



Q: What is the purpose of this project?

A: The purpose of the project is to reduce congestion, optimize operations, improve safety, and accommodate multimodal connections at the I-70 and Kipling Street interchange.

Q: What is the difference between the I-70/Kipling interchange study completed a few years ago and the current NEPA study?

A: A Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) study was conducted in 2012 - 2013. This detailed transportation study determined the project's Purpose and Need, developed and evaluated over 30 interchange alternatives, and recommended two interchange configurations for more detailed study. The current National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) study will build upon the PEL study recommendations to identify a Preferred Alternative and then conduct an Environmental Assessment study to fully investigate the anticipated benefits and impacts of the proposed project. The current project will also include production of preliminary (30%) design plans and determine funding, scheduling, and phasing recommendations. Public and agency input is a component in both the PEL and NEPA studies.

Q: How will the Preferred Alternative be determined?

A: The PEL study recommended two alternatives be further evaluated (the Single Point Urban Interchange and the Traditional Diamond Interchange). As a first step in NEPA, CDOT and the project team considered new information available following the PEL study and decided to evaluate a Diverging Diamond Interchange configuration in addition to the No Action and two PEL study recommendations. This post-PEL study alternatives evaluation used differentiating criteria based on the project Purpose and Need, and resulted in the Diverging Diamond being recommended as the Preferred Alternative. Public input is now being solicited regarding this evaluation and recommendation, which will be considered by CDOT before the Preferred Alternative is determined and fully evaluated in the NEPA process.

Q: Is public input still being considered? What opportunities remain to provide comments?

A: Yes, public input will be considered throughout the NEPA study and during subsequent final design efforts. Public input is a key component of the NEPA process, and your input will help shape the details of the interchange design. At this time, public input is being requested to confirm the project Purpose and Need and the results of the post-PEL study alternatives evaluation. Public input will be considered before the Preferred Alternative is confirmed. Two additional public meetings will be held during the NEPA study to present preliminary results of the Environmental Assessment and gather public input before a decision document is made to finalize the NEPA process.

Q: When will the interchange improvements be constructed?

A: The timeline for construction of improvements is dependent on funding availability. Funding has not yet been identified for interchange reconstruction. However, completing the NEPA study provides more information about the recommended improvements for CDOT and the City of Wheat Ridge to consider in the pursuit of funding. It is possible portions of the interchange improvements would be constructed in phases as funding becomes available.

Q: Where can I find more information about the project and submit a comment?

A: Visit the project web page: www.codot.gov/projects/i-70-kipling-interchange

