



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Bob Wilson – 303-757-9431 or
Kyle Blakely – 719-630-3133

CDOT TO GIVE FORMAL PRESENTATION ON US 24 WEST DESIGN OPTION EVALUATION

Colorado Springs, CO – The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) will make a formal presentation to the public concerning the evaluation of the various design options for US 24 West. Other items presented will include traffic information and the environmental framework of the study. The presentation will be on Thursday, August 24, 2006 from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the West Center for Intergenerational Learning, 25 North 20th Street. The meeting is open to the public.

“At the previous meeting in May we presented the *Midland Expressway* as the recommended alternative, but there were still a lot of design options to be considered,” said Dave Watt, CDOT project engineer on the US 24 West project. “We’re now going to present our evaluation of those design options and some new ones that have come out of our meetings with stakeholders.”

The doors will open at 5:30 p.m. and citizens can review displays and ask questions concerning the design options. At 6 p.m., CDOT will make a formal presentation, which will be followed by a question and answer session around 7 p.m.

Several of the design options that have been evaluated include:

- Adding access between 8th Street and 21st Street
- Selecting the best type of interchange at 21st Street
- Shifting US 24 to the north or to the south near 21st Street
- Adding a pedestrian overpass between 25th and 31st Streets
- Considering the option of an overpass or interchange, rather than an intersection, at Ridge Road

(more)

- Considering improvements to the Manitou Avenue interchange
- Determining location of the Midland Trail extensions
- Improving access to existing businesses

In addition to the emphasis on mobility for local trips and access to neighborhoods and destinations, the *Midland Expressway* provides excellent mobility for regional travel to and from the mountains. The alternative uses at-grade, signalized intersections for access at 26th Street and 31st Street, with an intersection option at Ridge Road. Interchanges would provide access to 8th Street, 21st Street and Manitou Avenue.

The alternative is compatible with a bike/pedestrian trail system between Manitou Avenue and I-25 that is proposed by local governments, and includes north-south trail connections at the interchanges and intersections. A grade-separated bike and pedestrian bridge is proposed near 31st Street to connect the Red Rock Canyon Open Space to parking facilities, transit stops and other trails.

A transit service package is included in the expressway alternative, with express bus service for the commuter market and existing bus service or a future historic trolley for the local and tourist markets.

The U.S. 24 West project is an Environmental Assessment (EA) of the U.S. 24 Corridor from Manitou Springs to I-25. CDOT, on behalf of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), develops the plan and conducts the EA for the corridor with participation and assistance from other local, state and federal agencies and the general public.

For information on meetings leading up to this point, visit the project website at www.us24west.com. With comments or questions, call 719-477-4970.

###