

Glossary

Glossary and List of Acronyms

AASHTO

American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials

Action Alternative

The project alternative(s) that represents the proposed improvements

ACP

CDOT's *US 34 Access Control Plan Final Report*, May 2003

ADT

Average daily traffic – the average two-way traffic (number of vehicles) on a given highway over a 24-hour period.

Alternatives Analysis

The process by which alternatives identified in the scoping process are screened to determine how well each meets the project purpose and need. Alternatives that qualify after screening are included in the environmental assessment for further analysis and ultimately for the identification of the proposed alternative.

AMI

Area median income

APCD

Air Pollution Control Division of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE)

APE

Area of potential effect – the geographic area or areas within which an undertaking may directly or indirectly cause alterations in the character or use of historic properties, if any such properties exist.

ASTM

American Society for Testing and Materials

ATR

Automatic traffic recorders

BMP

Best Management Practice – common sense actions, schedules of activities, prohibitions, and practices applicable to a variety of resources. For example, for water quality issues, BMPs are used to control erosion and sedimentation and minimize pollution of stormwater runoff and receiving waters both during and after construction.

BNSF RR

Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad

Capacity

The maximum rate of traffic flow at which vehicles can traverse a point of highway in 1 hour.

CDOT

Colorado Department of Transportation

CDPHE

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

CDPS

Colorado Discharge Permit System

CEQ

Council on Environmental Quality – established by the US Congress within the Executive Office of the President as part of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. Additional responsibilities were provided by the Environmental Quality Improvement Act of 1970.

CFR

Code of Federal Regulations

CO

Carbon monoxide

CO₂

Carbon dioxide

COGCC

Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission

COGIS

Colorado Oil and Gas Information System

Colorado State Highway Access Code

The purpose of the Code is to provide procedures and standards to aid in the management of the investment in the state highway system and to protect the public health, safety and welfare, to maintain smooth traffic flow, to maintain highway right-of-way drainage, and to protect the functional level of state highways while considering state, regional, and local transportation needs and interests.

COLT

City of Loveland Transit

COP

CDOT's *US 34 Corridor Optimization Plan Final Report*, March 2003

CSS

Context sensitive solutions – originally called context sensitive design (CSD), the practice has evolved into context sensitive solutions (CSS) to represent the multidimensional nature of the process, particularly the leading role of the public and other stakeholders in defining needs and crafting answers.

CSS, a collaborative, interdisciplinary approach, involves all stakeholders in developing a transportation facility that fits its physical setting and preserves scenic, aesthetic, historic, and environmental resources, while maintaining mobility and safety. CSS is an approach that considers the total context within which a transportation improvement project exists.

CWA

Clean Water Act – the Federal Water Pollution Control Act enacted in 1972 by Public Law 92-500 and amended by the Water Quality Act of 1987, which prohibits the discharge of pollutants to waters of the US without a National Pollutant Discharge and Elimination System permit. Section 404 of the CWA addresses protection of wetlands and aquatic habitats from dredge and fill activities.

dB

Decibel – the unit used to measure the intensity of a sound.

dB(A)

A-weighted decibel – the unit used to measure “weighted” sound levels. Noise levels are generally weighted to reflect the fact that the human ear responds differently to sounds of various levels and frequencies.

DMNS

Denver Museum of Nature and Science

DMS

Dynamic message sign

DOLA

Department of Local Affairs

DOT

Department of Transportation

EA

Environmental assessment – a document prepared by a federal agency under National Environmental Policy Act regulations to provide sufficient evidence and analysis of a proposed project or action to determine whether to prepare an environmental impact statement or a finding of no significant impact.

EAC

Early Action Compact

EB

Eastbound

EIS

Environmental impact statement

Endangered Species Act.

Legislation passed by Congress in 1973 to protect listed plant and animal species and their habitats from harm.

EO

Executive Order

EOS

Environmental Overview Study

EPA

US Environmental Protection Agency – the US agency responsible for controlling air pollution, water pollution, noise, radiation hazards, pesticide hazards, solid waste disposal, and other potential risks to the natural environment.

ESA

Environmental site assessment – a study used to determine whether any hazardous substances are present on a property.

Expressway

A multilane, divided highway designed to move large volumes of traffic at high speeds under free-flow conditions with full control of access.

FHWA

Federal Highway Administration

Floodplain

An area adjacent to a stream or lake that is inundated periodically by high flows.

FONSI

Finding of No Significant Impact – a decision rendered as the result of an environmental assessment indicating that a proposed action has no significant environmental impacts that cannot be appropriately mitigated.

FPPA

Farmland Protection Policy Act – enacted in 1981 to minimize the extent to which federally funded projects contribute to the unnecessary and irreversible conversion of farmland to nonagricultural uses.

GMA

Growth Management Area

Habitat

The environment in which an organism lives; the arrangement of food, water, cover, climate, and space suitable to meet the needs of an animal or a plant.

Hazardous Materials

Materials that pose a risk to human health or the environment.

HOV

High occupancy vehicle

HUD

US Department of Housing and Urban Development

IGA	Intergovernmental agreement	structural controls, new development and redevelopment planning program, industrial facilities program, construction sites program, and control of facility runoff program.
ITS	Intelligent transportation systems	
LCR	Larimer County Road	MSATs Mobile source air toxics
LOS	Level of service – a qualitative measure of the operational characteristics of a traffic stream, ranked from A (best) to F (worst). LOS is described in terms of speed, travel time, freedom to maneuver, traffic interruptions, comfort, convenience, and safety.	NAAQS National Ambient Air Quality Standards
LUST	Leaking underground storage tank	NAC Noise abatement criteria
MBTA	Migratory Bird Treaty Act	NB Northbound
MESA	Modified environmental site assessment – a less intensive ESA that generally includes a site visit, database review and a review of one key historical source.	NCEDC Northern Colorado Economic Development Corporation
Mobility	The ability of traffic to move unimpeded through a highway or highway corridor.	NEPA National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 – establishes policy, sets goals, and provides a means for protecting the environment in federal decision-making. Under NEPA, all federal agencies must consider the environmental impacts of any proposed action that includes federal money or affects federal land and public input in relevant decisions. The Council on Environmental Quality regulations for implementing NEPA are found in 43 CFR 1500–1508.
MP	Milepost	NFR North Front Range
MPO	Metropolitan Planning Organization	NFR MPO North Front Range Metropolitan Planning Organization
MS4	Stormwater program for municipal separate storm sewer systems. MS4 permits generally include stormwater management program requirements such as maintenance of	NFRT & AQPC North Front Range Transportation and Air Quality Planning Council

NHPA

National Historic Preservation Act

oilseed crops as identified in the Farmland Protection Policy Act of 1981.

No Action Alternative

The project alternative that represents projected conditions in a study area without improvement; serves as a baseline for comparing action alternatives.

Project Corridor

In this document, the project corridor includes the US 34 highway and associated right-of-way only.

NPDES

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System

Project Termini

In this document, the project termini are US 287 on the west and LCR 3 on the east.

NRHP

National Register of Historic Places

Purpose and Need

The underlying reason for conducting environmental studies and analysis; the purpose and need to which the agency is responding by proposing alternative solutions.

OAHP

Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

REA

Rural Electric Association

PCB

Polychlorinated biphenyl

Receptor

A term used in noise analysis to refer to a site or location potentially subject to noise impacts. A noise receptor can represent a single building, multiple structures, or an area.

PEM

Palustrine persistent emergent

PIP

Public involvement program

PM_{2.5}

Particulate matter of 2.5 microns or less

PM₁₀

Particulate matter of 10 microns or less

Regionally Significant Corridor

Defined by the North Front Range Metropolitan Planning Organization as "an important link in a multi-modal, regional network comprised of existing or new transportation corridors that connect communities and/or activity centers by facilitating the timely and safe movement of people, goods, information and services."

Preferred Alternative

The alternative identified by means of the environmental assessment process as the action recommended to meet the purpose and need of a project.

Right-of-Way

A general term denoting land, property, or interest in same; usually a strip acquired for or devoted to transportation purposes.

Prime Farmland

Soil units with the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics to produce feed, food, forage, fiber, and

SAFETEA-LU

Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users, which was signed into law on August 10, 2005. SAFETEA-LU replaced the Transportation Equity Act for the Twenty-First Century (TEA-21). With guaranteed funding for highways, highway safety, and public transportation totaling \$244.1 billion, SAFETEA-LU represents the largest surface transportation investment in US history.

SB

Southbound

Scoping

An open public process initiated at the beginning of an environmental assessment to help identify the relevant agencies' and public's concerns and recommended solutions.

Screening (Alternatives Analysis)

A systematic process in which a broad range of alternatives is narrowed down to those that best meet the goals of a project based on the project's purpose and need, and on key issues and concerns related to the study area. Alternatives that pass through the screening process are taken through environmental assessment to identify a preferred alternative.

Section 4(f)

Properties that are defined under Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act of 1966 (49 USC 303). DOT regulations explicitly state that the Secretary of Transportation cannot approve the acquisition of publicly owned land from a park, recreation area, or wildlife refuge, or land from a national, state, or local historic site unless no feasible and prudent alternative exists.

These properties are commonly referred to as 4(f) properties.

Section 6(f)

Properties that are defined under Section 6(f)(3) of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act signed into law on September 3, 1964. These properties consist of publicly owned land, including parks and recreation areas purchased or improved with monies from the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and are intended to remain in use for public recreation in perpetuity.

SH

State Highway

SHPO

State Historic Preservation Officer

SIMTRAFFIC

A type of traffic analysis software.

SMARTTrips™

The carpooling and vanpooling program that is a division of the North Front Range Transportation and Air Quality Planning Council.

Study Area

In this document, an area wider than the corridor and associated with a particular resource. The study area varies with the resource being analyzed.

SWMP

Stormwater management plan

Synchro/Sim Traffic

Traffic analysis software for modeling, optimizing, managing, and simulating traffic systems

TAZ

Traffic analysis zone

TES

Threatened and endangered species – a classification of plant and animal species listed in the Endangered Species Act. Endangered species are in danger of becoming extinct; threatened species are in danger of being listed as endangered.

TIP

Transportation Improvement Program – a prioritized program of transportation projects to be implemented in appropriate stages over 3 to 5 years as set forth in Department of Transportation joint regulations for transportation programming. The projects are recommended from those in the transportation systems management element and the long-range element of the planning process. Participation in this program is required as a condition for a locality to receive federal transit and highway grants.

TNM

Traffic Noise Model

UCM

University of Colorado Museum

UPRR

Union Pacific Railroad

USFWS

United States Fish and Wildlife Service

VMT

Vehicle miles traveled

WB

Westbound

WCR

Weld County Road

Wetland

An area sufficiently inundated by surface water or groundwater to support a predominance of vegetation adapted for life in saturated soil conditions (bogs, ponds, estuaries, and marshes).

WHI

Weighted hazard index – a statistic computed by considering accident frequency, accident severities (injuries and fatalities), traffic volume within a section, length of the section, and a comparison with the accident history of similar highways. Positive WHI values indicate highway sections that have an accident frequency/severity history higher than the statewide average. Negative WHI values indicate highway sections that have frequency/severity history lower than the statewide average

WQCC

Water Quality Control Commission

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