

Colorado Historic Highway Inventory - Historical Summary and Evaluation of Significance

Highway Name: State Highway (SH) 95

CDOT Route Nos. and Milepost (MP) Limits:

<i>CDOT Route</i>	<i>Route Description</i>
095A	From the Frontage Road at (Sheridan Blvd) south of SH 285-D north via Sheridan Blvd To SH 36-B in westminster

Highway Location:

Counties: Denver, Jefferson
Length (Miles): 14.452

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):

Previously recorded historic districts along Sheridan Blvd include the Berkeley Lake Park / Smiley Branch Library Historic District (5DV.5307), which was listed on the National Register of Historic Places (National Register) in 1986; Inspiration Point Park (5DV5322), listed on the National Register in 1986. These parks/districts border SH 95.

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>
5DV.5307	Berkeley Lake Park William H Smiley Branch Library	Listed on National Register
5DV.5322	Inspiration Point Historic District	Listed on National Register

*Information based on data from Compass provided by OAHP

Colorado Historic Highway Inventory - Historical Summary and Evaluation of Significance

Highway Name: State Highway (SH) 95

Historical Data:

SH 95, or Sheridan Blvd between the Boulder Turnpike on the north end and Hampden on the south end, is a 14.38 mile long major north-south thoroughfare in the west Metro Denver area. It runs along Denver, Jefferson, and Adams counties, and for much of its length is the western border between the City of Denver and the cities of Lakewood, Edgewater, Mountain View, Lakeside, Wheat Ridge, Arvada, and Westminster.

SH 95 is an original 1920s state highway, and Salek notes that the south end has terminated at Hampden/U.S. Highway (US) 285 since its designation (2015). The north end has extended over time, from 44th Avenue to 80th Avenue in 1954 and then to US 36 in 1974. Sheridan Boulevard between 52nd Avenue and Alameda Avenue has been the west boundary of the City of Denver since very early in the city's history, and is shown as the county line road as early on the 1889 Rollandet's Map of Denver (Rollandet 1889). Although two important early 20th century parks that are identified with the City Beautiful phase of Denver's development, Sloan's Lake and Berkeley Lake, sit along Sheridan Boulevard, the street was not chosen to be designated as a City Beautiful parkway (Noel and Norgren, 1987:16-17). Rather, it continued to serve as the border of Denver and the county line for Denver County and Jefferson and Adams counties.

As Denver's western streetcar suburbs grew, from the 1880s through the 1920s, residential development increased in the neighborhoods along Sheridan, it became a major north-south thoroughfare for the west Denver area. As suburbanization intensified in the post-World War II period, Sheridan became a traffic artery connecting suburbs like Arvada, Westminster, and Wheat Ridge with the freeways and thoroughfares that led to Denver's urban center. These include I-70, the 6th Avenue Freeway, West Colfax, Alameda Avenue, and US 285 (Hampden Avenue). As it has historically, the route runs straight north-south, with a diagonal jog to the west as it reaches its northern terminus at US 36.

SH 95 was an early important traffic artery to that facilitated development related to suburbanization of Denver from the 1920s and the post-World War II development of the northern suburbs.

Unless otherwise indicated, sources used in the preparation of this section included state highway maps, the Highways of Colorado, 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.

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

Colorado Historic Highway Inventory - Historical Summary and Evaluation of Significance

Highway Name: State Highway (SH) 95

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)

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

Colorado Historic Highway Inventory - Historical Summary and Evaluation of Significance

Highway Name: State Highway (SH) 95

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:

State Highway 95 is classified as an Engineered Route under the classification system in the MPS.

Criterion A

State Highway 95 is an Engineered Route and possesses significance under Criterion A. The route is an early project of the Colorado Highway Department (CHD) and provided important early connectivity to the suburbs of Denver during the 1920s and later post World War II development of the northern suburbs. As such, the highway possesses significance under Criterion A in the area of Transportation and Community Planning and Development at the local level.

Criterion B

Research did not reveal this highway to be directly associated with the events or work of a person important in history, nor does research indicate the highway represents the efforts of a specific individual to secure construction of this highway for the economic development of a community or area of the state. Therefore, this highway does not possess significance under Criterion B.

Criterion C

State Highway 95 is not considered to be an early or prominent project of the CHD. Research and literature review yielded no evidence to indicate the use of innovative or important engineering design or construction techniques that serve to distinguish this highway from other roads and does not appear to exhibit important engineering innovations or important later modifications. The highway's design and construction appear to fall within the established standard practices of state highway design and construction of the time and SH 95 does not possess significance under Criterion C.

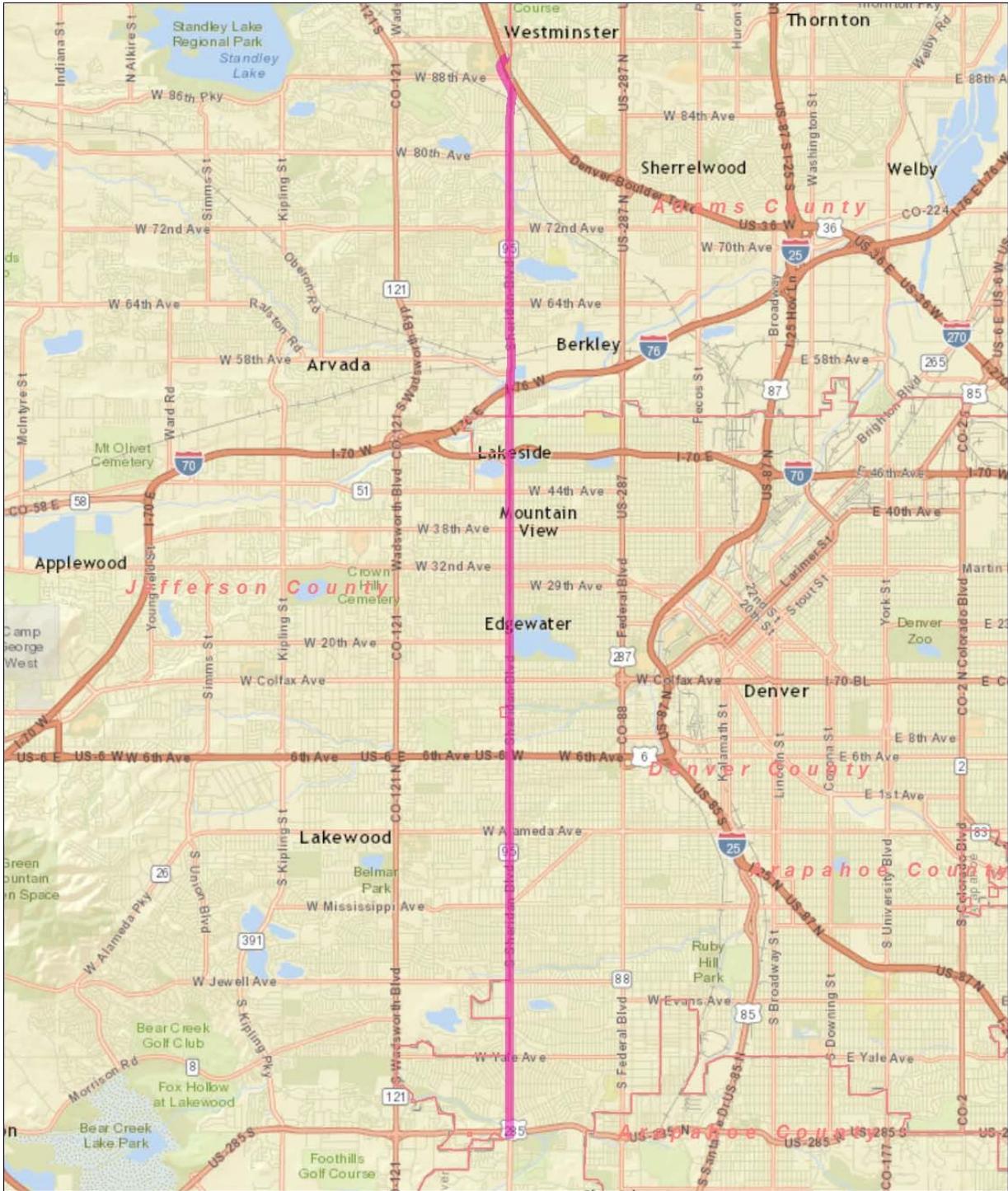
Criterion D

For a property to possess significance for information potential, the information yielded by the property must answer specific important research questions that cannot be otherwise answered. The technology of highway construction is well understood and documented. As such, this highway is unlikely to yield important information that cannot be discerned from archived plans and other records. Therefore, this highway does not possess significance under Criterion D.

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

Colorado Historic Highway Inventory - Historical Summary and Evaluation of Significance

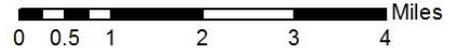
Highway Name: State Highway (SH) 95



Service Layer Credits: Sources: Esri, HERE, DeLorme, USGS, Intermap, increment P Corp., NRCAN, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri (Thailand), TomTom, MapmyIndia, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User



- SH 95
- County Boundary



SH 95



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