

highway in a wetland contaminated by hazardous waste from a coal gasification plant. A draft Supplemental EIS was approved by FHWA on December 6, 1984, and circulated for public and agency review and comment. Resolution of issues could not be reached and therefore a final Supplemental EIS has not been issued.

A Supplemental EIS (FHWA-VT-EIS-77-02-FS) was approved on February 18, 1997, that provided for the construction of a temporary detour around the Superfund Site along a combination of existing streets and new roadway. The detour was intended to allow interim operation of the Southern Connector/Champlain Parkway pending the resolution of issues related to the Superfund Site and completion of the 1984 Supplemental EIS. The temporary detour has not been constructed.

A new Supplemental EIS is being initiated because FHWA, VTrans, and the City of Burlington are now restudying the portion of the Southern Connector/Champlain Parkway between Lakeside Avenue and the intersection of Battery and King Streets to determine if permanently avoiding the Superfund Site would be appropriate. As a result, it is unnecessary to complete the Supplemental EIS initiated in 1984. In addition to impacts associated with avoiding the Superfund Site, the new Supplemental EIS will also evaluate the impacts of reducing the proposed highway to a two-lane facility.

Alternatives under consideration include (1) taking no action; (2) constructing through the Superfund Site on the approved location; and (3) a range of alternatives for permanently avoiding the Superfund Site using a combination of existing streets and new location roadways.

Letters describing the proposed action and soliciting comments will be sent to appropriate Federal, State and local agencies, and to private organizations and citizens who have previously expressed or are known to have interest in this proposal. A public hearing will be held in Burlington. Public notice will be given of the time and place of the hearing. The draft Supplemental EIS will be available for public and agency review and comment prior to the public hearing. No formal scoping meeting is planned at this time.

To ensure that a full range of issues related to this proposed action are addressed and all significant issues identified, comments and suggestions are invited from all interested parties. Comments or questions concerning this proposed action and the Supplemental EIS should be directed to FHWA at the address provided above.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Number 20.205, Highway Planning and Construction. The regulations implementing Executive Order 12372 regarding intergovernmental consultation on Federal programs and activities apply to this program.)

Issued on: December 23, 2003.

Kenneth R. Sikora, Jr.,

Environmental Program Manager, Montpelier, Vermont.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Highway Administration

Federal Transit Administration

Environmental Impact Statement: Denver, Boulder, Broomfield, Adams, Larimer and Weld Counties, Colorado

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA), Department of Transportation (DOT).

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: FHWA and FTA are issuing this notice to advise the public that an environmental impact statement/Section 4(f) Evaluation will be prepared for transportation improvements in the Counties of Denver, Boulder, Broomfield, Adams, Larimer and Weld.

ADDRESSES: Written comments on the project scope should be sent to David Martinez, Resident Engineer, Colorado Department of Transportation, Region 4, 2207 East Highway 402, Loveland, CO 80537, Telephone: (907) 667-4670, extension 5119.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jean Wallace, Operations/Pavement Engineer, FHWA, Colorado Division, 555 Zang Street, Room 250, Lakewood, CO 80228, Telephone: (303) 969-6730, extension 382. John Dow, Community Planner, FTA, 216 16th Street Mall, Suite 650, Denver, CO 80202, Telephone: (303) 844-3243. David Martinez, Resident Engineer, Colorado Department of Transportation, Region 4, 2207 East Highway 402, Loveland, CO 80537, Telephone: (907) 667-4670, extension 5119.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Description of Corridor and Transportation Needs

The FHWA and FTA, in cooperation with the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS/Section 4(f) Evaluation in accordance

with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for transportation improvements between Denver and Fort Collins, Colorado. Improvements between Denver and Fort Collins are considered necessary to provide for existing and projected travel demand, improve safety, replace aging infrastructure and accommodate multiple modes of transportation. These problems were identified in past studies and long-range transportation plans, including the North Front Range Transportation Alternatives Feasibility Study.

II. Alternatives

Alternatives under consideration include (1) Taking no action; (2) improvements to the existing highway network, particularly interstate 25, but perhaps also US 85 and US 287; (3) transit options including bus and rail technologies; and (4) constructing a highway on a new location. Incorporated into and studied with the various build alternatives will be design variations of grade and alignment, interchange improvements or new interchanges, and transit station and maintenance facility locations.

III. Issues To Be Studied

FHWA and FTA will evaluate social, economic and environmental impacts of the various alternatives. Factors to be evaluated include transportation service including future corridor capacity, transit ridership and costs, community impacts such as land use, right of way needs, noise, neighborhood compatibility and aesthetics and resource impacts including impacts to historic and archaeological resources, air quality, wetlands, water quality and threatened or endangered species.

IV. Scoping

Project scoping will be accomplished through coordination with affected parties, stakeholders, organizations, Federal, State and local agencies; agency scoping meetings; and through public meetings in the project corridor. Meetings will be held as follows(:

Greeley—February 3, 2004, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., Greeley Recreation Center, 651 10th Avenue, Greeley, CO.

Tri-Towns Area—February 5, 2004, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., Southwest Weld County Services Building, 4209 Weld County Rd 24, 1/2 (one-half mile north of the intersection of I-25 and Colorado Highway 119).

Fort Collins—February 10, 2004, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., Fort Collins Lincoln Center, 417 W. Magnolia, Fort Collins, CO.