



# State Highway 7 Planning and Environmental Linkage Study (SH 7 PEL) Outreach Report and Meeting Summary June 2012 Public Meetings Comment Summary

The SH 7 PEL Project Team held two public meetings in June 2012. The public meetings were held June 21<sup>st</sup> at the Armory in Brighton and June 27<sup>th</sup> at the Public Library in Lafayette. The focus of the public meetings was to review draft components of the SH 7 PEL, including the Transportation Needs Statement and the Current Corridor Assessment Report, in addition to receiving public input and feedback on the current conditions of the SH 7 Corridor and ideas for improvement. *Please see Appendix A: Outreach Report to review the public outreach that preceded the June 2012 Public Meetings.* 

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT SUBMISSION**

Members of the public submitted comments in the following ways:

- Comments forms
- Flip chart paper displayed throughout the public meeting spaces
- Verbal comments to SH 7 PEL Project Team members at the public meetings
- SH 7 PEL web page (http://www.coloradodot.info/projects/sh7pel)
- Phone calls to members of the SH 7 PEL Project Team

#### **OVERVIEW OF COMMENTS**

Members of the public submitted 109 comments at the public meetings with additional comments provided verbally, online, over the phone and in letters. The main topics addressed were:

**Congestion/Mobility:** The key issue addressed in the comments is congestion/mobility. People are concerned about the existing issues as it relates to backups, bottlenecks and a general sense that SH 7 is a congested roadway. Additionally, people are concerned about the congestion being exacerbated by future growth that is expected in the region.

**Realignment:** Many of the public comments received during the public meeting process focused on the issue of realigning SH 7. Various alternatives were proposed in order to reduce backups, bottlenecks, congestion and safety concerns and included options that ranged from moving the bypass east to maintaining the current alignment with improvements.

Alternate Routes: Many commenters introduced alternate routes to SH 7 that could be promoted throughout the region as viable transportation options, as a way to reduce the amount of traffic that travels SH 7. One specific proposal related to diverting traffic is the Trident Proposal (divert SH 7 traffic to three different roadways: south to South Boulder Road, maintain the current alignment for the "central" section and north to either Arapahoe Road or Isabelle Road).

**Multimodal Access (Bicycle, Pedestrian and Transit):** Multimodal needs will increase as the communities grow, and many members of the public mentioned multimodal improvements for bicycles, pedestrians and transit use as a valuable activity to undertake in the SH 7 PEL Study Area.

**Access:** Members of the public indicated that identifying and defining improved access throughout the corridor is an important area to address in the PEL because of concerns related to existing access and safety related to access.

**Safety:** Many commenters mentioned that the SH 7 PEL Study needs to focus on improving safety throughout the SH 7 Study Area.

**Noise Impacts/Mitigation:** Members of the public indicated that noise impacts and the need for noise mitigation were either 1) necessary due to the existing alignment or 2) will become an issue once an alternative is selected and implemented. Generally, commenters want the noise impacts from SH 7 to be minimized.

**Property Impacts:** Related to the realignment alternatives, commenters want to ensure that community character is maintained throughout the corridor and that properties are not negatively impacted (property values, noise impacts, pollution, etc.) by activities that may result.

**Business Impacts/Economic Development:** Several commenters expressed concern about potential business impacts that could harm local businesses in the SH 7 Study Area as a result of realignment. Others mentioned the strong economic development opportunities that exist in the area and would like to see those maximized through this study.

**Speed Limits:** Concern was expressed about the speed limits throughout the corridor; in some areas, the speeds are too high and in others too low. The most significant concern was related to the amount of excessive speeding throughout the corridor.

**Widening of SH 7**: Comments varied a great deal on the issue of either widening SH 7 to a four-lane highway throughout the Study Area or maintaining it, in large part, as a two-lane highway.

The full list of comments is available. Please e-mail sh7pel@mediate.org to request.





# State Highway 7 Planning and Environmental Linkage Study (SH 7 PEL) June 2012 Public Meetings Appendix A: Outreach Report

# **SH 7 PEL PUBLIC MEETINGS**

The SH 7 PEL Project Team held two public meetings in June 2012. The public meetings were held June 21<sup>st</sup> at the Armory in Brighton and June 27<sup>th</sup> at the Public Library in Lafayette. Each meeting was held from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The focus of the public meetings was to review draft components of the SH 7 PEL, including the Transportation Needs Statement and the Current Corridor Assessment Report, in addition to receiving public input and feedback on the current conditions of the SH 7 Study Area and ideas for improvement.

**Format**: Ongoing open house with staffed presentation boards and comment stations

**Official Count**: There were 161 total registered attendees for the June 2012 public meetings. 46 attended in Brighton and 115 attended in Lafayette.

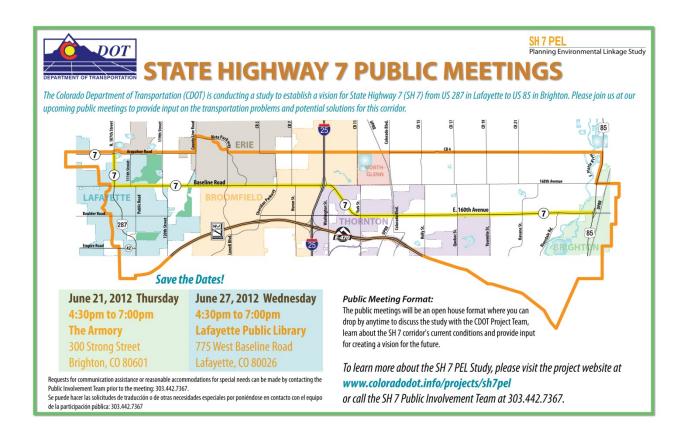
**Comments**: There were 109 total comments received at the June 2012 public meetings through a combination of comment forms and flip charts. 23 comments were submitted at the Brighton meeting and 86 at the Lafayette meeting. Members of the SH 7 Project Team also received comments from members of the public during discussions at the meetings. Between June 19<sup>th</sup> and July 10<sup>th</sup>, an additional 15 comments were received through the SH 7 Web Page, phone calls, and letters. *Please see Appendix A for the SH 7 PEL June 2012 Public Meeting Comment Summary.* 

The following table illustrates the various outreach activities in coordination with the SH 7 PEL public meetings.

Task	Date	Notes
SH 7 PEL Web	June	Provided information regarding public
Page		meetings on SH 7 PEL Web Page
		(http://www.coloradodot.info/projects/sh7pel)
<b>Mailing List</b>	Ongoing	Updated the mailing list of SH 7 PEL
		contacts
<b>Postcard Mailing</b>	June 14 <sup>th</sup>	Mailed a public meeting postcard/mailer to
		363 SH 7 Corridor contacts. Postcards
		included both English and Spanish content

Newspaper Advertisements	June 13 <sup>th</sup> , 17 <sup>th</sup> , 24 <sup>th</sup> and 27 <sup>th</sup>	Produced newspaper advertisements that ran in the following publications: Brighton Blade (June 13 <sup>th</sup> ), Broomfield Enterprise (June 17 <sup>th</sup> and 24 <sup>th</sup> ) and Colorado Hometown News (June 27 <sup>th</sup> )
E-mail Communication to SH 7 PEL Technical Working Group	June 6 <sup>th</sup>	Sent an e-mail communication notifying the SH 7 PEL Technical Working Group (TWG) about the June 2012 public meetings
E-mail Communication to Corridor Mailing List	June 14 <sup>th</sup> , 20 <sup>th</sup> and 26 <sup>th</sup>	Sent e-mail communications about the SH 7 PEL Public Meetings to members of the public whose contact information was received from the TWG and through the SH 7 PEL web page. 541 e-mails were distributed on both June 14 <sup>th</sup> and 19 <sup>th</sup> . 548 e-mails were distributed on June 26 <sup>th</sup>
Public Meeting Flyers	June	Flyers publicizing the meetings were distributed to the following locations: Brighton Armory, Brighton City Hall, Erie Community Center, Lafayette City Hall, Lafayette Recreation Center, Lafayette Library, Mojo Coffee (Lafayette), Cannon Mine Coffee (Lafayette) and to an interested resident (Dick Schillawski)
Public Meeting Comment Forms	June	Produced the comment form to retrieve comments at the public meetings. Received 109 comment forms and flip chart comments from members of the public
Latino Outreach	June	Various outreach activities involved the Latino community in the SH 7 Study Area
Meetings and Briefings	May & June	Various meetings and briefings were held throughout the SH 7 Study Area leading up to the Public Meetings
Key Stakeholder Outreach	June	Targeted phone calls were made and e- mails were distributed to specific communities and individuals (e.g. HOA managers)
Media Advisory	June	Mindy Crane, CDOT, distributed the media advisory
Social Media	June	Mindy Crane, CDOT, coordinated the use of Facebook and Twitter to publicize the SH 7 PEL Public Meetings
Newspaper Articles	June	Articles were presented in the Broomfield Enterprise, Brighton Blade and the Colorado Hometown News

# SH 7 PEL PUBLIC MEETING POSTCARD MAILING





#### SH 7 PEL

Planning Environmental Linkage Study c/o CDR Associates 3050 Broadway, Suite 300 Boulder, CO 80304

STATE HIGHWAY 7
PUBLIC MEETINGS

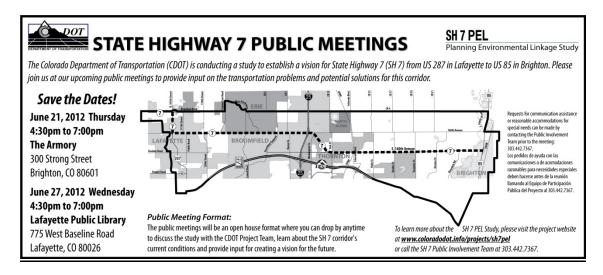
June 21, 2012
Brighton

June 27, 2012
Lafayette

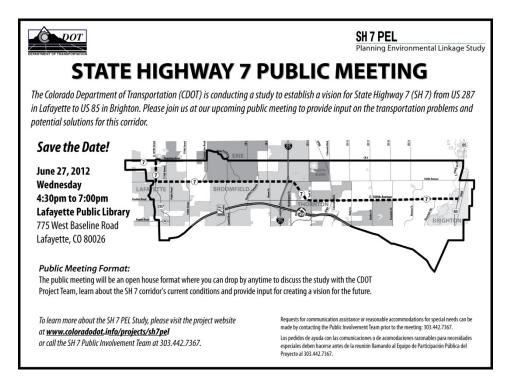
See reverse side for more information

## SH 7 PEL PUBLIC MEETING NEWSPAPER ADVERTISEMENTS

The following advertisement was featured in the Brighton Blade (June 13<sup>th</sup>) and the Broomfield Enterprise (June 17<sup>th</sup>):



The following advertisement was featured in the Broomfield Enterprise (June 24<sup>th</sup>) and the Colorado Hometown News (June 27<sup>th</sup>):



## SH 7 PEL PUBLIC MEETING E-MAILS

# June 6th E-mail to SH 7 PEL Technical Working Group (TWG)

# **Subject: SH 7 PEL - Draft TWG Meeting Summary and Public Meeting Materials**

Dear SH 7 PEL Technical Working Group (TWG) member,

Attached to this e-mail you will find several study-related materials. Please see below for explanations and what is requested from you.

## May 23, 2012 TWG Meeting Summary

Attached is the **DRAFT May 23, 2012 TWG Meeting Summary** for your review. Please review this document and let us know that we've heard you correctly. Feel free to provide any comments, clarifications or corrections you may have in track changes and return the draft by responding to this e-mail.

## Please provide us with any feedback you have by 5:00 p.m. Tuesday, June 12.

If we do not hear from you by then, we will proceed with the assumption that you approve of this draft and we will finalize the document for the project record.

### **SH 7 PEL Public Meetings & Materials**

As a reminder, the SH 7 Public Meetings are occurring in the following locations:

## Thursday, June 21, 2012

4:30 - 7:00 p.m. The Armory 300 Strong Street Brighton, CO 80601

# Wednesday, June 27, 2012

4:30 - 7:00 p.m. Lafayette Public Library 775 West Baseline Road Lafayette, CO 80026

Attached to this e-mail you will find the following Public Meeting communication materials:

**Public Meetings Flyer:** Please use this flyer to distribute throughout your communities and have placed in public facilities for communicating the meeting and informing your residents and business owners about the public meetings. Additionally, you can let us know if you would like these placed or mailed to a specific location or group. You can

also use post this flyer to your websites. It has been provided here as a pdf; if you need it as a jpg file for any reason, please let us know.

**Public Meetings Media Advisory:** This is a copy of the media advisory CDOT's Office of Public Information will be distributing to the local media outlets. Please forward this on to your local Public Information Officers for their use and communications to your residents.

**SH 7 PEL Web-page:** Please feel free to either post the public meetings flyer on your websites or provide a link to the SH 7 PEL page hosted on the CDOT website. The link to that page is: <a href="http://www.coloradodot.info/projects/sh7pel">http://www.coloradodot.info/projects/sh7pel</a>

Additional Outreach/Communications: In addition to the above outreach products, a targeted mailing is taking place to the key stakeholders you have provided; newspaper advertisements will run in the Broomfield Enterprise, the Brighton Blade and in Colorado Hometown News to Erie and Lafayette; an e-mail announcement and reminders will go out to those on our e-mail lists; and CDOT will communicate the meetings through its social media channels (Twitter and Facebook). Also, Hispanic and Latino outreach is happening throughout the corridor by a community liaison that is working with our project team.

**Public Meeting Display Materials:** The materials we plan to display at the public meetings, such as maps, boards or graphics will be made available for you before the meetings. There will be no new materials that you are not familiar with or haven't already reviewed.

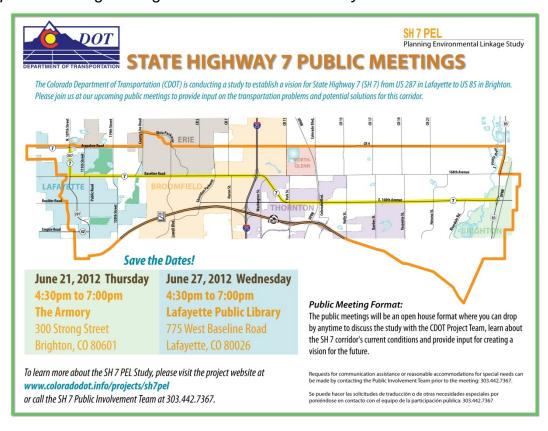
As always, feel free to contact me with any questions you may have. You can reply to this e-mail or call me directly at (720) 407-4721.

We look forward to receiving your input on the TWG Meeting Summary,

# June 14<sup>th</sup> and June 20<sup>th</sup> E-mails to SH 7 PEL Public and Key Stakeholder E-mail Contacts

# Subject: Reminder: State Highway 7 PEL Public Meetings on June 21st and 27th

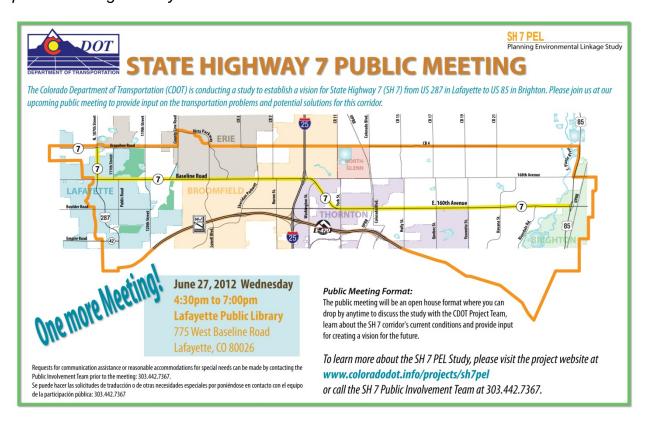
Please join us for the State Highway 7 Planning and Environmental Linkage Study (SH 7 PEL) public meetings. If the picture below will not display, please visit <a href="http://www.coloradodot.info/projects/sh7pel">http://www.coloradodot.info/projects/sh7pel</a> to learn more about the SH 7 PEL public meetings in Brighton on June 21<sup>st</sup> and Lafayette on June 27<sup>th</sup>.



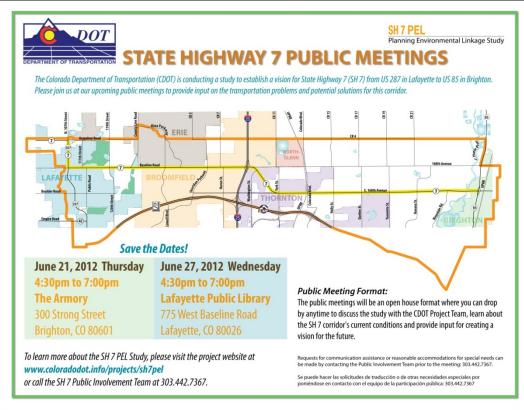
# June 26th E-mail to SH 7 PEL Public and Key Stakeholder E-mail Contacts

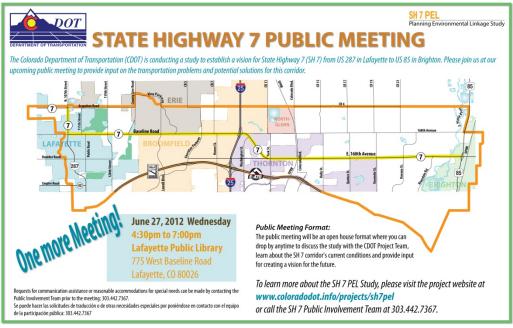
# Subject: Reminder: State Highway 7 PEL Public Meeting on June 27th

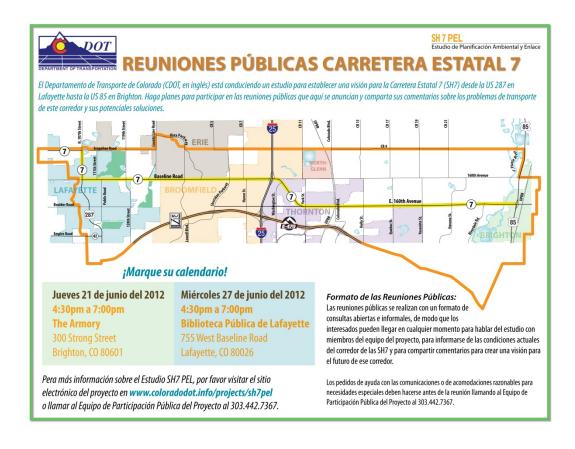
Please join us for the State Highway 7 Planning and Environmental Linkage Study (SH 7 PEL) public meeting. If the picture below will not display, please visit <a href="http://www.coloradodot.info/projects/sh7pel">http://www.coloradodot.info/projects/sh7pel</a> to learn more about the SH 7 PEL public meeting in Lafayette on June 27<sup>th</sup>.



#### SH 7 PEL PUBLIC MEETING FLYERS









# Submit a Comment

Thank you for providing input about State Highway 7 Planning and Environmental Linkage Study. Our team will review and consider all comments submitted throughout the Study.

NAME	ORGANIZATION
ADDRESS	
CITY	STATE ZIP CODE
PHONE	E-MAIL
US 85?	portation problems of State Highway 7 between US 287 and



What suggestions do you have for potential solutions to improve transportation along			
State Highway 7 between US 287 and US 85?			
Additional Comments?			
	Please Place Postage		

SH 7 PEL c/o CDR Associates 3050 Broadway, Suite 300 Boulder, CO 80304 Here

# **SH 7 PEL LATINO OUTREACH**

Date	Outreach Activity
June 6 <sup>th</sup>	Translation of SH 7 PEL Meeting Announcements and Materials
June	Distribution of SH 7 PEL Public Meeting Flyers
June 20 <sup>th</sup> and 26 <sup>th</sup>	Distribution of Media Advisory to Spanish Media Sources
June 21 <sup>st</sup> and 27 <sup>th</sup>	Translation Services at Public Meetings

# SH 7 PEL OUTREACH MEETINGS AND BRIEFINGS

Date	Presenter(s)	Organization/ Meeting	Location	General Topic(s)	Comment Topic(s)
April 3 <sup>rd</sup>	David Kosmiski, Bob Felsburg	Lafayette City Council Meeting	Lafayette City Hall, Lafayette	Overview of study goals, timetable, priorities and key scope elements	Realignment, congestion/ mobility, downtown Lafayette
May 19 <sup>th</sup>	David Kosmiski, Dan Herrmann, Bob Felsburg	Thorntonfest	Thornton Recreation Center, Thornton	Overview of PEL and progress to date	Diverging Diamond Interchange, RTD, CDOT, I- 25, transit access, safety, access, development
June 1 <sup>st</sup>	Kirk Webb, Bob Felsburg	Broomfield Developers Meeting	Broomfield City and County Building, Thornton	Overview of PEL and progress to date	Access, pedestrian crossings, mobility, safety, traffic signals, transit parking, SH 7/I-25 interchange, cross-section, corridor character, RTD involvement, speed, implementation

June 13 <sup>th</sup>	Bob Felsburg, Jim Hanson, Kevin Maddoux	SH 7 Realignment Meeting	Lafayette City Hall, Lafayette	Realignment of SH 7	Community goals and interests for potential realignment, potential range of alternatives for realignment, next steps
June 20 <sup>th</sup>	Kevin Maddoux, Jenny Young	Anthem Ranch Community Coffee	Anthem Ranch Recreation Center, Broomfield	Overview of PEL and progress to date	Projected growth estimates, proposed cross-section

# SH 7 PEL KEY STAKEHOLDER OUTREACH

Key Stakeholder Organization/Group	Type of Outreach
Anthem Highlands and Anthem Ranch	Electronic copy of flyer for Anthem to
Homeowners Association	distribute to their e-mail lists. Debra
	Wyatte, Community Manager of Anthem
	Highlands distributed the flyer
	electronically to approximately 850
	contacts. Denise Hogenes, Community
	Manager of Anthem Ranch, distributed the
	flyer electronically to approximately 900
	homeowners. Anthem offices also will
	display the flyer
Todd Creek Farms	Melinda Arnott distributed an e-mail to
	Todd Creek Farms the week of June 18 <sup>th</sup> .
	Steve at Northside Management (Todd
	Creek Master Association which manages
	Eagle Shadows, Eagle Shadows South,
	Todd Creek Vistas, Todd Creek Estates,
	Hawk Ridge and Silver Springs) posted
	the SH 7 PEL Public Meetings flyer to their
	web site and also distributed an e-mail to
	approximately 350 homeowners

Local Jurisdictions	Local jurisdictions that are members of the
	TWG did the following outreach to
	publicize the SH 7 PEL Public Meetings:
	distributed the flyer to pertinent property;
	provided the media advisory and public
	meeting information to the Public
	Information Officer; posted meeting
	information on the city/town web site,
	Twitter and Facebook; distributed e-mails
	directly to selected contacts along SH 7
Regulatory Agencies	The SH 7 PEL Public Meeting
	announcement to the regulatory agencies
	on June 18 <sup>th</sup>

# SH 7 PEL MEDIA ADVISORY



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** May 25, 2012

#### **Media Contact:**

Mindy Crane CDOT Public Information Office 303-757-9469 mindy.crane@dot.state.co.us

# PUBLIC MEETINGS FOR CDOT'S STUDY OF STATE HIGHWAY 7

The public is invited to learn about current conditions along State Highway 7 and to provide input for creating a future vision for the corridor.

May 25, 2012 – The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) is conducting a Planning and Environmental Linkage (PEL) study for State Highway 7 (SH 7) between U.S. 85 in Brighton and U.S. 287 in Lafayette. The SH 7 PEL is being conducted to identify existing conditions and anticipated problem areas in order to develop/evaluate multimodal improvements to reduce congestion, improve operations and enhance the safety of the roadway within the corridor.

The SH 7 PEL is a timely and important study to prepare for expected population and employment growth in the region by evaluating the existing and future operations of this highway. There are varying characteristics throughout the corridor such as Lafayette's downtown, rural stretches, suburban areas and sites designated for substantial commercial development. The study aims to identify a common vision for the corridor, while recognizing the unique characteristics of its diverse segments.

# Purpose of the Public Meetings

CDOT is inviting the public to learn about the study, discuss the corridor's current conditions and provide input for creating a future vision. The public will be able to directly interact with the CDOT Project Team, which will be on hand to provide information, answer questions and listen to suggestions for improving corridor mobility. The public is encouraged to provide comments and ideas. Information obtained will assist us in developing and evaluating possible transportation improvements.

## **Public Meeting Information**

Thursday, June 21, 2012

4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. The Armory 300 Strong Street, Brighton, CO 80601

Wednesday, June 27, 2012

4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. Lafayette Public Library 775 West Baseline Road, Lafayette, CO 80026

**Meeting Format:** The public meetings will use an open house format with display boards, corridor maps and other information stations. Attendees will be able to provide comments and input in various formats. The public is encouraged to stop by at any time during the meetings.

For more information about the study please

visit <a href="http://www.coloradodot.info/projects/sh7pel">http://www.coloradodot.info/projects/sh7pel</a>

Comments about this study can also be submitted through the web page.

#### **CDOT Project Contact**

David Kosmiski CDOT Project Manager, SH 7 PEL David.Kosmiski@dot.state.co.us (303)398-6767

# **SH 7 PEL N**EWSPAPER **A**RTICLES

# Broomfield Enterprise and Colorado Hometown News, June 16<sup>th</sup>

### CDOT seeks input on future of Colo. 7

The Colorado Department of Transportation is inviting the public to learn about a Planning and Environmental Linkage Study for Colo. 7 and to discuss the corridor's conditions and provide input for creating a future vision. The public can interact with the CDOT project team, which will be provide information, answer questions and listen to suggestions for improving the corridor. Information obtained will be used to develop and evaluate possible transportation improvements.

Public meetings will be from 4:30 to 7 p.m. Thursday at The Armory, 300 Strong St., Brighton, and 4:30 to 7 p.m. June 27 at the Lafayette Public Library, 775 W. Baseline Road.

# Brighton Blade, June 26<sup>th</sup>

# Highway 7 improvement suggestions run the gamut

By Steve Smith Tuesday, June 26, 2012

To stay connected, call 303-442-7367 or visit the project website at www.coloradodot.info/projects/shypel.



Former Brighton Mayor Ken Mitchell and Jenny Young, a senior transportation engineer with Felsburg, Holt and Ullevig, discuss potential improvements to state Highway 7 June 21 at the Armory.

**BRIGHTON** — Residents seem to agree more space is needed on state Highway 7 between Brighton and Lafayette — but how much remains a point of contention.

A small consensus at a June 21 forum at the Armory said they would like to see the road widened, at the very least.

But transportation engineer Jenny Young with the firm Felsburg, Holt and Ullevig, said she'd heard from residents who'd like to see the road remain at two lanes wide with some extra room for bicyclists.

The Colorado Department of Transportation is evaluating the present and future operations of state Highway 7 to prepare for potential growth. Traffic on Highway 7 averages between 12,000 and 20,000 vehicles per day.

Former Brighton Mayor Ken Mitchell said the city supported CDOT's installation of an overpass at Interstate 25, about eight miles west of town. Now he thinks CDOT should improve the road between Brighton and the interstate. "A lot of that is one-lane traffic. We need to encourage the state highway commission to see if they can't make that a four-lane highway in some places," Mitchell said. "It's the only (through) road between 124th Avenue and Weld County Road 2. There's a lot of east-west traffic. A lot of areas, it's just one lane with a yellow stripe down the center. If you want to drive 55 (mph) and someone's in front of you is driving 30, it doesn't work too (well). The need for a better road is here today."

Elmer Oestman moved here in 1963. He uses Highway 7 every day and said the drive has not improved. "I've seen a lot of years of it," he said. "There are accidents on Highway 7 all the time. Four lanes have to come. It's a terribly busy highway. The only problem is putting in more lights. Safety has to come first."

Joelle Tscherter uses Highway 7 to get to her job in Aurora. She called it "a tough road to man" because of the traffic. "Especially when it gets to 5 or 6 (in the evening), it gets really bad," she said. "Four lanes of traffic would ease some of the congestion with more turn lanes, things like that. On the way to my job, the ride is easier because I leave earlier. But I get home the same time everyone else does."

Mitchell and Tscherter thought adding a bike lane would be a good idea. "With the width of that right of way, they have plenty of room to get bike paths in there if the funds are available," Mitchell said. "That's becoming more and more popular with people." "A bike path to separate the cars from the bikes would be good," Tscherter said. "It would make it safer for everybody, bicyclists and cars alike."

CDOT's study is expected to include future problems and issues of importance to Brighton, such as history and wetland preservation. CDOT will come up with a priority list of improvements and a cost estimate.