



US 6 and Wadsworth Boulevard Environmental Assessment

**Public Hearing
July 22, 2009**





Welcome

The mission of the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) is to provide the best multi modal transportation system for Colorado that most effectively moves people, goods, and information.





Presentation Outline

- **Project Background**
- **National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Process and Schedule**
- **CDOT's Proposed Action (Build Alternative)**
- **Environmental Resources, Impacts, and Mitigation**
- **Next Steps**





Project Background





Project Participants

Sponsoring Agencies



Colorado Department of Transportation



Federal Highway Administration

Cooperating Agency



Partnering Agency



City of Lakewood

Consultant Team





Project Purpose

Improve safety and operational efficiency, meet current and future traffic demands, and support multi-modal connections at the US 6 and Wadsworth interchange and along Wadsworth between 4th and 14th Avenues.





National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Process and Schedule



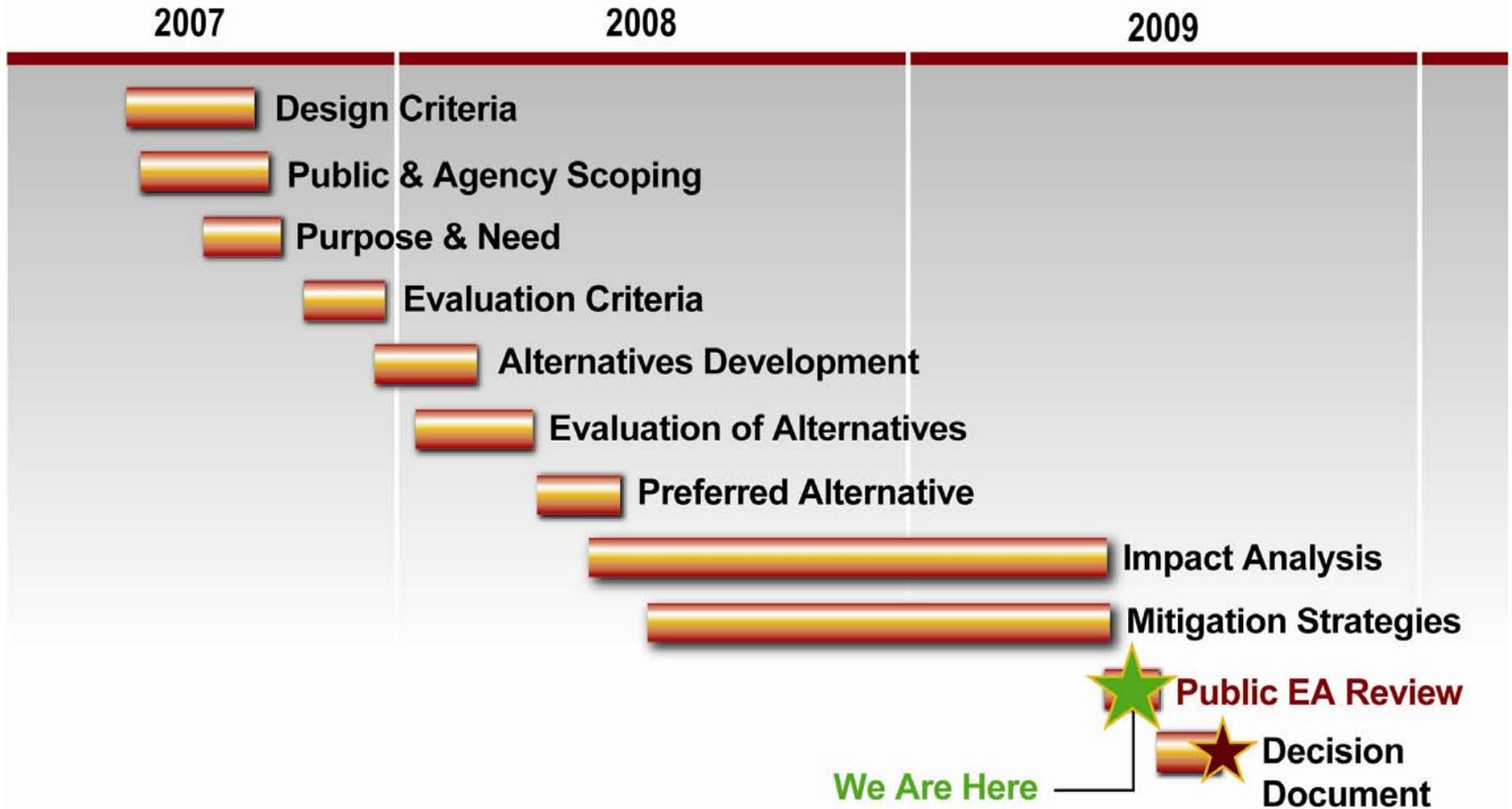
Essential Elements of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

- Scoping
- Purpose and Need
- Alternatives Analysis
- Identify Impacts
- Determine Mitigation
- **Document Findings**
- Make Decision – End of Study





Study Schedule



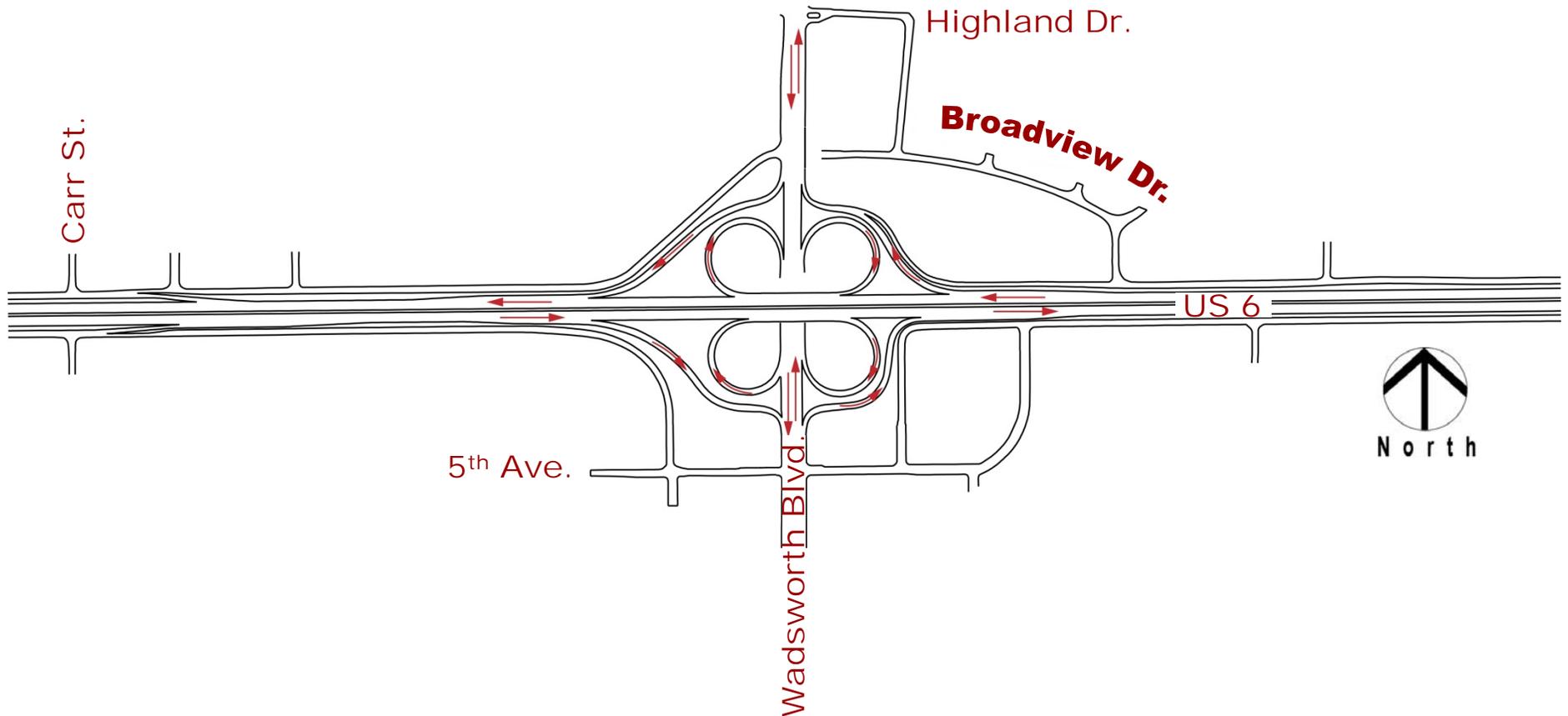


CDOT's Proposed Action (Build Alternative)



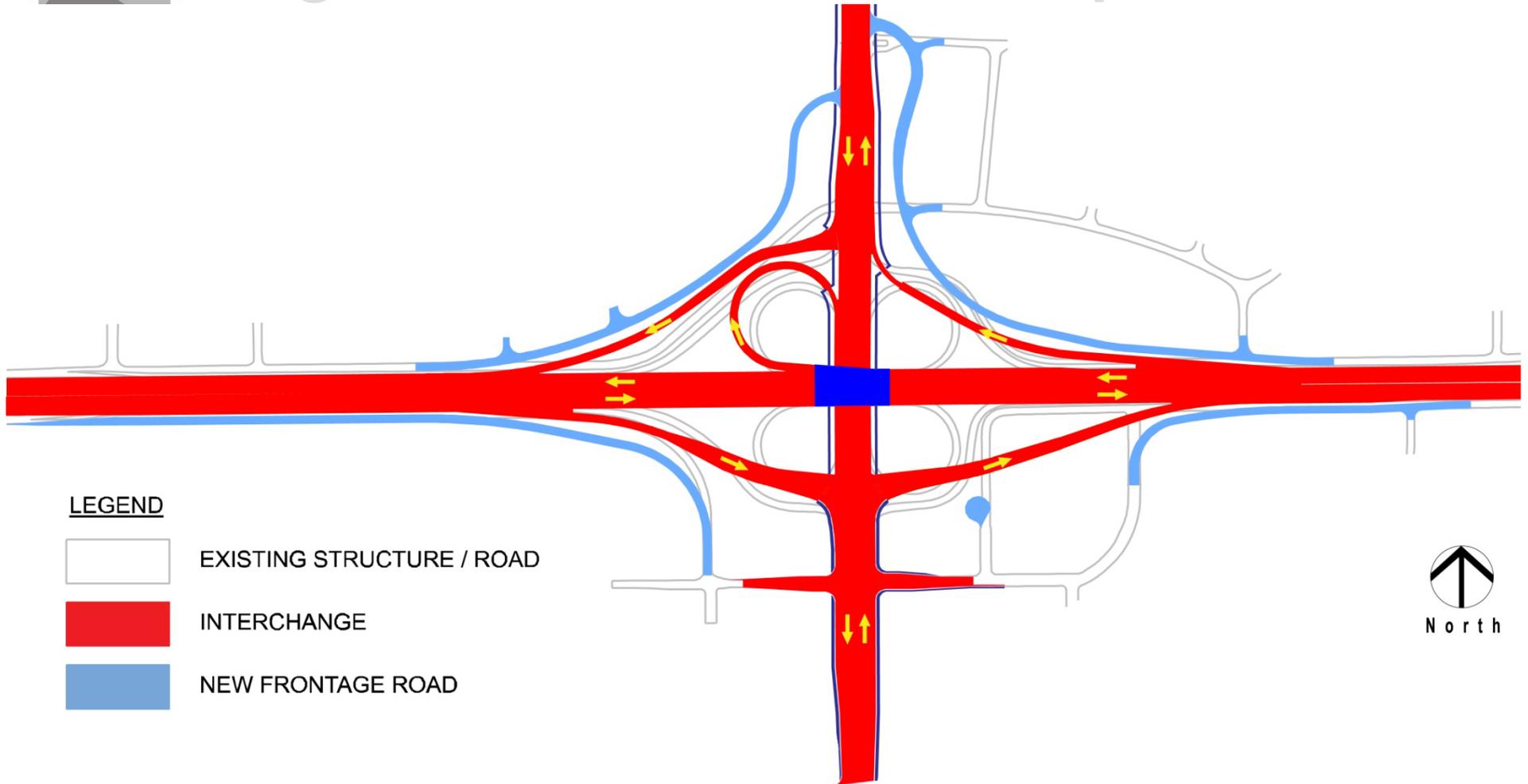


Existing Interchange



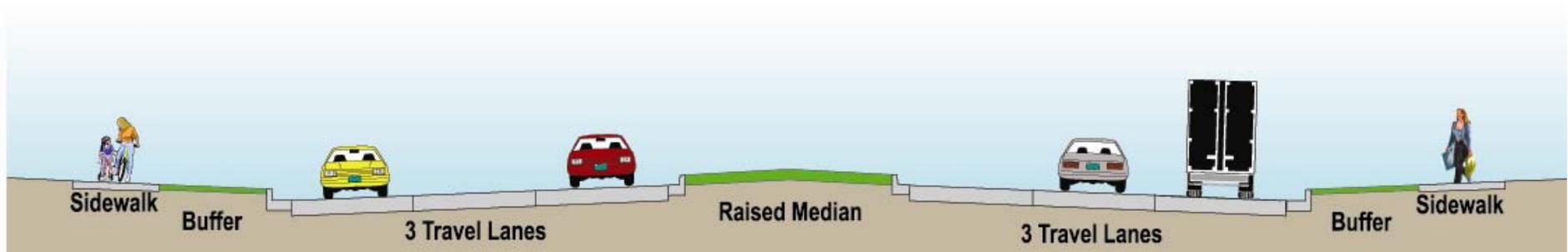


Tight Diamond with Loop



Wadsworth Boulevard

- **Six through travel lanes from 4th to 14th Avenues**
 - Three northbound
 - Three southbound
- **Raised median**
- **Detached sidewalk**





Transportation Improvements

- **Reduced congestion**

- Significant congestion reduction on Wadsworth
- Interchange expected to improve recognized “choke point” on US 6 traffic flow

- **Improved safety and driver comfort**

- Access management on Wadsworth
- No weaving conflicts; longer on and off ramps at interchange





Transportation Improvements (cont'd)

- **Improved bicycle and pedestrian safety and mobility**
 - Sidewalks along Wadsworth and through interchange area
- **Improved frontage road system**
 - Reduces neighborhood cut-through traffic
- **Improved transit connections and operations**





Environmental Resources and Impacts





Environmental Resources Analyzed in Detail in the EA Document

- **Transportation**
- **Pedestrians and Bicyclists**
- **Noise**
- **Relocations/Right-of-Way**
- **Socioeconomics**
- **Environmental Justice
(Minority and Low-Income
Populations)**
- **Land Use**
- **Historic Properties**
- **Hazardous Materials**
- **Floodplains**
- **Water Quality / Water
Resources**
- **Wetlands**

Most effects of the Build Alternative would be beneficial, especially after consideration of mitigation measures.



Noise

- **Severe existing and projected future noise levels (75+ decibels)**
 - Existing noise levels measured
 - FHWA's Traffic Noise Model (TNM) used to predict future noise levels with and without the project
- **Noise levels warrant mitigation**
- **Variety of measures considered**
- **Noise walls determined to be appropriate control measure**
- **Proposed noise walls will benefit ~380 residences at an estimated cost of \$4.8 million**





Proposed Noise Wall Locations



Noise Wall Aesthetics



Right-of-Way and Relocations

- **Build Alternative would require property acquisition adjacent to US 6 and Wadsworth**

- 96 property owners would be affected
- 14 residences and 28 businesses would be displaced





Right-of-Way and Relocations (cont'd)

- The extent of right-of-way acquisitions is subject to final design
- All acquisitions and relocations will comply fully with the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policy Act of 1970
- Right-of-way acquisition schedule unknown



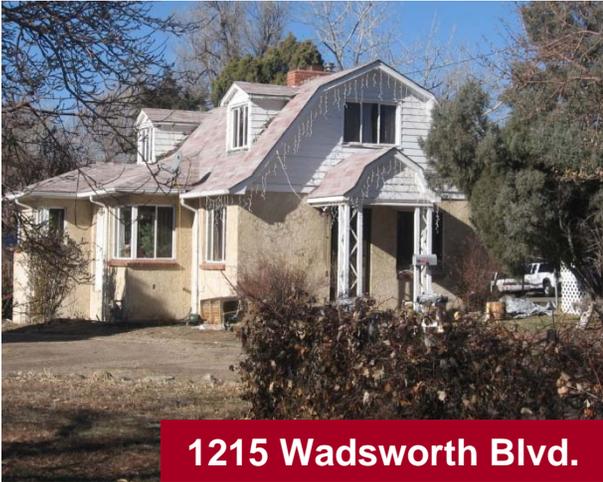
Historic Properties

- **Properties eligible for National Register of Historic Places**
 - Nine commercial and residential properties
- **Three historic districts identified**
 - Jefferson County Open School campus
 - Green Acres neighborhood
 - Meadowlark Hills neighborhood





Historic Properties Include Homes and Businesses



1215 Wadsworth Blvd.



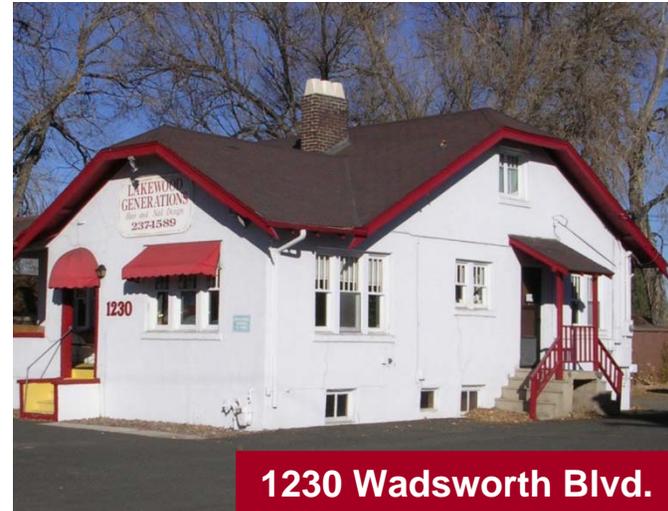
7423 W 6th Ave.



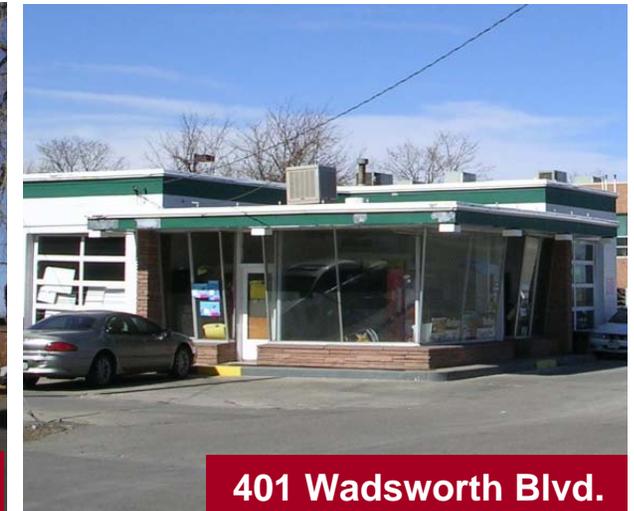
7558 W 9th Ave.



700 Wadsworth Blvd.



1230 Wadsworth Blvd.



401 Wadsworth Blvd.

Historic Districts

Open School District



Meadowlark Hills District



Green Acres District



Effects to Historic Properties

- **Adverse impacts to four historic properties**
 - Four historic homes northeast of interchange would be acquired
- **Significant impacts to other historic properties avoided through design modification**
- **Mitigation of adverse impacts**
 - Memorandum of Agreement with the Colorado State Historic Preservation Office and local historic preservation interests



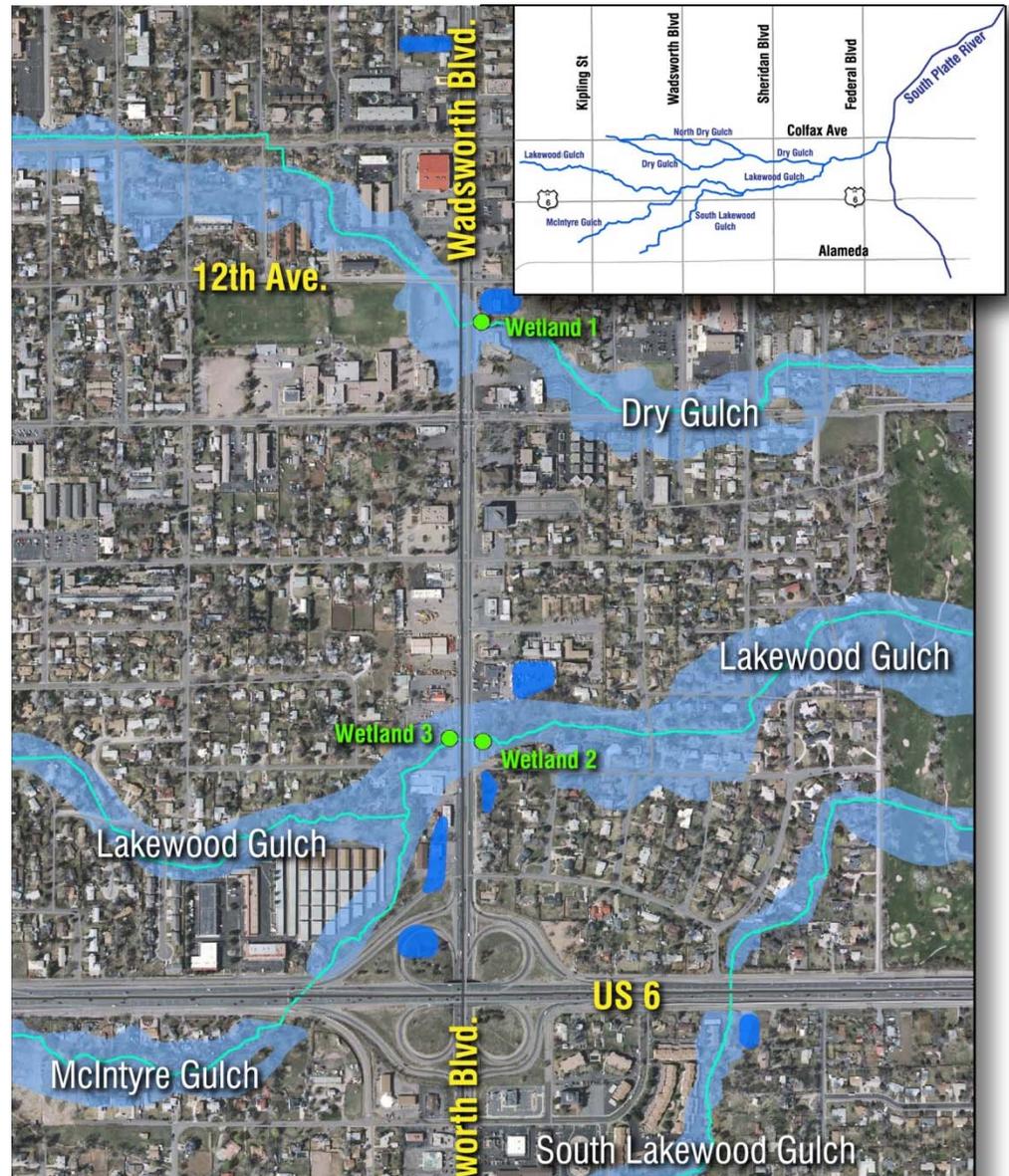
Surface Water and Wetlands



Dry Gulch



Lakewood Gulch





Next Steps





Next Steps

- **Consider public and agency comments**
 - Comment period ends August 26, 2009
- **Environmental Assessment Decision Document (Fall 2009) – End of Study**
- **Final Design, Right-of-Way Acquisition, and Construction**
 - Anticipated costs exceed amount budgeted for the project
 - State and Federal revenues are down
 - Schedules dependent on funding





How to Review & Comment on the EA

- **Many ways to comment**
- **Welcome comments tonight but comment period extends through August 26, 2009**
- **Commenting tonight**
 - Court Reporter in the Open House area
 - Comment Cards
 - Come up to the microphone after the break
- **Other options after tonight's meeting**





Comments and Questions

- **EA and Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation available**
 - At the Reference Station in the Open House area
 - Electronically at www.US6Wadsworth.com
 - Hard copy at 6 locations
- **Submit comments through August 26, 2009**
 - Website www.US6Wadsworth.com
 - Mail to address on comment cards





Providing Comments at the Microphone in the Council Chambers

- **Speaker sign-up at the entrance**
- **Will call speakers in order of sign up**
 - If you no longer wish to speak, let the Speaker Sign Up table know
 - If you haven't signed up, please do so during the break
- **Each speaker will have up to 3 minutes to speak**
- **Provide your name and address**
- **Court reporter will record your comments; comments will also be videotaped**





Contact Information for Viewers at Home

- **Visit the project website**
www.US6Wadsworth.com
- **Contact Colleen Kirby Roberts,**
Public Involvement Manager
(720) 286-0914
Colleen.Roberts@CH2M.com





Thank You for Coming

**We welcome your comments
after a 5 minute break**

