

Supplement to the Parks and Recreation Resources Technical Memorandum

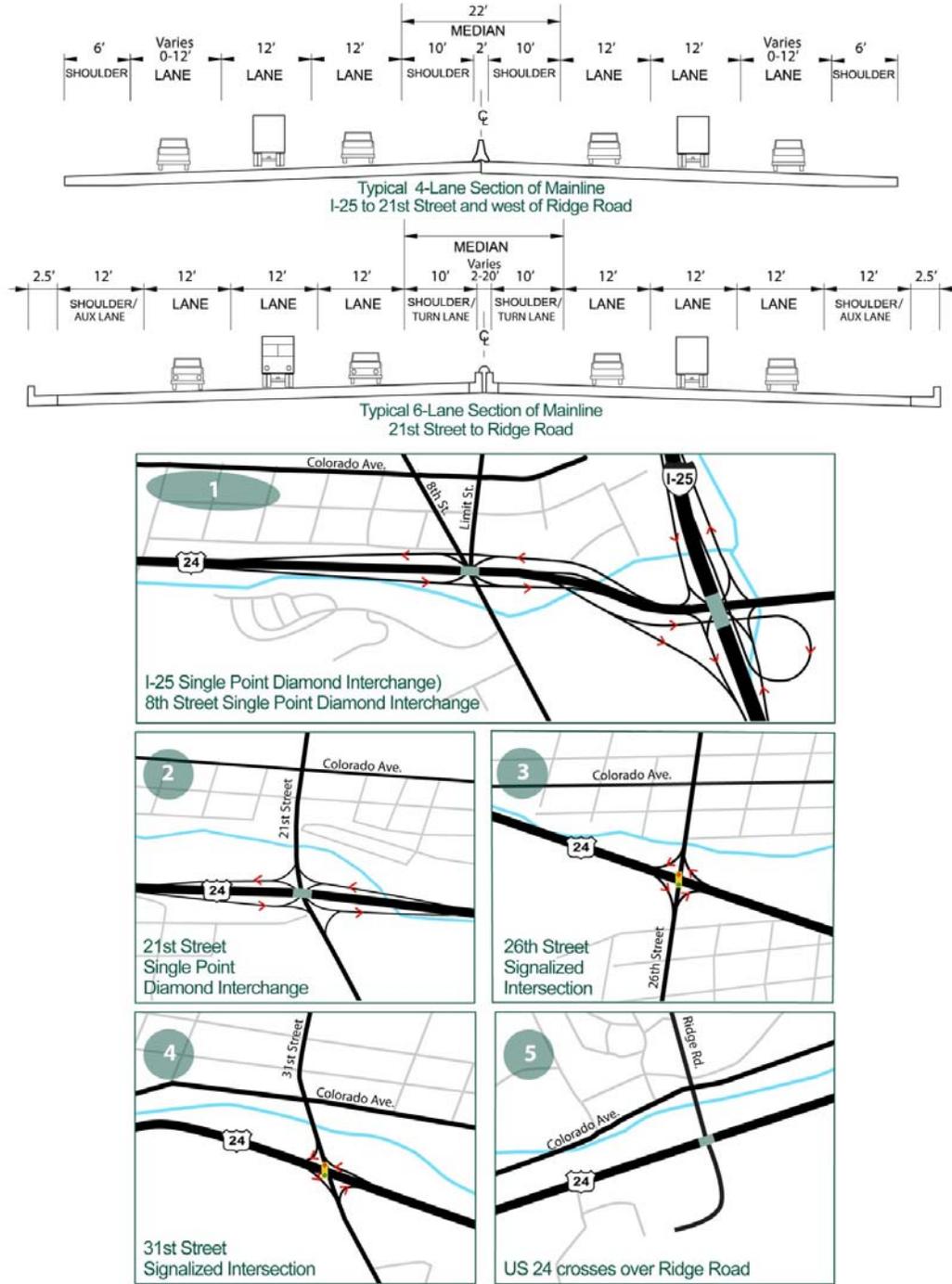
PREPARED FOR: Colorado Department of Transportation
PREPARED BY: Kelly Fredell, PE/CH2M HILL
COPIES: Andrea Garcia/CH2M HILL, File 187824_US_24_Corridor
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The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) is conducting an Environmental Assessment (EA) for changes to a 4-mile portion of US 24 between Interstate 25 and Manitou Springs. The parks and recreation resources in the corridor under evaluation in the EA were initially addressed in the *US 24 West Environmental Assessment: Park and Recreation Resources Technical Memorandum* (CH2M HILL, 2010). Since the initial analysis was completed for the *US 24 West Environmental Assessment: Park and Recreation Resources Technical Memorandum* (CH2M HILL, 2010), information regarding Vermijo Park and the Midland Trail has changed. This supplement analyzes and addresses these changes.

Proposed Action

The following graphic supersedes Exhibit 1 in the *US 24 West Environmental Assessment: Park and Recreation Resources Technical Memorandum* (CH2M HILL, 2010).

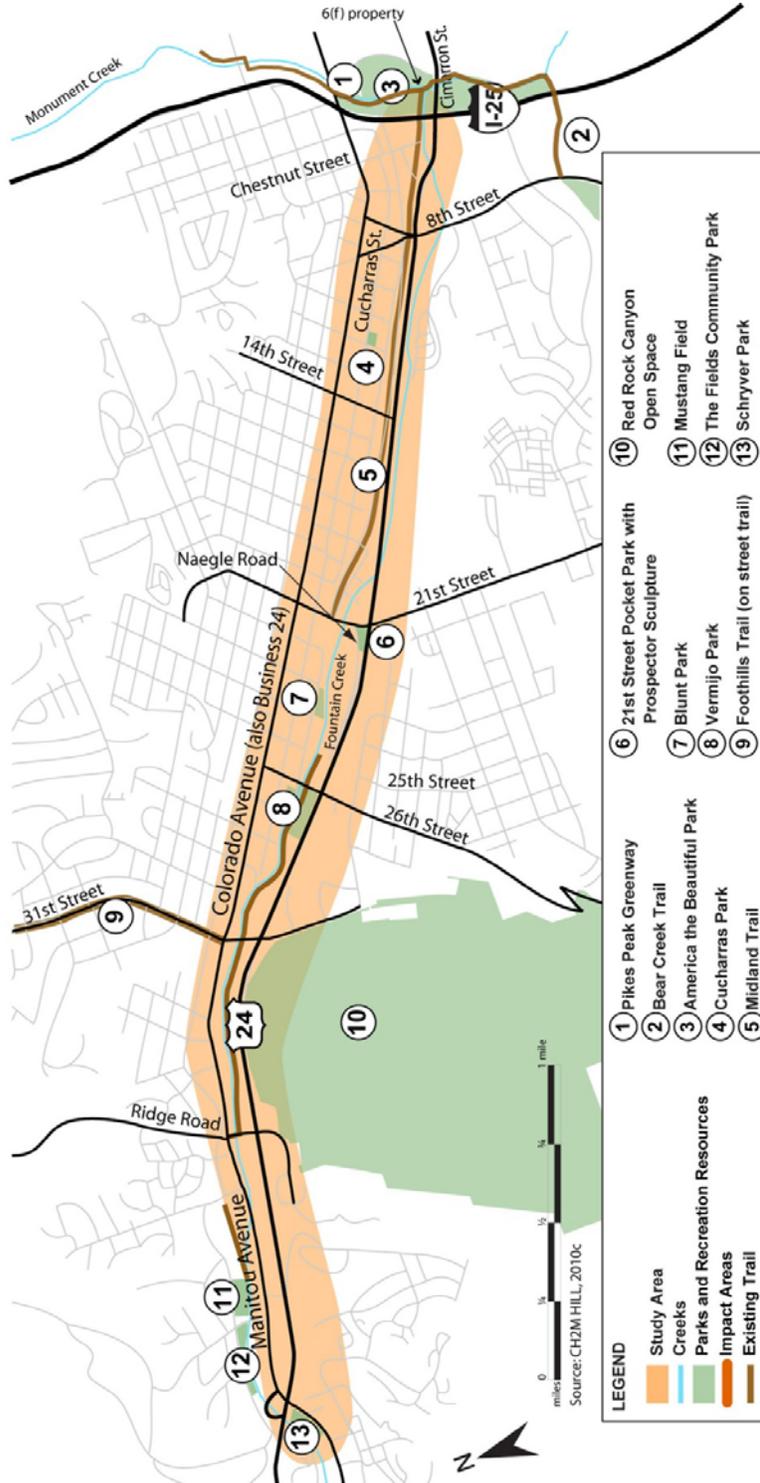
EXHIBIT 1 Proposed Action



Impacts of the Proposed Action Alternative

The following graphic supersedes Exhibit 2 in the *US 24 West Environmental Assessment: Park and Recreation Resources Technical Memorandum* (CH2M HILL, 2010).

EXHIBIT 2
Midland Trail



The Midland Trail

In 2011, the City of Colorado Springs added approximately 1.2 miles to the Midland Trail. One segment was added between 25th Street and Ridge Road, leaving a gap between 21st Street and 25th Street. The new trail weaves north and south of Fountain Creek between 25th Street and approximately Ridge Road. Another segment of trail was constructed on the north side of Colorado Avenue from Columbia Road through Mustang Field. This means that the constructed length of the Midland Trail is now approximately 2.9 miles. Ultimately, the City of Colorado Springs is planning for the trail to be a total length of 3.52 miles.

In addition to the 0.3 miles of impacts identified between 8th Street and 11th Street in the *US 24 West Environmental Assessment: Park and Recreation Resources Technical Memorandum* (CH2M HILL, 2010), new impacts from the Proposed Action have been identified on the new Midland Trail segments constructed in 2011. Bridges will be replaced at the cross streets of 21st Street, 26th Street, 31st Street, and Ridge Road, causing a temporary construction impact to the trail in the vicinity of each bridge. No long-term impacts are expected at these four trail locations and the continuity of the trail during construction will be maintained.

These four temporary impacts areas total approximately 0.2 miles of the Midland Trail. The new Midland Trail is shown in Exhibit 2 in relation to the proposed improvements to US 24, 21st Street, 26th Street, 31st Street, and Ridge Road. For the safety of trail users, the trail will have to be temporarily relocated during the construction of the bridges over Fountain Creek and a new permanent trail will be constructed as part of each bridge improvement. Once construction is completed, users will be able to cross under each bridge on newly constructed trail at these locations.

Between each US 24 cross street, the land between Fountain Creek and the Midland Trail will be graded to the trail edge to avoid impacts to the trail at its current location along Fountain Creek. Construction impacts such as temporary trail detours, an increase in construction-related traffic, noise, and dust would be expected throughout construction.

Vermijo Park

Vermijo Park has a baseball field that has informal recreation use, but it is not used by the City of Colorado Springs for organized events. The park is isolated and underutilized and hidden from the US 24 roadway by a thick layer of trees lining Fountain Creek. Because of this setting, the public has expressed some concern regarding park safety.

Approximately 2.2 acres of Vermijo Park that is currently being used as parkland is located within CDOT right-of-way as illustrated in Exhibit 3. Re-grading of the Fountain Creek channel to increase the channel width at the 26th Street bridge will result in impacts to the area. This re-grading will be a temporary impact to the majority of the 2.2 acres but it will permanently eliminate the baseball field and, given the size limits of the park, a new baseball field cannot be placed in the park. Once CDOT re-grades the area between the Fountain Creek and the Midland Trail, the land will be re-vegetated with grasses and trees and the 2.2 acres will remain in park use.

On the east edge of Vermijo Park, less than 0.1 acres of the parkland will be acquired by CDOT for sidewalk improvements along 26th Street, as previously discussed in the *US 24 West Environmental Assessment: Park and Recreation Resources Technical Memorandum* (CH2M HILL, 2010). A wider sidewalk along the east side of the park will replace the current, more narrow sidewalk that borders the park.

As shown in Exhibit 3, approximately 2.4 acres of Vermijo Park would remain in park use. While the basketball courts and playground would remain in their current locations, the loss of the baseball field would reduce the park's functionality. To mitigate these impacts CDOT will contribute up to \$50,000 to the City of Colorado Springs for a park study to re-plan the park.

EXHIBIT 3
Vermijo Park

