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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOCUSES ON THE FUTURE  
OF US 24 FROM MANITOU SPRINGS TO I-25**

Colorado Springs, CO — It's the only major route to the mountains between Highway 285 in Denver and Highway 50 in Pueblo. It's a major access corridor for neighborhoods and businesses on the west side and for several popular tourist attractions. And it's a commuter route for the residents who live along Ute Pass and in Woodland Park. It's US 24 and the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) is kicking off an Environmental Assessment (EA) to address mobility and safety issues from Manitou Springs to Interstate 25.

CDOT will look at short- and long-term strategies to address issues along US 24. The first step in that process is to understand the community needs, issues and concerns about US 24. The US 24 project team will explore possible solutions to the critical transportation needs in this important 6.5 stretch. The result will be the development of the vision and goals for the US 24 project.

The first open house and workshop will be held from **5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 18, 2004** at the West Center for Intergenerational Learning, 25 N. 20<sup>th</sup> St. in Colorado Springs. The public is invited to drop in anytime from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. to meet the team and learn more about the project. The workshop will begin promptly at 6:30 and last until 8:00 p.m. at which point a summary of the work done will be presented.

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Important phases of the EA will be the gathering of issues and concerns, developing the project criteria, analyzing alternatives and developing the final report. The public will be involved in every phase. And the project team will work directly with the public to ensure that public issues and concerns are consistently understood and considered.

For more information about the Highway 24 West project, visit the Web site at [www.dot.state.co.us/us24w/](http://www.dot.state.co.us/us24w/), or call 719-477-4970.

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