

3.0 Review Process

On December 29, 2005, the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) released the Woodmen Road Corridor Improvements Environmental Assessment (EA) to the public for a 33-day review period, which terminated on January 30, 2006 – a 33-day review that allowed additional time for public review following the holiday season.

Document Availability

Prior to the official release date, the Woodmen Road EA was hand delivered to the following institutions to facilitate the public review process:

Pikes Peak Regional Libraries:

- Penrose Public Library
- East Library & Information Center
- Ruth Holley Branch Library
- Sand Creek Branch Library

Governmental Institutions:

- CDOT Region 2
- City of Colorado Springs
- El Paso County Department of Transportation

In addition, the EA was made available on the project Web site (www.woodmenroad.com). The Web site also listed locations in the community where hard copies of the EA could be reviewed.

Public Notification

The availability of the EA for review was advertised and promoted to the public through several modes of communication, including print advertising, direct mail, press and media releases, and the project Web site.

On December 28, 2005, advertisements were placed in the local media announcing the release of the EA for review, locations where the EA was available for review, the start of the 33-day public comment period the following day, and the date of the Public Hearing. The announcements appeared in the following publications: *The Gazette*, *Woodmen Edition*, *New Falcon Herald*, *Ranchland News*, *The Independent*, and *The Black Forest News*.

A postcard was mailed on December 21, 2005 to approximately 1,700 people from the project mailing lists. On December 28, 2005, a press release was issued to the print and broadcast media in the Pikes Peak Region. Four LED signs were posted along the corridor announcing the Public Hearing. They were placed on January 16th, and the meeting was held January 18 from 4:30P to



7:30P at Jenkins Middle School. In addition, media advisories on the location of the document for review and the date and time of the Public Hearing continued throughout the comment period.

Presentations to Council, Boards, and Commissions

The Woodmen Road Environmental Assessment was presented to the following groups:

- El Paso County Highway Advisory Commission: December 20, 2005
- Colorado Springs Citizen Transportation Advisory Board: January 3, 2006
- Pikes Peak Rural Transportation Authority's Citizens' Advisory Council: January 4, 2006
- El Paso County Commissioners: January 9, 2006
- Colorado Springs City Council: January 10, 2006
- Pikes Peak Rural Transportation Authority Board: January 11, 2006
- Pikes Peak Area Council of Government's Transportation Committee: January 10, 2006
- Colorado Springs City Council: January 24, 2006
- Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments: February 8, 2006

All of these presentations were public, and many were well attended.

Public Hearing & Comments

The Open Forum Public Hearing was held on January 18, 2006 at Jenkins Middle School in Colorado Springs and was attended by over 300 citizens.

The Open Forum Public Hearing had displays of the findings of the Woodmen Road EA, staff available to answer citizens' questions, and an opportunity to comment on the Woodmen Road EA. Citizens could drop in at any time. There was no formal presentation. A court reporter was available on-site to take oral comments, and comment forms were also available for submittal of written remarks.

At the hearing, 311 citizens signed in and 69 written comment forms were submitted that night. Twenty-six people provided oral comments to the court reporter. In total, the project received 238 comments either at the meeting, mailed or faxed, or from the website during the public comment period.



Agency Review

The Woodmen Road EA was provided to the following agencies for review:

- Environmental Protection Agency
- City of Colorado Springs
- El Paso County Department of Transportation

