



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Colorado Department of Transportation
Announces Initiation of Environmental Impact Statement
for North I-25 Front Range Corridor**

**THREE YEAR STUDY TO EXAMINE ALTERNATIVES TO IMPROVE
TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE IN NORTHERN COLORADO**

LOVELAND, Colo., Jan. 6, 2004 – The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), in partnership with the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration, announces the initiation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the North I-25 Front Range Corridor. The study will determine the effect that adding various transportation improvements in Northern Colorado will have on the lives of residents and commuters in the area. The study will produce a draft EIS, a final EIS, and a Record of Decision which is required for using federal transportation funds for future improvements.

“CDOT’s priority is to provide safe, efficient means of transportation for the citizens of Colorado,” said David M. Martinez, CDOT Project Manager for the North I-25 Front Range EIS. “This process is the next important step to ensure that the transportation system is able to meet the future needs of the residents of Northern Colorado.”

The North I-25 Front Range EIS will draw on findings from earlier studies including the 2000 North Front Range Transportation Alternatives Feasibility Study. That study set a vision that linked surrounding cities and towns through a mix of highway improvements, bus transit and passenger rail. This North I-25 Front Range EIS is the next step toward improved mobility and safety in the I-25 corridor.

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The EIS will explore regional transportation options on I-25 between Northern Colorado population centers including Fort Collins, Loveland and Greeley. The eastern boundary of the study area will be the US 85 corridor, and the western boundary will be the US 287 corridor. In order to effectively evaluate the use of transit options in this region, the southern boundary of the study area will include Denver Union Station for possible passenger rail and regional bus services.

During the EIS process, engineers and environmental analysts will evaluate different transportation options including the addition of lanes and safety features on I-25, the creation of High Occupancy Vehicle lanes, High Occupancy Toll lanes, Bus Rapid Transit lanes and extended/improved bus service. In addition to highway improvements, the team will evaluate the effectiveness of differing passenger rail options to serve citizens and commuters in Northern Colorado. As set out in the National Environmental Policy Act, the study team will also evaluate the no-action alternative.

The three-year study is supported by a consultant team contracted by CDOT. The team includes lead engineering firm Felsburg Holt & Ullevig, environmental services consultant Carter & Burgess, Inc., and public involvement/public relations consultant PRACO, Ltd.

Part of the process in developing an Environmental Impact Statement includes reaching out to members of the public to solicit their opinions on the range of alternatives for the communities in the study area. Outreach will consist of a comprehensive program including an official study Web site and a series of meetings and other events to obtain public input.

Initial public meetings have been scheduled for the following dates and locations:

- Feb. 3, 2004 – 4-7 p.m. – Greeley Recreation Center, 651 10th Avenue, Greeley, 80631
- Feb. 5, 2004 – 4-7 p.m. – Southwest Weld County Services Building – 4209 Weld County Road 24 ½
- Feb. 10, 2004 – 4-7 p.m. – Lincoln Center, 417 Magnolia, Fort Collins, 80521

For more information on the North I-25 Front Range EIS, go to the study's Web site at www.i25northforty.com/EIS or contact Public Outreach Manager Kim Podobnik at 303.689.0704.