

Colorado Historic Highway Inventory - Historical Summary and Evaluation of Significance

Highway Name: State Highway (SH) 157

CDOT Route Nos. and Milepost (MP) Limits:

<i>CDOT Route</i>	<i>Route Description</i>
157A	From SH 36-B in Boulder north to SH 119-B north to Boulder

Highway Location:

Counties: Boulder
Length (Miles): 4.824

OAHP Site Numbers (for previously recorded segments, if applicable)*:

<i>OAHP Site No.</i>	<i>Assessment</i>	<i>Assessment Date</i>	<i>Site Name</i>
None	No previously recorded segments are found on or adjacent to this highway		

Discussion of Site Forms (for previously recorded segments, if applicable):

No Colorado Cultural Resources Inventory forms for previously recorded segments of this highway were identified in Compass.

Historic Districts located within 250 feet of highway (OAHP Site Number and Name)*:

<i>OAHP Site No.</i>	<i>District Name</i>	<i>Assessment (If Applicable)</i>
None	No historic districts are found on or adjacent to this highway	

**Information based on data from Compass provided by OAHP*

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Historical Data:

SH 157 extends for 4.824 miles, connecting to SH 119 (Diagonal Highway) on the north, leading to the Longmont area; and connecting to U.S. Highway (US) 36 on the south to Denver. It is known locally as the Foothills Parkway.

SH 157 was first projected to be built by the Colorado Department of Transportation in 1971, but the first phase from US 36 north to Baseline was not complete until 1975. The segment from Baseline to SH 7 was complete by 1980. The segment from SH 7 to Pearl Street was complete by 1984 and to Valmont by 1988. The final segment to SH 119 was complete in 1989 (Salek).

There have been changes to the highway with a recent addition of a third lane, adding more bicycle access, and reducing the size of the median of the highway. SH 157 provides a north-south transportation corridor and access for the suburban neighborhoods on the eastern edge of the city Boulder.

A review of sources did not reveal that this route represents important road engineering achievement, or that it served to provide an important connection to markets or facilitated development related to the growth of the northwestern Denver metropolitan area. It is a limited access, multiple lane, divided highway/freeway connecting Highway 119 and Boulder and US 36 to Denver. Freeways are one of the property subtypes identified in the Colorado State Roads and Highways MPS; however, this road does not meet the National Register Criteria for Evaluation because it is less than 50 years in age and does not possess exceptional importance under Criterion Consideration G (Autobee and Dobson-Brown 2003: F10-11).

(Unless otherwise indicated, sources used in the preparation of this section included state highway maps, the Highways of Colorado by Matthew Salek, Highways to the Sky: A Context and History of Colorado's Highway System, Colorado State Roads and Highways, National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Submission, plans in the Online Transportation Information System (OTIS), and site forms for previously surveyed resources in Compass when available.)

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Not Significant - No historical significance identified
 Significant - Historical significance identified (see details below)

Property Type and Areas of Significance:

A detailed explanation why this highway possesses historical significance is provided in the Significance Statement below.

Cultural:

Criterion A specific requirements

- Early and/or prominent project of the Colorado Highway Department (Transportation)
- Association with a significant event (If applicable, the Area of Significance is indicated in the statement of significance below)
- Association with federal work relief programs (Politics/Government)

Criterion C specific requirements

- Representative example (Transportation)

Engineering:

Subtypes

- Farm-to-Market Road
- Limited Access, Multiple-Lane, Divided Highway/Freeway
- Highway Bypass

Criterion A specific requirements

- Early and/or prominent project of the Colorado Highway Department (Transportation)
- Association with a significant event (If applicable, the Area of Significance is indicated in the statement of significance below)
- Association with federal work relief programs (Politics/Government)

Criterion C specific requirements

- Representative example (Transportation)
- Engineering achievement (Engineering)

Aesthetic:

Criterion A specific requirements

- Early and/or prominent project of the Colorado Highway Department (Transportation)
- Association with a significant event (If applicable, the Area of Significance is indicated in the statement of significance below)
- Association with federal work relief programs (Politics/Government)

Criterion C specific requirements

- Representative example (Transportation)
- Engineering achievement (Engineering)
- Landscape architecture (Landscape Architecture)

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Historic periods of highway construction:

- Pre-territorial (pre-1861)
- Territorial and pre-automobile state roads (1861-1890)
- Automobile age (1890-1930)
- Depression and World War II (1930-1945)
- Postwar Interstate Era (1945-1973)
- Completion and Augmentation of Interstate System (1973-2000)

Level of Significance:

- Local
- State
- National

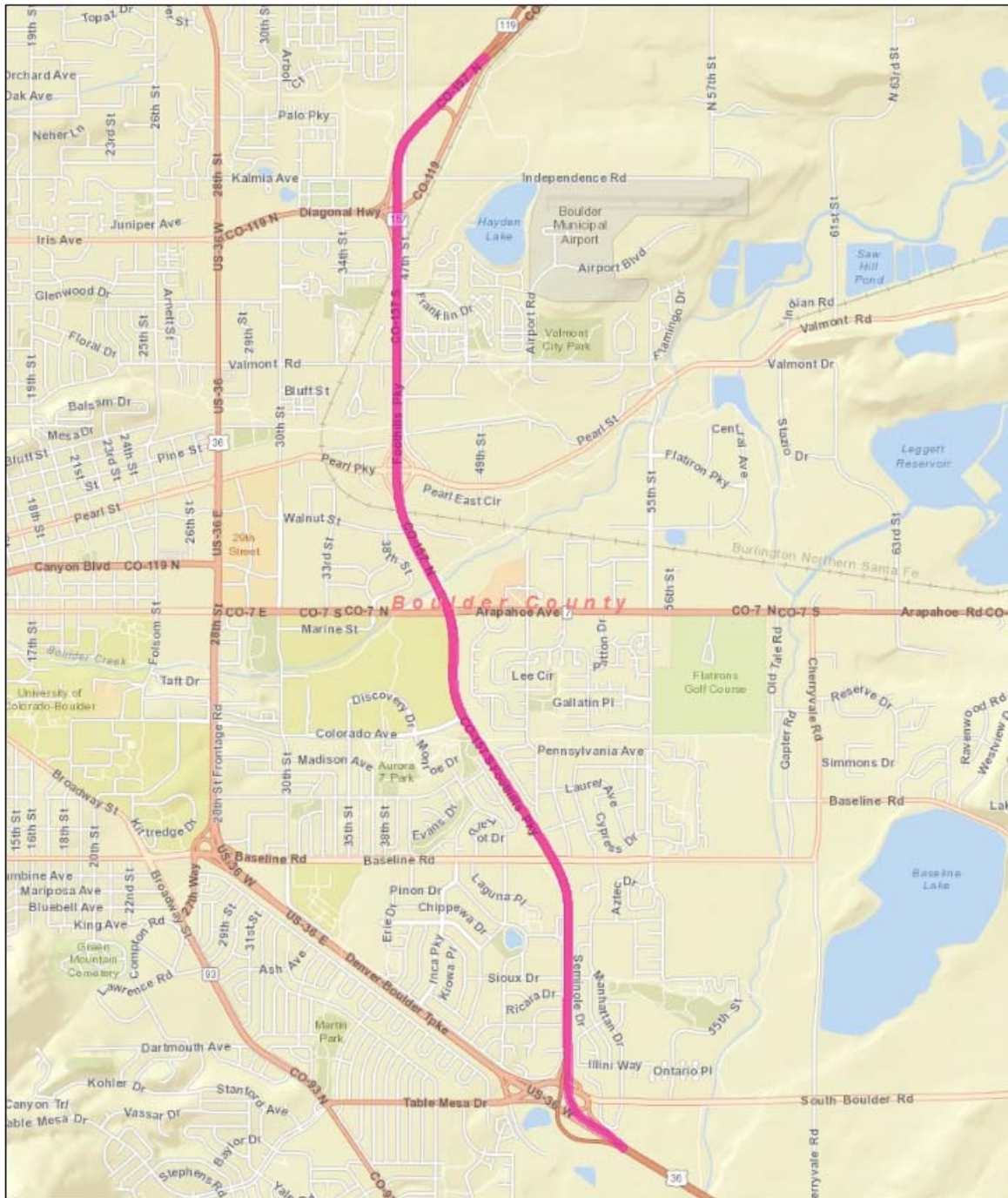
Significance Statement:

SH 157 is classified as an Engineered Route under the classification system in the MPS.

As an Engineered Route, SH 157 does not possess significance under Criterion A. Research failed to indicate this highway has a direct association with a historical theme important in Colorado history, or that it represents an early or prominent road construction project of the Colorado Highway Department. Construction of the highway extended from 1971-1989; as such, it is not yet 50 years in age and is not considered to be of exceptional importance to qualify under Criteria Consideration G. This highway does not possess significance under Criterion A, B, C or D.

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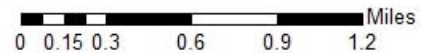
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- SH 157
- County Boundary



SH 157



Map indicates the extent of the highway based on CDOT GIS data; portions co-signed with other highways may not be indicated.

*Information based on data from Compass provided by OAHF