

News Releases

Northeastern Colorado/CDOT Region 4

November 5, 2008

CDOT RELEASES I-25 DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, SEEKING PUBLIC INPUT

GREELEY – On Friday, October 31st, the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) released the North I-25 Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for a 60-day comment period in order to collect public input on the two multi-modal transportation packages and the no-action alternative being evaluated for the I-25 corridor between Denver and Fort Collins/Wellington.

The purpose of the study is to identify reasonable transportation improvements that will address mobility, accessibility, safety and the aging infrastructure along I-25 while providing more transportation choices. The two packages being evaluated include both highway and transit improvements:

- **Package A:** Widens I-25 to accommodate an additional lane in each direction, for a total of six lanes from State Highway (SH) 66 to SH 14 (plus auxiliary lanes between Harmony Road and SH 60) and a total of eight lanes from E-470 to SH 52. Interchange reconstructions would also be included. The package also includes commuter rail from Fort Collins to Longmont and commuter bus service along US 85 between Greeley and downtown Denver and along E-470 from US 85 to Denver International Airport.
- **Package B:** Adds one buffer-separated tolled Express Lane to I-25 except between SH 60 and Harmony Road where two barrier-separated lanes would be added. Tolled Express Lanes would extend from SH 14 to 84th Avenue and would operate much like the HOV/tolled Express Lanes on I-25 between Downtown Denver and US 36. Interchange reconstructions would be included. The package would also include bus rapid transit along the corridor.

“The I-25 north corridor has experienced a tremendous amount of growth in recent years and we expect that growth to continue,” said CDOT Region Transportation Director Bob Garcia. “To ensure that our transportation system remains safe and efficient, it is important that we study the corridor now and determine the most beneficial and feasible transportation improvements for the future. Before we can decide on what improvements will fit the corridor the best, we need members of the public to get involved in the process and share their comments.”

During the 60-day comment period that started on October 31st and continues through December 30th, the DEIS can be viewed at 26 locations along the corridor and in Denver (list of locations attached). In addition, CDOT will host three public hearings in November to allow members of the community to review and comment on the DEIS. All hearings will take place from 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. with a brief presentation and an

opportunity for public comment beginning at 5:30 p.m. The public hearings will be held at the following locations:

- **November 18, 2008:** Longmont Public Library in Meeting Rooms A & B- 409 4th Avenue
- **November 19, 2008:** Fort Collins Lincoln Center in the Columbine Room- 417 W. Magnolia Street
- **November 20, 2008:** Outlets at Loveland in Space 5617 (in the wing by Levi's)- 5661 McWhinney Boulevard near the I-25/US 34 interchange

“There are many opportunities to comment on the DEIS and we strongly encourage everyone to participate in some manner,” added Garcia. “We are at an important stage of this study and all of the comments we get in the next 60-days will help determine what transportation improvements will take place along the I-25 corridor in the years to come.”

Those who are unable to attend the public hearings are encouraged to submit comments via the project Web site at www.cdot.info/northi25eis/, contacting the project office by phone at (970) 352-5455 or (303) 779-3384 or by sending a letter to: CDOT Region 4, Attn: Carol Parr, 1420 2nd Street, Greeley, CO 80631.