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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CDOT TO SHOW INTERCHANGE AND INTERSECTION OPTIONS
FOR TWO US 24 WEST BUILD ALTERNATIVES

Colorado Springs, CO – The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) will present more detail about the *Midland Expressway* and *U.S. 24 Freeway* alternatives for U.S. 24 West at an open house on Thursday, January 26, 2006. The event will be from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the West Center for Intergenerational Learning, 25 North 20th St. CDOT is asking citizens to come and review the additional information and provide their comments and opinions.

“We had 229 citizens come to the last meeting and we received a lot of great input,” said Dave Watt, CDOT Resident Engineer on the US 24 West project. “We’re hoping for similar input at this meeting since we’ll be showing the interchange and intersection options for the two build alternatives.”

In addition to the interchange and intersection options, CDOT will also be showing, and looking for comments on, the Level 3 Criteria that will be used to evaluate the two build alternatives. Other displays will include a recap of what has been done so far on the project, what’s coming up in the near future, and how citizens can stay involved throughout the remainder of the project.

At the most recent open house in November, CDOT presented a broad view of the two build alternatives, plus the mandatory “no build” alternative that is required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The “no build” alternative includes the existing roadway, plus any projects that have already been approved for funding along the corridor.

(more)

The *Midland Expressway* emphasizes access to local neighborhoods and destinations between Interstate 25 and the east Manitou Avenue exit. It would continue to provide regional travel to and from the mountains, but would give preference to local traffic with lower speeds on the mainline. The expressway alternative would predominantly use at-grade intersections, but grade-separated interchanges would be needed at two cross-street locations.

The *U.S. 24 Freeway* alternative emphasizes regional mobility between Colorado Springs and the mountains. It would serve local traffic from grade-separated interchanges and would give preference to regional travel with higher speeds on the mainline. This freeway alternative would provide a high-capacity, free-flow facility.

A transit service package is included in both build alternatives, with express bus service for the commuter market and existing bus service or a future historic trolley for the local and tourist markets.

The U.S. 24 West project is an Environmental Assessment (EA) of the U.S. 24 Corridor from Manitou Springs to I-25. The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), on behalf of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), develops the EA and plan for the corridor with assistance and opinions from other state and federal agencies, the general public and local governments.

An EA is a comprehensive study that evaluates potential impacts, both positive and negative, of alternative actions under consideration. The EA will help agency officials decide which project alternative to approve based on the environmental consequences of each alternative developed.

For information on meetings leading up to this point, visit the project website at www.us24west.com. With comments or questions, call 719-477-4970.

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