



April 4, 2005

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**THIRD PUBLIC MEETING FOR HIGHWAY 24
STUDY TO BE HELD APRIL 14TH**

Colorado Springs, CO — The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) will host an Open House for the Highway 24 Environmental Assessment (EA) on **Thursday, April 14, 2005, from 5:30 to 8:00 at the West Center for Intergenerational Learning, 25 N. 20th St. in Colorado Springs.** The public is invited to drop by anytime during the event.

The purpose of the Open House is to present a review of the project to date, the initial list of ideas that has been generated from previous public meetings and how those ideas will be evaluated. There will also be a review of the upcoming steps and how people can stay involved in the process. Attendees can learn about some of the environmental constraints and issues that will be analyzed as part of any final alternatives and get a review of the other plans and reports that will impact decisions along Highway 24.

“This is an opportunity for citizens to review what’s been done and ask specific questions about the issues and ideas,” said Dave Watt, CDOT Corridor Manager for the Highway 24 study.

“We’ve found that an Open House format works best at this phase of a project.”

The Open House format will allow attendees to talk one-on-one with CDOT staff and engineers who are working on the project, along with members of the consultant team that CDOT has hired

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to help develop the EA. Individuals interested in a presentation to their business, civic or homeowners group will also be able to schedule a presentation through the project's speakers bureau.

The next step after this meeting will be the Level I analysis of the ideas. This level is a "fatal flaw" analysis that will eliminate ideas that do not address the critical issues identified in the previous public meetings. Results of this analysis will be presented at the next public meeting. There will be three levels of screening altogether, eventually bringing together two alternatives for final review by the public, plus the governmental technical and policy teams working on the project.

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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