weeks, the City has been meeting regularly with the designer and BNSF to evaluate railroad crossing options for the new traffic signal conduits. The project team is actively working to identify the option that is the most cost-effective and has the least constructability risk. Once the preferred option has been determined, the design drawings will be updated and the changes will be coordinated with BNSF, PUC and CDOT. A detailed schedule is not currently available, but it is estimated that the redesign process will take 4 to 5 months to update the construction drawings and coordinate with BNSF, PUC, CDOT, and utility companies (if required). Advertisement for construction services will then begin after completion of all design elements.

In the meantime, construction of interim improvements is complete and the site has been restored to a safe condition. The railroad crossing, north of 1st Avenue, will remain closed until the permanent railroad safety improvements (e.g. new railroad crossing gates, flashers and traffic signal) are installed and operational. During the closure of the crossing, local access to businesses and/or properties along Emery Street will be maintained from the north (2nd Avenue).

If you have questions or would like additional information on the 1<sup>st</sup> & Emery Intersection Improvement project, please contact Micah Zogorski at (303) 651-8594 or [micah.zogorski@longmontcolorado.gov](mailto:micah.zogorski@longmontcolorado.gov).



1<sup>st</sup> & Emery Intersection (Facing Northwest)



Emery Street, North of RR Tracks (Facing South)