

US 24 W Corridor – Environmental Assessment



The Vision for US 24 states...

The US 24 improvements will integrate into the community fabric, while providing safety, accessibility and mobility.

While working on US 24 the integrated nature of the many systems at work in this corridor has become apparent: The major regional highway US 24, the parallel and more local facility Colorado Avenue/Manitou Avenue, the north-south connectors, the trails, the bus lines, the regional shopping and restaurants, the local shops and services, Fountain Creek floodplain and water quality, and the parks and open spaces.

These systems must remain integrated: Therefore, the best solution for US24 is one that integrates with solutions for Fountain Creek, the trails, surrounding land uses, and the local economy.

This approach has led to the concept of a greenway: An integrated solution for connecting roadway improvements with trails, for using floodplain enhancements to improve water quality and aesthetics, to have transit parking used for weekend park access, and to connect local amenities with local businesses (trails with restaurants, for example). CDOT is committed to the planning of a greenway that integrates the local systems and adds lasting value to the community.

This effort can optimize the efficient use of resources: Local, state and federal dollars can be used most efficiently by combining improvements for several systems. For example, if we raise the bridges (CDOT dollars) to improve flooding trails can be constructed (using City and state dollars) without street crossings; if we build treatment ponds to improve water quality roadway runoff can be treated in these ponds (combine CDOT, City and other agency dollars). Construction of elements using a variety of funds and accomplishing different goals can be done **concurrently**.

Using this plan CDOT will construct roadway improvements in a manner that supports other elements of the corridor plan.

The final goal of this planning effort will be to leave the greenway with a sustainable long-term plan: Arrangements to fund, construct, manage, and maintain the greenway.