



Press Release

For Immediate Release
Sept. 1, 2009

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U.S. 50 CORRIDOR EAST DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT MOVING FORWARD

– Document proceeding toward release and review period

Pueblo, Colo. – Sept. 2, 2009 – The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) is preparing a draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) for the U.S. 50 corridor from Pueblo to the Kansas state line.

The document provides a description of the proposed highway improvements and the anticipated effects associated with each alternative. Publishing this document is part of the process that enables highway projects to be eligible for federal funding. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires agencies to prepare environmental impact statements for major actions that affect the quality of the human and natural environment.

Issues and factors (resources) studied include economic and agricultural factors, cultural and historic resources, social considerations, potential effects to the natural environment, and more. The project team has partnered with communities along the corridor, federal and state agencies, and with corridor residents and business owners to gather and analyze the information.

The DEIS will be available for public review in 2010. The formal review period lasts 45-days, during which public meetings will be held to gather comments regarding the document. Comments will be accepted in person, and also via phone, U.S. mail, e-mail and the project Web site. CDOT will announce the document's availability before its release.

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(continued from page 1)

This multi-year initiative will incorporate the NEPA process into CDOT's plans for an improved U.S. 50. CDOT is building on the 2003 corridor selection study and is seeking public input as the project moves forward. Citizens are encouraged to take part in this important decision. The Tier 1 study results will also provide a prioritization plan for further action. Tier 2 studies will follow the Tier 1 EIS and include final roadway alignments within the selected general (Tier 1) corridor.

There are no funds presently budgeted to construct or upgrade any portion of the U.S. 50 Corridor East alternatives being considered. Maintenance and minor safety improvements will continue as funding allows. They include the following items.

Work is underway to add three permanent variable message signs (VMS) at the following locations:

- Eastbound in Manzanola (mile 359)
- Westbound, east of Las Animas (mile 401)
- Eastbound, north of Lamar (mile 432)

A project to provide turning lanes at CR 2 west of Fowler and CR 3.5 east of Fowler is beginning. This project will also include providing a left turn lane and acceleration lane for CR 18 at the SH 71 / U.S. 50 intersection.

For more information about the US 50 Corridor East Project, please contact Cheryl A. Everitt at (866) GO50NOW ((866) 465-0669) or visit the U.S. 50 Corridor East Web site at www.us50east.com.

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