

BOCC (Cont. from 1)

Commissioner Holly Williams thanked staff for their years of work on the project to date and said, “I think it will be a lot safer for the students who

attend here [Monument Academy]. The day they get out of school hopefully we will have shovels in the ground so the day they come back to school, they will not be lining up in the middle of the street anymore and just many of the safety issues

that the students and parents have faced will be completed and cleared up.”

A member of the public asked how much of the project’s budget was going toward the mitigation plan for the Preble’s mouse. Irvine replied that the environmental assessment was not complete but that generally the environmental costs were 5% to 10% of total construction costs. She added that environmental

costs were not just concerned with the mouse but also matters such as storm-water, noise, etc., where the county must comply with federal, state, and local requirements. Commenting in general on the environmental assessment process and the length of time it takes, Chair Stan Vanderwerf said, “It was previously a massively bureaucratic process and under the previous presidential administration that was substantively streamlined and under the current administration it was returned back to the very bureaucratic process.” He added, “Elections have consequences.”

Construction on the first part of the project is expected to start later this year and be completed in 2024. The second phase of the project is in the final design segment with construction expected to begin in summer 2023 and take two years. It will include the widening of the road from Lake Woodmoor Drive to Martingale Drive to three lanes, and the addition of shoulders and additional turn lanes. Preliminary design for the remainder of the highway is underway.

County Planning Commission reappointments

At its April 19 meeting, the BOCC approved the reappointment of Commissioners Thomas Bailey and Becky Fuller as regular members of the Planning Commission. Their terms will run until

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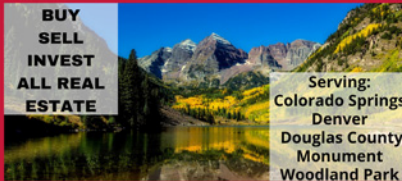
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