



## Fact Sheet

### The US 24 West: Manitou Springs to Interstate 25 EA Project

The project is an Environmental Assessment (EA) of the US 24 Corridor from Manitou Springs to Interstate 25. The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), on behalf of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the lead federal agency, asks for the assistance and opinions of other state and federal agencies; the general public and local governments to participate in the project throughout its development.

An EA is a comprehensive study that evaluates potential impacts, both positive and negative, of alternative actions under consideration. The EA will help agency officials decide which project alternative to approve based on the environmental consequences of each alternative developed.

The information and opinions, along with technical data relating to the use and functions of the US 24 highway, are used to prepare a problem statement called the Purpose and Need, which steers the work for the remainder of the project. Once the Purpose and Need is developed and reviewed by the public, FHWA and CDOT, the team sets out to solve the problems by developing alternatives. These alternatives are evaluated against their ability to solve the problems or to meet the project Purpose and Need.

Since specific improvements have not been identified for US 24, and the project's Purpose and Need is still to be determined, the team is looking at completing an EA to ascertain if the impacts of improving US 24 are significant or not. The EA will describe the existing environment, identify environmental consequences of alternative actions, and recommend mitigation strategies to avoid, minimize and compensate for those consequences.

The EA is completed when CDOT publishes a decision document. If the proposed action will not cause significant impacts after implementing mitigation measures, a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) is issued. If the EA indicates significant impacts that cannot be mitigated will occur from the proposed action, the decision document will recommend preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

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