

WHY THE MIDLAND EXPRESSWAY

The Midland Expressway...

- ...is preferred for its **compatibility** with the context of the West Side
- ...provides the most **accessibility** at key points on the corridor
- ...provides an appropriate **balance** between local and regional users
- ...provides the required mobility with **fewer impacts**
- ...satisfies all critical issues

The Midland Expressway addresses all of the critical issues identified by the project stakeholders:

Community Values

Needs of multiple users with multiple objectives

- Provides balance between local and regional users
- Increases multi-modal opportunities

Corridor aesthetics

- Maintains visual connections
- Compatible with visual context

Corridor's context and setting

- Maintains community character
- Greater direct access
- Lower speeds

Economic viability

- Smaller footprint
- Provides variety of redevelopment opportunities
- More access
- Broader trade area

Environmental

Surrounding natural and human environment

- Fewer residential relocations
- Less right-of-way required
- Respects historic resources
- Improves water and air quality

Safety, Accessibility, and Mobility

Safety

- Improves vehicular safety
- Improves pedestrian safety

Accessibility and mobility

- Combines effective mobility with accessibility
- Reduces congestion
- Greater direct access

US 24 - destination and gateway

- Allows for multiple gateways
- Provides for greater access to US 24 destinations

Implementation

Coordinated implementation

- Less impact during construction
- Supported by local governments

Effective and fundable

- Less expensive to construct
- Appropriate level of solution for the corridor



Therefore ...

The Midland Expressway

- Emphasizes mobility for local trips and access to local neighborhoods and destinations
- Maintains the corridor context and setting with a raised median suitable for landscaping
- Maintains access to local destinations
- Provides for regional travel to and from the mountains
Provides adequate through lanes to maintain a quality level-of-service beyond 2030
- Uses at-grade, signalized intersections for access at 26th Street, 31st Street, and Ridge Road
- Grade separated interchanges would provide access to 8th Street, 21st Street and Manitou Avenue.
- Compatible with a bike/pedestrian trail system between Manitou Avenue and I-25
- Includes north-south trail connections at the interchanges and intersections
- A grade-separated bike and pedestrian bridge is proposed near 31st Street.
- A transit service package is included.
- An express bus service is included for mountain commuters.
- Existing bus service would enhance mobility.
- Includes a park and ride facility
- Improved signage
- Aesthetic improvements
- Better side street access

Choosing the Midland Expressway means...

- There will be at-grade intersections with signals at appropriate locations along US 24.
- To reach acceptable levels-of-service there must be 3 through lanes from I-25 through 31st Street. These minimum operating levels are set by the cities and the State.
- The improvements are consistent with the PPACG Congestion Management System.
- The Expressway is consistent with the area's approved plans for maintaining and improving regional air quality.
- The plan is consistent with local plans such as the Westside Plan.
 - El Paso County Master Plan
 - City of Colorado Springs Comprehensive Plan
 - Manitou Springs Open Space Plan

The Midland Expressway has a multitude of design options!

Now is the time to talk about ...

- The posted speed — is 40 mph right for US 24?
- The optimum location for access between 8th Street and 21st Street
- The best type of interchange at 21st Street
- Shifting US 24 to the north or the south near 21st Street
- Adding a pedestrian overpass between 25th and 31st Streets
- Realigning 31st Street to connect to 30th Street
- An overpass at Ridge Road and US 24
- Adding a signal at Colorado Avenue and Ridge Road
- Considering improvements to the Manitou Avenue interchange
- Location of the Midland Trail extensions
- Improved access to existing businesses
- Excess right-of-way
- Typical section elements such as the width of the median
- Aesthetic treatments and themes along the corridor



Envision  West