



North Link

THE NORTH I-25 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT – STUDYING FUTURE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS ALONG THE I-25 CORRIDOR FROM THE FORT COLLINS/WELLINGTON AREA TO DENVER.

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Update on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement Process

The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), has initiated a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) to identify and evaluate multi-modal transportation improvements along the 61-mile I-25 transportation corridor from the Fort Collins/Wellington area to Denver. The purpose and need for the improvements is to address mobility, accessibility, safety and aging infrastructure problems along I-25, as well as to provide for a greater variety of transportation choices.

Two multi-modal packages are being evaluated, as well as the No-Action Alternative in accordance with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements. These packages include:

- Package A: Commuter rail, general purpose lane widening of I-25 and commuter bus on US 85
- Package B: Widening of I-25 for tolled Express Lanes and bus rapid transit
- The No-Action Alternative

A summary of information and results of the DEIS will be available to the public during three public hearings on Nov. 18, Nov. 19 and Nov. 20, as part of the 45-day public comment period that will run from Oct. 31 to Dec. 30, 2008. The release of the DEIS is a major milestone in the NEPA process, and we urge you to participate in the public hearings and provide us with your feedback on the alternatives being considered and the anticipated impacts. This information will

then be used as one piece of the selection process for a preferred alternative.

The preferred alternative is then studied in more detail in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) to determine potential impacts and mitigation that might be needed to alleviate those impacts. Subsequently, an FEIS will be prepared followed by a Record of Decision.

Stay Involved. Be Heard.

Public comments are particularly important once the Draft Environmental Impact Statement has been released. While we hope to see you at one of the public hearings in November, comments will be accepted Oct. 31 through Dec. 30, 2008, by any of the following means:

NORTH I-25 EIS PROJECT OFFICE

Phone: (970) 352-5455 or (303) 779-3384
Web site: www.cdote.info/northi25eis/
Mail: CDOT Region 4
 1420 2nd Street
 Greeley, CO 80631





Summary of Alternatives Considered

An extensive process was undertaken to identify a range of alternatives that could be developed to meet the purpose and need of the project. These alternatives were screened and combined to produce two multi-modal packages (Packages A and B). These packages, together with the No-Action Alternative, are considered the reasonable alternatives for this proposed action and were fully evaluated within the DEIS.

The No-Action Alternative would include those transportation projects for which funding has been committed, including the two FasTracks corridors, widening of I-25 from SH 52 to SH 66, replacement of the SH 66/I-25 interchange, modification of the US 34/I-25 interchange, and signalization of the SH 402 and the Prospect Road interchange ramp termini. The No-Action Alternative also would include rehabilitation of two structures on I-25 at 84th Avenue and 104th Avenue, replacement of pavement on I-25, installation of signals at five interchange

ramp termini, and widening of I-25 off-ramps at the Prospect/I-25 interchange.

Package A would include adding one additional general purpose lane on I-25 in each direction, for a total of six lanes from SH 66 to SH 14 (plus auxiliary lanes between Harmony Road and SH 60) and a total of eight lanes from E-470 to SH 52. Interchange reconstructions would be included. Package A also includes a double-tracked commuter rail line using the existing BNSF railroad track plus one new track from Fort Collins to downtown Longmont. Also included would be a new double-tracked commuter rail line that would connect Longmont to the FasTracks North Metro end-of-line station in Thornton. Package A also would include nine commuter rail stations and a commuter rail maintenance facility; a commuter bus maintenance facility and feeder bus routes along five east-west routes; and commuter bus service along US 85 between Greeley and downtown

Denver and along E-470 from US 85 to Denver International Airport (DIA).

Package B would include adding one buffer-separated tolled Express Lane (TEL) to I-25 except for the section between SH 60 and Harmony Road, where two barrier-separated lanes would be added. Tolled Express Lanes would extend from SH 14 to 84th Avenue in Thornton. Tolled Express Lanes would be used by high-occupancy vehicles for free, by single-occupancy vehicles if they pay a toll, and by buses. Interchange reconstructions would be included. Package B would also include 12 bus stations providing service along I-25, along US 34 into Greeley, and along Harmony Road into Fort Collins. Along US 34 and Harmony Road, the buses would travel in mixed traffic. Package B also would include a bus maintenance facility and feeder bus routes along five east-west streets. In addition, bus service would be provided along E-470 from I-25 to DIA.

THE DEIS IS AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC REVIEW AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS BEGINNING OCT. 31, 2008:

Berthoud Town Hall	328 Massachusetts Ave.	Berthoud	80513
Brighton City Hall	22 S. 4th Ave.	Brighton	80601
CDOT Headquarters	4201 E. Arkansas Ave.	Denver	80222
CDOT Region 4 Headquarters	1420 2nd St.	Greeley	80631
CDOT Region 4, Loveland Residency	2207 Hwy. 402	Loveland	80537
City of Longmont Civic Center	350 Kimbark St.	Longmont	80501
Dacono City Hall	512 Cherry St.	Dacono	80514
Erie Town Hall	645 Holbrook St.	Erie	80516
FHWA Colorado Division Office	12300 W. Dakota Ave., Ste. 180	Lakewood	80228
Firestone Town Hall	151 Grant Ave.	Firestone	80520
Fort Collins City Building	300 LaPorte Ave.	Fort Collins	80522
Fort Collins Regional Library	201 Peterson St.	Fort Collins	80524
Frederick Town Hall Admin. Bldg.	401 Locust St.	Frederick	80530
FTA	12300 W. Dakota Ave., Ste. 310	Lakewood	80228
Greeley City Building	1000 10th Ave.	Greeley	80631
Greeley Lincoln Park Library	919 7th St., Ste. 100	Greeley	80631
Johnstown Town Hall	101 Charlotte St.	Johnstown	80534
Longmont Library	409 4th Ave.	Longmont	80501
Loveland City Hall	500 E. 3rd St., Ste. 110	Loveland	80537
Loveland Library	300 N. Adams Ave.	Loveland	80537
Mead Town Hall	441 Third St.	Mead	80452
Milliken Town Hall	2951 Ash St.	Milliken	80543
Northglenn City Hall	11701 Community Center Dr.	Northglenn	80233
SW Weld County Building	915 10th St.	Greeley	80632
Thornton City Hall	9500 Civic Center Dr.	Thornton	80229



Summary of Alternatives Evaluation

The following table summarizes information about the relative responsiveness of the three alternatives to the factors used in the evaluation. Not all environmental factors are included in this table; rather, just those that show a clear difference among alternatives.

	No-Action Alternative	Package A	Package B
Improving Mobility and Accessibility			
Regional Vehicle miles of travel (VMT)	48.68 million	49.15 million	49.12 million✓
Regional Vehicle hours of travel (VHT)	1.53 million	1.53 million	1.53 million
Freeway VMT	15.7 million	16.6 million	16.1 million✓
Freeway VHT	325 thousand	330 thousand	327 thousand✓
Average speed	31.8 mph	32.2 mph✓	32.1 mph
Transit ridership (commuter services)	N/A	5,850	5,850
Transit market share (to downtown Denver)	<1%	55%✓	50%
Highway travel time (AM peak hour, SH 1 to 20th Street)	128 minutes (GPL); 112 minutes (TEL)	118 minutes (GPL); 101 minutes (TEL)	113 minutes (GPL); 65 minutes (TEL)✓
Transit travel time (Fort Collins South Transit Center to DUS)	130 minutes (bus in GPL & TEL where available)	93 minutes (rail)	72 minutes (BRT)✓
Congested miles on I-25 (PM peak hour)	53 miles	22 miles✓	22 miles✓
Interchange ramp terminals operating at LOS E or F (AM)	20 ramp terminals	3 ramp terminals	2 ramp terminals✓
Improving Highway Safety			
	N/A	3,466 crashes	3,410 crashes✓
Transit Safety (annual injuries)			
	N/A	18✓	59
Replacing Aging Infrastructure			
	24 minor rehabilitations 2 major rehabilitations	84 new structures 13 modifications of existing structures 2 major rehabilitations✓ 6 minor rehabilitations✓	96 new structures✓ 23 modifications of existing structures✓ 0 major rehabilitations 1 minor rehabilitation
Expansion of Transportation Modes of Travel			
	Does not expand	Commuter rail, commuter bus, & feeder bus added	BRT & feeder bus added
Responsiveness to Economic Development			
	Not responsive	Responsive to needs along I-25 and BNSF✓	Responsive to needs along I-25
Environmental Consequences			
Relocations	None	59 residences; 33 businesses	24 residences; 16 businesses✓
Traffic noise sites impacted	626 sites	623 sites✓	756 sites
Transit noise sites impacted	N/A	167 residences	None✓
Vibration sites impacted	N/A	87 residences	None✓
Wetlands and jurisdictional waters impacted	None	19.34 acres✓	20.36 acres
Water Quality: acres of impervious surface area	None	1,946✓	2,001
Floodplains impacted	None	12.8 acres✓	13.5 acres
Historic/archaeological properties adversely affected	None	5	1✓
Parks and recreational properties impacted	None	7✓	8
Wildlife and aquatic species habitat	None	2.01 acres terrestrial; 1.82 acres aquatic✓	2.35 acres terrestrial; 2.25 acres aquatic
Threatened, endangered, state sensitive & protected species habitat affected	None	283.35 acres✓	358.98 acres
Cost (2005 dollars)			
Capital cost	\$57 million	\$2.43 billion	\$2.00 billion✓
Annual operating cost	\$4 million	\$43 million	\$20 million✓
Annualized cost per user per trip	\$0.03	\$0.76	\$0.58✓

✓ = Build alternative that performs better
N/A = Not Applicable



Mark Your Calendars – Public Hearings in November

Join the North I-25 Project Team for public hearings to review and comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. All of the public hearings will take place from 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the following locations:

- Nov. 18: Longmont Public Library | Meeting Rooms A & B
409 4th Ave., Longmont, CO 80501
- Nov. 19: Fort Collins Lincoln Center | Columbine Room
417 W. Magnolia St., Fort Collins, CO 80521
- Nov. 20: Outlets at Loveland | Space 5617 (in the wing by Levi's)
5661 McWhinney Blvd., Loveland, CO 80538
(I-25 and US 34 – Exit 257B)

The format for each of the public hearings will include an open house from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. for reviewing information and asking questions of the project team. **The project presentation and opportunity for public comment will take place from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.** The open house will then continue and the project team will be available from 6:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. for follow-up questions or clarification.

Contact Information

North I-25 EIS Project Office

Phone: (970) 352-5455 or (303) 779-3384
 Web site: www.cdof.info/northi25eis/
 Mail: CDOT Region 4
 1420 2nd Street
 Greeley, CO 80631

Project Team

Monica Pavlik, P.E.
Federal Highway Administration

David Beckhouse
Federal Transit Administration

Carol Parr
CDOT Project Manager

Long Nguyen, P.E.
CDOT Assistant Project Manager

Tom Anzia, P.E.
Project Manager

Gina McAfee, AICP
Deputy Project Manager

Kim McCarl, APR
Public Involvement Manager