

Addendum to the Social Resources Technical Memorandum – New Pueblo Freeway Project, dated September 2005

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Introduction

This addendum updates the Social Resources Technical Memorandum prepared in September 2005 for the New Pueblo Freeway project based on comments provided by Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). It is not the intent of this addendum to recreate data previously presented or update all the data presented in the report, but to address those issues identified by CDOT in their July 2010 review of the DEIS. The information presented in this addendum does not change the conclusions of the original analysis.

Community Facilities

Comments provided on the DEIS indicated that some community facilities described in the text were not included in the mapping contained in the original Technical Memorandum. The DEIS has updated the community facilities in the study area and describes these facilities by neighborhood as follows. The most recent mapping (2010) that displays neighborhoods and community facilities is presented as **Exhibit 1**.

Northside Neighborhood

Community resources in and adjacent to the Northside Neighborhood include Mineral Palace Park, Parkview Medical Center (17th Street and Court Avenue), Fire Station #5 (2401 6th Avenue), and three schools (Somerville Elementary, Freed Middle, and Centennial High).

Eastside Neighborhood

Community resources in and adjacent to the Eastside Neighborhood include Fire Station #6 (located at 1325 E. 4th Street), Fire Station #8 (1551 Bonforte Boulevard), multiple pocket and neighborhood parks (not all are presented in **Exhibit 1**), and ten schools. Of the schools, only Risley Middle School located east of I-25 on Monument Avenue has attendance boundaries that extend west of I-25 outside of the Eastside Neighborhood (in the Grove Neighborhood).

Downtown Neighborhood

Community resources in the Downtown Neighborhood include Pueblo Police Department (130 Central Main Street), Fire Station #1 (425 West 7th Street), the Rosemount Museum (14th Street and Grand Avenue), the Historic Arkansas Riverwalk of Pueblo (HARP), the Sangre de Cristo Arts and Conference Center (adjacent to I-25 at 2nd Street and Santa Fe Avenue), the Buell Children's Museum (located within the Sangre de Cristo Arts and Conference Center), the El Pueblo History Museum (1st Street and Union Avenue), the Latino Chamber (215 South Victoria Avenue), and the Pueblo Convention Center. No schools are located within this neighborhood.

A cluster of government offices and services, including the Pueblo City Hall and the Pueblo County Health Department, are located near the intersection of S. Main Street and Grand Avenue. The area attracts those doing business with the City and seeking health care or law enforcement services. The Pueblo County Administrative Complex is located at 10th and Main Street. The complex consists of the courthouse and ancillary office buildings that house motor vehicle registration, the assessor and clerk's office, the Department of Emergency Management, and other administrative functions.

Grove Neighborhood

Community facilities in the Grove Neighborhood include Runyon/ Fountain Lakes State Wildlife Area, Runyon Field Sports Complex, and Moynihan Park. There are no schools in this neighborhood.

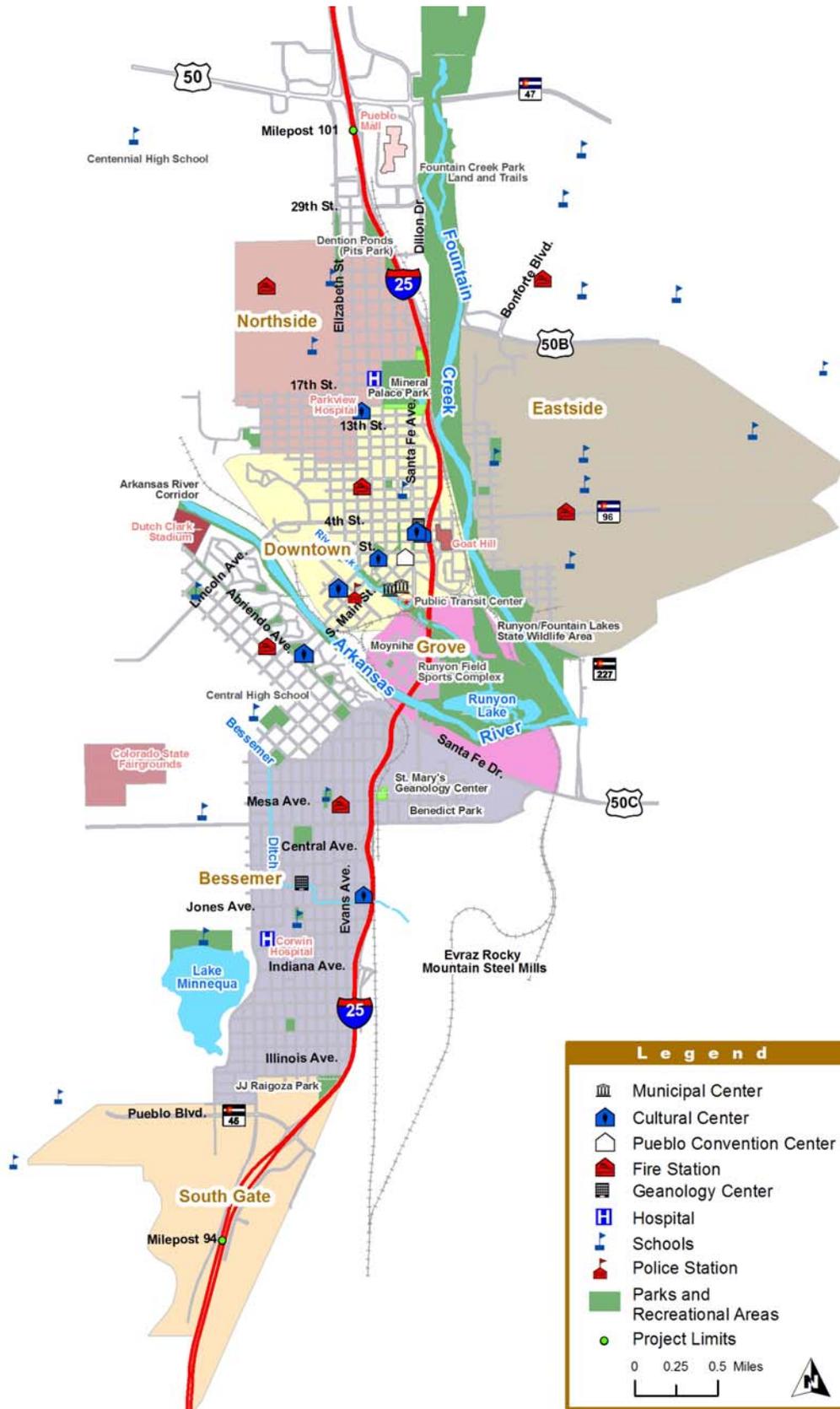
Bessemer Neighborhood

Community facilities in the Bessemer Neighborhood include Benedict Park, Lake Minnequa (with access from Lake Avenue), St. Mary-Corwin Medical Center (Lake Avenue and Minnequa Avenue), Bessemer Historical Society and Historical Library (located at the corner of Abriendo Avenue and Canal Street in the Main Administrative Complex and Dispensary of CF&I), St. Mary's Genealogy Center (located in the old St. Mary's School at Mesa Avenue and Taylor Avenue), Fire Station #3 (123 West Evans Avenue), Fire Station #4 (1201 E. Evans Street), Minnequa Elementary, Corwin International Magnet School, Bessemer Academy, and Central High School. Each school has attendance boundaries that fall adjacent to or cross I-25 and depend on Northern and Mesa Avenue for access across I-25.

South Gate Neighborhood

Community facilities in the South Gate Neighborhood include JJ Raigoza Park, South Park Elementary School, and Beulah Heights Elementary School. The attendance boundaries for the schools fall adjacent to I-25 and no students are required to cross I-25.

EXHIBIT 1
 Pueblo Neighborhoods and Community Facilities Adjacent to I-25



Routes to School

Comments provided on the DEIS requested information regarding routes to middle and high schools. This information is provided below.

Corwin Middle School is located at 1500 Lakeview Avenue. Students in the southern end of the corridor attend Corwin Middle School, which generally uses the Steel Mill as its eastern boundary. Few students have to cross I-25 to reach the school. The majority of students travel local roads to Lake Avenue to access the school.

Risley Middle School serves Pueblo's neighborhoods east of Fountain Creek. However, there is an extension of the attendance area west of I-25 that encompasses the largely non-residential activities in the downtown, Civic Center, and Union Avenue Historic District. Few if any students have to cross I-25 to reach the school. The majority of students travel local roads or use principal arterials such as 4th Street and Monument Avenue.

The third middle school, Freed, serves the area generally north of 4th Street and west of Fountain Creek. Although the boundaries cross I-25, it encompasses the non-residential land use activities sandwiched between I-25 and Fountain Creek. Most students access Freed Middle School via 20th Street.

There are four high schools in the City of Pueblo, three of which serve corridor students. The Arkansas River serves as the north-south boundary between Centennial High School on the north and Central High School to the south. Central High School serves the previously mentioned area of the Bessemer Neighborhood east of I-25, and Northern Avenue and Mesa Avenue are essentially the primary access routes to the school.

The attendance boundary for Centennial High School extends east of I-25 just south of US 50 and generally follows Kingston Street south to the Arkansas River. Most students access Centennial High School via Baltimore Avenue.

East High School serves students east of I-25 north and south of US 50. Most students access East High school via Troy Avenue and Constitution Road.

Discrepancies between the DEIS and Technical Memorandum

Comments provided on the DEIS point out discrepancies between the DEIS and Technical Memorandum, in particular, the number of fire stations and neighborhoods. The DEIS contains the most recent information and the correct number of community facilities and neighborhoods. These are shown in **Exhibit 1**. There are six neighborhoods – Northside, Eastside, Downtown, Grove, Bessemer, and South Gate. There are also six fire stations:

- Fire Station #1 (425 West 7th Street)
- Fire Station #3 (123 West Evans Avenue)
- Fire Station #4 (1201 E. Evans Street)
- Fire Station #5 (2401 6th Avenue)
- Fire Station #6 (located at 1325 E. 4th Street)
- Fire Station #8 (1551 Bonforte Boulevard)

Community Cohesion

Comments on the DEIS raised questions as to whether impacts to community cohesion for the Grove neighborhood are accurately described. The Technical Memorandum states that acquisition of the 34 isolated homes east of I-25 would restore community cohesion to the Grove neighborhood. Upon review of the information and public input we find that it is true that there is a potential to restore community cohesion because the neighborhood would no longer be fragmented. The existing residents would still be impacted by property acquisition, but the neighborhood overall would no longer be divided by the highway.

This conclusion is largely driven by public input. A workshop was conducted with residents of the Grove Neighborhood to discuss the possible acquisition of properties for the project because of the realignment options for I-25. The eastern portion of the Grove Neighborhood has 34 homes that are currently isolated from other residential and commercial areas because they are surrounded by I-25 to the west, and Runyon Field Sports Complex on the east. The workshop concluded with residents agreeing that they would prefer that every home in the neighborhood be acquired, even if the project only required acquisition of homes in the western half of the neighborhood. The group noted that leaving only a few homes in the eastern half of the neighborhood would degrade and further isolate the neighborhood, worsening the impacts of the original I-25 construction. This input was vital in the development of the Modified I-25 Alternative, which would acquire all 34 homes instead of the few along the highway boundary. Acquiring these residents would potentially make the neighborhood more cohesive.

Mitigation

Additional mitigation to address impacts during construction is as follows:

- During construction, CDOT will provide advance notice to emergency service providers, schools, the community, and residents regarding road delays, access, and special construction activities.

Figures

All graphics in the Technical Memorandum are replaced with **Exhibit 1**.

Conclusion

This addendum updates the Social Resources Technical Memorandum prepared in September 2005 for the New Pueblo Freeway project based on comments provided by CDOT on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). The information presented in this addendum does not change the conclusions of the original analysis.

References

Pueblo Area Council of Governments (PACOG). 2001. *Pueblo Comprehensive Plan*.

PACOG. 2005. *Central Pueblo Framework Plan*.

PACOG. 2008. Pueblo Regional Transportation Plan.

City of Pueblo, Colorado. City website. <http://www.pueblo.us/>