

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 14, 2007
TO: PPACG Board of Directors
FROM: Craig Casper, Transportation Director
THROUGH: Robert MacDonald, Executive Director
SUBJECT: I-25 Corridor Project Briefing

ACTION REQUESTED: Information Only

SUMMARY:

COSMIX, short for the Colorado Springs Metro Interstate Expansion, is the largest highway improvement project in Colorado Springs' history. The COSMIX vision is to ease congestion and increase mobility by widening I-25 to three lanes in each direction for over 12 miles between Circle Drive and North Academy Boulevard, along with reconstructing the Bijou and North Nevada Rockrimmon Interchanges. The majority of funding is from TRANs bonds. The project is generally on schedule and about halfway completed. Work on the Bijou Street Interchange has just been initiated. CDOT staff will present an update to the COSMIX project.

PREVIOUS BOARD ACTION:

This is the fifth in a series of updates on the status of the COSMIX project. The PPACG Board of Directors has received previous briefings. COSMIX is the first portion of the I-25 strategic (7th Pot) project that the Board and the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) have prioritized for the Pikes Peak region, dating back to 2002.

BACKGROUND:

Building a Gateway to the Future of Downtown Colorado Springs

The new Bijou Street Bridge is the result of a three-way collaboration by the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), the City of Colorado Springs and the Downtown Partnership. Each organization recognizes the importance of the bridge as the gateway to Downtown and made key contributions to providing citizens and visitors a welcoming entrance that reflects the architectural themes and history of the City's Downtown district. The new bridge features include:

- Ornamental pedestrian railing matching railings in Downtown. (Paid for by the City and CDOT.)
- "Acorn" style lights that match existing lights Downtown, extending across the bridge to Spruce Street. (Paid for by the City.)
- Stone facade abutments and columns that continue the look of the historic Works Progress Administration (WPA) walls. (Paid for by CDOT.)



- Brick inlay on sidewalks and enhanced landscaping from St. Mary's Cathedral to Spruce Street. (Funded by the Downtown Partnership, with long-term landscape maintenance from the City's Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services.)
- Three lanes of through traffic, plus bike lanes and wheelchair-accessible sidewalks.
- I-25 from Colorado Avenue to just north of Bijou Street will be paved in concrete. This segment of work will be constructed to accommodate a future fourth-through-lane when funding becomes available.

Noise Barriers

Following federal and state guidelines, the COSMIX Project will be constructing permanent noise barriers to mitigate the impacts of traffic noise from I-25 on neighboring residents.

Essentially, sound barriers (walls or berms) will be constructed in six of the areas identified in the Environmental Assessment (EA) as needing noise mitigation. Noise walls are designed to be most effective for the first and second row of homes adjacent to the corridor and typically range in height from 8 to 20 feet. An earthen berm is designed to mitigate noise to recreational areas.

Noise wall panels will be pre-cast concrete, which are textured and colored with concrete stain on both sides. The side of the noise wall facing I-25 will have a bold and simple design based on the mountain backdrop similar to existing noise walls in Colorado Springs along the interstate. Aesthetic treatments on the resident's side will be more detailed based on designs picked during the EA's public involvement process.

- Holland Park noise barrier - COMPLETE, 16 feet by 2,820 feet
- Holiday Village noise barrier - COMPLETE, 2006, 8 feet by 860 feet
- Pulpit Rock noise barrier - May 2006 through end of winter 2007,
15 feet 1,885 feet
- Monument Valley Park Wall for duck ponds, residences - Sept. 2006 - early 2007, 20 feet by 1,060 feet
- Monument Valley Park Wall for the Demonstration Garden - Sept. 2006 - early 2007, 20 feet by 625 feet
- Monument Valley Park Berm for the baseball field and trail - late 2007, large earthen berm, 890 feet