

Stakeholder Workshop #15

Location: Adams City High School - 7200 Quebec Pkwy, Commerce City, CO 80022

Date/Time: August 26, 2025 / 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

Meeting Purpose

Discuss safety, incident response, state and federal environmental requirements, and corridor aesthetics.

Discussion

Welcome

Participants introduced themselves. A summary of the last workshop was included in the briefing book. Inserts to the briefing book were distributed to provide information and background for tonight's discussions. David Merenich opened the meeting by thanking participants for their continued commitment, noting that the group has been working together for two years and that their input has meaningfully shaped the project. He confirmed that the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) remains on schedule for publication in December 2025.

David also reviewed several of the most frequently discussed topics with the group:

- **Bicycle and Pedestrian Overpass** - This has been a major topic of community interest. The project team has held neighborhood meetings and participated in local events to gather feedback. While most feedback has been positive, the team continues to address concerns raised. Comment forms document where commenters reside to ensure local voices are reflected. Engagement at additional community events is planned.
- **Freight Parking Options** - CDOT is evaluating the potential for a truck parking area near the TA, at a location currently proposed for a stormwater quality pond. The concept is that CDOT would construct the lot and the TA would maintain it.
 - Comments included concern about existing unhoused encampments at the proposed site and challenges for trucks re-entering the highway due to the lack of a left-turn lane.
- **Hazardous Materials Routes** - The project team has heard consistent feedback that Colorado State Patrol determines discussions I-270 is overburdened as a hazmat route and has elevated that feedback to CDOT leadership and Colorado State Patrol (CSP) to explore the possibility of designating alternate routes. CSP determines hazardous material routes in the state and any changes would need to be initiated through CSP.
- **Regional Transit** - CDOT is conducting research to support future conversations with RTD.
- **Construction Coordination** - Participants noted that many construction projects are occurring in the area simultaneously. The team emphasized that it will prioritize proactive communication so residents are informed about changes to traffic patterns.
- **Project Timing** - Concerns were raised about how long the project is taking. The project is of highest priority for CDOT and FHWA.
- **Aesthetics** - David asked stakeholders to reflect on what comes to mind when thinking about corridor aesthetics and what elements would help make the corridor feel welcoming and cohesive.

State Safety Data

Chelsea Adkisson reviewed safety data from the briefing book, comparing Region 1 crash information with I-270-specific incidents. She highlighted that crashes on I-270 tend to have greater impacts on travel compared to other corridors in Colorado. Rachel from FHU explained that rear-end crashes are the most common. A lack of adequate shoulder width contributes to unsafe conditions, and improving safety standards will be a priority across all alternatives. The team is also focused on addressing safety concerns related to trucks having adequate acceleration, deceleration, and merge lengths.

- Comment: A participant suggested adding sudden stop warning signs on the corridor and on/off-ramps for drivers unfamiliar with the highway.
 - Response: CDOT is evaluating technology-based solutions to address these safety challenges.
- Comment: A participant noted that fencing along North Sand Creek has been removed, allowing vehicles to cut through neighborhoods to avoid traffic.
 - Response: David committed to looking into this issue.

State Environmental Requirements

David and Josh Sidon provided an update on state environmental commitments. While federal environmental justice (EJ) requirements have been rescinded, Colorado maintains state-level commitments. These will be documented in a separate state report that will be posted on the website alongside the DEIS.

Josh also provided an overview of EnviroScreen, Colorado's environmental justice mapping tool maintained by CDPHE. EnviroScreen uses population and environmental data to calculate scores at the county, census tract, and block group levels. A higher score indicates greater exposure to environmental and health burdens. For example, a block group with a score of 99 experiences higher burdens than 99 percent of all block groups in the state. The map shared at the meeting illustrated block group-level scores for the corridor.

Corridor Aesthetics

Pedro Perin da Cruz discussed CDOT's development of an aesthetics guidelines plan, which began in July. This cross-agency effort involves local governments and seeks community input on priority areas and desired improvements.

Conclusion

Chelsea closed the meeting by reminding participants to complete comment cards and review the optional "homework" provided by David. The next meeting will be held at the Eagle Pointe Recreation Center to discuss environmental mitigation and enhancements.