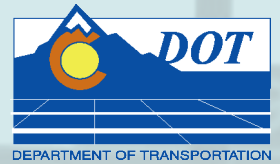
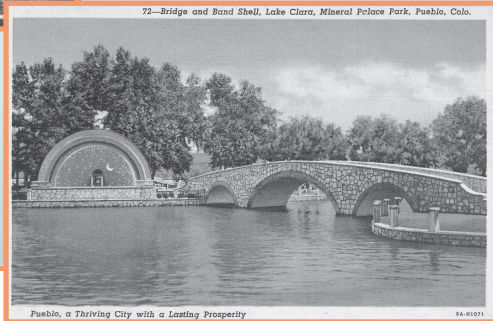
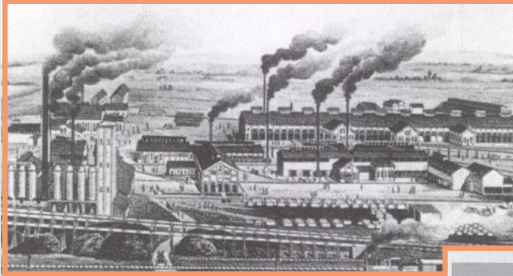


Record of Decision for I-25 Improvements Through Pueblo

Final Environmental Impact Statement
and Section 4(f) Evaluation



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
**Colorado Department
of Transportation
Region 2**

and



Federal Highway Administration

CDOT Project No. IM 0251-156
Project Control No. 12831

FHWA Check Copy Draft

March 2014



New Pueblo Freeway

STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) may publish a notice in the Federal Register, pursuant to 23 United States Code § 139(1), once the Record of Decision (ROD) is approved. If such notice is published, a claim arising under federal law seeking judicial review of a permit, license, or approval issued by a federal agency for a highway or public transportation capital project shall be barred unless it is filed within 150 days after publication of a notice in the Federal Register announcing that the permit, license, or approval is final pursuant to the law under which judicial review is allowed. If no notice is published, then the periods of time that otherwise are provided by the federal laws governing such claims will apply.

INFORMATION AVAILABILITY

The following individuals may be contacted for further information regarding this ROD:

Joe DeHeart
Project Manager
Colorado Department of Transportation, Region 2
905 Erie Avenue
Pueblo, Colorado 81001
(719) 546-5439
joe.deheart@state.co.us

Chris Horn
Senior Operations Engineer/Right-of-Way Program Manager
Federal Highway Administration
12300 W. Dakota Avenue, Suite 180
Lakewood, Colorado 80228
(720) 963-3017
chris.horn@dot.gov

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT AVAILABILITY

The *I-25 Improvements Through Pueblo Final Environmental Impact Statement and Final Section 4(f) Evaluation* (Colorado Department of Transportation [CDOT] and FHWA, 2013) (FEIS) is available for review at <http://www.coloradodot.info/projects/> and at the following locations:

- **Federal and State Offices**
 - CDOT Headquarters (Public Relations Office) - Bob Wilson, Public Relations Manager, Region 2, 4201 East Arkansas Avenue, Denver, Colorado 80222
 - CDOT Region 2 (Pueblo) - Joe DeHeart, Project Manager, 905 Erie Avenue, Pueblo, Colorado 81002
 - Federal Highway Administration, Colorado Division Office, 12300 West Dakota Avenue #180, Lakewood, Colorado 80228
- **Libraries**
 - Colorado State University Pueblo Library, 2200 Bonforte, Pueblo, Colorado 81001
 - Pueblo Community College Library, 900 West Orman Avenue, Pueblo, Colorado 81004
 - Pueblo Library – Barkman Branch, 1300 Jerry Murphy Road, Pueblo, Colorado 81004
 - Pueblo Library – Pueblo West Branch, 298 South Joe Martinez Boulevard, Pueblo, Colorado 81005
 - Pueblo Library – Rawlings Branch, 100 East Abriendo Avenue, Pueblo, Colorado 81004
 - Pueblo Library at the Y, 3200 Spaulding, Pueblo, Colorado 81008

Please contact Joe Deheart, CDOT project manager (listed above) to obtain a copy of the FEIS.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.0	Introduction	1-1
1.1	Background.....	1-1
1.2	Purpose and Need.....	1-1
2.0	Identification of the Preferred Alternative	2-1
2.1	Development and Screening of Alternatives.....	2-1
2.1.1	Final Detailed Alternatives.....	2-1
2.2	Basis for Identification of the Preferred Alternative.....	2-6
2.2.1	How the Preferred Alternative Addresses the Elements of the Purpose and Need.....	2-6
2.2.2	Other Contributing Factors.....	2-7
2.3	Environmentally Preferable Alternative.....	2-16
2.4	Least Environmentally Damaging Practicable Alternative.....	2-17
3.0	Phase 1 of the Preferred Alternative	3-1
3.1	Project Funding Scenario	3-1
3.2	Description of Phase 1 Improvements.....	3-1
3.3	Timing of Future Phases.....	3-3
3.4	Responsiveness to Purpose and Need.....	3-5
3.5	Phase 1 Environmental Impacts.....	3-6
4.0	Section 4(f)	4-1
4.1	Introduction.....	4-1
4.2	Section 4(f) Properties.....	4-1
4.3	All Possible Planning to Minimize Harm.....	4-3
4.4	Consultation and Coordination.....	4-3
5.0	Clarifications to the FEIS and Updates in Regulations	5-1
5.1	Clarifications and Corrections to the FEIS.....	5-1
5.1.1	Clarifications and Corrections Related to Park and Recreational Resources.....	5-1
5.1.2	Clarifications and Corrections Related to Environmental Justice.....	5-1
5.1.3	Clarifications and Corrections Related to Noise.....	5-2
5.1.4	Clarifications and Corrections Related to Mitigation Commitments.....	5-2
5.2	Noise Preference Surveys.....	5-4
5.3	Unresolved Issues from the FEIS.....	5-6
6.0	Public Comments Received on the FEIS	6-1
6.1	Summary of Comments Received on the FEIS.....	6-1
7.0	Federal, State, and Local Permits and Approvals	7-1
7.1	Air Quality.....	7-1
7.1.1	Project Level Air Quality Conformity for Phase 1 of the Preferred Alternative.....	7-1
7.1.2	Regional Air Quality Evaluation for the Preferred Alternative.....	7-1
7.1.3	Regional Air Quality Conformity for Phase 1 of the Preferred Alternative.....	7-1
7.2	Section 106 Consultation.....	7-1
7.3	Section 6(f) of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act.....	7-1
7.4	CDOT 1601 Process.....	7-2
7.5	Section 404 Permit.....	7-3
7.6	Biological Opinion.....	7-3

7.7	Senate Bill 40 Certification	7-3
7.8	Floodplain Permit	7-4
7.9	Monitoring and Enforcement	7-4
8.0	Mitigation	8-1
9.0	Record of Decision.....	9-1
10.0	References.....	10-1

Appendix A – Figures of Preferred Alternative and Phase 1

Appendix B – Response to Public and Agency Comments on the FEIS

Appendix C – Public Involvement Materials

Appendix D – Agency Correspondence

Appendix E – Section 106 Programmatic Agreement

Appendix F – I-25 Bridge Over the Arkansas River

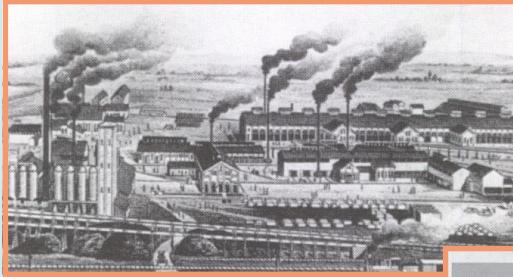
List of Exhibits

2-1	No Action Alternative
2-2	Existing I-25 Alternative
2-3	Modified I-25 Alternative (Preferred Alternative)
2-4	Comparison of Direct and Indirect Impacts from the Alternatives Considered in the FEIS
3-1	Five Projects Proposed for Phase 1 of the Preferred Alternative
3-2	Preferred Alternative Project Phasing
3-3	Environmental Impacts Associated with Phase 1 of the Preferred Alternative
4-1	Summary of Section 4(f) Use for Phase 1 of the Preferred Alternative
5-1	Phase 1 of the Preferred Alternative: Noise Wall Preference Survey Results
7-1	Summary of Permits and Approvals
8-1	I-25 New Pueblo Freeway Phase 1 of the Preferred Alternative – Colorado Department of Transportation Mitigation Commitment Monitoring and Reporting

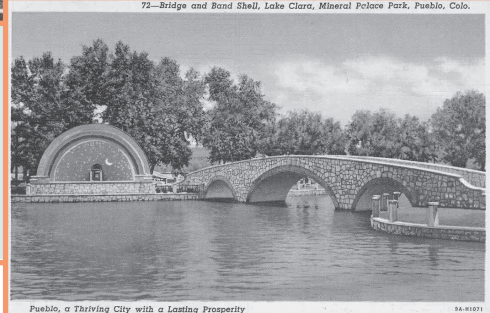
ACRONYM LIST

4P	Project Priority Programming Process
ACM	Asbestos-containing material
BFE	base flood elevation
BMP	Best Management Practice
Btu	British thermal unit
CDOT	Colorado Department of Transportation
CDPHE	Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
CDPS	Colorado Discharge Permit System
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
City	City of Pueblo
CLOMR	Conditional Letter of Map Revision
CO	carbon monoxide
CPW	Colorado Parks and Wildlife
dBA	A-weighted decibel
DEIS	<i>Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Section 4(f) Evaluation for I-25 Improvements Through Pueblo (CDOT and FHWA, 2011)</i>
DOI	United States Department of the Interior
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EO	Executive Order
EPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
FEIS	<i>Final Environmental Impact Statement and Section 4(f) Evaluation for I-25 Improvements Through Pueblo (CDOT and FHWA, 2013)</i>
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration
FIRM	Flood Insurance Rate Map
I-25	Interstate 25
ISA	Initial Site Assessment
LEDPA	Least Environmentally Damaging Practicable Alternative
LOMR	Letter of Map Revision
LOS	level of service
LWCF	Land and Water Conservation Fund
LWCF Act	Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding

MPO	Metropolitan Planning Organization
MS4	Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System
MSAT	Mobile Source Air Toxics
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NCHRP	National Cooperative Highway Research Program
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NPL	National Priorities List
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
OAHP	Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation
PAC	Park Advisory Committee
PACOG	Pueblo Area Council of Governments
PM ₁₀	particulate matter of 10 microns in diameter
RAMP	Responsible Acceleration of Maintenance and Partnerships
REC	recognized environmental condition
ROD	Record of Decision
ROW	right-of-way
SB	Senate Bill
SH	State Highway
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office/Officer
STIP	Statewide Transportation Improvement Program
SWMP	Stormwater Management Plan
TIP	Transportation Improvement Program
Uniform Act	Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, as amended
USACE	United States Army Corps of Engineers
US	United States Highway
USC	United States Code
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
VMT	vehicle miles traveled



72—Bridge and Band Shell, Lake Clara, Mineral Palace Park, Pueblo, Colo.



Pueblo, a Thriving City with a Lasting Prosperity

94-81021



New Pueblo Freeway