

## 1.0 Introduction

Social, economic, and environmental impacts of proposed improvements to the Woodmen Road corridor from Interstate 25 (I-25) to US 24 have been examined in an Environmental Assessment (EA) that was approved in December 2005 by the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), in accordance with federal regulations pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Extensive public involvement occurred throughout the development of the Woodmen Road EA and continued with the release of the approved EA for public comment during a 33-day review period that ended on January 30, 2006. One-hundred, thirty-three people submitted comments and several of those submitted multiple comments. Some of the comments were “votes” in support of or in opposition to the project in general, while others were related to very specific issues, like “Rubberized asphalt should be used as a noise mitigation measure.” However, many comments were regarding access in the area south of the Woodmen Road and Academy Boulevard intersection.

During the development of the Proposed Action, it was determined that an interchange would be required to meet future capacity needs at the intersection of Woodmen Road and Academy Boulevard. In order for the interchange to safely operate, either additional access roads were needed to serve the adjacent properties and neighborhoods, or certain turns had to be restricted altogether (for example, a left turn at Brookwood Drive would need to be restricted for traffic using the eastbound Woodmen Road off-ramp because of the short weave distance). At that time, those in the area, particularly the Woodmen Valley Shopping Center, Brookwood Estates, and Yorkshire Estates, were generally opposed to establishing new access roads. Therefore, turn restrictions were incorporated into the Proposed Action.

During the public comment period, many comments were made regarding access south of the intersection of Woodmen Road and Academy Boulevard. Most no longer supported the turn restriction, and some like the Woodmen Valley Shopping Center proposed different options. As a result of these comments, additional analysis was conducted for access to the Woodmen Valley Shopping Center, Crossroads Apartments, Brookwood Estates, and Yorkshire Estates. After several meetings with the affected property owners, the access to this area was changed and the Proposed Action was modified to incorporate these changes. Section 2, Description of the Proposed Action, explains the reasons for the change and the details of the modification.

Environmental impacts resulting from the Proposed Action and its modifications have been evaluated and considered together with all comments received from agencies and the public. After a thorough and independent evaluation of the impacts and comments, FHWA has determined that the Proposed Action will not result in any significant impact; therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement is not required and will not be prepared. This decision is documented in this Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).



This FONSI consists of the following sections:

- 1.0 Introduction
- 2.0 Description of Proposed Action
- 3.0 Review Process
- 4.0 Response to Agency Comments
- 5.0 Response to Public Comments
- 6.0 Response to Letters from Attorneys
- 7.0 Changes & Clarifications
- 8.0 Finding of No Significant Impact

Additionally, the Appendices to this FONSI contain all comments received during the EA public review process, as well as resolutions of support from the City of Colorado Springs, El Paso County, Pikes Peak Rural Transportation Authority, and the Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments.

Section 2.0, Description of the Proposed Action, briefly describes the Proposed Action and the changes to the Proposed Action as a result of comments received during the public comment period.

Section 3.0, Review Process, describes the EA public review process, including document availability and solicitation of comments from government agencies and the public.

Section 4.0, Response to Agency Comments, presents the comments received from the Environmental Protection Agency and provides responses to each comment.

Section 5.0, Response to Public Comments, summarizes and provides responses to the comments that were received from members of the public. In the prevailing case where a comment was made by more than one individual, the comment and response are provided only once, and the names of the multiple submitters of the comment are identified. Note that all comments are included verbatim in Appendix A.

Section 6.0, Response to Letters from Attorneys, is a specialized continuation of the response to public comments.

Section 7.0, Changes & Clarifications, contains the changes to the EA as well as clarifications. These changes and clarifications are shown first with a copy of the original EA page on the left, and then a copy of the clarified EA page on the right so that they can be compared. Markings on the original page show the areas of changes and clarifications with a solid red circle. The changes and clarifications are shown in a dashed red rectangle on the right-hand page.

Section 8.0, Finding of No Significant Impact, summarizes the findings of FHWA.

