

### HOW CAN YOU PARTICIPATE?

The US 50 project team has scheduled open houses in many locations along the corridor to make it convenient for everyone to attend. Children are welcome at all meetings! Please come to the meeting location that works best for you.

<b>Granada</b> Monday, February 27 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Town Hall 105 S. Main	<b>Lamar</b> Tuesday, February 28 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Community Center 610 S. 6th St.	<b>Swink</b> Wednesday, March 1 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Swink School District 610 Columbia	<b>Manzanola</b> Thursday, March 2 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Manzanola High School 301 Catalpa	<b>Pueblo</b> Tuesday, March 7 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Pueblo Airport 31201 Bryan Cir.
<b>Holly</b> Monday, February 27 5 - 8 p.m. Town Complex 200 S. 3rd	<b>Las Animas</b> Tuesday, February 28 5 - 8 p.m. Las Animas High School 300 Grove Ave.	<b>La Junta</b> Wednesday, March 1 5 - 8 p.m. Senior Center 102 E. 2nd St.	<b>Rocky Ford</b> Thursday, March 2 5 - 8 p.m. Community Center 107 N. Main	<b>Fowler</b> Tuesday, March 7 5 - 8 p.m. Fowler Elementary 6th & Eugene

Can't attend a meeting? The information presented at the meetings will be made available on the project Web site, [www.us50east.com](http://www.us50east.com), soon after the conclusion of the last open house.

Reasonable accommodations will be provided upon request for people with disabilities and for those who require Spanish translation. Please call 1-866-GO50NOW (1-866-465-0669) if you require special accommodations or translation to participate in this meeting.

Acomodaciones razonables serán proveídas cuando lo requieren para personas con deshabilitades y para quienes que necesitan traducción al español. Por favor, llame al 1-866-GO50NOW (1-866-465-0669) si usted requiere acomodación especial o traducción para participar en esta reunión.



### US 50 - A TRANSPORTATION CORRIDOR

If you live or work along US 50 through the Lower Arkansas Valley, you know the importance of this 150-mile corridor in Southeastern Colorado. US 50, which evolved from the original Santa Fe Trail, today complements Interstate 70 to the north and US 160 to the south, and links the Ports to Plains corridor along US 287

to the east with I-25 on the west. The highway provides local and regional connections for the distribution of people, goods and services through and beyond the Lower Arkansas Valley. Because of this, US 50 is extremely important to the future of Southeastern Colorado.

### BUILDING ON THE PAST

In 2003, the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), working with Lower Arkansas Valley communities, developed a community vision for the future of US 50 through Southeastern Colorado. During that study, the project team listened to local residents and officials to understand their issues and concerns for transportation safety and mobility in the Valley. The project team heard about many problems with the existing highway and community-specific ideas to fix them. We also heard a consistent desire from all of the communities for a safer roadway located on or near existing US 50 to maintain a reasonable traffic flow and

speed for movement of people and goods along the corridor while accommodating future transportation needs.

To build on this vision, the team worked with each city and town to develop more specific concepts. This resulted in various options for a corridor located north, through, or south of each community. Now is the time to refine these concepts and to evaluate the social, economic, and environmental consequences of selecting a corridor location. CDOT is now inviting the public and federal, state, and local agencies to engage in this process – to "Partner for Progress."



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### WHO ARE THESE PARTNERS?

CDOT and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) will be taking the lead in the development and analysis of improvements to US 50. This effort will require the assistance of the public, local government, elected officials, and various state and federal agencies. The process recently began with a series of meetings and workshops that resulted in formal resolutions and agreements. Communities along the Lower Arkansas Valley adopted resolutions in support of a collaborative process to address regional and local issues, including right-of-way preservation.

The following is a current list of project partners:

- Federal Highway Administration
- Colorado Department of Transportation
- Bent County
- Otero County
- Prowers County
- Pueblo County
- Town of Fowler
- Town of Holly
- Town of Granada
- Town of Manzanola
- Town of Swink
- City of La Junta
- City of Lamar
- City of Las Animas

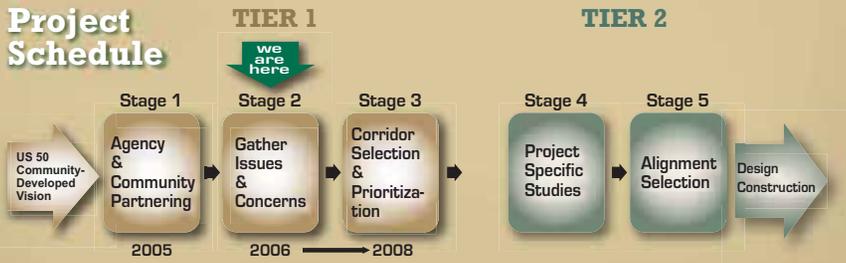
Local representatives participating in a "Community Working Group" also joined together in a corridor-wide Memorandum of Understanding that establishes clear expectations for the process, identifies responsibilities of the participants, and describes procedures that support collaborative problem solving. In a similar fashion, state and federal agencies have also made commitments to work together in the spirit of partnering by signing an Agency Charter Agreement. The result of these early efforts has been the development of a straightforward and efficient process that balances project goals, regulatory responsibilities and community objectives.

- City of Rocky Ford
- City of Pueblo
- Action 22
- US Environmental Protection Agency
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- US Army Corps of Engineers
- US Forest Service
- Bureau of Land Management
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Colorado Department of Local Affairs
- Colorado Division of Wildlife
- Colorado State Historic Preservation Office
- Colorado State Land Board
- Colorado State Parks

### WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

The vision developed by the communities is the starting point for this next phase, or Tier, of the US 50 project. All of your ideas, concerns and thoughts will be carried into this Tier 1 Environmental Impact Statement as part of a process established in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). These previous planning decisions, combined with extensive agency and continued community outreach, will result in the identification of a preferred corridor location north, through, or south of

your community. This study will also identify access management and corridor preservation strategies and will include a prioritized plan for further action. Based on the decisions reached during this Tier 1 process, FHWA and CDOT may proceed with Tier 2 studies for specific projects. Tier 2 projects will include selection of final roadway alignments followed by future design and construction of those improvements.



Partnering for Progress



### WHAT'S YOUR ROLE?

The US 50 Corridor East project team will host a series of open houses to learn more about your community's issues and concerns related to the US 50 corridor and its potential location. The purpose of these open houses is to review the results of the previous study, clarify the goals for the corridor and this process, and to discuss issues and concerns that need to be considered while developing a corridor location decision for your community. Our team will be present to answer your questions, share information, and work with you to further the development of the US 50 corridor through the Valley.

The project team will hold informational meetings in communities along the corridor (please see the full schedule on the back cover). We have scheduled mid-day and evening meetings in adjacent communities to provide a greater opportunity for you to attend a meeting without having to travel a great distance.

You live and work on or near the US 50 corridor -- you know it best. We want to hear from you! We encourage your active participation.

### HOW DOES THE FUNDING RECENTLY EARMARKED FOR US 50 RELATE TO THIS PROJECT?

As part of the new transportation act recently passed by Congress, approximately \$22 million was earmarked for sections of the US 50 corridor between Pueblo and the Kansas state line. CDOT will evaluate opportunities to

accelerate the existing safety and maintenance programs or other work within the corridor. However, before any major improvements can be implemented, the NEPA requirements must be completed.

### WHAT IS NEPA?

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is the principle environmental law of the United States. It governs federal decision-making, planning, and development activities to ensure that social, economic, and environmental impacts are considered before final decisions are made. For additional information please visit the "FAQ" section of the project Web site at [www.us50east.com](http://www.us50east.com).

### WANT TO LEARN MORE?

Check out our Web site at [www.us50east.com](http://www.us50east.com). The site provides current information about the project. You may also contact us directly by phone, e-mail, or mail using the following contact information:

Phone: 1-866-G050NOW (866-465-0669)  
 Address: 455 E. Pikes Peak Avenue  
 Suite #200  
 Colorado Springs, CO 80903  
 E-mail: [us50einfo@wilsonco.com](mailto:us50einfo@wilsonco.com)  
 Web site: [www.us50east.com](http://www.us50east.com)

#### Speakers Bureau

Members of the project team are also available to speak with civic or business organizations. Please call us at 1-866-G050NOW (866-465-0669) to arrange for a speaker.



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