

Contact **INFORMATION**

Please feel free to contact Jeff Manuel, Environmental Unit Manager, CDOT Region 4, or Michelle Li, Project Manager, JFSA, with any questions or comments you may have regarding this project or to be added to the mailing list.

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Future **PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

Updates on the status of the EA will be provided at key milestones during the project through Factsheets, notices, and the project web site (<http://www.sh402ea.com>).

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State Highway 402 from US 287 East to the I-25 Interchange

November 2002

FACTSHEET #2

This is the second in a series of Factsheets reporting the status of the SH 402 (from US 287 east to the I-25 Interchange) Environmental Assessment.

This Factsheet provides a summary of the first Public Workshop (held on September 19, 2002) as well as, identifies the alternatives that have gone through alternatives analysis, and the remaining Environmental Assessment schedule.

Project **BACKGROUND**

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), as the lead agency, and the Colorado Department of Transportation, Region 4 (CDOT), have been conducting an Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate potential transportation improvements along SH 402 from US 287 east to the I-25 Interchange. As the lead federal agency, FHWA has the authority and responsibility to make the final decisions. CDOT is the applicant and is responsible for the environmental assessment process and documentation.

Next **STEPS**

Through scoping and alternative analysis, two alternatives, Meander and No Action, have progressed into the next stage of the study process. During the next step environmental analysis will be conducted on each alternative to determine their impact on air quality, water quality, noise, and other environmental factors.

Project **PURPOSE AND NEED**

The purpose of this project is to improve travel and safety on SH 402 within the study area. The difficulty experienced by drivers making a left turn to or from the roadway contributes to this need. As traffic volumes increase, it can be expected that the current mobility and safety issues will become worse if improvements are not made to the existing roadway.

First Workshop **SUMMARY**

The Public Workshop was held on September 19, 2002 at the CDOT Loveland Residency, located at 2207 East SH 402, Loveland. The Public Workshop was announced through local newspaper ads and invitations sent to those on the mailing list, including local, state and federal agencies and all box holders on the rural routes in the study area.

The purpose of this Public Workshop was to present information and solicit input on the following:

- Project Overview
- Project Process
- Project Schedule
- Potential Alternatives to date
- Screening Criteria

The workshop format encouraged discussion directly with CDOT and project team members about any aspect of the project. Participants were encouraged to identify specific areas that were of interest to them on any of several available maps. Participants wrote their comments on note cards and adhered them to the appropriate display. Displays included information on traffic data, alternative alignments, environmental factors, and screening criteria. Comment sheets were also available for participants to fill out. The project team received several comments commending the level of public involvement.

Approximately fifty people attended the workshop, and about 26 written comments were received. The comments are grouped by topic and summarized on the next page.



Workshop attendees discuss project

Public **WORKSHOP COMMENTS**

No Action Alternative - (No improvements will be made to the roadway, however, current maintenance practices will continue)

No comments were received on this alternative.

Alternative # - (Maintain existing centerline, add lanes north and south of existing pavement)

Comments on this Alternative included concern for saving trees adjacent to SH 402. Comments also concerned the need for more than two lanes at the interchange of SH 402 and I-25. One comment indicated that this Alternative is more fair than the others.

Alternative #2 - (Maintain north edge R-O-W and shift roadway south)

Some comments on this Alternative expressed approval of its ability to maintain the northern right-of-way. Others noted that the alignment would cause relocation of residents and businesses and were, therefore, not in favor of it. There was also one comment concerning its ability to facilitate left turns onto SH 402.

Alternative #3 - (Maintain south edge pavement and shift roadway north)

Comments on this Alternative included the desire to improve the intersection of SH 402 and CR 9 and concern over potential impacts to an irrigation ditch along SH 402.

Alternative #4 - (Meander-Shift roadway north with slight meander (shift) at both ends of project)

Comments on this Alternative included approval for its ability to miss several privately owned structures and trees. It was widely viewed as the best compromise, balancing transportation improvements and minimizing impacts to the human & natural environment. Also, it was mentioned that the intersection with LCR 9 should receive a priority under this alternative. This alternative received the most favorable comments.

Maintain Rural Character

Some attendees noted a desire to maintain the rural character of the area by protecting characteristics such as the Osborn Farm and irrigation ditches adjacent to SH 402.

Safety

Several attendees addressed the issue of safety, including the need for left turn lanes, a wider shoulder, and improved sight distance at intersections.

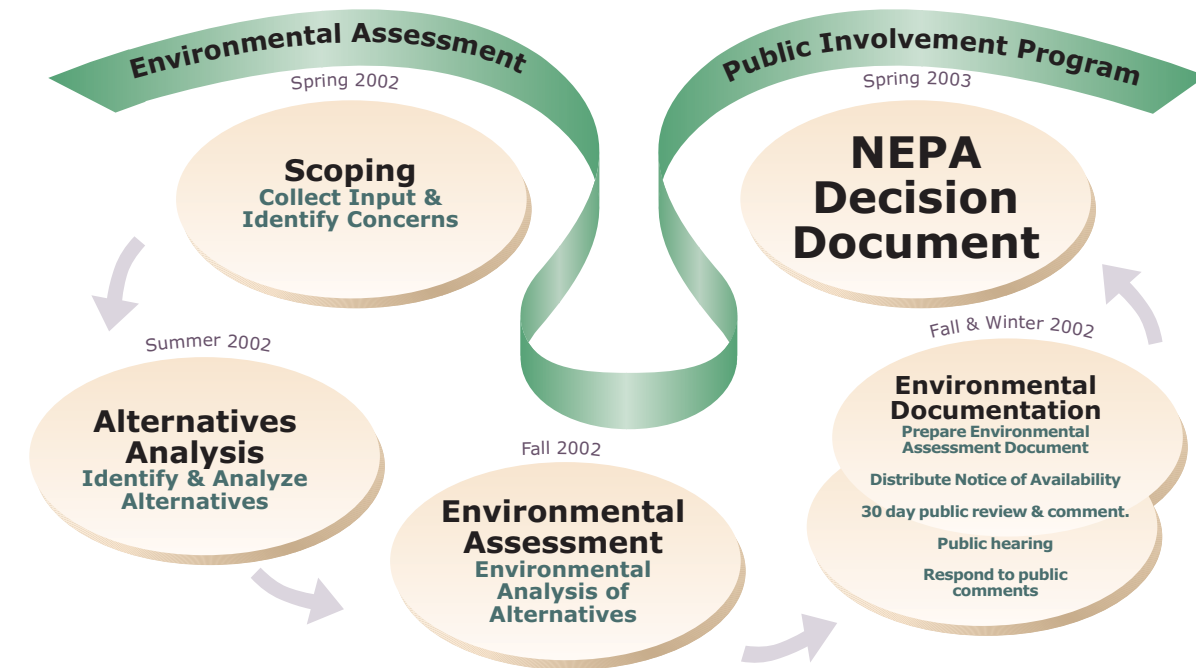
Noise

Some attendees suggested that treatments such as earthen berms or asphalt pavement be used to maintain low noise levels.

Use of workshop **COMMENTS**

Both agency and public comments have been compiled and will be reviewed by CDOT and the project team. Where possible, the items raised during the Public Workshop will be incorporated into the conceptual design.

Project **SCHEDULE**



Project **STUDY AREA**
Larimer County, Colorado

SH 402 **FROM US 287 EAST TO CR 13 (ST. LOUIS AVE.)**
CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

CDOT is performing a Categorical Exclusion (CatEX) for the portion of SH 402 between US 287 and St. Louis Avenue (CR13). The proposed action will address roadway access to adjacent properties and ensure that SH 402 transportation safety and mobility issues are coordinated with the City of Loveland and proposed development projects. A CatEX is a streamlined environmental evaluation process and will identify impacts from the proposed action and mitigation measures required for implementation. CDOT is conducting the CatEX in coordination with FHWA and Loveland so that future development, including the Waterford Development project (which was approved by Loveland), can proceed.

The action is being evaluated as a CatEX since it is not expected to have significant impacts to environmental features and resources such as land use considerations and natural resources. The CatEX is being performed concurrently with the SH 402 EA and will use environmental resource information gathered for the EA. Completion of the CatEX is expected in early 2003. Please contact Amy Baerenklau (J. F. Sato and Associates) at 303-797.1200 or contact her via email at amy@jfsato.com.