



RE: Emergency Evacuation Coordinated Response

The Land Use Review Division of the Colorado Springs Planning and Community Development Department is responsible for reviewing a variety of development applications throughout the City. Proposed development applications received by Land Use Review staff are reviewed for consistency with the City Code and relevant City criterial manuals and City Comprehensive plans and referred to a variety of both internal and external review agencies determined to have an interest in the proposed development. The Land Use Review Division coordinates with an extensive list of internal City agencies including but not limited to City Traffic Engineering, Stormwater Enterprise, Engineering Design Review Division, Parks and Open Space, Colorado Springs Utilities, and Colorado Springs Police & Fire Departments. Reviewers also include some external agencies like Council of Neighborhood Organizations (CONO), the school district, Comcast Cable, Century Link, Colorado Geologic Survey (CGS) and/or other agencies deemed necessary based on the project scope. Each agency has a different threshold of review depending on the application type, which can ultimately influence the comments an agency provides based on their scope of review as determined in City Code. Through careful coordination with the agencies noted above, Land Use Review takes a holistic approach in evaluating development proposals by engaging subject matter experts throughout the City to review and provide feedback on the proposed plans. In an instance where Land Use Review staff process applications where decision-making authority is placed with City Planning Commission or City Council, a project has undergone the extensive review process with the review agencies and planning staff provides a recommendation based upon the findings of all reviewers. The recommendation is not just a planning staff recommendation but an amalgamation City staff recommendation.

As infill development becomes more prevalent within the City, staff is paying close attention to traffic and safety impacts for current and new residents based on the mix of development in a given area. City Traffic and the Division of the Fire Marshal play large roles in this review ensuring there is adequate traffic and safety infrastructure to meet the needs of current and new residents. Colorado Springs is all too familiar with the unpredictable extreme events like wildfires or other emergency events that require evacuation. Pikes Peak Regional Office of Emergency Management works diligently with Traffic, Fire and the Colorado Springs Police Department to create the safest & most effective emergency evacuation plans.

The following sections of this letter detail the perspectives of Division of the Fire Marshal, City Traffic Engineering, and the Office of Emergency Management related to the Land Use Review project review process and their involvement in emergency planning.

Division of the Fire Marshal

The Division of the Fire Marshal is responsible for reviewing various land use plans in order to verify locally adopted fire code compliance. This review entails evaluating proposed access, building size and type of proposed construction, water supply and potential for other hazardous items such as hazardous materials, wildfire mitigation code issues, industrial processing, etc. In many cases, we may not have specific details available for specific review as the project is in its infancy; however, we are able to provide comment on what developers/designers may want to and should consider in order to be compliant by the time construction plans are ready for submittal.

City Traffic Engineering

The primary purpose of a traffic impact study is to establish a baseline traffic condition in which to evaluate the impacts to this baseline traffic condition by new traffic generated by the proposed development. The baseline traffic condition is the typical condition where existing traffic volumes are highest from day-to-day. In urban areas, this typical condition is the morning and evening commutes Monday through Friday. The City also uses the morning and evening commute traffic flows as the basis for determining the number of lanes, signal timing, and traffic control at intersections. As mentioned, the traffic impact study establishes this baseline condition and analyzes how new traffic generated by future development impacts the baseline condition. Based on these impacts to the baseline condition, a determination is made whether changes are needed in the number of lanes, signal timing or traffic control to mitigate the impacts by the new development.

The traffic impact study's purpose to establish the infrastructure needs to accommodate the day-to-day flow of traffic on City roadways. An analysis of an evacuation scenario is beyond the scope and ability of the traffic study to analyze. The evaluations in traffic impact studies use the guidelines and methodologies of the Highway Capacity Manual for evaluating traffic flow and queuing for day-to-day conditions. The evacuation scenario is an extreme condition in which the day-to-day operations of our roadways and intersections are suspended to accommodate the traffic flow needs of an evacuation. To accommodate traffic flows during an

evacuation, roadways and intersections are managed not by traffic control devices (e.g. signals and stop signs) but by emergency personnel and strategies are implemented such as utilizing contraflow of roadways to increase capacity for the outflow of vehicles from the evacuation area. In addition, there are many variables that impacts traffic flows in an evacuation scenario, such as the size of the area and when evaluation orders are issued that make it difficult to provide an analytical evaluation of traffic flows in the event of an evacuation. So in preparing for the evacuation scenario, the City develops evacuation plans that implement various strategies to best use the existing infrastructure to create a safe and orderly evacuation.

Office of Emergency Management

Pikes Peak Regional Office of Emergency Management (PPROEM) strives to assist in community and personal emergency preparedness through education and training. Our office provides our community resources for emergency preparedness through planning, training, exercises and educational resources. We are able to deliver preparedness training specific to your neighborhood upon request. PPROEM does not review development projects nor provide tactical response to emergent events but rather provides support to our first responders during these events.

Sincerely,



Todd Frisbie, PE, PTOE
City Traffic Engineer



Chief Vince Niski
Police Chief

Chief Randy Royal
Fire Chief

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Peter Wysocki, AICP
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