ROARING FORK SCHOOLS

Garfield County

TO: Board of Directors, Roaring Fork Transportation Authority (RFTA)

FROM: Commissioner Jankovsky, Garfield County Board of County

Commissioners Jeff Gatlin, Chief Operating Officer, Roaring Fork

School District

Fred A. Jarman, AICP, Garfield County Deputy County Manager

RE: ***Riverview Safe Routes to School Project***

DATE: November 14, 2019

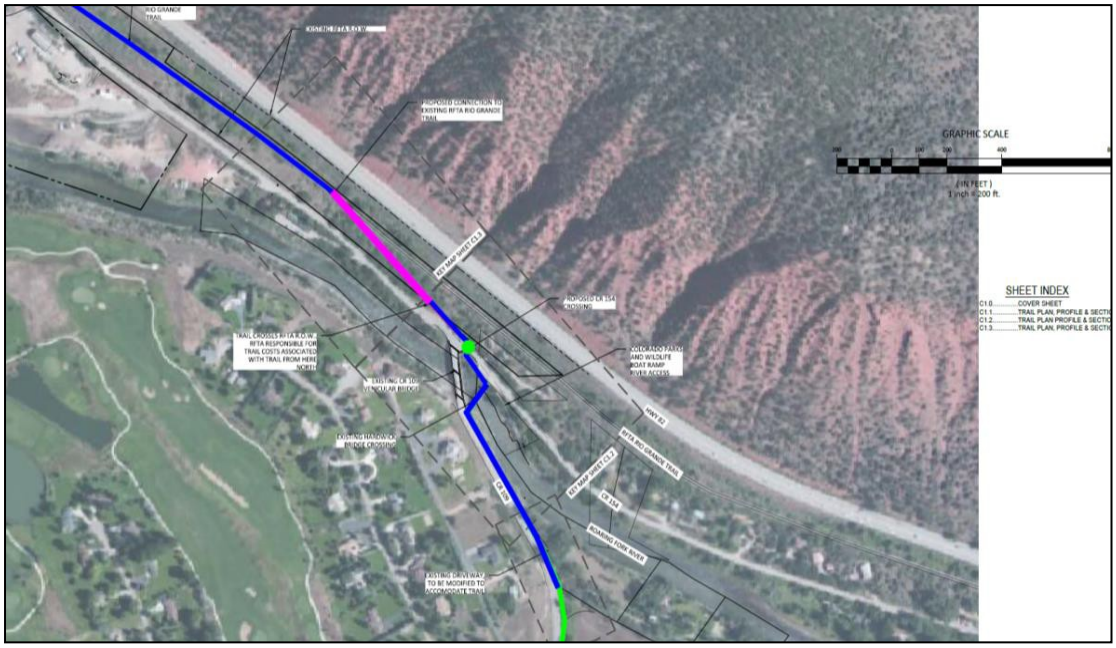
Dear Board of Directors,

The Roaring Fork School District (the District) and Garfield County and are excited to work with the Roaring Fork Transportation Authority (RFTA) as a partner on the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) project for Riverview School. We appreciate RFTA's willingness to be a partner in this project. Now that the project has continued to mature with various committed funding sources and we have a design completed to a 30% level, we want to explore and determine more formally, what role RFTA can play in this project.

In initial meetings, RFTA Staff indicated they were looking for and supportive of a trail project when we proposed the SRTS trail project. Additionally, as an added contribution to the project, RFTA Staff indicated they were supportive of providing some type of lighted trail crossing controls (signage) to assist with the safety aspect of the trail as it interfaces with county road intersection. These are both valuable contributions to this $1.55M project.

While our discussions with the leadership of the RFTA Staff continue to be very helpful, we are seeking direction and approval from the RFTA Board of Directors as we continue to move this project forward. The District and Garfield County have entered an Inter-Governmental Agreement. As part of this process, we would like to formalize RFTA's contribution as a partner in the SRTS Project. The specific opportunities for a partnership include requested contributions below.

1. Proposed Trail Route – Generally, the proposed path is designed to provide a safe pedestrian/ bicycle route connecting the West Bank, West Bank Mesa and Iron Bridge neighborhoods to the Riverview School. More specifically, the proposed path design requires a new trail section located in the RFTA right-of-way (ROW) that connects the path at the intersection of CR 154 and CR 109 to the existing Rio Grande Trail (See Exhibit A). We wish to formalize RFTA's commitment to allow the construction of a path in this alignment in the RFTA ROW and connect to the existing Rio Grande Trail. This formalized commitment would be to allow a temporary construction easement between Garfield County and RFTA. Garfield County and RFSD will provide a legal description for the trail section to aid in RFTA's preparation of a temporary construction easement. (Section in pink is the proposed trail section in the Rio Grande ROW represented in the plan below and depicted in ***Exhibits A and B***.)



2. New Trail Surface - It is the desire of the District and Garfield County to construct this new trail section with an asphalt surface. In a recent meeting with RFTA Staff, we understand that RFTA Staff is also supportive of this new section to be an asphalt surface. We believe this hard surface 1) improves function, 2) allows for better maintenance and 3) extends the useful life of the trail. (Regardless, the trail will be constructed to meet ADA standards.)

3. Trail and County Road Intersection Safety / Signage - A core component of the SRTS project is to improve safety at the crosswalks where the proposed path crosses CR 154 and CR 109 at three specific locations:

    a. Crossing 1: Where the existing Rio Grande trail crosses CR 154 south of the HW 82/ CR 154 intersection (See Icon 1 in Exhibit A);

b. Crossing 2: Where the new trail crosses CR 154 east of the CR 109 intersection by the Hardwick Bridge (See Icon 2 in Exhibit A); and

c. Crossing 3: Where a new crosswalk access is provided from West Bank Road to the new trail (See Icon 3 in Exhibit A).

We understand that RFTA has budgeted $20k for two flashing crosswalk lights for Crossing 1, an existing crossing of CR 154. In order to improve safety for trail users and students. We are requesting two flashing crosswalk lights (with audible ADA signaling) be provided at crossings 2 and 3. We are asking RFTA to also budget for these 2 additional new crossings as part of our partnership. The District and Garfield County will discuss providing dedicated power to the crosswalks or powering through built in solar power. In order to accomplish this component, here are needed tasks and commitments regarding the signage:

a. The District has contracted with Sopris Engineering Inc., to design the new path. As part of this design, Sopris Engineering will designate the proposed locations for the crosswalk signs and provide each design deliverable to RFTA.

b. Public Utilities Commission (PUC) Approval – RFTA Staff has indicated a willingness to compile and submit a joint application with Garfield County to the P.U.C. for approval of the crosswalk lights where the County Road crosses the Rio Grande Trail.

c. Improved Crosswalks – If the RFTA Board approves the pedestrian lights, RFTA will stripe the crosswalks as a part of the light project installation.

d. Sign Distance Improvements- At the intersection of the existing Rio Grande Trail and CR 154, RFTA has indicated there is a need to improve visibility for pedestrians and cyclists approaching the intersection by re-grading the hillside adjacent to the trail. With approval by RFTA, Garfield County can commit to making those improvements and will work directly with RFTA during those improvements for final grading and reseeding.

4. Trail Maintenance - An important part of the future success of the trail will be to ensure the trail is maintained. We understand RFTA does not snowplow the Rio Grande Trail as a general practice. We expect this new trail to be maintained in a similar manner. The Iron Bridge Homeowners Association (HOA) will be responsible for maintaining the trail that abuts the Ironbridge HOA and Blue Heron Development property. We are asking that RFTA incorporate the new 1,140 LF of trail adjacent to the Rio Grande Trail (in the RFTA ROW) as part of their regular maintenance (See Exhibit A). Maintenance is defined to include the following responsibilities to be consistent with the maintenance of the existing Rio Grande Trail. We assume these responsibilities to include:

a. Repairs to asphalt surface as needed to ensure safe use;

b. Any repairs to crosswalk lights installed; and
c. Repairs to erosion due to major storm-water events.

If the RFTA Board supports this direction, staff will be directed to work with Garfield County to develop an agreement outlining RFTA's contributions to this project. The language will include reversionary language in the event the Rio Grande corridor is repurposed for transit.

Conclusion

This Safe Routes to School project will not only provide a much-needed safer route for school children to walk / bike to and from school, but it also provides an important new access point for the general public to access the Rio Grande Trail thereby encouraging and expanding multi-modal transportation opportunities in our communities. We are hopeful that RFTA will join this partnership by assisting this project by:

a. Granting a temporary construction easement for Garfield County to install an ADA asphalt trail section to connect with the Rio Grande Trail
b. Providing cross-walk safety lights at 3 locations;
c. Providing general maintenance of the trail section in the Rio Grande ROW (1,140 LF); and
d. Agreeing to sight-distance improvements to be completed by Garfield County.

Attachments:

1) Exhibit A – Overall Trail Layout
2) Exhibit B – Detailed Survey Alignment

EXHIBIT A

Attachment F - Conceptual Drawing

SHEET INDEX

C1.0 .....COVER SHEET
C1.1 .....TRAIL PLAN, PROFILE & SECTION STA 0+00-15+00
C1.2 .....TRAIL PLAN PROFILE & SECTION STA 15+00-26+50 (RFTA)
C1.3 .....TRAIL PLAN PROFILE & SECTIONS STA 26+50 - END

SOPRIS ENGINEERING, LLC
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CARBONDALE, CO 81623
(970) 704-0311
FAX: (970)-704-0313

SOPRIS ENG STAMP

DESIGNED BY	CHC	09-25-18
DRAWN BY	CHC	09-25-18
CHECKED BY		
DATE:	09-25-18	
JOB NO.	18041	

SAFE TRAIL - IRON BRIDGE TO EAST BANK SCHOOL
GARFIELD COUNTY, COLORADO

TRAIL LAYOUT FOR GRANT

REGIONAL STAMP

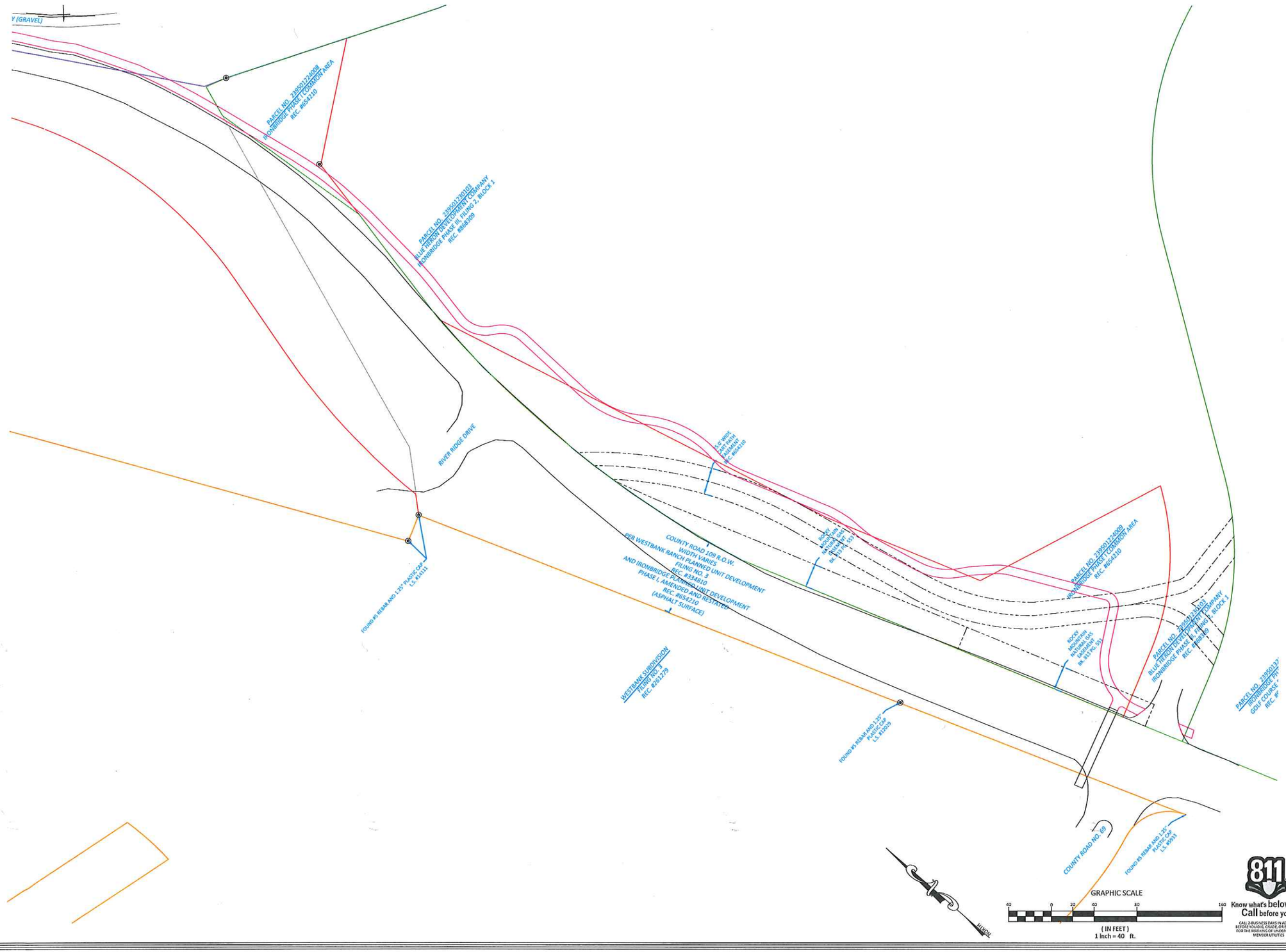
DATE	REVISION
00/00/00	XXX

TITLE
OVERALL LAYOUT

DRAWING NO.
C-1.0

811
Know what's below.
Call before you dig.
CALL 2-BUSINESS DAYS IN ADVANCE BEFORE YOU DIG, GRADE, OR EXCAVATE FOR THE MARKING OF UNDERGROUND MEMBER UTILITIES

EXHIBIT B



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SRTS - IRON BRIDGE TO RIVERVIEW SCHOOL
GARFIELD COUNTY, COLORADO

EXHIBIT

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R.O.W. MAPPING

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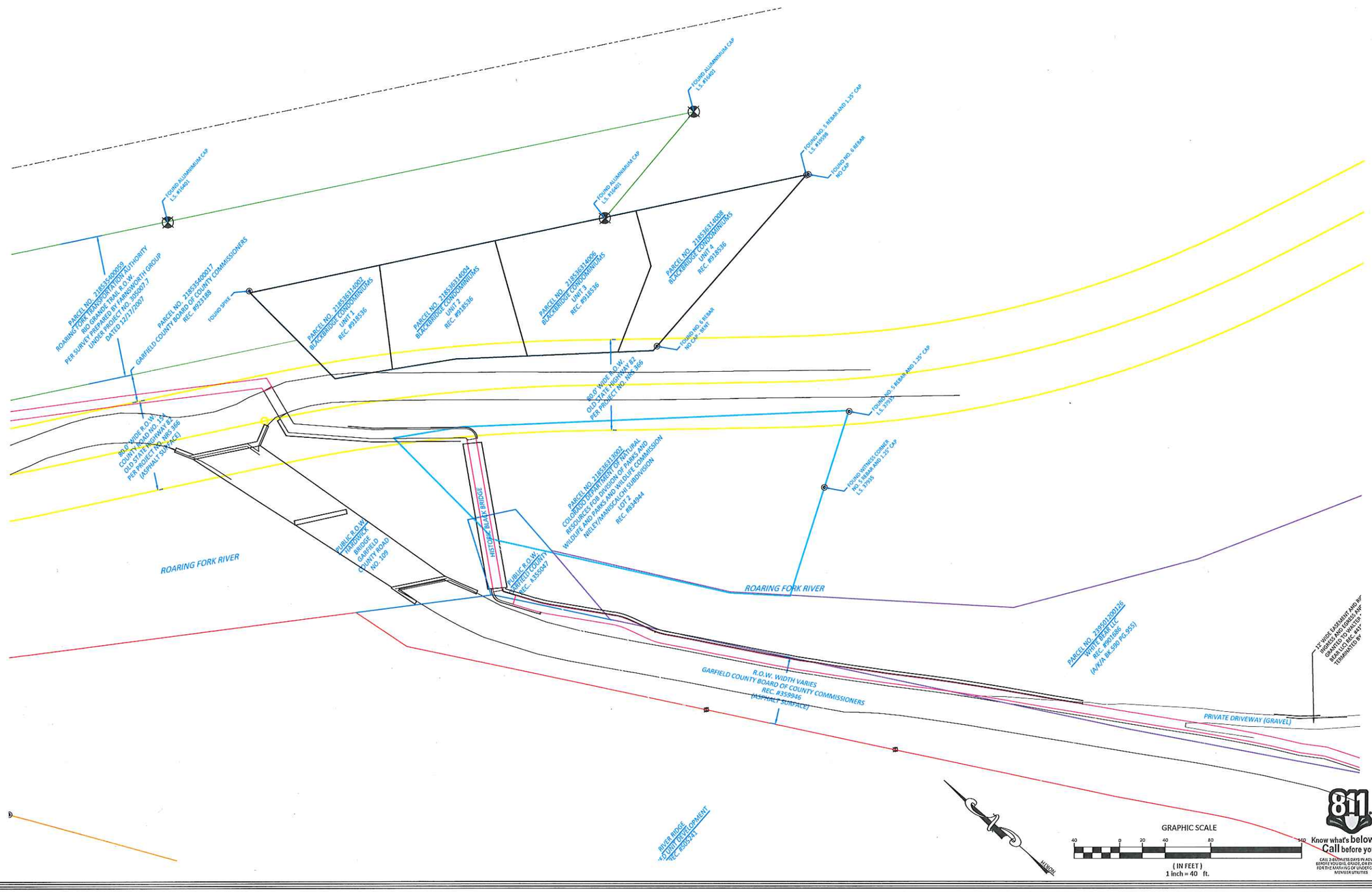

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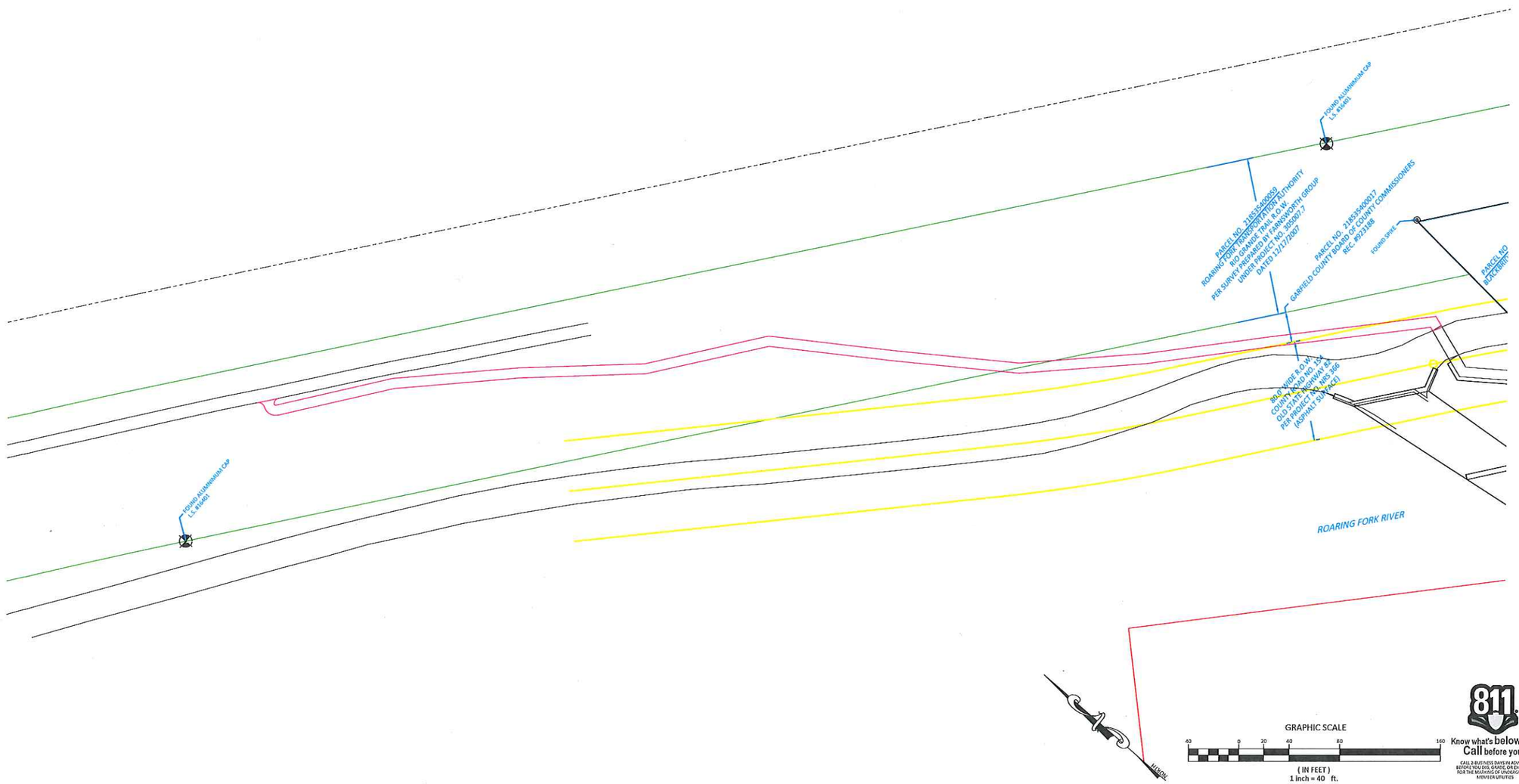

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