



### What is an Environmental Assessment?

An Environmental Assessment (EA) is a process conducted as part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process in order to enhance decision-making. An EA is also a document that informs agencies and the public about a specific project.

The EA describes results of the detailed study of natural and human resources to determine if significant environmental impacts will result from the project.

An EA document contains these elements:

- The Purpose and Need for the project
- Description of the Proposed Action
- Alternatives to the Proposed Action
- Description of potential environmental impacts
- Actions to avoid, minimize and compensate for environmental impacts
- Responses to public and agency comments on the project

#### Will I be able to review the EA?

- Yes - when the EA is released for review and comment in late 2007, notices will be sent to our project mailing list, posted on the project Web site, and published in local newspapers.
- There will be a 30-day public comment period for the EA.
- During the comment period, we will hold a public hearing to share a summary of the EA and receive your written and spoken comments.
- Based on comments on the EA, the project team prepares a Decision Document.

#### What is a Decision Document?

The Decision Document is published to record a federal agency's decision about the significance of environmental impacts from a Proposed Action. The decision will either be a Finding of No Significant Impact, which allows the project to proceed, or that significant impacts could occur and that an Environmental Impact Statement will be prepared.

### What is the Purpose and Need for the project?

#### The Purpose of the project is to

- improve regional and local mobility on US 24 for current and projected demands for all modes of travel between the present day and 2030, and
- to reconstruct roadways and bridges to meet current design guidelines and safety standards.

#### The Need for the project includes two areas:

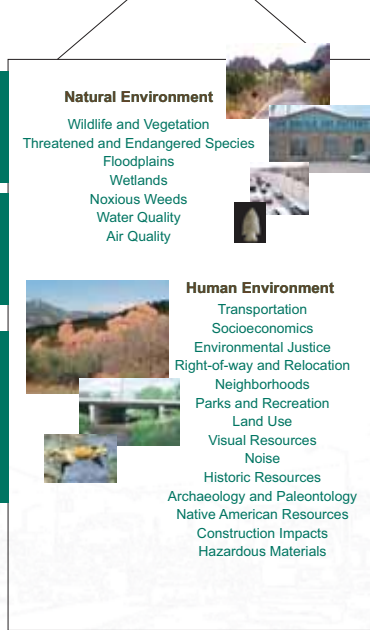
- crowded roads, and
- bridges and roadway features that do not meet current design standards.

#### What is a Purpose and Need Statement?

The Purpose and Need provides a basis for developing and screening alternatives. The Purpose is a broad statement of the project's transportation objectives. The Need is a detailed explanation of existing conditions that need to be changed or problems that need to be remedied.

### What resources will the EA evaluate?

The US 24 West EA will evaluate 22 natural and human resources



**Socioeconomics**  
A socioeconomic study will be conducted and included in the EA. The study will look at the benefits and potential impacts to the regional and local

**Right-of-Way and Relocation**  
The goal of this project is to minimize right-of-way impacts. Right-of-way acquisitions are relocations that do not occur until the impacts and affects are analyzed in the EA.

**Visual Resources**  
Following the development of more roadway design information, a viewshed analysis will be undertaken to understand the visual impacts to the existing conditions. This information will help shape the design options and the aesthetic design guidelines.

**Floodplains**  
Because of the proximity of US 24 to Fountain Creek, floodplains are a critical issue. The EA will explore the impacts and potential mitigations.

**Air Quality**  
The Congestion Management System Plan guides the improvement of roadways to minimize congestion, which improves air quality.

**Noise**  
Once design options have been selected, noise analysis can begin to identify areas that may be impacted. The EA will study areas where noise abatement can be effective.

No Build Alternative Map with Description -