Please see slides. Notes are to supplement what was on the slides. EQ = equestrian or horse

Comments:

* 90% of equestrians report “near misses” while riding on road or trail. Safety around horses is a big concern.
* As development progresses, accommodations for those already there are often not met.
	+ Examples include Indiana Equestrian Center, yet no way to cross Indiana safely to get to IEC.
	+ Bicyclist on bridge in Parker who refused to yield to horses.
* Equestrian sports are increasing nationwide and we need safety and representation for horses, especially in development of community master plans where horses are part of that community. Concept of Equine Legacy Corridors = areas where horses have traditionally existed and continue to exist.
* We need to be proactive in land use discussions, not reactive. Proactive representation includes raising awareness and value of EQ, economic impact to communities, being sure to be heard and influence master plan development for communities, and educate public officials about EQ.
* Displacement of wildlife is a concern in developments and master plans. EQ and agricultural animals displacement should be considered equally.
* Concept of overlay for county master plans that includes EQ and agriculture.

**All concerns have led to initiative for EQ Bill of Rights**

**We need to be vocal and be sure our voices are heard.**

See slide for complete wording:

* EQ have right to travel safely on roads and to recreate on public trails, free from fear of dangerous interactions with other road and trail users
* EQ have right to access public trails and roadways, and this is especially important in growing urban areas.
* EQ have right to full support of educated state and municipal government and law enforcement
* EQ are seeking safe passages and recognitions similar to other road and trail users such as pedestrians and bicyclists.

3 step plan:

1. Identify where EQ areas are
2. Access to and maintenance of safe infrastructure
3. Pass Wide and Slow

85% of accidents involving horses are due to driver passing too close and too fast. This is all preventable.

**(Senator now) Lindsey Daughtery explained process:**

* She can introduce 5 bills per year. Since she is now a senator this bill would then start in state Senate.
* Bill is currently being drafted and we will see a copy later.
	+ Those doing the drafting have a job to be sure all applicable legislation is addressed.
	+ This bill will have impact and implications for traffic, trails, planning etc
* We don’t want a high “fiscal note” or for bill to get tied down in appropriations so recommend we start small, and keep a mind to fiscal impact.
* We need to contact all stakeholders and discuss / negotiate with them.
	+ Stakeholders are those who have an interest in bill, both pro and con.
	+ LD gave example that this is like mediation in a divorce dispute. The goal is to end up with an agreement that both parties can live with, but neither party will be completely happy with result.
* Once bill has cleared stakeholders discussions, then it will be assigned to a committee, possibly the agricultural committee. LD wasn’t sure which one.
	+ What we can do to help in meantime:
		- Reach out to our own state senators and representatives about this bill
		- Emails are read, especially organized ones and where there ar lot of people writing.
		- Attend advocacy day
* Assuming it passes in Senate, bill will then go to House of Representatives
* It will be assigned 2 sponsors there
* There will be two readings (at least???)
* If passes then will be assigned to fiscal and appropriations committees
	+ LD warned that bills can flounder in appropriations and die there
	+ LD warned about high “fiscal note” – sometimes a high fiscal note will kill a bill so we want to avoid this. Assignment of a high fiscal note can be fought but it is difficult. Ideal would be <25K, but more realistic to shoot for would be < 100K
* If passes both houses and appropriations, then governor can sign into law.

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS:**

**Suggestion:**  Los Angeles is a city with areas that have integrated horses into communities and could serve as a good example.

**Suggestion:** Riding on streets to make horses more visible may help. Indiana will be closed on Saturday 11/23 and this could be a good safe day to do this.

***Q:*** *How can a high school student get involved? Education is needed, and this person had an experience with an accident with a buggy. Horses are a way of life, with their own culture and family ties and this needs to be preserved for the future.*

**A:** LD replied that it would be great to get young people to testify in favor of the bill because this has big impact.

*Q: What statutes will be affected?*

**A:** We will know more when bill comes out of drafting. It is the job of those drafting bills to apply to applicable codes such as traffic, land use etc.

***Q:*** *On-line – If we have a pass wide and slow law, how will this be enforced? It is hard to get a license plate, and you need proof to give someone ticket, enforce law etc. Also, many roads do not have room for a 6’ cushion when passing horses.*

**A:** We EQ may need to ride with things like go-pro cameras etc to help with this. There are options when passing bikes (already a state law) and drivers can slow down until safe to pass, move over etc.

***Q:*** *Define stakeholder – this answer was added to notes under stakeholder previously*

**Comments:** Bill Skevy from CO horse council had several comments:

* said that although the bill is a good idea it needs to be vetted through Colorado Horse Development Authority, and CO Horse Council.
* He felt we should start with education before trying to pass a bill
* He felt we need a model to work from such as the town of Norco, CA
* He gave example of HB 24.58 (*hope i got this right….)* where the goal was to require all horses in state to be registered and all horse facilities to be certified, although no standards were set…
* He didn’t like the name of the bill and thought it would cause us problems

**A:** LD said she has already started conversations with Dept of Agriculture. Karen expressed appreciation that Bill was attending because they would like to connect with CO horse council.

***Q:*** *Can we use grants to fund some of this?*

**A:** LD said that grants are traditionally unreliable because there needs to be annual funding allocated for things like this.

***Q:*** *What about ballot measures? Can this be both a push for a ballot measure and a bill from LD?*

**A:** Explained that laws get passed two ways through citizen initiatives, and one is the route of the bill sponsored by LD, and other is the ballot measures. Ballot measures are expensive and need lots of signatures and involvement of attorneys.

***Q:*** *What are the current laws about horses on roadways?*

**A:** From Bill S from CO Horse Council – Bill S said horses are considered to be livestock in state of CO and legislation varies from community to community so check with local officials.

**A:** From audience said that Jefferson County considers horses to be a “footed animal” and same laws apply to horses as to other “footed animals” and therefore they are free to be on any sidewalk in the county, but it was less clear on roadways without sidewalks.

Comment was made about droppings. We need to clean up horse droppings on roadways and sidewalks.

***Q/Comment:*** *Colorado is a free-range state which means landowners must fence livestock out. How does this apply to where EQ go?*

**A:** From Bill S at CO Horse Council – this can turn into a range war and we need to respect each others property.

***Q:*** *Does bill add fiscal responsibilities to communities?*

**A:** Idea is to identify EQ zones so would only apply to those communities with EQ ones. This should go into master plans for the communities where this is applicable.

***Followup Q:*** *Will this be retroactive or proactive?*

**A:** still under discussion but idea is to make proactive….