

Next Steps: Launching the Aesthetic Planning Effort

Please Join Us for an Open House
Thursday, August 28, 2008

From 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Please drop in any time.
West Center for Intergenerational Learning
25 North 20th Street, Colorado Springs

Help Us Answer These Questions:

- What function should the aesthetic treatments serve?
- What are potential visual themes that can support community function?
- Did we miss any additional corridor elements?
- What views are important to highlight?
- What views are important to screen?

Contact Us

Phone: 719-477-4970
Mail: 90 South Cascade Avenue, Suite 700, Colorado Springs, CO 80903
E-mail: us24winfo@wilsonco.com

Project Web site: www.us24west.com

Reasonable accommodations will be provided upon request for people with disabilities. If you require a specific accommodation to participate, call 719-477-4970.

Acomodaciones razonables serán proveídas cuando lo requieren para personas con deshabilitades y para quienes que necesiten traducción al español. Por favor, llame al 719-477-4970 si usted requiere acomodación especial o traducción para participar en esta reunión.

CDOT has paid for the use of District 11 facilities. Granting the use of these facilities represents neither agreement nor disagreement about the US 24 project by District 11.



Envision  West

The Entryway

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Envision West

Environmental Assessment US 24 West Manitou Springs to I-25

One Vision – Three Elements: What Will It Look Like?

In the fall of 2004, the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) launched an Environmental Assessment (EA) of US 24 from Manitou Avenue to Interstate 25. The process has generated a community vision, gathered critical issues and ideas, and developed criteria to measure the effectiveness of solutions that were consistent with the vision. In August 2006, the Midland Expressway, a combination of interchanges and signalized intersections, was presented to the public.

The vision of the US 24 corridor emerged from your input and the many community plans for the corridor.

These community plans have for years envisioned improvements to US 24, flood improvements to the Fountain Creek, restoration of the creek, a trail system focused around the creek and connecting cities and neighbors. Guided by the vision, three elements emerged: the roadway improvements, the flood risk reduction initiative, and the

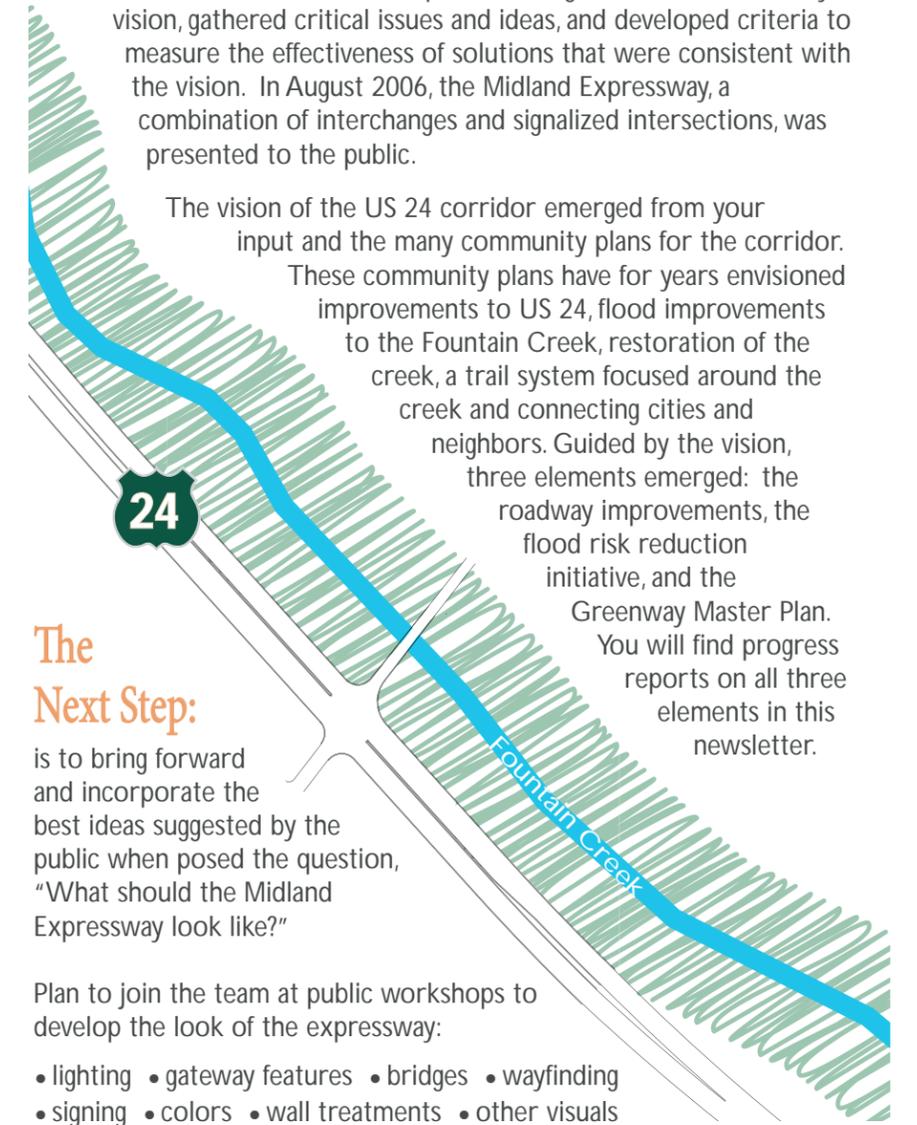
Greenway Master Plan. You will find progress reports on all three elements in this newsletter.

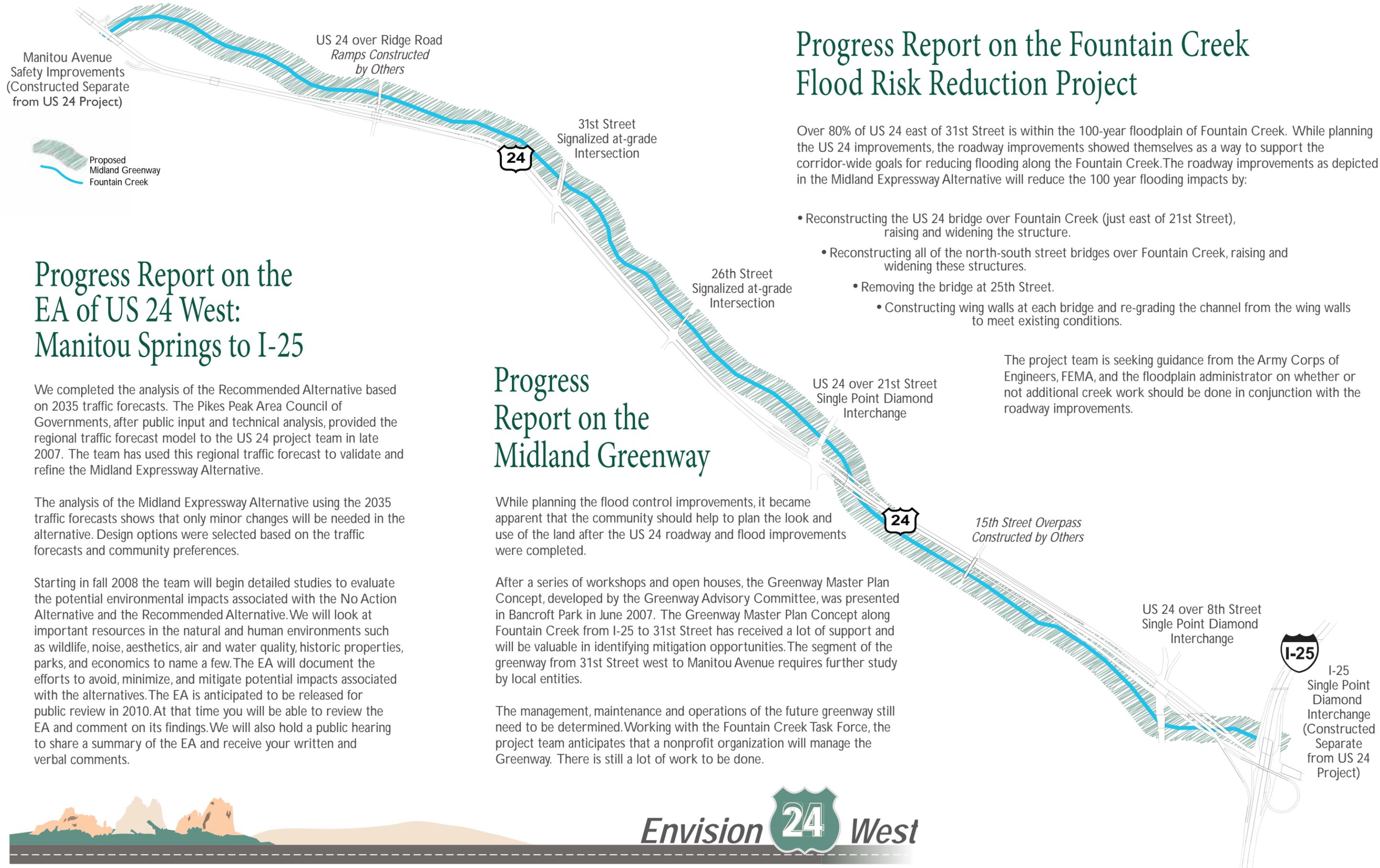
The Next Step:

is to bring forward and incorporate the best ideas suggested by the public when posed the question, "What should the Midland Expressway look like?"

Plan to join the team at public workshops to develop the look of the expressway:

- lighting
- gateway features
- bridges
- wayfinding
- signing
- colors
- wall treatments
- other visuals





Progress Report on the Fountain Creek Flood Risk Reduction Project

Over 80% of US 24 east of 31st Street is within the 100-year floodplain of Fountain Creek. While planning the US 24 improvements, the roadway improvements showed themselves as a way to support the corridor-wide goals for reducing flooding along the Fountain Creek. The roadway improvements as depicted in the Midland Expressway Alternative will reduce the 100 year flooding impacts by:

- Reconstructing the US 24 bridge over Fountain Creek (just east of 21st Street), raising and widening the structure.
- Reconstructing all of the north-south street bridges over Fountain Creek, raising and widening these structures.
- Removing the bridge at 25th Street.
- Constructing wing walls at each bridge and re-grading the channel from the wing walls to meet existing conditions.

The project team is seeking guidance from the Army Corps of Engineers, FEMA, and the floodplain administrator on whether or not additional creek work should be done in conjunction with the roadway improvements.

Progress Report on the EA of US 24 West: Manitou Springs to I-25

We completed the analysis of the Recommended Alternative based on 2035 traffic forecasts. The Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments, after public input and technical analysis, provided the regional traffic forecast model to the US 24 project team in late 2007. The team has used this regional traffic forecast to validate and refine the Midland Expressway Alternative.

The analysis of the Midland Expressway Alternative using the 2035 traffic forecasts shows that only minor changes will be needed in the alternative. Design options were selected based on the traffic forecasts and community preferences.

Starting in fall 2008 the team will begin detailed studies to evaluate the potential environmental impacts associated with the No Action Alternative and the Recommended Alternative. We will look at important resources in the natural and human environments such as wildlife, noise, aesthetics, air and water quality, historic properties, parks, and economics to name a few. The EA will document the efforts to avoid, minimize, and mitigate potential impacts associated with the alternatives. The EA is anticipated to be released for public review in 2010. At that time you will be able to review the EA and comment on its findings. We will also hold a public hearing to share a summary of the EA and receive your written and verbal comments.

Progress Report on the Midland Greenway

While planning the flood control improvements, it became apparent that the community should help to plan the look and use of the land after the US 24 roadway and flood improvements were completed.

After a series of workshops and open houses, the Greenway Master Plan Concept, developed by the Greenway Advisory Committee, was presented in Bancroft Park in June 2007. The Greenway Master Plan Concept along Fountain Creek from I-25 to 31st Street has received a lot of support and will be valuable in identifying mitigation opportunities. The segment of the greenway from 31st Street west to Manitou Avenue requires further study by local entities.

The management, maintenance and operations of the future greenway still need to be determined. Working with the Fountain Creek Task Force, the project team anticipates that a nonprofit organization will manage the Greenway. There is still a lot of work to be done.

