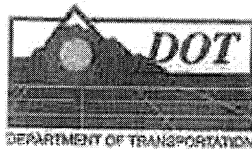


**4TH STREET BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION
WETLAND FINDINGS
FINAL REPORT**

August 2006

Prepared for:



**Colorado Department of Transportation-Region 2
905 Erie Avenue
Pueblo, CO 81002**

Prepared by:



**4601 DTC Boulevard
Suite 700
Denver, CO 80237**

CONTENTS

Section	Page
1.0 OVERVIEW	1-1
2.0 PROJECT LOCATION.....	2-1
3.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION.....	3-1
4.0 PROJECT ALTERNATIVES.....	4-1
5.0 STUDY METHODS.....	5-1
6.0 WETLAND RESOURCES.....	6-1
7.0 PERMANENT AND TEMPORARY IMPACTS	7-1
7.1 PERMITS REQUIRED.....	7-1
7.2 AVOIDANCE, MINIMIZATION, AND BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES	7-1
8.0 WETLAND MITIGATION.....	8-1
9.0 AGENCY COORDINATION	9-1
10.0 WETLAND FINDING.....	10-1

Figures

Figure 1 Project Location Map.....	2-2
Figure 2 Wetland Location Map	6-3

Appendices

Appendix A Site Photographs	
Appendix B Wetland Delineation Data Form	
Appendix C Mitigation Planting List	
Appendix D Wetland Mitigation Site Selection Form	

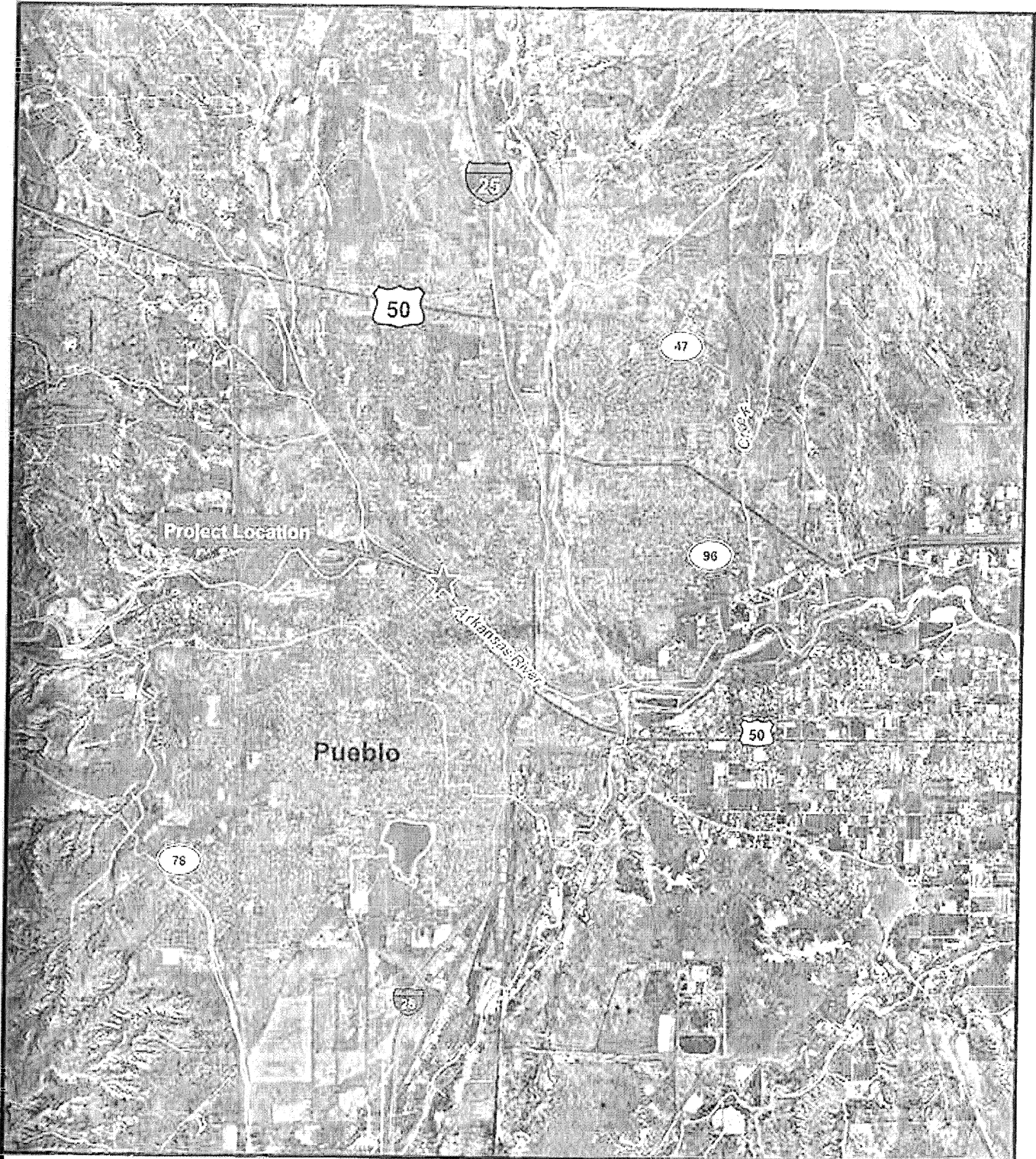
1.0 OVERVIEW

PBS&J has been contracted by the Colorado Department of Transportation – Region 2 (CDOT R2) to conduct a wetlands finding in compliance with Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. This finding was also completed in accordance with Executive Order 11990, “Protection of Wetlands,” 23 CFR 771, 23 CFR 777, and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Technical Advisory T6640.8A.

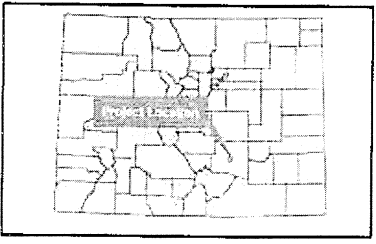
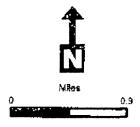
This report discusses the wetlands within and adjacent to the proposed project, avoidance and minimization measures, and wetland impacts (both temporary and permanent) resulting from the proposed construction activity. This report was prepared by a PBS&J wetland scientist who also conducted the delineation.

2.0 PROJECT LOCATION

The project involves constructing a new 4th Street bridge (SH 96A) across the Union Pacific Railroad & Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad yard and Arkansas River in Pueblo County, Colorado. The project is located in township 20 south, range 65 west, and section 36 on the "Northeast Pueblo" United States Geological Survey quadrangle map. The project site coordinates are: longitude 38°16.11' north and latitude 104°37.47' west.



- Interstate
- U.S. Highway
- State Highway
- Rivers & Streams
- City of Pueblo



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Figure 1
 4th Street Bridge
 City Pueblo, Pueblo County
 Location Map

Prepared for:	
Job no.: 246083.04	Scale: 1:12000
Prepared by: PBS&J / jk	Date: Feb 24, 2005
File: Location.mxd	

3.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

CDOT has acknowledged that the existing 4th Street bridge, at the intersection of the Arkansas River and the railroad yard has become functionally obsolete and structurally deficient. There is a need to increase capacity, improve safety, and provide a higher level of service on the 4th Street bridge. Improvements will be made by replacing the bridge and enhancing safety for motorists and pedestrians. Water quality structures will be installed as part of the project to capture runoff from the road and bridge.

4.0 PROJECT ALTERNATIVES

Six conceptual design alternatives were evaluated for the project. Each alternative was evaluated in an objective comparison of the impacts and benefits based on how effectively they meet certain criteria and project goals. The evaluation criteria consisted of construction cost, ease of construction, traffic operations, maintenance/life cycle, railroad considerations, design criteria, environmental issues, aesthetics, flexibility with future needs, and community/agency support. Reasonable alternatives that were evaluated included:

- No action;
- Building a new structure and removing the existing structure;
- Widening the existing structure;
- Building a new four-lane structure and using the existing structure for pedestrian crossing only;
- Rehabilitating the existing bridge for four-lane traffic and building a new pedestrian bridge; and
- Rehabilitating the existing bridge for two-lanes of traffic plus pedestrians (east bound) and building a new two-lane bridge (west bound).

Based on the evaluation of alternatives, building a new structure and removing the existing structure was chosen as the Preferred Alternative. This alternative achieves all of the project goals and is supported by the community and local agencies. Most importantly, it is the only alternative that satisfies CDOT, FHWA, and railroad safety criteria for required clear zones between piers and railroad tracks as well as the purpose and need of the project.

5.0 STUDY METHODS

A pedestrian survey was conducted to identify potential wetlands within and adjacent to the project area. Wetland survey limits for the project extended from approximately 100 feet west of the proposed structure and to approximately 100 feet east of the existing centerline of the 4th Street bridge. As required by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) 1987 *Wetlands Delineation Manual* (the Manual), the project area was evaluated for the presence of hydrophytic vegetation, wetland hydrology, and hydric soils. All wetlands directly adjacent to the proposed project corridor were delineated in the field in accordance with the Manual.

During the field review, the dominant plants were identified and recorded, the area was inspected for indicators of wetland hydrology, and the soils were inspected for hydric conditions. In the event of all three indicators being present, the area was identified as a wetland. The boundaries were delineated and mapped using a Trimble GeoXT hand-held Global Positioning System. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Region 5 National List of Plant Species that Occur in Wetlands (Reed 1988) was used to determine the wetland indicator status of the dominant plant species. Representative wetland areas were recorded on USACE Routine Wetland Delineation forms (see Appendix B).

All wetlands observed were classified based on their habitat type and a wetland function/importance assessment was completed in the field. The methods of Cowardin, et al. (1979) were used to complete the classification and type of habitat as well as the function/importance assessment. The function/importance assessment is a subjective determination based on ten different criteria: floodwater storage/conveyance, maintenance of biodiversity, setting for cultural activities, groundwater recharge/discharge, streambank stabilization, nutrient/contaminant/sediment removal, production export/fisheries nursery, storm surge buffer, small-scale importance of the wetland, and cumulative importance of the wetland. Each criterion is ranked according to high, medium, low, or non-applicable qualities.

6.0 WETLAND RESOURCES

A wetland delineation was conducted by PBS&J field ecologists on December 29, 2005. One wetland (Wetland A) was identified within the project area during the delineation and field assessment (see Figure 2). Representative photographs of the wetland can be found in Appendix A, and USACE Routine Wetland Delineation Data Forms are located in Appendix B.

Wetland A is an emergent wetland, mapped in the field with a GPS handheld unit as 0.54 acre, on the south bank of the Arkansas River within the river's flood plain. As the Arkansas River swells from increased precipitation, the area along the banks becomes inundated. This repeated inundation has created hydric soils. Inundated conditions and hydric soils have provided an environment conducive for the establishment of hydric vegetation. Over time these elements have formed a palustrine emergent wetland that is temporarily flooded throughout the year.

The construction of recreational features along the river banks has disturbed the mapped wetland. The construction of a pedestrian/bicycle path and a kayak park has previously disturbed soils within the project area. In many areas the soil matrix includes rocks and gravel. Vegetation was removed and has not been able to re-establish in some of these areas. In addition, invasive species, such as tall fescue, have proliferated in the area. Despite the conditions in the area, all three criteria for jurisdictional wetlands are met.

Class: Palustrine, emergent, persistent, and temporarily flooded (PEM1A) (Cowardin, et al. 1979)

Dominant Vegetation:

Beaked sedge (*Carex rostrata*, OBL)
Reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*, OBL)
Broadleaf cattail (*Typha latifolia*, OBL)
Softstem bulrush (*Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani*, OBL)
Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*, FACU)
Knapweed (*Centaurea diffusa*, UPL)
Tall fescue (*Lolium arundinaceum*, FACU)
Tall reed (*Phragmites australis*, FACW)

Soils: Clay loam, 0-12 inches. Low chroma colors and faint mottling were also observed in upper 12 inches. Soils have been disturbed due to the construction of recreational facilities (pedestrian/bicycle path and kayak park); coarse gravel, cobbles, and stones were observed at two of four data points.

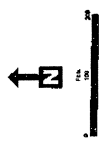
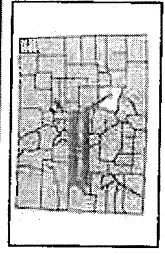
Hydrology: Seasonally or temporarily flooded; source is the Arkansas River. Visibly saturated in the upper 12 inches and oxidized root channels at DP-1.

Function: Flood flow alteration; sediment and shoreline stabilization; sediment, nutrient, toxicant, and pathogen removal; wildlife habitat; and surface flow retention.

Jurisdictional Status: Emergent wetland areas delineated within the project area would be considered jurisdictional due to their connection and adjacency to the Arkansas River, which is a water of the U.S, and would be subject to regulatory oversight, by the USACE. Due to proximity to the Arkansas River, the wetland delineated at the 4th Street bridge project site is considered jurisdictional by the USACE.



4691 17th Blvd, Ste 710
 Denver, CO 80202
 Phone: (303) 221-1774 Fax: (303) 221-7276
Figure 2
4th Street Bridge
 City of Pueblo, Pueblo County
 Wetland Map
 Prepared for:
 Job no.: 246683.04 Scale: 1:12000
 Prepared by: PESS/JJK Date: March 1, 2008
 File: wetlands.mxd



Wetland Impacts
 No Impacts
 Permanent Impact
 Temporary Impact
Alignment
 Alignment

Category	Acres
No Impacts	0.225
Permanent Impact	0.053
Temporary Impact	0.312
Totals	0.590

7.0 PERMANENT AND TEMPORARY IMPACTS

Wetland impacts can be defined as direct or indirect and temporary or permanent. Both direct and indirect impacts can result in the permanent loss of wetlands. Temporary wetland impacts occur from the short-term disturbance necessary for activities such as construction access or replacement of culverts. Following construction activities, temporarily disturbed wetlands can be restored.

Construction of the 4th Street bridge would result in unavoidable impacts to wetland resources because of their proximity to the 4th Street bridge. Impacts to wetlands were avoided to the maximum extent practicable and unavoidable impacts have been minimized and will be mitigated.

The total amount of wetlands that would be adversely impacted during construction of the new 4th Street bridge at the Arkansas River is approximately 0.315 acre. Of this amount, approximately 0.312 acre would be temporary impacts, which would occur to the areas to be utilized as access and work areas for construction of the new structure, destruction of the existing structure, and construction of a drainage channel. Approximately 0.003 acre would be permanently impacted. Permanent impacts are attributed to areas in which two new bridge piers will be placed.

7.1 PERMITS REQUIRED

In consultation with the Corps of Engineers, it has been determined that the work qualifies for the use of a Nationwide Permit (NWP) 23, Approved Categorical Exclusions, and will be utilized for this project.

7.2 AVOIDANCE, MINIMIZATION, AND BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

The Preferred Alternative, which was carried through to final design, avoids and minimizes wetland impacts as follows:

- Construction contractors will utilize the existing pedestrian/bicycle path to transport workers and machinery into and out of the project area.
- A horizontal marker, such as fabric or certified weed-free straw, will be placed over wetlands to delineate the existing elevation of wetlands and to hold temporary fill.

All impacts to wetlands will be minimized through adherence to Best Management Practices (BMPs) during the construction phase of the project. Riparian habitat will be disturbed during construction. The following measures will be employed to minimize adverse impacts:

1. Wetland and riparian areas outside of the authorized construction zones will be fenced off with standard blaze orange construction fencing to prevent incursions and impacts to these areas during roadway and bike path reconstruction.
2. Disturbance to native upland plant communities that border wetland areas will be minimized. A specification for the protection of existing vegetation will be included in the construction plans.
3. Runoff from construction sites will be contained and prevented from entering the Arkansas River, wetlands, and riparian habitat. Erosion control practices (phased seeding, mulch, grading techniques, and temporary stabilization, if needed) shall be emphasized on the project to prevent sediment loss. Sediment controls such as: silt fence, erosion logs, earthen berms, and other devices shall be used to prevent soil from leaving the project site and entering sensitive environments. It should be noted that silt fence may be difficult to use due to the rocky soil.
4. In designated temporary work areas, riparian shrubs (primarily willows) will be trimmed to the ground line (not grubbed) then covered with a geo-textile fabric and a layer of straw. These areas will then be covered with a minimum of 0.61 meter (2-feet) of clean fill. As soon as possible, all temporary fill will be removed to an upland area location. This will protect riparian shrub rootstock and seed banks. If possible, temporary fill of wetlands will occur during periods when plants are dormant or toward the end of the growing season.
5. Temporary impacts to waters of the U.S. and adjacent habitat would be reclaimed with native plants and shrubs.
6. No equipment staging or storage of construction materials will occur within 50 feet of wetlands.
7. Temporary fill material will not be stored within wetlands.
8. All areas of exposed soil will be seeded and/or planted as well as mulched throughout construction (following completion of each section). Mulch and mulch tackifier will be placed for temporary erosion control when seeding and/or planting cannot occur due to seasonal constraints.

8.0 WETLAND MITIGATION

Per NWP 23, wetland mitigation for permanent impacts is not deemed necessary for this project. In compliance with Executive Order 11990, CDOT will mitigate impacts to wetland vegetation with riparian vegetation at a 1:1 ratio. CDOT will plant additional shrubs and grasses to compensate for impacts due to the destruction of the existing bridge. This mitigation would allow the project area plant community to blend with the ongoing riparian vegetation enhancement occurring as part of the Arkansas River Restoration Project in Pueblo. A mixture of native upland, facultative, and wetland grasses including alkali bulrush (*Boboschoenus maritimus*), green needlegrass (*Stipa viridula*), western wheatgrass (*Pascopyrum smithii*), sideoats grama (*Bouteloua curtipendula*), switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*), salt grass (*Distichlis spicata*), galleta (*Hilaria jamesii*), prairie coneflower (*Ratibida pinnata*), and rabbitbrush (*Ericameria nauseosa*) will be planted. These grasses will form rhizomes that will stabilize the river bank. Riparian shrubs and trees, including wood's rose (*Rosa woodsii*), golden currant (*Ribes aureum*), skunkbush sumac (*Rhus trilobata*), American plum (*Prunus americana*), chokecherry (*Prunus virginiana*), four-wing saltbrush (*Atriplex canescens*), plains cottonwood (*Populus sargentii*), and box elder (*Acer negundo*) will be added to enhance the quality of the wetland. A detailed planting list has been developed by PBS&J ecologists, a CDOT landscape architect, and the City and County of Pueblo project manager and is included in Appendix C. A Wetland Mitigation Site Selection Form has been included as Appendix D.

9.0 AGENCY COORDINATION

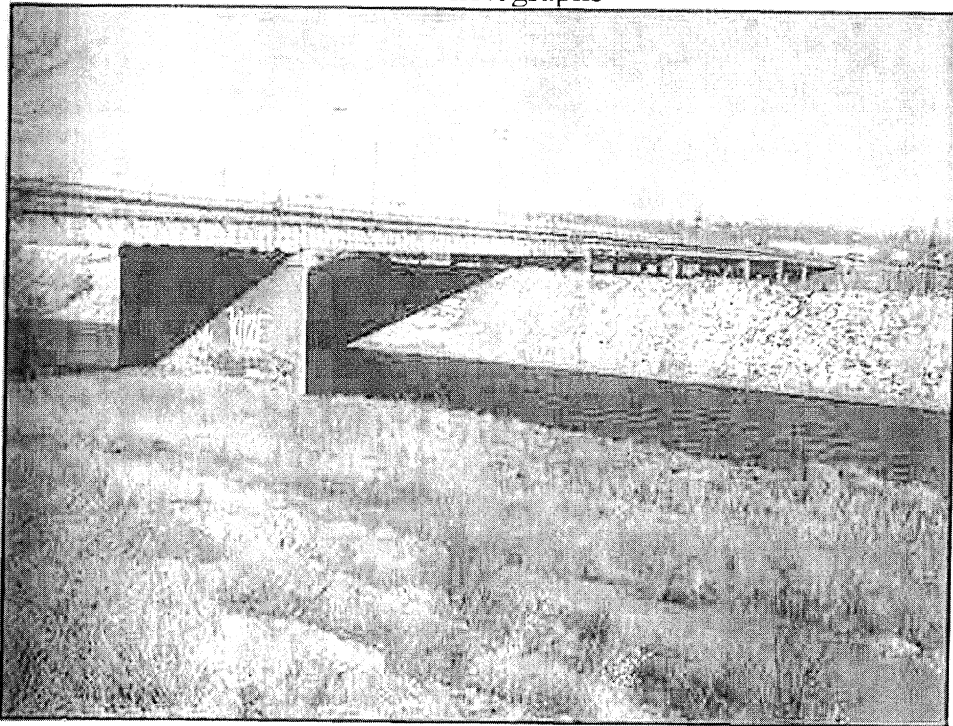
PBS&J has consulted with the USACE regarding this project on two occasions. The first meeting was held on December 9, 2002 to discuss wetland delineation findings, invasive species issues, and mitigation options. The second meeting was held on January 31, 2006 to discuss the appropriate NWP for the project and site stabilization plans. The USACE, CDOT, City of Pueblo, Figg Bridge Engineers, and PBS&J attended these meetings.

10.0 WETLAND FINDING

Based on the above considerations, it is determined that there is no practicable alternative to the proposed new construction in the wetlands and the proposed action includes all practicable measures to minimize harm to wetlands which may result from such use.

Appendix A
Site Photographs

Appendix A
4th Street Bridge Wetland Delineation—BR 0961-008 (13141)
Site Photographs



Photograph 1: Overview of project area facing northeast



Photograph 2: Overview of proposed construction site facing east.

Appendix A
4th Street Bridge Wetland Delineation—BR 0961-008 (13141)
Site Photographs

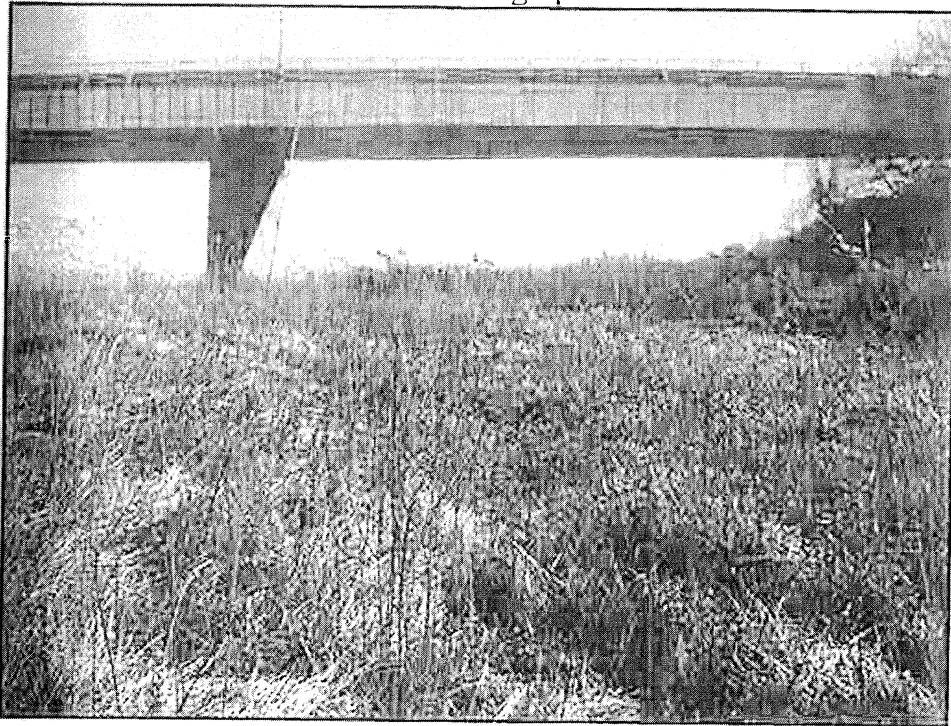


Photograph 3: View of emergent vegetation in Wetland A (DP-1) facing west.



Photograph 4: Overview of Wetland A facing west.

Appendix A
4th Street Bridge Wetland Delineation—BR 0961-008 (13141)
Site Photographs



Photograph 6: Overview of Wetland A (DP-4) facing east.



Photograph 7: View of un-vegetated area in Wetland A (DP-2) facing west.

Appendix B
Wetland Delineation Data Form

DATA FORM
ROUTINE WETLAND DELINEATION
(1987 COE Wetlands Delineation Manual)

Project/Site: 4 th Street Bridge Applicant/Owner: Colorado Department of Transportation, Region 3 Investigator(s): Francesca Licionne & Nicolle Esquivel (PBS&J)	Date: 12/29/05 County: Pueblo State: Colorado
Do Normal Circumstances exist on the site? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO Is the site significantly disturbed (Atypical Situation)? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO Is the area a potential Problem Area? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO (If needed, explain on reverse.)	Community ID: PEM Wetland Transect ID: Plot ID: DP-1

VEGETATION

Dominant Plant Species	Stratum	Indicator	Dominant Plant Species	Stratum	Indicator
<i>Typha latifolia</i>	Herb	OBL			
<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>	Herb	FACW+			
<i>Phragmites australis</i>	Herb	FACW			
<i>Lolium arundinaceum</i>	Herb	FACU			
Percentage of Dominant Species that are OBL, FACW, or FAC (excluding FAC-): 3/4=75% Remarks: This data point contains a dominance of hydrophytic vegetation; therefore, the hydrophytic vegetation criterion is met.					

HYDROLOGY

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recorded Data (Describe In Remarks) <input type="checkbox"/> Stream, Lake, or Tide Gauge <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photographs <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> No Recorded Data Available	Wetland Hydrology Indicators: Primary Indicators: <input type="checkbox"/> Inundated <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Saturated in upper 12 inches <input type="checkbox"/> Water Marks (to 6 inches) <input type="checkbox"/> Drift Lines <input type="checkbox"/> Sediment Deposits <input type="checkbox"/> Drainage Patterns in Wetlands Secondary Indicators (2 or more required) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Oxidized Root Channels in upper 12 inches <input type="checkbox"/> Water-Stained Leaves <input type="checkbox"/> Local Soil Survey Data <input type="checkbox"/> FAC-Neutral Test <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Explain in Remarks)
Field Observations: Depth of Surface Water: <u>None</u> Depth to Free Water in Pit: <u>None</u> Depth to Saturated Soil: <u>At Surface</u>	Remarks: One primary and one secondary indicator of wetland hydrology were observed at this data point; therefore, the wetland hydrology criterion is met.

SOILS

(DP-1 continued)

Map Unit Name (Series and Phase): Cascajo-Shale Outcrop Complex, 5 to 30% slopes				Drainage Class: Excessively drained	
Taxonomy (Subgroup): mesic Ustic Haplocalcids				Field Observations	
				Confirmed Mapped Type: <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	
Profile Description:					
Depth (inches)	Horizon	Matrix Color Munsell Moist	Mottle Colors Munsell Moist	Mottle Abundance/Contrast	Texture, Concretions, Structure, etc.
0-12	A	10YR 3/1	N/A	N/A	Clay loam, gravel
Hydric Soils Indicators:					
<input type="checkbox"/> Histosols		<input type="checkbox"/> Concretion(s)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Histic Epipedon		<input type="checkbox"/> Low-Chroma Colors			
<input type="checkbox"/> Sulfidic Odor		<input type="checkbox"/> High Organic Content			
<input type="checkbox"/> Aquic Moisture Regime		<input type="checkbox"/> Organic Streaking in Sandy Soils			
<input type="checkbox"/> Reducing Conditions		<input type="checkbox"/> Listed on Local Hydric Soils List			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gleyed or Low-Chroma Colors		<input type="checkbox"/> Listed on National Hydric Soils List			
		<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Explain in Remarks)			
Remarks: The soil at this data point is highly disturbed with gravel throughout the matrix. The soil matrix at this data point exhibits a low chroma indicative of hydric conditions; therefore, the hydric soil criterion is met.					

WETLAND DETERMINATION

Hydrophytic Vegetation Present? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	Is the Sampling Point within a Wetland? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
Wetland Hydrology Present? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	Indicate size of wetland: 0.54 acre
Hydric Soils Present? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
Remarks: All three wetland criteria were observed at this data point. The area is identified as Wetland A.	

Modified 10/31/97. Taken from Approved HQUSACE 3/92

SOILS

(DP-2 continued)

Map Unit Name (Series and Phase): Cascajo-Shale Outcrop Complex, 5 to 30% slopes				Drainage Class: Excessively drained	
Taxonomy (Subgroup): mesic Ustic Haplocalcids				Field Observations	
				Confirmed Mapped Type: <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	
Profile Description:					
Depth (inches)	Horizon	Matrix Color Munsell Moist	Mottle Colors Munsell Moist	Mottle Abundance/Contrast	Texture, Concretions, Structure, etc.
0-10	A	10YR 3/1	10YR 7/6	Common/Distinct	Clay loam, gravel, rock
Hydric Soils Indicators:					
<input type="checkbox"/> Histosols <input type="checkbox"/> Histic Epipedon <input type="checkbox"/> Sulfidic Odor <input type="checkbox"/> Aquic Moisture Regime <input type="checkbox"/> Reducing Conditions <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gleyed or Low-Chroma Colors		<input type="checkbox"/> Concretion(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Low-Chroma Colors <input type="checkbox"/> High Organic Content <input type="checkbox"/> Organic Streaking in Sandy Soils <input type="checkbox"/> Listed on Local Hydric Soils List <input type="checkbox"/> Listed on National Hydric Soils List <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Explain in Remarks)			
Remarks: The soil at this data point is highly disturbed with rock and gravel throughout the matrix. The soil matrix at this data point exhibits a low chroma indicative of hydric conditions; therefore, the hydric soil criterion is met.					

WETLAND DETERMINATION

Hydrophytic Vegetation Present? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	Is the Sampling Point within a Wetland? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO Indicate size of wetland: 0.54 acre
Wetland Hydrology Present? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
Hydric Soils Present? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
Remarks: All three wetland criteria were observed at this data point. The area is identified as Wetland A.	

Modified 10/31/97. Taken from Approved HQUSACE 3/92

DATA FORM
ROUTINE WETLAND DELINEATION
(1987 COE Wetlands Delineation Manual)

Project/Site: 4 th Street Bridge Applicant/Owner: Colorado Department of Transportation, Region 3 Investigator(s): Francesca Licionne & Nicolle Esquivel (PBS&J)	Date: 12/29/05 County: Pueblo State: Colorado
Do Normal Circumstances exist on the site? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO Is the site significantly disturbed (Atypical Situation)? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO Is the area a potential Problem Area? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO (If needed, explain on reverse.)	Community ID: PEM Wetland Transect ID: Plot ID: DP-3

VEGETATION

Dominant Plant Species	Stratum	Indicator	Dominant Plant Species	Stratum	Indicator
<i>Phragmites australis</i>	Herb	FACW			
<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>	Herb	FACW+			
<i>Centaurea diffusa</i>	Herb	UPL			
<i>Lolium arundinaceum</i>	Herb	FACU			
<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>	Herb	FACW+			

Percentage of Dominant Species that are OBL, FACW, or FAC (excluding FAC-): 3/5=60%

Remarks: This data point contains a dominance of hydrophytic vegetation; therefore, the hydrophytic vegetation criterion is met.

HYDROLOGY

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recorded Data (Describe In Remarks) <input type="checkbox"/> Stream, Lake, or Tide Gauge <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photographs <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> No Recorded Data Available	Wetland Hydrology Indicators: Primary Indicators: <input type="checkbox"/> Inundated <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Saturated in upper 12 inches <input type="checkbox"/> Water Marks (to 6 inches) <input type="checkbox"/> Drift Lines <input type="checkbox"/> Sediment Deposits <input type="checkbox"/> Drainage Patterns in Wetlands Secondary Indicators (2 or more required) <input type="checkbox"/> Oxidized Root Channels in upper 12 inches <input type="checkbox"/> Water-Stained Leaves <input type="checkbox"/> Local Soil Survey Data <input type="checkbox"/> FAC-Neutral Test <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Explain in Remarks)
Field Observations: Depth of Surface Water: <u>None</u> Depth to Free Water in Pit: <u>None</u> Depth to Saturated Soil: <u>At Surface</u>	
Remarks: One primary indicator of wetland hydrology was observed at this data point; therefore, the wetland hydrology criterion is met.	

SOILS

DP-3 continued)

Map Unit Name (Series and Phase): Cascajo-Shale Outcrop Complex, 5 to 30% slopes		Drainage Class: Excessively drained			
Taxonomy (Subgroup): mesic Ustic Haplocalcids		Field Observations			
		Confirmed Mapped Type: <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO			
Profile Description:					
Depth (inches)	Horizon	Matrix Color Munsell Moist	Mottle Colors Munsell Moist	Mottle Abundance/Contrast	Texture, Concretions, Structure, etc.
0-12	A	2.5Y 4/2	10YR 4/6	Common/Prominent	Clay loam
Hydric Soils Indicators:					
<input type="checkbox"/> Histosols <input type="checkbox"/> Histic Epipedon <input type="checkbox"/> Sulfidic Odor <input type="checkbox"/> Aquic Moisture Regime <input type="checkbox"/> Reducing Conditions <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gleyed or Low-Chroma Colors		<input type="checkbox"/> Concretion(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Low-Chroma Colors <input type="checkbox"/> High Organic Content <input type="checkbox"/> Organic Streaking in Sandy Soils <input type="checkbox"/> Listed on Local Hydric Soils List <input type="checkbox"/> Listed on National Hydric Soils List <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Explain in Remarks)			
Remarks: The soil matrix at this data point exhibits a low chroma indicative of hydric conditions; therefore, the hydric soil criterion is met.					

WETLAND DETERMINATION

Hydrophytic Vegetation Present?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	Is the Sampling Point within a Wetland? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO Indicate size of wetland: 0.54 acre
Wetland Hydrology Present?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
Hydric Soils Present?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
Remarks: All three wetland criteria were observed at this data point. The area is identified as Wetland A.		

Modified 10/31/97. Taken from Approved HQUSACE 3/92

DATA FORM
ROUTINE WETLAND DELINEATION
(1987 COE Wetlands Delineation Manual)

Project/Site: 4 th Street Bridge Applicant/Owner: Colorado Department of Transportation, Region 3 Investigator(s): Francesca Licionne & Nicolle Esquivel (PBS&J)	Date: 12/29/05 County: Pueblo State: Colorado
Do Normal Circumstances exist on the site? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO Is the site significantly disturbed (Atypical Situation)? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO Is the area a potential Problem Area? (If needed, explain on reverse.) <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	Community ID: PEM Wetland Transect ID: Plot ID: DP-4

VEGETATION

Dominant Plant Species	Stratum	Indicator	Dominant Plant Species	Stratum	Indicator
<i>Phragmites australis</i>	Herb	FACW			
<i>Lolium arundinaceum</i>	Herb	FACU			
<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>	Herb	FACW+			
Percentage of Dominant Species that are OBL, FACW, or FAC (excluding FAC-): 2/3=67% Remarks: This data point contains a dominance of hydrophytic vegetation; therefore, the hydrophytic vegetation criterion is met.					

HYDROLOGY

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recorded Data (Describe In Remarks) <input type="checkbox"/> Stream, Lake, or Tide Gauge <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photographs <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> No Recorded Data Available	Wetland Hydrology Indicators: Primary Indicators: <input type="checkbox"/> Inundated <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Saturated in upper 12 inches <input type="checkbox"/> Water Marks (to 6 inches) <input type="checkbox"/> Drift Lines <input type="checkbox"/> Sediment Deposits <input type="checkbox"/> Drainage Patterns in Wetlands Secondary Indicators (2 or more required) <input type="checkbox"/> Oxidized Root Channels in upper 12 inches <input type="checkbox"/> Water-Stained Leaves <input type="checkbox"/> Local Soil Survey Data <input type="checkbox"/> FAC-Neutral Test <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Explain in Remarks)
Field Observations: Depth of Surface Water: <u>None</u> Depth to Free Water in Pit: <u>None</u> Depth to Saturated Soil: <u>At Surface</u>	
Remarks: One primary indicator of wetland hydrology was observed at this data point; therefore, the wetland hydrology criterion is met.	

SOILS

(DP-4 continued)

Map Unit Name (Series and Phase): Cascajo-Shale Outcrop Complex, 5 to 30% slopes Taxonomy (Subgroup): mesic Ustic Haplocalcids				Drainage Class: Excessively drained Field Observations Confirmed Mapped Type: <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	
Profile Description:					
Depth (inches)	Horizon	Matrix Color Munsell Moist	Mottle Colors Munsell Moist	Mottle Abundance/Contrast	Texture, Concretions, Structure, etc.
0-12	A	10YR 4/2	10YR 4/6	Common/Faint	Clay loam
Hydric Soils Indicators:					
<input type="checkbox"/> Histosols <input type="checkbox"/> Histic Epipedon <input type="checkbox"/> Sulfidic Odor <input type="checkbox"/> Aquic Moisture Regime <input type="checkbox"/> Reducing Conditions <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gleyed or Low-Chroma Colors		<input type="checkbox"/> Concretion(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Low-Chroma Colors <input type="checkbox"/> High Organic Content <input type="checkbox"/> Organic Streaking in Sandy Soils <input type="checkbox"/> Listed on Local Hydric Soils List <input type="checkbox"/> Listed on National Hydric Soils List <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Explain in Remarks)			
Remarks: The soil matrix at this data point exhibits a low chroma indicative of hydric conditions; therefore, the hydric soil criterion is met.					

WETLAND DETERMINATION

Hydrophytic Vegetation Present? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	Is the Sampling Point within a Wetland? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO Indicate size of wetland: 0.54 acre
Wetland Hydrology Present? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
Hydric Soils Present? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
Remarks: All three wetland criteria were observed at this data point. The area is identified as Wetland A.	

Modified 10/31/97. Taken from Approved HQUSACE 3/92

Appendix C
Mitigation Planting List

4th Street Bridge Construction Mitigation Planting List

	Species	Amount to be Planted
Grasses	Alkali sacaton	1.0 lb/acre
	Green needlegrass	2.0 lbs/acre
	Western wheatgrass	6.0 lbs/acre
	Sideoats grama	3.0 lbs/acre
	Switchgrass	2.0 lbs/acre
	Saltgrass	2.0 lbs/acre
	Galleta	2.0 lbs/acre
Forbs	Prairie coneflower	1.0 lb/acre
	Rabbitbrush	0.1 lb/acre
Shrubs	Four-wing saltbrush	0.5 lb/acre
	Wood's rose	15 5-gallon containers
	Golden currant	15 5-gallon containers
	Skunkbush sumac	15 5-gallon containers
	American plum	15 5-gallon containers
	Chokecherry	15 5-gallon containers
Trees	Cottonwood	10 8-foot trees
	Box elder	10 8-foot trees
Cuttings	Various brush available on-site	200 cuttings

Appendix D
Wetland Mitigation Site Selection Form

Wetland Mitigation Site Selection Form
Colorado Department of Transportation
 Attachment to Wetland Finding

Project Name/No.: 4 th Street Bridge	
Sub-account No.: BR 0961-008 (13141)	Region: 2
Author: Nicolle Esquivel	Firm: PBS&J
Date Submitted: June 6, 2006	

Mitigation Options Available	(1) Mitigation bank available? (yes/no) NO
	(2) Project impacts in 1°, 2° service area? NO
	(3) HUC units: 11020002 (Project Area and Mitigation Site)
	(4) On-site mitigation available? (yes/no) YES
	(5) Off-site mitigation available? (yes/no) NO
	(6) In-lieu fee arrangement available? (yes/no) NO <i>In-lieu fee sponsor:</i>
	(7) Mitigation ratio(s) other than 1:1 involved? (yes/no) NO <i>Ratio(s):</i>

		Impact Site	Mitigation Site
Site Characteristics	(8) Geographic location	Northeast Pueblo Quad T20S, R65W, S36	Northeast Pueblo Quad T20S, R65W, S36
	(9) Wetland Community Type, % of each type	100% PEM	100% PEM
	(10) Functions, values	FA, SS, SR, N, WH	FA, SS, SR, N, WH
	(11) Size of impacts, % of total area	0.315 acre impacted (temporary and permanent) 58% of the total mapped wetland will be impacted	0.003 acre of native vegetation will be planted to mitigate permanent impact. Please refer to seeding plan (Appendix C) for further detail.
Wildlife/Habitat	(12) T&E species/habitat present?	NO	NO
	(13) Species? Status?	N/A	N/A
	(14) Migratory Bird Treaty Act?	YES	YES, the mitigation site will provide higher quality habitat for waterfowl along the Arkansas River.
	(15) Other wildlife issues?	NO	NO
	(16) Status of aquatic resource?	YES, this area of the Arkansas River is used for recreational kayaking.	YES, this area of the Arkansas River will continue to be used for recreational kayaking.
	(17) Special aquatic site?	NO	NO

		Impact Site	Mitigation Site
	(18) Unique? Quality? Ranking?	The wetland is within a developed and disturbed urban area. The wetland is of low quality with common vegetation.	The wetland will be replaced with high quality riparian habitat.
	(19) Watershed, ecosystem issues?	NO	NO

		Impact Site	Mitigation Site
Other	(20) Likelihood of success?	N/A	Success of mitigation site is highly likely due to its proximity to the Arkansas River.
	(21) Interagency agreement?	NO	NO
	(22) Project logistics, size/scope?	The 4 th Street bridge across the Arkansas River will be replaced because the existing bridge is functionally obsolete and structurally deficient. The bridge is located in a highly urbanized area of Pueblo. The project area has been previously altered to install a kayak park and bike paths.	The mitigation site will be located at the project site.
	(23) Cost considerations?	NO	NO.
	(24) Buffer used?	NO	NO

Water Issues	(25) Individual 404 permit condition?	NO	NO
	(26) 404 (b)(1) Guidelines?	NO	NO
	(27) NWP gen. reg. conditions?	General Condition No. 24 (Removal of Temporary Fills): When temporary fills are placed in wetlands in Colorado, a horizontal marker (i.e. fabric, certified weed-free straw, etc.) must be used to delineate the existing ground elevation of wetlands that will be temporarily filled during construction (COE, Albuquerque District, 4-18-02).	N/A
	(28) Regulatory letters?	NO	NO
	(29) S.B. 40?	NO	NO
	(30) Water rights issues?	NO	NO
NEPA Issues	(31) Cumulative impact issues?	NO	NO
	(32) Agency policy, input?	NO	CDOT will prepare the mitigation planting plan.

	(33) Public involvement?	NO	NO
--	---------------------------------	----	----

(34) Basis for Decision (Describe factors that are instrumental in the selection of the chosen mitigation decision.)

On-site mitigation was chosen because of the potential for success at the site. A low-quality wetland currently exists on-site adjacent to the Arkansas River. The addition of high quality grasses and shrubs as well as the available hydrology should greatly increase the quality of the existing wetland.

(35) Decision

CDOT will replace impacted wetlands at 1:1 ratio. CDOT will re-plant all disturbed areas with native grasses that form rhizomes. These types of grasses perform the vital wetland function of bank stabilization. Native shrubs will also be planted to enhance the riparian habitat adjacent to the riverbank and carry the theme being set by the Arkansas River Restoration Project.

(36) Contingency Plans

Given the high likelihood of success no contingency plans have been prepared at this time.

COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION	Date: 12/12/2005	Revision Date: _____	Project Code #: 13141
	Project #: BR 0961-008		
Project Name: 4th Street Bridge			
Project Description: Replace Structure K-18-Z			

A. Categorical Exclusion Project Determination

1. This project fits Categorical Exclusion or Programmatic CE number d-3
2. All required Clearance Actions indicated in Part B below have been completed. All Permits and Additional Requirements indicated in Part C below will be obtained before project ad.
3. No significant environmental impacts will result from this project. The Region Planning and Environmental Manager (RPEM) will ensure implementation of required mitigation commitments.
4. CDOT Form #463 dated 11/09/2005 (Revised _____) is attached.

B. Clearance Actions

REQUIRED Yes No	DATE COMPLETED	REQUIRED Yes No	DATE COMPLETED
<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	10/15/2001
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	12/12/2005	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	06/05/2002
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	09/14/2001	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	10/04/2002
<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	10/04/2002
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	09/27/2005	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	08/25/2005
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	07/01/2001*	<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

All clearance requirements have been completed for the work indicated in the CDOT Form #463 referenced above.

RPEM Signature: **R.E. Annand** Date: **12/12/2005** Region #: **2**

I concur in the above category designation and the scope of environmental clearance/permits indicated.

FHWA Division Administrator Signature (when required) (Please return form to RPEM) Date: **12/14/05**

C. Permits and Additional Requirements

REQUIRED Yes No	DATE COMPLETED	REQUIRED Yes No	DATE COMPLETED
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	

D. Comments

Parcel specific ISAs are being conducted prior to acquisition. Further testing is required.
*Field visit in spring of 2005 found wetlands still present after the construction of the USACOE Legacy Project.
Wetland impacts and mitigation will be defined during final design.

E. Environmental Project Certification

All clearance and permit requirements for this project have been completed and mitigation included in the set of plans and specifications dated _____. The appropriate documentation is on file in the Region office.

RPEM Signature

R.E. Annand

Date

Note to Project Manager: Any changes to the plans and specifications after the date of the RPEM signature in Part B that affect environmental impacts or mitigation must be approved by the RPEM.



U.S. Department
Of Transportation
Federal Highway
Administration

Colorado Federal Aid Division
555 Zang Street, Room 250
Lakewood, CO 80228-1040

March 30, 2004

File: 13141

Mr. Don Klima
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
12136 West Baysand Avenue, Suite 330
Lakewood, CO 80226

SUBJECT: Memorandum of Agreement, Colorado Department of Transportation
Project BR 0961-008, Fourth Street Bridge Replacement, Pueblo, Colorado

Dear Mr. Klima:

Transmitted herewith is the fully executed Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) project referenced above. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Colorado State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) have agreed that the proposed bridge replacement will have an Adverse Effect on two historic light towers associated with the Pueblo Rail Yard (SPE4247). CDOT is a participant in this agreement as an invited signatory.

In accordance with the process set forth in the Council regulations, Section 800.6(b)(1)(iv), mitigation measures and measures considered to avoid or minimize the undertaking's adverse effects have been agreed upon with the SHPO, and are outlined in the MOA. There have been no substantive revisions or additions to the documentation previously provided to the Council, nor additional views expressed by the public concerning this project.

If you have questions, please contact CDOT Acting Staff Historian Mr. Robert Autobe at (303) 757-9758.

Sincerely yours,

William C. Jones
Division Administrator

Enclosures (copy of MOA for ACHP files)

cc: Thomas E. Norton, CDOT Executive Director
Attn: Robert Autobe, CDOT Environmental Programs (w/original MOA)
Bob Torres, CDOT Region 2 Director
Attn: Dick Annand, CDOT Region 2 Env. Manager (w/copy MOA)



**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT
BETWEEN THE FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION,
THE COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
AND THE COLORADO STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER**

**REGARDING THE REMOVAL OF TWO LIGHT TOWERS FROM THE PUEBLO
RAIL YARD (SPE4247) IMPACTED BY THE FOURTH STREET BRIDGE
REPLACEMENT (SPE3943)**

**COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION PROJECT BR 0961-008,
PUEBLO COUNTY, COLORADO**

WHEREAS, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has determined that the Project BR 0961-008 may have an adverse effect on two historic light towers associated with the Pueblo Rail Yard (SPE4247) in Pueblo County, Colorado, which is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, and has consulted with the Colorado State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800, regulations implementing Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. Section 470f); and

WHEREAS, the FHWA has consulted with the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) regarding the effects of the undertaking on historic properties and has invited them to sign this MOA as an invited signatory;

WHEREAS, in accordance with 36 CFR Section 800.6 (a) (1) FHWA has notified the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (Council) of its adverse effect determination with specified documentation and the Council has chosen not to participate in the consultation pursuant to 36 CFR 800.6 (a) (1) (iii);

WHEREAS, the historic properties that will be affected by the Memorandum of Agreement are:

Two Light Towers in the Pueblo Rail Yard (SPE4247) Impacted by the Fourth Street Bridge Replacement (SPE3943):

In September 2003, CDOT determined that the project to replace Pueblo's Fourth Street Bridge would result in impacts to the Pueblo Rail Yard. A portion of the yard was inventoried as part of the Cultural Resources Inventory prepared for the Fourth Street Bridge project. The inventoried portion of the rail yard, extending 200 feet on either side of the Fourth Street Bridge, was evaluated as a contributing portion of the overall NRHP-eligible site. Two of the rail yard light towers within the inventoried section were determined by the Colorado State Historic Preservation Office to be contributing features of the yard. The two metal lattice towers support lights that illuminate the yard at night. There are total of 12 similarly designed towers with in the

rail yard. The Pueblo Rail Yard was determined eligible to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A as an integral and major element of Pueblo's rail yard facilities and for its contribution to Pueblo's status as a major rail transportation hub.

NOW, THEREFORE, FHWA and the Colorado SHPO agree that the undertaking shall be implemented in accordance with the following stipulations in order to take into account the effect of the undertaking on historic properties.

STIPULATIONS

The FHWA shall ensure that the following measures are carried out:

I. MITIGATION

The two light towers within the Pueblo Rail Yard will be recorded prior to demolition so that there will be a permanent record of its present appearance and history. Recordation shall consist of Level II documentation as determined in consultation with the SHPO, and established in OAHF Form #1595, Historical Resource Documentation: Standards for Level I, II, III Documentation. All documentation must be accepted by the SHPO prior to the start of construction. Copies of the documentation will be provided to the SHPO and to a local archive designated by the SHPO. This will include historic research and documentation. Archival quality photographs of the two towers within the Pueblo Rail Yard (SPE4247) will be taken and provided to the SHPO. The photos will be printed on archival processed paper and attached to archival mount cards. The negatives will be placed in archival sleeves.

A) ARCHIVAL DOCUMENTATION

CDOT shall ensure that the Pueblo Rail Yard (SPE4247) light towers are documented in accordance with the guidance for Level II documentation found in OAHF form #1595, Historical Resource Documentation: Standards for Level I, II, III Documentation. CDOT shall consult with the SHPO to determine appropriate Level II recordation measures.

- 1.) CDOT shall ensure that all documentation activities will be performed or directly supervised by architects, historians, photographers, and/or other professionals meeting the qualification standards in their field in the Secretary of Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards, (36 CFR 61, Appendix A).
- 2.) CDOT shall provide originals of all documents resulting from the documentation to the SHPO and to a local library or archive.

II. DURATION

This agreement will be null and voided if its terms are not carried out within (5) years from the date of its execution. Prior to such time, FHWA may consult with the other signatories to

reconsider the terms of the agreement and amend in accordance with Stipulation IV below.

III. MONITORING AND REPORTING

Each year following the execution of this agreement until it expires or is terminated, FHWA shall provide all parties to this agreement a summary report detailing work undertaken pursuant to its terms. Such report shall include any scheduling changes proposed, any problems encountered, and any disputes and objections received in FHWA's efforts to carry out the terms of this agreement. Failure to provide such summary report may be considered noncompliance with the terms of this MOA pursuant to Stipulation VI, below.

IV. DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Should any party to this agreement object at any time to any actions proposed or the manner in which the terms of this MOA are implemented, FHWA shall consult with the objecting party(ies) to resolve the objection. If FHWA determines, within 30 days, that such objection(s) cannot be resolved, FHWA will:

- A. Forward all documentation relevant to the dispute to the Council in accordance with 36 CFR Section 800.2(b)(2). Upon receipt of adequate documentation, the Council shall review and advise FHWA on the resolution of the objection within 30 days. Any comment provided by the Council, and all comments from the parties to the MOA, will be taken into account by FHWA in reaching a final decision regarding the dispute.
- B. If the Council does not provide comments regarding the dispute within 30 days after receipt of adequate documentation, FHWA may render a decision regarding the dispute. In reaching its decision, FHWA will take into account all comments regarding the dispute from the parties to the MOA.
- C. FHWA's responsibility to carry out all other actions subject to the terms of this MOA that are not the subject of the dispute remain unchanged. FHWA will notify all parties of its decision in writing before implementing that portion of the Undertaking subject to dispute under this stipulation. FHWA's decision will be final.

V. AMENDMENTS AND NONCOMPLIANCE

If any signatory to this MOA, including any invited signatory, determines that its terms will not or cannot be carried out or that an amendment to its terms must be made, that party shall immediately consult with the other parties to develop an amendment to this MOA pursuant to 36 CFR §§800.6(c)(7) and 800.6(c)(8). The amendment will be effective on the date a copy signed by all of the original signatories is filed with the Council. If the signatories cannot agree to appropriate terms to amend the MOA, any signatory may terminate the agreement in accordance with Stipulation VI, below.

VI. TERMINATION

If an MOA is not amended following the consultation set out in Stipulation IV above, it may be terminated by any signatory or invited signatory. Within 30 days following termination, the FHWA shall notify the signatories if it will initiate consultation to execute an MOA with the signatories under 36 CFR §800.6(c)(1) or request the comments of the Council under 36 CFR §800.7(a) and proceed accordingly.

Execution of this Memorandum of Agreement by FHWA and Colorado SHPO and the submission of documentation and filing of this Memorandum of Agreement with the Council pursuant to 36 CFR Section 800.6(b)(1)(iv) prior to FHWA's approval of this undertaking, and implementation of its terms evidence that FHWA has taken into account the effects of this undertaking on historic properties and afforded the Council an opportunity to comment.

SIGNATORIES:

Federal Highway Administration

William Jones Date 3/20/04
For William Jones, Colorado Division Administrator

Colorado State Historic Preservation Officer

Georgianna Contiguglia Date 3/20/04
For Georgianna Contiguglia, SHPO

INVITED SIGNATORIES:

Colorado Department of Transportation

Tom Norton Date 2/20/04
Tom Norton, Executive Director

COLORADO
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

The Colorado History Museum 1800 Broadway Denver, Colorado 80202-2137

10 October 2003

Dan Jepson
Acting Environmental Program Manager
Colorado Department of Transportation
Project Development Branch
4201 East Arkansas Ave.
Denver, CO 80222

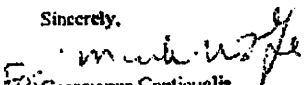
RE: Determination of Eligibility and Effect, CDOT Project BR 0961-00&13141, SH 96A (4th St.)
Bridge over the Arkansas River, Pueblo, Pueblo County

Dear Mr. Jepson:

Thank you for your recent correspondence dated 18 September 2003, concerning the proposed replacement of three light towers to make room for Pueblo's new 4th Street Bridge. The three light towers are among twelve such towers that serve the Pueblo Rail Yard (SPE.4247). The towers contribute to the significance of the rail yard, as they are more than 50 years old and play an essential role in the operation of the yard. Because the towers are contributing structures, their removal constitutes an Adverse Effect on a historic resource. Our office recommends Level II Documentation for the to-be-demolished light towers. Please refer to the "Model MOA" enclosed with this letter.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Joseph Saldibar, Architectural Services Coordinator, at (303) 866-3741. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,


Georgiana Contiguglia
State Historic Preservation Officer, and
President, Colorado Historical Society

OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
303-866-3392 • Fax 303-866-2711 • E-mail: oahp@cdhs.state.co.us • Internet: www.coloradohistory-nahp.org

F

STATE OF COLORADO

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Environmental Programs Branch
4201 East Arkansas Avenue
Denver, Colorado 80222
(303) 757-6258
FAX (303) 757-9446



September 18, 2003

Ms. Georgianna Contiguglia
State Historic Preservation Officer
Colorado Historical Society
1300 Broadway
Denver, CO 80203

RE: Determination of Eligibility and Effect, CDOT Project BR 0961-00W13141, SH 96A (4th St.) Bridge
Over the Arkansas River, Pueblo County

Dear Ms. Contiguglia:

This letter report and the attached materials constitute the request for concurrence on Determinations of Eligibility and Effect for the project referenced above, which involves the replacement of the 4th Street Bridge (SPW115). The goals of the 4th Street Bridge Project are to improve safety for motorists, pedestrians, and bicyclists on the bridge, increase roadway capacity, provide a higher level of service, improve horizontal and vertical clearances in the rail yard, and increase load carrying capacity. We initially coordinated with your office in August 2002 regarding eligibility and effects for this project, but since that time an additional historic resource has been identified in the project area.

A portion of the Pueblo Rail Yard (SPE4247), inventoried during the initial survey conducted for the 4th Street Bridge project, was evaluated as eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) under criterion (a) as an integral and major element of Pueblo's rail yard facilities and for its contribution to Pueblo's status as a major rail transportation hub. You concurred with this finding in correspondence dated October 4, 2002. The inventoried portion of the rail yard, extending 200 feet on either side of the 4th Street bridge, was evaluated as a contributing portion of the overall NRHP-eligible site. Recently, CDOT and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) determined that there will be impacts to two of the metal light towers located on the northwest side of the bridge in the railyard. These towers were not evaluated in the initial survey, and as such Entranco (a consulting firm) was contracted by CDOT to evaluate the contributory status of these features to the railyard (see attached map).

A total of 12 similar metal lattice light towers are located within the Pueblo Rail Yard. Besides the three towers situated in the inventoried portion of the rail yard, six similar light towers are clustered approximately ¼ - ½ mile northwest of the highway bridge, while an additional three lights are at distant locations on the opposite (southeast) side of the bridge. Each light tower is mounted on a square concrete base or foundation. Built of bolted angle iron, the towers are tapering 124-foot tall structures with a cross-braced framework. Each tower culminates in a wider "light cage" with horizontal metal elements serving as supports for numerous downcast lights. Metal ladders are affixed to each tower, permitting access to the lights at the top. Two of the towers near the bridge in the inventoried portion of the rail yard section are fitted with what appear to be lightning rods, while one light tower supports an orange windsock.

According to Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad (BNSF) Supervisor of Facilities Lew Bird, these towers were constructed in the early 1950s when the BNSF's predecessor, the Atchison, Topeka & Santa

Fe Railway (ATSF), completed a major reconstruction of the Pueblo Rail Yard. The configuration of the existing rail yard appears to be relatively unchanged since the early 1950s. According to a personal communication with Mr. Bird on April 28, 2003 and again on September 11, 2003, similar light towers were installed by ATSF at about the same time in a number of major urban rail yards, including those at Kansas City, Missouri; Emporia and Hutchinson, Kansas; Amarillo, Texas; Belca and Clovis, New Mexico and La Junta, Colorado.

CDOT and FHWA have determined that the light towers in the Pueblo Rail Yard contribute to qualities that make the entire rail yard site eligible to the NRHP. These towers are visually prominent, utilitarian structures that enable the safe assembly and disassembly of trains at all hours of the day. They are operationally important features that testify to the high volume and frequency of railroad traffic through Pueblo. These particular towers were built sometime in the early 1950s, which fits within the period of significance identified for the Pueblo Rail Yard: 1924-25, and 1951-1952. And finally, although many rail yards have lighting features or towers, the design of these towers is somewhat unique to a handful of rail yards in Midwestern and Western states.

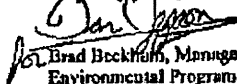
Effects Analysis

As part of this project two of the light towers to the northwest of the Fourth Street bridge will be removed and replaced to accommodate the new bridge structure. CDOT will complete this work in coordination with the railroad, and will pay for and construct the new light towers. CDOT and FHWA have determined that the removal of the two towers will result in *no adverse effect* to the qualities that make the Pueblo Rail Yard site eligible to the NRHP. The site will remain illuminated by both modern light fixtures and the ten remaining light towers. The continuation of lighting will convey the purpose and function of the towers that were removed, and the loss of only two (or 1/6) of the towers is not considered significant. The loss of these two towers and the replacement by modern light poles would not prevent a contemporary from recognizing the significance of the rail yard. Finally, the removal of the towers will not alter the historical associations that make the rail yard eligible to the NRHP under criterion (a).

CDOT and FHWA have also determined that the installation of the proposed replacement lighting will have *no adverse effect* on the eligibility of the Pueblo Rail Yard. It is likely that modifications to the rail yard have occurred numerous times in the past and the general historical character of the rail yard will not be altered by the installation of the replacement towers. Installation of the towers will also not affect the historical associations that make SPE4247 eligible under NRHP criterion (a).

We hereby request your concurrence with these determinations of eligibility and effect. Your response is necessary for the Federal Highway Administration's compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (as amended) and with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's regulations. If you require additional information, please contact CDOT Staff Historian Lisa Schoch at (303) 512-4258.

Very truly yours,


Brad Beckham, Manager
Environmental Programs Branch

Enclosures

cc: Dick Annand/Jody DeHaven, CDOT Region 2
File/CF/RF