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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**SECOND PUBLIC MEETING FOR HIGHWAY 24 STUDY
TO BE HELD JANUARY 20TH**

Colorado Springs, CO — Many critical issues have been identified and now it's time to start gathering ideas for possible solutions. That will be the focus of the second public meeting for the Colorado Department of Transportation's (CDOT) Environmental Assessment (EA) of U.S. Highway 24. The EA is being conducted to address mobility and safety issues along the 6.5-mile stretch between Manitou Springs and I-25.

“We had great participation at the first meeting and we received a lot of input about the critical issues and concerns along the corridor,” said Dave Watt, CDOT Project Manager for the Highway 24 study. “Obviously mobility, access, safety and noise were mentioned, and we also learned a lot about some other key issues. We'd love to have the same level of participation and input at this meeting.”

The open house and workshop will be held from **5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 20, 2005** at the West Center for Intergenerational Learning, 25 N. 20th St. in Colorado Springs. The public is invited to drop in anytime from 5:30 to 6:00 p.m. to talk with the project team. The workshop will begin promptly at 6:00 and last until 8:00 p.m.

The meeting will include a short presentation of findings from the first public meeting, plus an outline of the project criteria based on those findings. The majority of the meeting will be spent gathering ideas from citizens on possible solutions to the critical issues that have been identified.

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Upcoming phases of the study will include the evaluation of potential solutions using stakeholder-developed criteria, which will be followed by the development of final alternatives and drafting of the EA. The public will be asked to participate and provide input in all phases. Several more public meetings are planned for 2005, about one every two months.

Highway 24 serves many purposes in the Pikes Peak Region. It is the only major route to the mountains between Highway 285 in Denver and Highway 50 in Pueblo. It's also a major access corridor for neighborhoods and businesses on the west side and for several popular tourist attractions. And it's a commuter route for the residents who live along Ute Pass and in Woodland Park.

For more information about the Highway 24 West project, visit the Web site at www.dot.state.co.us/us24w/, or call 719-477-4970.

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