I-25/Arapahoe Road Interchange Environmental Assessment Available for Public Review

An Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared for a proposed transportation project to reduce congestion and improve traffic operations and safety for the traveling public within the I-25 and Arapahoe Road (SH 88) interchange complex. The EA identifies an Action Alternative (Improved Partial Cloverleaf) and a No Action (do nothing) Alternative and their associated transportation, social and economic, and environmental impacts.

The EA was made available for public review and comment beginning September 5, 2012 (locations listed below). Written comments on the alternatives and impacts must be received by October 5, 2012 to be considered. Comments can be submitted on the project website, at the public meeting, or mailed (see reverse). All comments received during the comment period will be considered prior to issuance of a final decision document by Federal Highway Administration.

EA Public Review Locations
- www.I25ArapahoeRoadEA.com/reports.html
- Castlewood Library, 6739 South Uinta Street Centennial
- Arapahoe County Public Works, 6924 South Lima, Centennial
- City of Centennial City Hall, 13133 East Arapahoe Road, Centennial
- City of Greenwood Village City Hall, 6060 S. Quebec Street, Greenwood Village
- CDOT Region 6, 2000 S. Holly Street, Denver
- FHWA Division Office, 12300 West Dakota Avenue, Suite 180, Lakewood

Public Meeting #3 of 3
September 20, 2012
Open House 4:30 - 7:00 PM
Good Shepherd Episcopal Church
8545 E. Dry Creek Rd. (just west of Yosemite)

Reasonable accommodations will be provided upon request for people with disabilities. If you require a specific accommodation to participate, contact Leah Langerman at llangerman@deainc.com or 720-225-4651.

Can't make the meeting? The information presented at the meeting will be made available on the project website approximately one week later:
www.I25ArapahoeRoadEA.com

Simulation of Improved Interchange
Where Do We Go From Here?

Public input on the recommendations is still being considered. The success of the NEPA process depends on citizen involvement at this stage. We encourage you to review the Environmental Assessment (EA) recommendations and provide us with focused feedback. CDOT and FHWA will consider all technical data and public and agency comments received when making the final decision regarding project recommendations.

Remaining steps in the process include:

- Public Meeting #3 - September 20th
- Gather public comments during 30 day EA review period (Sept. 5 - Oct. 5, 2012)
- Incorporate and respond to comments in decision document
- Submit decision document to FHWA and CDOT for review and approval
- FHWA and CDOT signature needed on decision document to signify approval of EA recommendations and eligibility of project to receive federal funding
- Final design of recommended alternative - includes additional public involvement
- Formal survey of property owners/tenants adjacent to proposed noise walls
- If noise walls are approved by property owners/tenants, aesthetic details of the walls including type, color and materials will be determined using public input
- Improvements constructed in phases as funding is identified

Contact Us

Bryan Weimer
Arapahoe County Project Manager
720-874-6500 phone
bweimer@co.arapahoe.co.us

Joe Hart
Consultant Project Manager
720-946-0969 phone
jhart@deainc.com

Leah Langerman
Community Outreach Coordinator
720-946-0969 phone
llangerman@deainc.com

www.I25ArapahoeRoadEA.com
Funding for Yosemite Street Improvements Obtained

Federal funding was recently granted by the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) for Yosemite Street at Arapahoe Road improvements. The proposed improvements are estimated to cost $5.0M, with $3.0M funded federally and $2.0M from local agencies.

Improvements to Yosemite Street are an important component of the recommended Improved Partial Cloverleaf Interchange improvements at I-25 and Arapahoe Road, and will benefit overall operations of the interchange complex. Additional turn lane capacity on Yosemite Street can allow for greater green signal time for Arapahoe Road. Due to the proximity of Yosemite Street to I-25, improved traffic operations at Yosemite Street will also benefit operations at the I-25 ramp intersections.

While these improvements to Yosemite Street can be considered the first phase of the Improved Partial Cloverleaf interchange improvements, this project can provide stand-alone benefit regardless of the ultimate interchange improvements.

**Funded Yosemite Street Improvements Include:**

- A second northbound left turn lane on Yosemite Street at Arapahoe Road.
- Widening of the north and south legs of Yosemite Street at Arapahoe Road for lane alignment.
- A northbound right turn lane on Yosemite Street at the Yosemite Court signalized intersection to better accommodate truck access to businesses in the northwest quadrant of the interchange.
- Raised median with curb and gutter on Yosemite Street for approximately 500 feet north and south of Arapahoe Road.
- Noise barrier along the west side of Yosemite Street south of Arapahoe Road. The noise barrier would be located along the back property line of residences, extending approximately 500 feet south of the corner business, and be approximately 8’ to 11’ in height.

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**Recommended Noise Abatement Walls**

Earlier in the project, residents expressed concern over the level of traffic noise in the project area. Traffic noise was analyzed, which resulted in recommendations for noise abatement actions to mitigate anticipated noise impacts. Two noise walls adjacent to the Walnut Hills neighborhood, one along Arapahoe Road and one along Yosemite Street, are being recommended in the Environmental Assessment Action Alternative.

The wall along Arapahoe Road would be approximately 8 feet tall from the ground level of the homes. The wall along Yosemite Street would range from approximately 8 feet tall at the north end to 11 feet tall at the south end from the ground level of the nearby homes. Based on design work performed to date, no private property would be acquired for these walls—the walls would be built in the public right-of-way. However, there is not much space, so the walls may need to be at or near the property lines. This means that for the walls to be built, the adjacent property owners will need to agree to a temporary construction easement and a long-term maintenance access easement.

This is a preliminary recommendation. **A final decision regarding the noise abatement walls cannot be made until final design of the project. Therefore, aesthetics of the walls including type, color and materials will be determined during final design using input from the public.** Final design is expected to take place in 2013-2014.

The project team is soliciting feedback from the affected property owners and residents about the proposed noise abatement walls. Please feel free to let us know your suggestions, comments, or concerns. The comment period ends on October 5, 2012.

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