

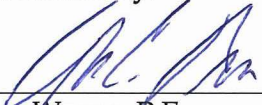
**U.S. 287 at Lamar Reliever Route  
Environmental Assessment**

**CDOT Project C2871-026 (11637)**

**U.S. Department of Transportation  
Federal Highway Administration  
and  
Colorado Department of Transportation**


**Submitted Pursuant to:  
42 U.S.C. 4332 (2)(c)  
23 U.S.C. 128(a)  
Executive Orders 11990, 12898, and 13112**

**Submitted by:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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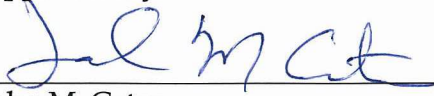
8/15/2013  
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Date

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8/15/13  
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8/15/2013  
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## Abstract

This Environmental Assessment documents the National Environmental Policy Act analysis process for the U.S. 287 at Lamar Reliever Route project in Prowers County, Colorado, and incorporates findings from two previously completed studies for an alternate route. The purpose of the project is to improve the safety on U.S. 287 through Lamar, Colorado, and increase the efficiency of long-distance truck traffic traveling through the region. The existing corridor has conflicts between local traffic and through-traffic and a narrow roadway cross-section through Lamar.

The Proposed Action would relocate existing U.S. 287 and U.S. 50 to a new alignment approximately 1 mile east of the city. The Proposed Action consists of a new mainline, three new interchanges, and provisions for two future local access points along the new alignment. In addition, the new alignment includes a new crossing of the Arkansas River. The Proposed Action was selected as the alternative which best met the project purpose and additional project criteria while minimizing impacts to social and environmental resources to the surrounding area. The impacts to social and environmental resources are discussed in depth for the No Action Alternative and the Proposed Action. Potential impacts to resources resulting from the Proposed Action will be mitigated as defined by 40 CFR §1508.20.

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A public hearing for this project will be held on Thursday, September 19, 2013 from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM in the Mezzanine Room at the Prowers County Annex Building. The public review period begins Tuesday, September 3, 2013 and ends Thursday, October 3, 2013. Please mail or email comments to Caitlin McCusker, CH2M HILL, 9193 S. Jamaica Street, Englewood, CO, 80112 or [caitlin.mccusker@ch2m.com](mailto:caitlin.mccusker@ch2m.com) by October 3, 2013.

The Environmental Assessment is available for review in hard copy format at the following locations and/or by request from CDOT Region 2. The document also is available on the project website at <http://www.coloradodot.info/projects/us287lamar>.

Colorado Department of Transportation Region 2  
2402 S. Main Street  
Lamar, CO 81052

Colorado Department of Transportation Region 2  
1480 Quail Lake Loop  
Colorado Springs, CO 80906

Colorado Department of Transportation Region 2  
905 Erie Avenue  
P.O. Box 536  
Pueblo, CO 81002

Colorado State Publications Library  
201 E. Colfax Avenue, Room 314  
Denver, CO 80203

Federal Highway Administration  
12300 West Dakota Avenue, Suite 180  
Lakewood, CO 80228

Lamar City Complex  
102 E. Parmenter Street  
Lamar, CO 80152

Lamar Community Building  
610 S. 6th Street  
Lamar, CO 81052

Lamar Public Library  
102 E. Parmenter Street  
Lamar, CO 81052

Prowers County Office of County Commissioners  
301 S. Main Street, #215  
Lamar, CO 81052

# **U.S. 287 at Lamar Reliever Route Environmental Assessment**

**Colorado Department of Transportation, Region 2**

**CDOT Project C2871-026 (11637)**

**September 2013**

A Federal agency may publish a notice in the Federal Register, pursuant to 23 USC §139(l), indicating that one or more Federal agencies have taken final action on permits, licenses, or approvals for a transportation project. If such notice is published, claims seeking judicial review of those Federal agency actions will be barred unless such claims are filed within 150 days after the date of publication of the notice, or within such shorter time period as is specified in the Federal laws pursuant to which judicial review of the Federal agency action is allowed. If no notice is published, then the periods of time that otherwise are provided by the Federal laws governing such claims will apply.

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# Acronyms and Abbreviations

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$\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	micrograms per cubic meter
APE	Area of Potential Effect
APEN	Air Pollutant Emission Notice
ASTM	American Society for Testing and Materials
AVC	Arkansas Valley Conduit
BFE	base flood elevation
BMP	best management practice
CAA	Clean Air Act
CDOT	Colorado Department of Transportation
CDPHE	Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
CDPS	Colorado Discharge Permit System
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
cfs	cubic feet per second
CLOMR	Conditional Letter of Map Revision
CNHP	Colorado Natural Heritage Program
CO	carbon monoxide
CO <sub>2</sub>	carbon dioxide
Comprehensive Plan	<i>City of Lamar Comprehensive Plan</i> (HNTB, 2004)
CPW	Colorado Parks and Wildlife
CR	County Road
CWA	Clean Water Act
dB	decibel
dBA	A-weighted decibel
DBH	diameter at breast height
EA	Environmental Assessment
EDR	Environmental Data Resources, Inc.
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement

EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ESA	Environmental Site Assessment
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration
FIRM	Flood Insurance Rate Map
FIS	Flood Insurance Study
GHG	greenhouse gas
GIS	geographic information system
HEI	Health Effects Institute
I-70	Interstate 70
I-25	Interstate 25
IGA	Intergovernmental Agreement
ISA	Initial Site Assessment
$L_{eq}$	equivalent level
LOMR	Letter of Map Revision
LUST	leaking underground storage tank
MMT	million metric tons
MOA	Memorandum of Agreement
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MOVES	Motor Vehicle Emissions Simulator
mph	miles per hour
MS4	Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System
MSAT	mobile source air toxic
MW	megawatt
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NAC	noise abatement criteria
NAFTA	North American Free Trade Agreement
NDIS	Natural Diversity Information Service
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places

PCA	potential conservation areas
PEM	Palustrine Emergent
PM <sub>10</sub>	particulate matter less than 10 microns in diameter
PM <sub>2.5</sub>	particulate matter less than 2.5 microns in diameter
PSS	Palustrine Scrub-Shrub
RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
ROW	right-of-way
RTP	Regional Transportation Plan
SC	State Special Concern
SE	state endangered
SGPI	Shortgrass Prairie Initiative
SH	State Highway
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office
SPF	safety performance functions
ST	state threatened
STIP	Statewide Transportation Improvement Program
TM	technical memorandum
UPRR	Union Pacific Railroad
USACE	United States Army Corps of Engineers
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	United States Geological Survey
U.S. #	United States Highway #
UST	underground storage tank
VMT	vehicle miles traveled
WCD	Water Conservancy District

