



Summer 2009 Newsletter

US 6/Wadsworth Environmental Assessment Available for Public Review

For the past two years, the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), in partnership with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), has studied changes to the US 6/Wadsworth Boulevard interchange and to Wadsworth Boulevard between 4th and 14th Avenues. The existing design and configuration of the interchange and roadway have not kept pace with traffic and multi-modal travel demands. Changes are needed to improve safety for motorists, pedestrians, and bicyclists; improve operational efficiency of the interchange and on Wadsworth; meet current and future traffic demands; and support multi-modal connections.

In developing its proposal, CDOT has sought input from area businesses and residents through five open houses and participation in numerous neighborhood, business, and civic association meetings over the course of the study. The results of the study are presented in an Environmental Assessment and an associated Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation. The Environmental Assessment documents the study process and potential impacts to resources in the built and natural environments. The Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation documents potential impacts to historic and park resources.

The public hearing will occur on Wednesday, July 22, 2009 from 5:00 P.M. to 7:30 P.M. in the Lakewood City Council Chambers.

CDOT is pleased to invite all members of the public to attend a hearing to provide input on the proposed design and the completed Environmental Assessment and Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation. The meeting will begin with an open house session from 5:00 P.M. until 6:00 P.M. in the foyer of City Council Chambers. An informational presentation will begin at 6:00 P.M. to present the proposed design and results of the environmental analysis. Additionally, information on the remaining steps in the project schedule, including completion of the study and construction, will be discussed.

Project Schedule and Funding

CDOT and FHWA will accept comments on the Environmental Assessment during the 45-day public review period this summer. These comments will be considered when making a decision about the project. FHWA might decide to approve the project as described, modify the project based on community input, reject the project (select the No Build Alternative), or conduct more detailed environmental analysis in an Environmental Impact Statement.

If FHWA decides to approve the proposed project (referred to as the Build Alternative), adequate funding must be identified for final design and construction. The US 6/Wadsworth project is included in the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) Fiscally Constrained 2035 Regional Transportation Plan. Like many projects in the current plan, funding for this project has been subject to declining tax revenue and volatile construction costs. The funds in the current budget forecast are expected to fall short of the full funding required to construct the Build Alternative. Construction is therefore likely to be delayed beyond 2011 and/or implemented in phases as funding becomes available.

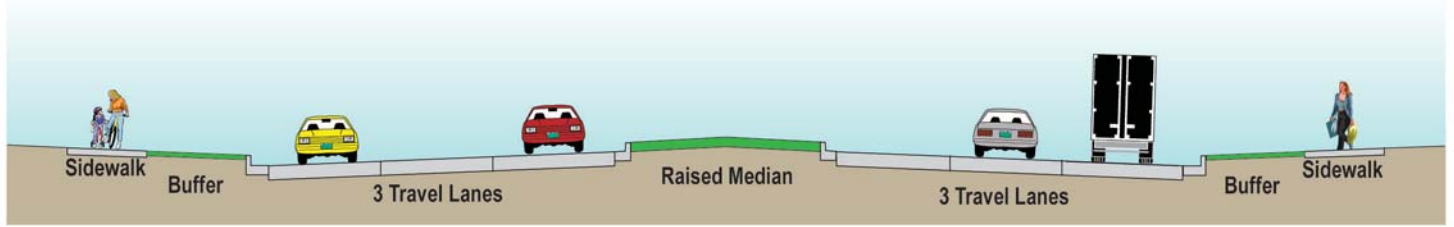
Two recent legislative initiatives, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) and the State of Colorado Funding Advancements for Surface Transportation and Economic Recovery (FASTER) legislation, provide additional transportation funding for Colorado. ARRA is expected to have little impact on the US 6/Wadsworth project, and the impact of the FASTER legislation on the project is unknown at this time. The US 6/Wadsworth improvements remain a high priority for the region and the state, and CDOT and FHWA continue to work to secure full funding. The City of Lakewood also is actively seeking additional local funding opportunities.

What Is CDOT Proposing to Build?

CDOT proposes to rebuild the US 6/Wadsworth interchange as a diamond configuration with one reconstructed loop exit ramp. CDOT proposes to widen Wadsworth Boulevard between 4th and 14th Avenues, providing an additional travel lane in each direction and sidewalks on both sides of the road. The Build Alternative is shown in the pictures below, and additional details are available on the project website, www.US6Wadsworth.com.

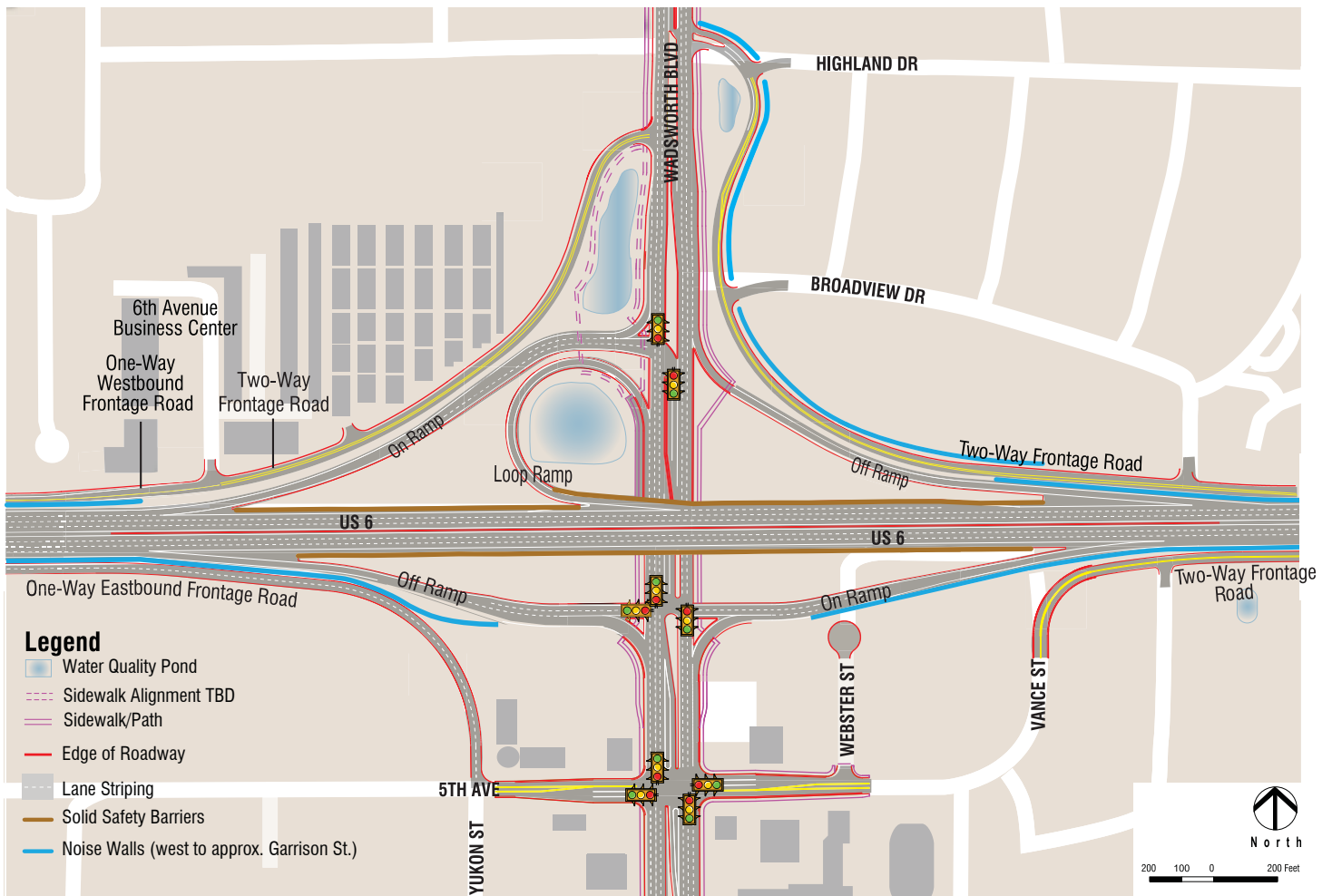
The majority of impacts resulting from the Build Alternative would be beneficial, as documented in the Environmental Assessment. Safety for motorists, pedestrians, and bicyclists would be improved; operational inefficiencies would be corrected; capacity would be increased to meet current and future traffic needs; and multi-modal connections would be enhanced.

Proposed Wadsworth Cross Section



Note: Landscaping in sidewalk buffers and median will be coordinated with Lakewood and included where feasible.

Proposed US 6/Wadsworth Interchange



Ways to Comment on the Environmental Assessment

A 45-day comment period provides the public an opportunity to formally comment on the Environmental Assessment and the Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation. The Environmental Assessment provides information on the purpose of the project; the alternatives considered for the interchange and Wadsworth; the impacts that would likely result from the alternatives; and the coordination that has occurred with members of the public and government agencies. The Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation documents potential impacts to historic resources and the planned Two Creeks Park, which is currently an undeveloped open space along Dry Gulch between 10th and 12th Avenues and between Wadsworth and Vance Street.

CDOT and FHWA welcome comments on all elements of these documents and will consider comments when making a decision about the project. Comments will be accepted verbally at the public hearing and in writing throughout the review period. The dates of the review period will be posted on the project website.

How do I comment on the document?

- 1.) Attend the public hearing on July 22, 2009 and submit a verbal or written comment.
- 2.) Submit a comment through the project website: www.US6Wadsworth.com
- 3.) Mail in a comment to:
Seyed Kalantar, PE - Project Manager
CDOT - Region 6, Central Engineering
425 B Corporate Circle
Golden, Colorado 80401
Tim Eversoll, PE - Project Manager
CH2M HILL
9193 South Jamaica St.
Englewood, Colorado 80112

Where can I review the document?

Electronically at www.us6wadsworth.com.

In hard copy at the following locations:

CDOT Region 6, Central Engineering

425 B Corporate Circle
Golden, CO 80401
(720) 497-6955

CDOT Region 6 Headquarters

2000 S. Holly St.
Denver, CO 80222
(303) 757-9372

Jefferson County Library-Belmar

555 S. Allison Pkwy
Lakewood, CO 80226
(303) 235-5275

FHWA Colorado Division Office

12300 W. Dakota Ave, Suite 180
Lakewood, CO 80228
(720) 963-3000

City of Lakewood City Clerk's Office

480 S. Allison Pkwy
Lakewood, CO 80226
(303) 987-7080

Jefferson County Clerk and Recorder's Office

100 Jefferson County Pkwy
Golden, CO 80401
(303) 271-8186

Schedule of Key Milestones



The project team will complete the following additional steps in order to reach a decision on the project:

- Hold a Public Hearing on the Environmental Assessment and receive public comments (Summer 2009)
- Develop and document a final decision (Fall 2009)

Traducción al español disponible. Si le gustaría obtener una traducción en español de este Boletín de Noticias, por favor llamar a Claudio Vera / 720-937-6323.

Join Us at the Public Hearing

Join us at the US 6/Wadsworth public hearing to provide input on the results of the Environmental Assessment.

Wednesday, July 22, 2009, 5 P.M. to 7:30 P.M.

Lakewood City Council Chambers

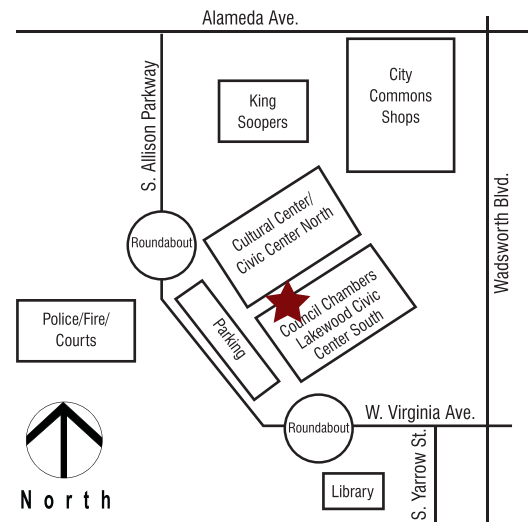
480 South Allison Parkway, Lakewood, Colorado

Open House from 5 to 6 P.M.

Informational presentation at 6 P.M.

Children's activity area available (unsupervised)

Spanish translation will be available



Stay Connected

If you want to learn more about the project or ask questions, please contact us in one of the following ways:

Visit our website: www.US6Wadsworth.com

Email: US6Wadsworth@CH2M.com

Write: US 6 & Wadsworth EA
c/o Colleen Kirby Roberts
1515 Wazee Street, Suite 380
Denver, CO 80202

Call:

Colleen Kirby Roberts – CH2M HILL Public Involvement Manager 720-286-0914

Seyed Kalantar, PE – CDOT Project Manager 720-497-6955

David Singer – CDOT Environmental Manager 303-757-9930

Tim Eversoll, PE – CH2M HILL Project Manager 720-286-5137

Mandy Whorton – CH2M HILL Environmental Manager 720-286-5239

Mindy Crane – CDOT Public/Media Relations Manager 303-757-9469

US 6/Wadsworth EA
Colleen Kirby Roberts
CH2M HILL
1515 Wazee Street, Suite 380
Denver, CO 80202

