



US 160 at US 550 Connection

Supplemental Final EIS is Complete

NEWSLETTER, Volume 4, July 2012

What is the Preferred Alternative for the US 550 South Connection to US 160?

The Preferred Alternative for the US 550 South Connection to US 160 is Alternative Revised G Modified—a realignment of US 550 that connects to US 160 at the recently constructed Grandview Interchange's main overpass bridge. This alternative has been identified as the one that best meets purpose and need and has the fewest environmental impacts, following a year-long Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process that CDOT conducted with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). The agencies have produced the Supplemental Final EIS (SFEIS), which is now available for review.

What US 550 alternatives were considered during the recent study?

The study reevaluated several alternatives from the original 2006 US 160 EIS, as well as several new alternatives developed to avoid or minimize impacts to the historic Webb Ranch, including those to the west (Western Realignment), east (Eastern Realignment) and several along the existing US 550, with input from Webb Ranch representatives (R Alternatives). Screening presented in the recent study identified three alternatives (shown on reverse side) that met the project purpose and need and practicability screening criteria (costs, logistics or other environmental consequences). Alternatives that were eliminated due to not meeting the above criteria are: (1) the Western Realignment, and (2)

all alternatives along the existing US 550 alignment, including the R Alternatives. These included signalized intersections, as well as partial and full interchanges.

What comments were received on the Supplemental Draft EIS and how have these been addressed?

FHWA and CDOT released the Supplemental Draft EIS (SDEIS) for public review on October 14, 2011. During the 45-day public comment period, a public hearing was held with approximately 100 people in attendance. Five agencies and 83 people commented on the document, either at the hearing or via letter, email, the project web site or fax. The majority of the comments focused on estimated traffic volumes, existing alignment alternatives and opposition to the Eastern Realignment Alternative. Many expressed support for the draft Preferred Alternative (Alternative Revised G Modified), and many expressed interest in an alignment that would utilize the existing US 550 alignment. CDOT and FHWA responded to each comment received. Some comments resulted in changes to the Draft SEIS, which are reflected in the SFEIS.

How was the decision on the Preferred Alternative made?

CDOT and FHWA have evaluated all newly identified impacts to historic and archaeological sites and any other changes in impacts related to the

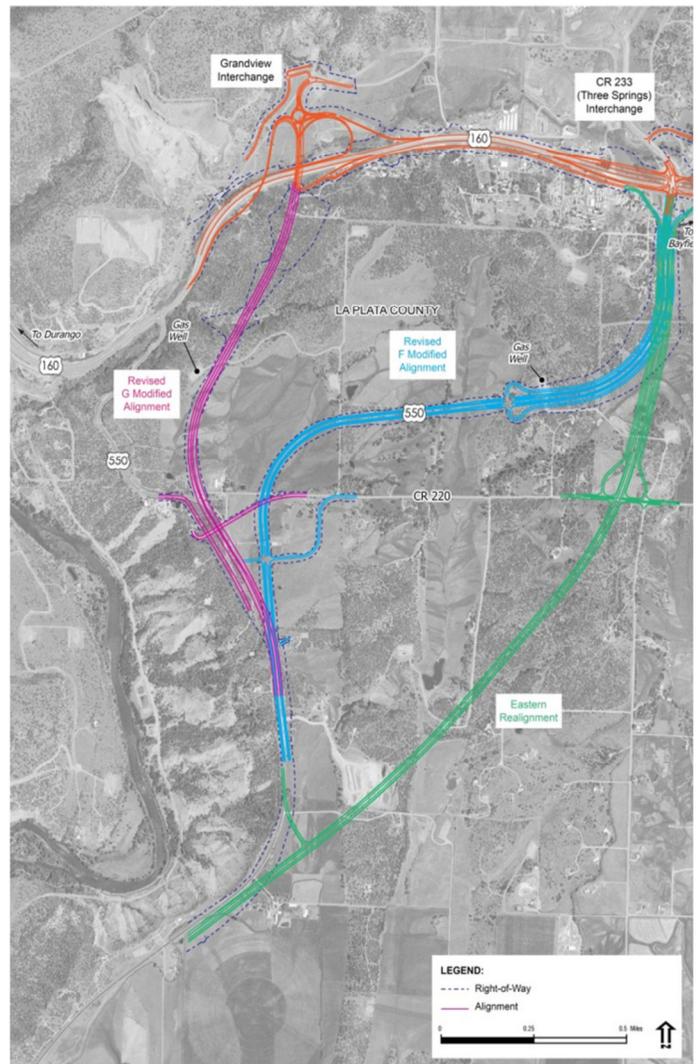
connection of US 550—both natural and manmade, including regulatory updates. Issues evaluated in this study included—but were not limited to— environmental impacts, private property impacts, highway safety, mobility and traffic patterns, both current and projected.

Where can I view a copy of the SFEIS document?

Locally, the document can be viewed at Durango, Ignacio and Bayfield public libraries, San Juan Public Lands Center and CDOT at 3803 North Main. A copy of the SFEIS with additional project information is also available on CDOT’s webpage at: www.coloradodot.info/projects/us550-at-160.

What is the next step?

The document will be available for review until August 13 and the FHWA is expected to sign a Record of Decision this fall. Those who have questions or comments may direct them to: Nancy Shanks at (970) 385-1428 or nancy.shanks@dot.state.co.us.



Colorado Department of Transportation
Office of Planning & Environmental
3803 N. Main Ave., Ste. 300
Durango, CO 81301

