

Entrance to Aspen Reevaluation

May 25, 2006

EOTC Meeting



HDR Engineering, Inc.

- National Architecture/Engineering Company
- Denver office has over 100 environmental planners, scientists, engineers, and transportation & transit planners
- Conducting work with nearly all departments of transportation across the nation, including CDOT



National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Experience

- EISs, EAs, Feasibility Studies
- Staff has conducted numerous Reevaluations including:
 - Shepard Interchange EIS, Utah
 - Northern & Western Beltway EIS, Nevada
 - State Route 189 EIS, Utah
 - Legacy Parkway EIS, Utah



Project Manager and Team

- Lucy Bowen
 - 29 years in NEPA compliance
 - National Director of Environmental Sciences
 - Denver native, Aspen visitor since 1959
- Technical Team
 - NEPA experts
 - Air quality, traffic, land use, socioeconomic, noise, visual, cultural, water & ecological resources



Reevaluation Purpose

- Assess whether any changes have occurred in:
 - project design concept or scope
 - affected environment
 - proposed mitigation measures

- Do changes require additional environmental documentation, or do the Final EIS and resultant project decisions remain valid?



Reevaluation Requirements

- 23 Code of Federal Regulations 771.129 (c):
 - After EIS approval, consultation with FHWA is required prior to requesting major approvals to determine whether or not the approved FEIS remains valid for the requested action.



Major Project Milestones

- Draft EIS August 1995
- Supplemental
Draft EIS July 1996
- Final EIS August 1997
- Record of Decision August 1998
- Last Major Action August 2002
- IGA for Reevaluation April 2006



Reevaluation Process

- ❑ Decision will be based on technical analyses
- ❑ Determine whether the Record of Decision remains valid
- ❑ Public will be informed of the reevaluation progress throughout the process



Technical Analysis

- Is the **project** substantially different or changed, resulting in environmental impacts that were not previously identified and evaluated?
- Has the **affected environment** changed, and will an impact occur that was not previously evaluated?
- Have **regulations or laws** changed, and are there new requirements that were not previously addressed?



Possible Reevaluation Outcomes

1. Existing, Approved Final EIS and Project Decisions Remain Valid:

- No changes, or only minor changes, in project or environment
- No major project modifications, and no new or significant impacts for which additional analysis is required.



Possible Reevaluation Outcomes

- 2. A decision is made to approve an alternative other than the one approved in the Record of Decision:**
 - Alternative must have been fully evaluated in the Final EIS
 - A revised Record of Decision would be prepared and circulated for public review



Possible Reevaluation Outcomes

3. A Supplemental NEPA document is required to move project forward:

- Project has substantially changed in ways that may result in new or significant impacts not previously identified
- Affected environment has changed, resulting in potential new or significant impacts not previously identified
- Supplemental EIS could identify additional alternatives



Reevaluation Participants

□ Project Management Team

- FHWA – Federal Lead Agency
- CDOT – Project Applicant
- HDR – Consultant

□ Technical Working Group

- Project Management Team
- City of Aspen
- Pitkin County
- RFTA
- Town of Snowmass Village

Estimated Schedule

2006

Tasks	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov
PROJECT INITIATION								
TECHNICAL STUDIES								
Review Existing Materials								
Data Collection & Analysis								
Resource Agency Meetings								
DOCUMENTATION								
Technical Memoranda								
Draft Reevaluation								
Agency Reviews								
Final Reevaluation								
REPORT FINDINGS								