

Appendix K: Public Involvement

US 550 at US 160 Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement Public Involvement Plan (June 2011)

Key Issue

The Colorado Department of Transportation and Federal Highway Administration completed an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the US 160 between Durango and Bayfield in 2006. The process involved extensive public involvement efforts, including the required public hearing and comment periods. CDOT recognizes the important need to educate and involve the public in the process of conducting a Supplemental EIS (SEIS), which focuses on the connection of US 550 to US 160 in Grandview, east of Durango. For the purpose of this Public Involvement Plan, the term “stakeholders” will include interested and affected parties both internal and external to CDOT (identified below).

Objectives

- Provide stakeholders with background information on the initial EIS process and results, as well as the current interchange construction project
- Provide stakeholders with information regarding the purpose and need for an SEIS
- Provide stakeholders with information regarding the SEIS process and their opportunity for involvement
- Provide stakeholders with information on interchange project purpose and need, as well as SEIS alternatives, so they may make informed decisions
- Utilize existing communication channels to share SEIS process information
- Work together with agency partners to identify and respond to stakeholder concerns

Approach

To achieve these objectives, CDOT will follow the Public Involvement steps outlined in the CDOT NEPA Manual, December 2008.

Background

CDOT began design of the US 550 connection in 2007 and discovered a gas well had been constructed in the selected alignment since final EIS surveys had been completed. CDOT mapped a new alignment that avoided the gas well. In reviewing this alignment, CDOT and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office, determined that a portion of the ranch where US 550 was to cross is eligible for the "National Register of Historic Places" (the approach taken to identify historic sites had changed since the Record of Decision was signed, requiring new analysis.) In 2009, FHWA and CDOT began a reevaluation process to look at US 550 alignments that avoid or minimize impacts to the four historic ranches and other cultural sites. Five alternatives for a US 550 connection to US 160 were reexamined through a federal Section 4(f) process. In spring 2011, this process resulted in a *draft* document showing that the alignment identified in the original 2006 Record of Decision (modified to avoid a gas well) is still the least impactful to historic and archaeological

sites. However, CDOT and FHWA are conducting an SEIS, a more extensive evaluation of the alternatives.

Stakeholder Identification

CDOT has identified several stakeholder groups that could be affected by project construction. We will focus our public notification tools on reaching these groups to ensure comprehensive notification:

- CDOT Regional & Headquarters Staff
- Government Agencies (including Native American Tribal Nations)
- Residents, Property Owners & Businesses
- General Public
- Media

Tools and Tactics

CDOT will use a variety of communication methods to share SEIS process information with the stakeholders identified above. The following tools will be used:

- E-mail announcements to established list of La Plata County media and government agency/elected officials
- Posting on SEIS Web Page: <http://www.coloradodot.info/projects/us550-at-160>
- Partnering with local chamber, governments and area stakeholder groups (e.g., La Plata County Alliance, Alpine Bank, Prudential Real Estate, etc.) to post project information on their Web sites and share project progress with constituents and customers
- Provide press release and project information to newspapers and radio media for distribution
- Mail SEIS newsletters to property owners; e-mail to distribution list
- Mail Draft SEIS Notice of Availability (NOA) and Public Hearing postcards to property owners; e-mail to distribution list – do be done at least 15 days prior to hearing
- Distribute, by hand, Draft SEIS NOA/Public Hearing postcards as necessary, including those translated in Spanish
- Place paid advertisement for Draft SEIS NOA and Public Hearing in *Durango Herald*

Public Involvement Schedule

The matrix below identifies the specific stakeholders, tools and timeframes necessary to achieve the project objectives.

Stakeholder Group	Specific Stakeholders	Tools/Activity	Timing	Date Completed
Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Durango/La Plata County general public 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Press Release to all media Web site 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mid April Mid April Ongoing update 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apr 15 Apr 20
Media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Durango Herald Four Corners Business Jrnl. Four Corners Broadcast Other regional media 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting Press Release Newsletter PR-NOA & Pub. Hearing Ad for NOA, Pub Hearing Final Release 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mid April Mid April Mid May Aug 19 Oct 14 Nov/Dec 2011 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apr 15 April 15 May 23 Oct 17
Grandview Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residents, Businesses, Property Owners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Newsletter NOA Postcard/ Spanish postcard Final Newsletter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mid May Oct 14 Mid/late 2012 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May 23 Oct 14
CDOT Internal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Involved regional and headquarters staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> E-mail NOA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aug 19 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aug 19
Elected Officials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fed, state and LP Cnty elected, local agency reps and So Ute Tribe council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Briefing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oct 7 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oct 7
All	All stakeholder groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Hearing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nov 2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nov 2

Evaluation

CDOT will work to ensure that our communication tools and messages are useful and our messages are timely, accurate and comprehensive. A log of citizen and business contacts will continue to be updated, including a description of follow-up actions. CDOT will seek feedback

from stakeholders using existing communication channels. Feedback will be evaluated and if necessary, alterations made to the communication plan to ensure success.

Written comments received during the review period and at the hearing, as well as a certified transcript of any verbal comments made for the record at the hearing will be provided to FHWA.

FAQs

— filed under: [US 550 at 160, Projects](#)

Q. Why is the US 550 connection being reconsidered?

A. In 2007, CDOT began design of the US 550 connection to US 160, as called for in the 2006 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Record of Decision ([US 160 EIS](#)). During design, CDOT discovered a gas well had been constructed in the selected alignment since final EIS surveys had been completed. CDOT designed a new alignment that avoided the gas well. In reviewing this alignment, CDOT and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office, determined that a portion of the ranch where US 550 was to cross is eligible for the "National Register of Historic Places," as were three other ranches on the mesa.

Q. Was this historic ranch considered in the initial study?

A. As part of the original EIS process, this area had been surveyed for individual historic structures. Since then, the national trend in historic preservation is to consider landscapes—such as ranches and farms as a whole—in addition to individual architectural structures. So while CDOT and FHWA met all of the existing requirements during the EIS process, the approach taken to identify historic sites had changed since the Record of Decision was signed, requiring new analysis. There are four historic landscapes on the mesa.

Q. What has happened to address a US 550 connection so far?

A. In 2009, FHWA and CDOT began a reevaluation process to look at US 550 alignments that avoid or minimize impacts to the four historic landscapes and other cultural sites. Five alternatives for a US 550/US 160 connection were reexamined through a federal Section 4(f) process. In spring 2011, this process resulted in a draft document (available on CDOT's web site) showing that the alignment identified in the original 2006 Record of Decision (modified to avoid a gas well) is still the least impactful to historic and archaeological sites. Then, CDOT and FHWA initiated the development of a Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS). The SDEIS revisits *only* the US 550 south connection to US 160, not the entire US 160 corridor. CDOT and FHWA are supplementing the existing 2006 EIS to address the newly identified impacts to historic and archaeological sites and any other changes related to the connection of US 550—both natural and manmade, including regulatory. The SDEIS ([LINK](#)) is available for review and public comment through November 28, 2011. This draft document evaluates three reasonable alternatives for a US 550 connection based on whether they meet purpose and need requirements for highway improvements (capacity, safety and access), as well as cost and logistical factors.

Q. What are the US 550 connections being considered?

A. The alternatives evaluated in the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) are: 1) Revised G Modified, the 2006 Record of Decision Preferred Alternative (with a slight alignment shift), which would realign US 550 to connect at the current interchange; 2) Revised F Modified, which connects at Three Springs Blvd.; and 3) Eastern Realignment, which also connects at Three Springs Blvd. Alternatives can be viewed here: <http://www.coloradodot.info/projects/us550-at-160/us-550-alternatives.>

Q. Which connection is the Preferred Alternative in the SDEIS?

A. Revised G Modified, the 2006 Record of Decision Preferred alternative (with a slight alignment shift to avoid a gas well), which would realign US 550 to connect at the current interchange. This alternative is shown in the draft document to have the least impacts to residents and businesses, to irrigated farmland, to wildlife habitat, to wetlands and to historic sites (see map at: <http://www.coloradodot.info/projects/us550-at-160/us-550-alternatives/alt-g-exhibit-1-1r.pdf/view.>)

Q. Which alignments were not evaluated in the SDEIS?

A. Alternatives not evaluated in detail in the SDEIS include a western realignment, and several alternatives utilizing the existing US 550 alignment and its current connection with US 160 (known locally as Farmington Hill). It was determined that these alternatives do not meet the purpose and need requirements (capacity, safety, access) or other screening criteria (cost, logistics). Additionally, a 'No Action' alternative was analyzed that would keep US 550 on its current alignment, where poor geometry, low design speeds and two-lane capacity on a north-facing steep grade presents both capacity and safety issues This alternative is evaluated in the SDEIS to provide a benchmark for comparison of the environmental impacts.

Q. Where can I get more information on the draft document?

A. The document is available to the public at Durango, Bayfield and Ignacio public libraries, San Juan Public Lands Center, City of Durango, La Plata County and CDOT's main Durango office (address below). The 45-day public comment period will end on November 28. To view the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement please go to this link: <http://www.coloradodot.info/projects/us550-at-160.>

Q. How can I make comments on the document?

A. Now that a Draft SEIS is prepared, a public hearing will be held on November 2, 2011, from 5 to 8 PM at Escalante Middle School (141 Baker Lane) in Durango. The public may also make comments through November 28 by using the form found on this link: <http://www.coloradodot.info/projects/us550-at-160.> Or, comments can be mailed to Sandra Taylor, CDOT, 3803 North Main Avenue, Suite 300, Durango, CO 81301; or faxed to: 970-385-1410.

Q. When will a final decision about a US 550 connection be made?

A. Following incorporation of public comments, a Final EIS will be prepared, and the Federal Highway Administration will produce a Record of Decision on a US 550/US 160

Q. Is an interchange needed if US 550 does not connect there?

A. Yes. Not one, but three interchanges are actually called for in the 2006 EIS Record of Decision (posted on CDOT's web site). Traffic modeling and area development projections for the original EIS were completed in coordination with the City of Durango and La Plata County, using—among other resources—the city's "2004 Grandview Area Plan." Traffic studies show a traffic signal on this section of highway would fail by 2025—or at full planned development build-out.

In 2009 on peak travel days, an average of 27,875 vehicles traveled this stretch of highway through Grandview. Traffic projections show that by 2030, 44,478 vehicles will travel US 160 on peak travel days near the interchange; factoring in future development laid out in the Grandview Area Plan, this number is 85,910 vehicles per day in 2030 during peak season travel (these numbers are conservative, and consider the current economic downturn).

US 160 GRANDVIEW INTERCHANGE AND A US 550 CONNECTION TO US 160

Newsletter - Volume 2, May 2011

What's the update on interchange construction?

We're nearing completion. CDOT began to construct a second westbound lane into Durango and the US 160 Grandview Interchange back in July 2008. The final phase of construction started in March 2011 and will complete a fully-functional interchange by late 2011. Upon completion, the new US 160 interchange will allow safer access to and from the south-side properties via a frontage road and, eventually, provide safer access to future development to the north.

How much does the interchange cost and what does that include?

The total cost of the interchange is estimated at under \$47 million. That cost includes the addition of a second westbound lane through Grandview; four interchange bridges and bridge ramps; a 2,020-foot bike/pedestrian path; six highway retaining walls and four path retaining walls; a concrete roundabout on the north side; new access road on the south side; extensive drainage improvements and environmental mitigation.

Will there be a connection with US 550 at this interchange?

Maybe. US 550 may or may not connect to US 160 at this interchange, pending the results of an environmental process currently underway. (Please see next page.)

How was the original US 550 connection determined?

An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the US 160 between Durango and Bayfield began in 2002 and was completed in 2006. The EIS Record of Decision called for highway

widening and identified the need for three interchanges for US 160 through the Grandview area (including the current interchange, where US 550 was to connect).

Why is the US 550 connection being reconsidered?

CDOT began design of the US 550 connection in 2007 and discovered a gas well had been constructed in the selected alignment since final EIS surveys had been completed. CDOT mapped a new alignment that avoided the gas well. In reviewing this alignment, CDOT and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office, determined that a portion of the ranch where US 550 was to cross is eligible for the "National Register of Historic Places."

Was this historic ranch considered in the initial study?

As part of the original EIS process, this area had been surveyed for individual historic structures. Since then, the national trend in historic preservation is to consider landscapes—such as ranches and farms—as a whole, in addition to individual architectural structures. So while CDOT and FHWA met all of the existing requirements during the EIS process, the approach taken to identify historic sites had changed since the Record of Decision was signed, requiring new analysis. There are four historic ranches on the mesa.

What has happened to address a US 550 connection so far?

In 2009, FHWA and CDOT began a reevaluation process to look at US 550 alignments that avoid or minimize impacts to

the four historic ranches and other cultural sites. Five alternatives for a US 550 connection to US 160 were reexamined through a federal Section 4(f) process. In spring 2011, this process resulted in a draft document (available on CDOT's web site) showing that the alignment identified in the original 2006 Record of Decision (modified to avoid a gas well) is still the least impactful to historic and archaeological sites.

When will a final decision about a US 550 connection be made?

In early 2012, FHWA is requiring that a Supplemental EIS be completed (SEIS). This SEIS will revisit *only* the alignment and connection of US 550 to US 160, not the entire US 160 corridor. CDOT and FHWA will supplement the existing 2006 EIS to address the newly identified impacts to historic and archaeological sites and any other changes related to the connection of US 550—both natural and manmade, including regulatory.

How can the public get involved?

Once a Draft SEIS is prepared, there will be a public hearing held in the fall, followed by a public comment period (notice will be sent via media outlets, CDOT web site, postcard to residents in and near Grandview). Then a Final EIS will be prepared, and a Record of Decision will be made by the FHWA on a US 550 connection with US 160.

Is an interchange needed if US 550 does not connect there?

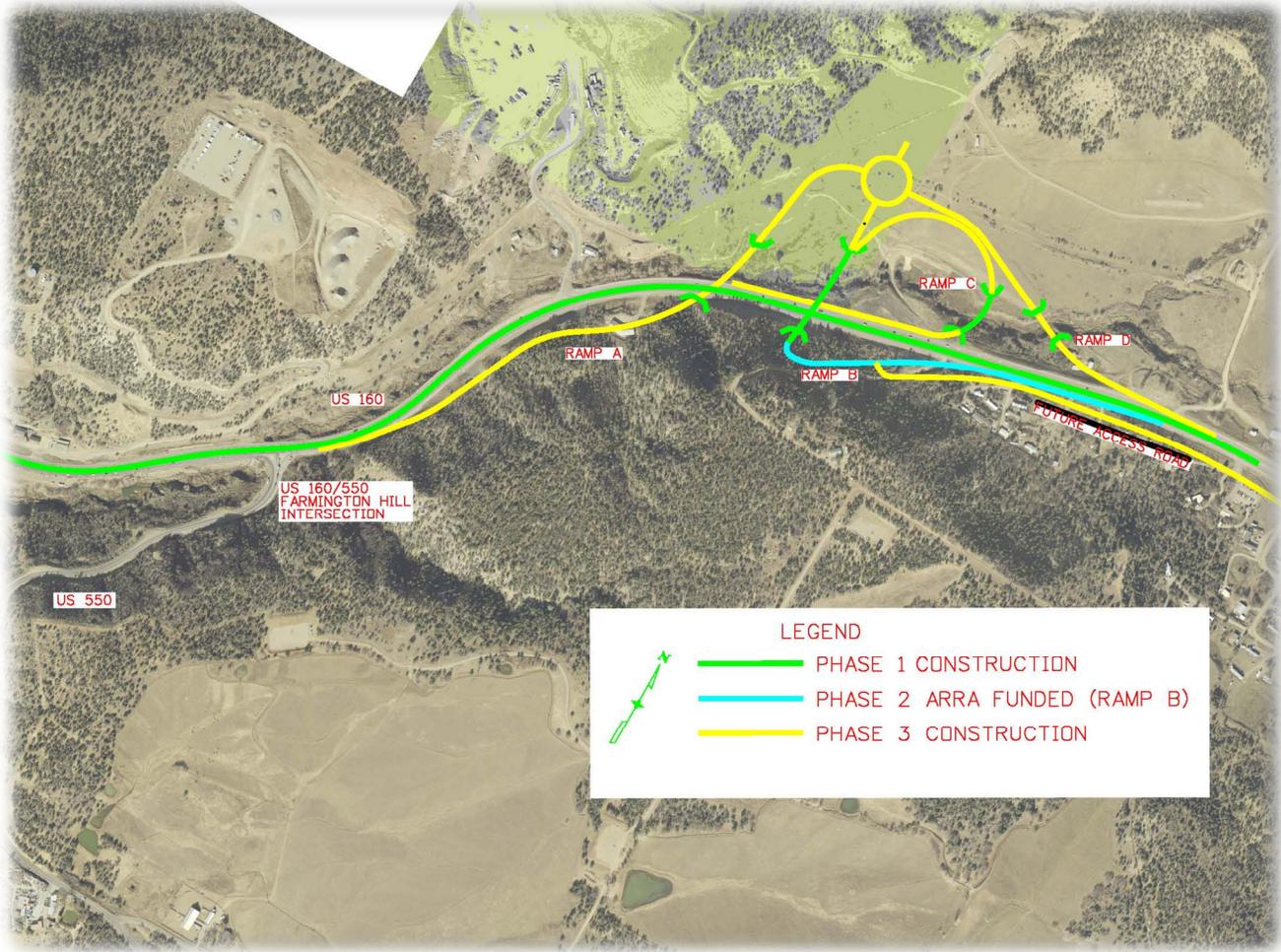
Yes. Not one, but three interchanges are actually called for in the 2006 EIS Record of

Decision (posted on CDOT's web site). Traffic modeling and area development projections for the original EIS were completed in coordination with the City of Durango and La Plata County, using—among other resources—the city's "2004 Grandview Area Plan." Traffic studies show a traffic signal on this section of highway would fail by 2025—or at full planned development build-out.

In 2009 on peak travel days, an average of 27,875 vehicles traveled this stretch of US 160 through Grandview. Traffic projections show that by 2030, 44,478 vehicles will travel US 160 on peak travel days near the interchange. When the traffic from the adopted Grandview Area Plan is added, this number grows to 85,910 vehicles per day in 2030 during peak season travel (these numbers are conservative, and consider the current economic downturn).



US 160 Grandview Interchange Phase III, the final phase, includes construction of a frontage road on the south side.



US 160 Grandview Interchange – Construction of the final phase (yellow) is underway and will complete a fully-functional interchange by late 2011.

CONTACTING US: For updated information on the environmental processes for this project, please visit the CDOT website at <http://www.coloradodot.info/projects/us550-at-160>. If you would like to contact us by phone, please call (970) 385-1428.



Colorado Department of Transportation
Office of Planning & Environmental
3803 N. Main Ave., Ste. 300
Durango, CO 81301



US 550 South Connection to US 160 Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement

PUBLIC BRIEFING:

US 160 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) - The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the US 160 corridor between Durango and Bayfield was begun in 2002. This EIS included alternatives for a connection with US 550. The EIS Record of Decision (ROD) was completed in November 2006, following an extensive public involvement process. The ROD called for widening the highway to four lanes between Bayfield and Durango and constructing three grade-separated interchanges on US 160 through the Grandview area, one of which would connect with a newly aligned US 550 just east of the current junction.

Reevaluation of a US 550 connection - In 2009, the Federal Highway Administration and CDOT began a reevaluation process to look at US 550 alignments that would avoid or minimize impacts to the four historic ranches and other cultural sites. Seven action alternatives for a US 550/US 160 connection (including three alternatives on the existing US 550 alignment) were reexamined through a federal Section 4(f) process. In spring 2011, this process resulted in a *draft 4(f)* document showing that the alignment identified in the original 2006 Record of Decision (modified to avoid a gas well) is the least impactful to historic and archaeological sites.

Supplemental Draft EIS - In early 2011, CDOT and FHWA began a more extensive evaluation of the alternatives for a US 550/US 160 connection: a Supplemental EIS (SEIS). This SEIS revisits *only* the alignment and connection of US 550 to US 160, not the entire US 160 corridor. CDOT and FHWA have supplemented the existing 2006 EIS to address the newly identified impacts to historic and archaeological sites and any other changes related to the connection of US 550—both natural and manmade. The Supplemental Draft EIS (SDEIS) evaluates three reasonable alternatives for a US 550 connection based on whether they meet purpose and need requirements for highway improvements (capacity, safety and access), as well as cost and logistical factors.

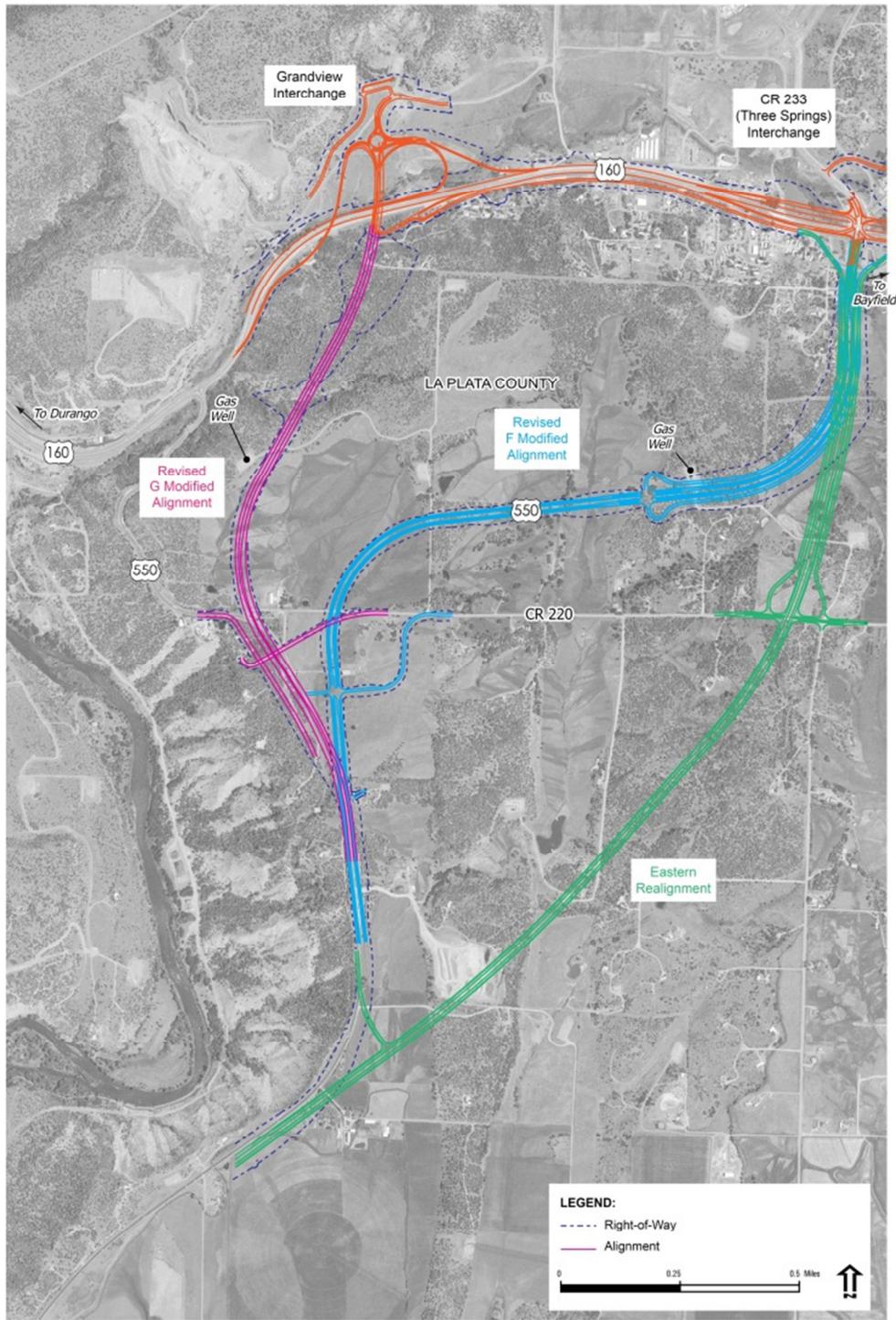
The alternatives evaluated are: 1) Revised G Modified, the 2006 Record of Decision Preferred Alternative (with a slight alignment shift), which would realign US 550 to connect at the current interchange—the SDEIS identifies this alignment as the Preferred Alternative; 2) Revised F Modified, which connects at Three Springs Blvd.; and 3) Eastern Realignment, which also connects at Three Springs Blvd. (see attached map).

Alternatives not evaluated in detail in the SDEIS include a western realignment, and several alternatives utilizing the existing US 550 alignment and its current connection with US 160 (known locally as Farmington Hill). It was determined that these alternatives do not meet the purpose and need requirements (capacity, safety, access) or other screening criteria (cost, logistics). Additionally, a 'No Action' alternative was analyzed that would keep US 550 on its current alignment, where poor

geometry, low design speeds and two-lane capacity on a north-facing steep grade presents both capacity and safety issues This alternative is evaluated in the SDEIS to provide a benchmark for comparison of the environmental impacts.

The Final Step - A Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) is complete. The document is available to the public and comments will be accepted through the 45-day public comment period ending on November 28, 2011. A public hearing will be held on November 2 at Escalante Middle School in Durango (5:00 to 8:00 PM) at 141 Baker Lane. Following incorporation of public comments, a Final EIS will be prepared, and the Federal Highway Administration will produce a Record of Decision on a US 550/US 160 connection in the spring of 2012.

MORE INFORMATION OR TO COMMENT ON THE SDEIS: *For more information, maps, newsletter and a copy of the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement, please go to this link: <http://www.coloradodot.info/projects/us550-at-160> or contact Nancy Shanks, CDOT Public Relations, at (970) 385-1428. Copies of the SDEIS can also be viewed at: the Durango, Bayfield and Ignacio public libraries, San Juan Public Lands Center, City of Durango, La Plata County, at CDOT's North Main Office in Durango and headquarters on Arkansas Ave. in Denver and at the Federal Highway Administration office in Denver.*



US 550 at US 160 Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Three reasonable alternatives meet purpose and need for project (revised G Modified is the Preferred Alternative in the draft document).

Elected Official/Local Agency Brief

US 160 Interchange & a US 550 Connection in Grandview East of Durango - La Plata County, 2011

US 160 Interchange Project History - The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the US 160 corridor between Durango and Bayfield was begun in 2002. This EIS included alternatives for a connection with US 550. The EIS Record of Decision (ROD) was completed in November 2006, following an extensive public involvement process. The ROD called for widening the highway to four lanes between Bayfield and Durango and constructing three grade-separated interchanges on US 160 through the Grandview area, one of which would connect with a newly aligned US 550 just east of the current junction.

CDOT began design of the US 550 connection in 2007 and discovered a gas well had been constructed in the selected alignment since final EIS surveys had been completed. CDOT mapped a new alignment that avoided the gas well. In reviewing this alignment shift, CDOT and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), determined that four ranches on the mesa were eligible for the "National Register of Historic Places."

Why was the 'Historic Places' determination not made before? As part of the original EIS process, this area had been surveyed for individual historic structures. Since then, the national trend in historic preservation is to consider landscapes—such as ranches and farms—as a whole, in addition to individual architectural structures. So while CDOT and FHWA met all of the existing requirements during the original EIS process, the approach taken to identify historic sites had changed since the Record of Decision was signed, thus requiring new analysis.

US 160 Grandview Interchange Construction - CDOT began construction of a second westbound lane into Durango (between the new Three Springs Blvd. and the current US 550 intersection) and the first phase of the US 160 Grandview interchange in July 2008. CDOT subsequently added the two remaining phases of interchange construction. With the third and final phase wrapping up this November, the new interchange will allow safer access to and from the south-side properties via a frontage road and provide safer access to future development to the north. The total cost of the interchange is estimated at under \$47 million. The cost includes the addition of a second westbound lane through Grandview; four interchange bridges and bridge ramps; a 2,020-foot bike/pedestrian path; six highway retaining walls and four path retaining walls; a concrete roundabout on the north side; new access road on the south side; extensive drainage improvements and environmental mitigation.

Need for the Interchanges - Three interchanges are called for in the original US 160 EIS Record of Decision (2006). Traffic modeling and area development projections (which have recently been updated for the Supplemental Draft EIS) were completed in coordination with the City of Durango and La Plata County, using—among other resources—the city's "2004 Grandview Area Plan."

In 2009 on peak travel days, an average of 27,875 vehicles traveled this stretch of US 160 through Grandview. Traffic projections show that by 2030, 44,478 vehicles will travel US 160 on peak travel days near the interchange. When the traffic from the adopted Grandview Area Plan is added, this number grows to 85,910 vehicles per day in 2030 during peak season travel (these numbers are conservative, and consider the current economic downturn).

Reevaluating a US 550 connection - In 2009, FHWA and CDOT began a reevaluation process to look at US 550 alignments that would avoid or minimize impacts to the four historic ranches and other cultural sites. Seven action alternatives for a US 550/US 160 connection (including three alternatives on the existing US 550 alignment) were reexamined through a federal Section 4(f) process. In spring 2011, this process resulted in a *draft* 4(f) document showing that the alignment identified in the original 2006 Record of Decision (modified to avoid a gas well) is the least impactful to historic and archaeological sites.

A More Extensive Evaluation - In early 2011, CDOT and FHWA began a more extensive evaluation of the alternatives for a US 550/US 160 connection: a Supplemental EIS (SEIS). This SEIS revisits *only* the alignment and connection of US 550 to US 160, not the entire US 160 corridor. CDOT and FHWA have supplemented the existing 2006 EIS to address the newly identified impacts to historic and archaeological sites and any other changes related to the connection of US 550—both natural and manmade. The Supplemental Draft EIS (SDEIS) evaluates three reasonable alternatives for a US 550 connection based on whether they meet purpose and need requirements for highway improvements (capacity, safety and access), as well as cost and logistical factors.

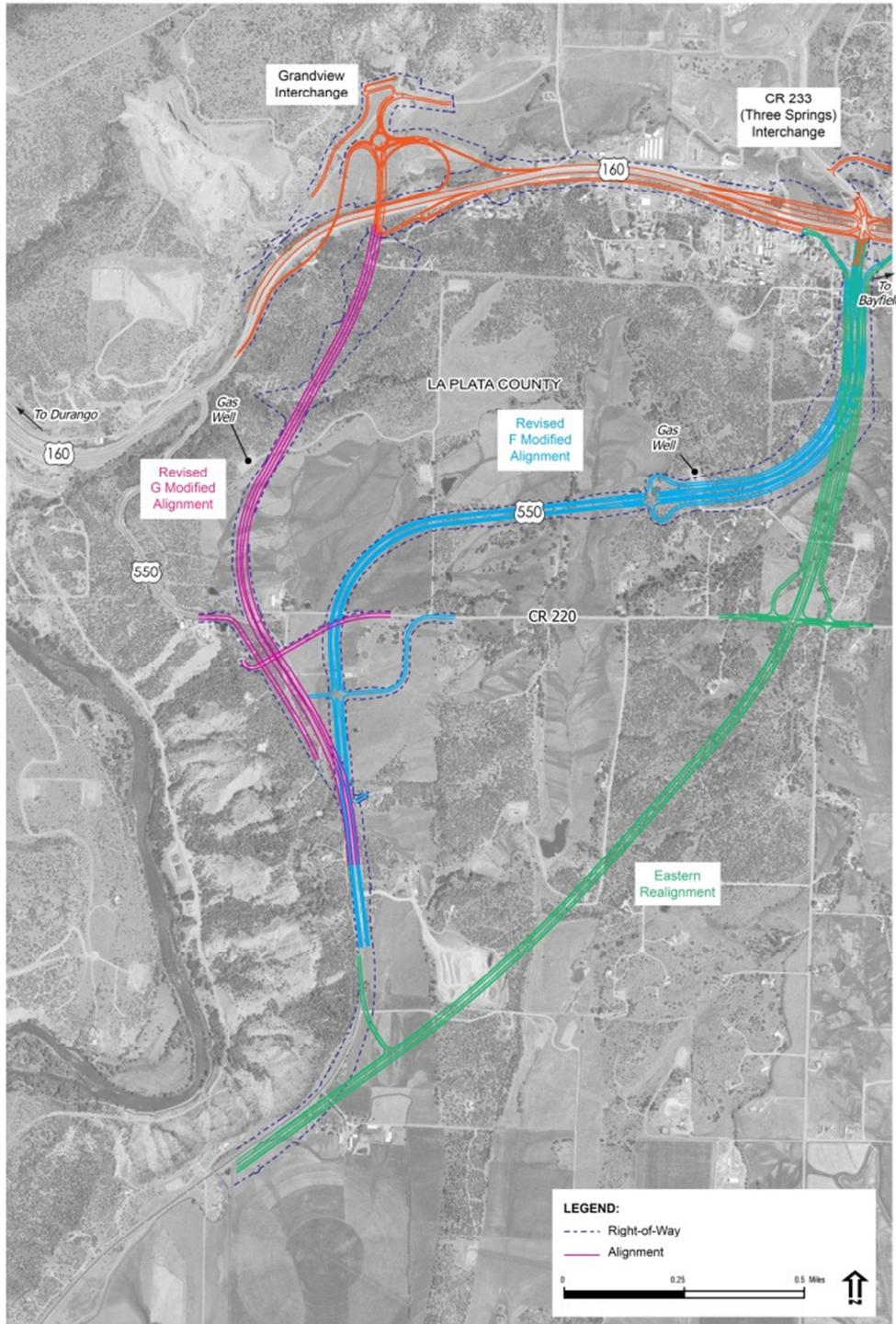
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Alternatives not evaluated in detail in the SDEIS include a western realignment, and several alternatives utilizing the existing US 550 alignment and its current connection with US 160 (known locally as Farmington Hill). It was determined that these alternatives do not meet the purpose and need requirements (capacity, safety, access) or other screening criteria (cost, logistics). Additionally, a 'No Action' alternative was analyzed that would keep US 550 on its current alignment, where poor geometry, low design speeds and two-lane capacity on a north-facing steep grade presents both capacity and safety issues. This alternative is evaluated in the SDEIS to provide a benchmark for comparison of the environmental impacts.

The Final Step - A Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) is complete. The document will be available to the public on October 14 followed by a 45-day public comment period. A public hearing will be held on November 2 at Escalante Middle School in Durango (5:00 to 8:00 PM). Following incorporation of public comments, a Final EIS will be prepared, and the Federal Highway Administration will produce a Record of Decision on a US 550/US 160 connection in the spring of 2012.

MORE INFORMATION: For more information, maps, newsletter and—as of October 14—the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement, please go to this link: <http://www.coloradodot.info/projects/us550-at-160> or contact Nancy Shanks, CDOT Public Relations, at (970) 385-1428.





US 550 at US 160 Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Three reasonable alternatives meet purpose and need for project (revised G Modified is the Preferred Alternative in the draft document).

The Colorado Department of Transportation is inviting you to an:

Elected Officials/Local Agency Briefing
Grandview Interchange & a US 550 Connection

Friday, October 7, 2011, 9 A.M. to 11 A.M.
CDOT Maintenance Facility Training Room
20581 US 160 West, Durango, CO

The US 160 Grandview Interchange will be complete and fully functional this October. Also, CDOT and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) have completed the US 550 Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS), which addresses the future connection of US 550 to US 160 in Grandview.

CDOT would like to brief you—and answer your questions—on both of these important items before announcements are sent to media and the public.

A BRIEF HISTORY

The Interchange: The US 160 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Record of Decision was completed in November 2006, calling for widening (to four lanes) of US 160 between Durango and Bayfield and identifying the need for three grade-separated interchanges along US 160 in Grandview. In July 2008, CDOT began construction of a second westbound lane into Durango and the first phase of one of the interchanges in Grandview.

A Reevaluation: To address the designation of the historic properties on the mesa (details will be provided at the briefing), the FHWA and CDOT began a process of looking at alignments that avoid or minimize impacts to historic landscapes—four historic ranches and other cultural sites identified in the same area. Five alternatives for a US 550/US 160 connection were examined through a federal 4(f) process.

A Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS): FHWA determined in April 2011 that a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement was required and would be limited to the connection of US 550 to US 160. CDOT and FHWA supplemented the existing EIS document and decision to address the newly identified impacts to historic sites, archaeological sites and more. **A Supplemental Draft EIS is now complete:** this draft document identifies a US 550 alignment connecting at the US 160 interchange as the alternative that best meets safety, capacity and access requirements, and also has the least overall environmental impacts.

A public hearing will be held on November 2, from 6 P.M. to 8 P.M., at Escalante Middle School (141 Baker Lane in Durango). A 45-day public comment period, preparation of a Final EIS, and a Record of Decision by FHWA will be completed by spring 2012.

To obtain further information prior to the briefing, please see:
<http://www.coloradodot.info/projects/us550-at-160>.

*We hope you will join us—your questions and your input are very important.
Please contact Nancy Shanks at (970) 385-1428 or nancy.shanks@dot.state.co.us if you
have questions regarding the meeting.*

[Federal Register Volume 76, Number 199 (Friday, October 14, 2011)]

[Notices]

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From the Federal Register Online via the Government Printing Office [www.gpo.gov]

[FR Doc No: 2011-26610]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[ER-FRL-8999-5]

Environmental Impacts Statements; Notice of Availability

Responsible Agency: Office of Federal Activities, General
Information (202) 564-1399 or <http://www.epa.gov/compliance/nepa/>.

Weekly receipt of Environmental Impact Statements

Filed 10/03/2011 Through 10/07/2011

Pursuant to 40 CFR 1506.9.

Notice

Section 309(a) of the Clean Air Act requires that EPA make public its comments on EISs issued by other Federal agencies. EPA's comment letters on EIS are available at: <http://www.epa.gov/compliance/nepa/eisdata.html>.

EIS No. 20110341, Final EIS, FTA, NC, LYNX--Blue Line Extension Northeast Corridor Light Rail Project, Proposed Light Rail Extension from Center City Charlotte to I-485 near the Mecklenburg-Cabarrus County Line, Charlotte-Mecklenburg County, NC, Review Period Ends: 11/14/2011, Contact: Brian C. Smart 404-865-5607.

EIS No. 20110342, Draft Supplement, FHWA, CO, US 550 South Connection to US 160, Updated Information to US 160 from Durango to Bayfield, US Army COE Section 404 Permit, LaPlata County, CO, Comment Period Ends: 11/28/2011, Contact: Stephanie Gibson 720-963-3013.

EIS No. 20110343, Final EIS, FHWA, WI, Zoo Interchange Corridor Study, Interstate I-94, I-894, and U.S. Highway 45 (Zoo Interchange) 124th Street to 70th Street Lincoln Avenue to Burleigh Street, Milwaukee County, WI, Review Period Ends: 11/14/2011, Contact: Wesley Shemwell 608-829-7521.

EIS No. 20110344, Draft EIS, USA, HI, Programmatic--Pohakuloa Training Area (PTA), Proposed Modernization of Training Infrastructure to Construction and Operation of an Infantry Platoon Battle Area (IPBA), HI, Comment Period Ends: 11/28/2011, Contact: Lindy McDowell 210-466-1593.

EIS No. 20110345, Draft EIS, APHIS, 00, Glyphosate-Tolerant H7-1 Sugar Beets, Request for Nonregulated Status, United States, Comment Period Ends: 11/28/2011, Contact: Rebecca Stankiewicz Gabel, PhD 301-734-5603.

EIS No. 20110346, Final Supplement, USFS, NV, Martin Basin Rangeland Project, Updated Information on the Analysis on the Effects of Livestock Grazing on the Wilderness, Reauthorizing Grazing on Eight Existing Cattle and Horse Allotments: Bradshaw, Buffalo, Buttermilk, Granite Peak, Indian, Martin Basin, Rebel Creek, and West Side Flat Creek, Santa Rosa Ranger District, Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, NV, Review Period Ends: 11/14/2011, Contact: Vern Keller 775-355-5356.

EIS No. 20110347, Final EIS, BLM, CA, East County Substation/Tule Wind/Energia Sierra Juarez Gen-Tie Projects, Construction and Operation,

Right-of-Way Grants, San Diego County, CA, Review Period Ends: 11/14/2011, Contact: Greg Thomsen 951-697-5237.

EIS No. 20110348, Final EIS, BR, CA, Upper Truckee River Restoration and Golf Course Reconfiguration Project, To Restore Natural Geomorphic Ecological Process, Lake Tahoe, EL Dorado County, CA, Review Period Ends: 11/14/2011, Contact: Doug Kleinsmith 916-978-5034.

Amended Notices

EIS No. 20110340, Draft EIS, BLM, CA, Withdrawn--Walker Ridge Wind Energy Generation Facility, Construction, Operation and Decommissioning of a Wind Energy Generation Facility of up to 70 megawatts, Lake and Colusa Counties, CA, Comment Period Ends: 11/21/2011, Contact: Joseph Vieira 719-852-6213.

Revision to FR Notice Published 10/07/2011: Officially.

Withdrawn by the preparing agency by letter dated 10/05/2011.

Dated: October 10, 2011.

Cliff Rader,
Acting Director, NEPA Compliance Division, Office of Federal
Activities.

[FR Doc. 2011-26610 Filed 10-13-11; 8:45 am]

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US 550 at US 160 Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement

OPEN HOUSE & PUBLIC HEARING

The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) invite you to an Open House and Public Hearing for the US 550 South Connection to US 160 Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS). The SDEIS presents alternatives and discloses impacts for the US 550/US 160 connection based on new information that was not previously identified in the 2006 US 160 EIS and Record of Decision. Locally, the document is available at the Durango, Bayfield and Ignacio public libraries, San Juan Public Lands Center, City of Durango, La Plata County and CDOT's North Main Office. To view a copy of the DSEIS online, go to: <http://www.coloradodot.info/projects/us550-at-160>.

The public comment period extends to November 28, 2011. You are invited to comment by attending the meeting (persons with disabilities may contact CDOT to arrange for special accommodations required to participate in this event.) Call 385-1400. You may also provide comments online (via website, above) or by mail addressed to Sandra Taylor at CDOT, 3803 North Main Ave., Durango CO 81301.

WHAT: Open House: 5 PM - 6 PM
Presentation 6 PM - 8 PM
WHEN: Wednesday, November 2, 2011
WHERE: Escalante Middle School Auditorium
141 Baker Lane, Durango



Calendar of Events

Ongoing
Flu shots at Mill Street Drug, \$22 Saturday, Oct. 29
 • **Boo to the flu!** Flu vaccinations from San Juan Basin Health, 10 a.m. to noon, Upper Pine administration building, 247-5702
 • **Durango Lion's Club** craft fair and chili festival, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the LaPlata County Fairgrounds
 • **Monster Madness** movies at Lavenia McCoy Public Library, 1 and 2:45 p.m.
 • **Bayfield Association for the Advancement of Music fundraiser featuring Psychedelic Mojo** 3 to 7 p.m. at The Local.
 • **Mt. Allison Go-Geters dance**, 8 p.m. to midnight, Spring Creek Hall

Monday, Oct. 31
 • **Mill Street Trick or Treat**, 3 to 5 p.m. Downtown Bayfield. 884-2331.
 • **Halloween bash**, 4:15 to 7 p.m. Free Zumba class, happy hour, free facials and chair massages, trick or treating from 5 to 7 p.m. Momentum Fitness, 884-6077.

Tuesday, Nov. 1
 • **Ballots due at 7 p.m.** for Bayfield School Board elections, bond issue in Ignacio, and state ballot issues, 4 p.m. at Bayfield Town Hall, County Clerk's office in Bodo Park, or county courthouse information desk.
 • **Bayfield Town Board**, 7 p.m. Town Hall

Wednesday, Nov. 2
 • **Shred day** at Pine River Valley Bank, 4 to 6 p.m. 884-9583

Friday, Nov. 4
 • **Reception for Bayfield Marshal candidates**, 5:30 p.m. Town Hall

Saturday, Nov. 5
 • **Artisan Faire** at Pathways Center, Gem Village, 884-4718

Saturday, Nov. 12
 • **Craft bazaar** at Pine River Senior Center 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Rockin' fundraiser benefiting BAAM on Saturday

Local band Psychedelic Mojo will be performing at The Local in Bayfield on Wolverine Dr., on Saturday from 3 to 7 pm to raise funds and awareness for the local non profit, Bayfield Association for the Advancement of Music (BAAM). All ages are welcome to come out and enjoy some great classic rock, entry is free, donations towards BAAM are welcome and appreciated. The Local will be donating proceeds from the food sales to BAAM. BAAM assists local schools with uniforms, instruments and further awareness around the musical arts.

TARA holding chili supper Sunday

TARA Historical Society is sponsoring its annual chili supper at 5:30 p.m. on Sunday. Supper includes chili, all the fixings, desert, and a drink for \$4. Children 5 and under are free. The event is at the Tiffany Arboles Rosa Allison Community Center at 333 Milton Lane under the picnic pavilion in Arboles. Follow the signs off Hwy 151. Proceeds and any donations will go to help finish and furnish the new community center.

Prescription drug collection tomorrow in Ignacio

Community members have an opportunity to get rid of potentially dangerous expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs Saturday, Oct. 29, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Ignacio Town Hall.
 The event is sponsored by the Ignacio Police Department, supported by the Southern Ute Police Department and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA).
 This is an opportunity to prevent prescription drug abuse or theft. The service is free and anonymous, with no questions asked, according to Ignacio Police Chief Kirk Phillips.

Library hosting "Monster Madness Double Feature"

Come to the "Monster Madness Double Feature" at the Lavenia McCoy Public Library for a double-dose of bone-chilling fun. The library will be showing two movies: "Monster House" (rated PR and kid-friendly), followed by the original 1968 movie classic "Night of the Living Dead" (unrated—may be too scary for young kids). There will be free popcorn, candy & cider as well. Admission is free.
 The movies will take place on Saturday in the library meeting room. "Monster house" will be shown from 1-2:30 p.m., followed by "Night of the Living Dead" from 2:45-4:15 p.m.
 The library is located at 395 Bayfield Center Dr. in Bayfield. For more information, please contact the library at 884-2222.

Harry Potter film and book party at library

Lavenia McCoy Public Library in Bayfield is continuing its celebration of the popular Harry Potter book and film series with the fourth installment, "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire."
 The film will be shown at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 2, in the library meeting room. At 7 p.m. on the following Wednesday, Nov. 9, the library is throwing a "book party" to celebrate the "Goblet of Fire" book. The book party will include wizard snacks, trivia, door prizes, and most of all... fun! Costumes are optional, muggle dress is acceptable. All ages are encouraged to attend. Advance sign-up is suggested but not required.
 The library is located at 395 Bayfield Center Dr. in Bayfield. For more information or to sign up, please contact the library at 884-2222, ext 10.

Homebuying class to be held in Ignacio

The Regional Housing Alliance of La Plata County will hold a free homebuyer education class on Saturday, Nov. 12, at the Ignacio Public Library.
 The class will run from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Participants will receive a certificate that makes them eligible for special loan products.
 For more information or to sign up for the class, call RHA at 259-1418. A calendar of future classes is on-line at www.rhalpc.org.
 The Regional Housing Alliance mission is to provide affordable housing opportunities through education, counseling, and financing to ensure that La Plata County remains diverse and economically strong.

Psychedelic Mojo to rock Halloween on Monday night

The ever popular Bayfield teen band Psychedelic Mojo, that rocks to the classics, will be performing Halloween night Monday, October 31st at Derailed Saloon from 7 to 11 p.m. We will be recording live, so come on out, strut your stuff and cheer us on. There will be a costume contest, and prizes include a trip to Vegas! Come join the fun! We suspect the Zombie march down Main will follow.

Stroke and osteoporosis screenings set for Monday

Lifeline Screening will hold screenings on Monday at the Pine River Senior Center at 111 S. West St. in Bayfield.
 Four key points every person needs to know:
 • Stroke is the third leading cause of death and a leading cause of permanent disability
 • 80 percent of stroke victims had no apparent warning signs prior to their stroke
 • Preventive ultrasound screenings can help you avoid a stroke
 • Screenings are fast, noninvasive, painless, affordable and convenient
 For more information regarding the screenings or to schedule an appointment, call (800) 697-9721 or visit our website at www.lifelinescreening.com. Pre-registration is required.
 Screenings identify potential cardiovascular conditions such as blocked arteries and irregular heart rhythm, abdominal aortic aneurysms, and hardening of the arteries in the legs, which is a strong predictor of heart disease. A bone density screening to assess osteoporosis risk is also offered and is appropriate for both men and women. Many sites offer finger-stick blood tests to check for cholesterol and glucose.
 Packages start at \$149. All five screenings take 60 to 90 minutes to complete. Life Line Screening was established in 1993, and has become the nation's leading provider of preventive screenings.

Life-Long Learning to discuss flyfishing

Sponsored by Professional Associates through Fort Lewis College presents "Why Is That Person Standing in the River Waving a Stick?" by Buck Skillen at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 3 in 130 Noble Hall at Fort Lewis College.
 Join Buck Skillen for an entertaining and informative discussion/introduction to the sport/art/Zen of fly fishing.
 Skillen is active in local and regional effort to conserve our cold water fisheries by keeping cold, clean water flowing in our watersheds.
 Come and learn about the history, equipment, bugs and bait, fish species and physics of this popular recreational activity and discover how to "be the fish!" This presentation is free to the public. For more information call 247-7401.

Mercy to hold identifying Alzheimer's presentation

Mercy Regional Medical Center invites the public to attend "Dementia and Alzheimer's: Identifying, Recognizing and Managing These Frustrating Conditions," a free community presentation by Robert 'Buz' Bricca, M.D., medical director of Mercy's Health Services Clinic. Dr. Bricca will explain signs and symptoms, when to seek professional consultation, available treatment options, and ways to deal with these conditions. The presentation will be on Thursday, Nov. 3, from 5:30 - 7 p.m., at the Durango Public Library.

PRCLC announces new educational program

Pine River Community Learning Center recently announced its new program, PRCLC Community Education. Through that program, we are offering an Introduction to Computers class. It will be held at the Ignacio site located at 535 Candelaria Drive. It begins on Nov. 2 and runs through Nov. 30. It is a Monday/Wednesday evening class from 6 to 8 p.m. There will be no class Thanksgiving week. This class will include Windows XP Operating System Environment, Mouse and Keyboard, Working with Windows and Icons, Customizing your Desktop, File Management and the Internet. The cost for this class is \$75. If you are interested in enrolling, please call Deb Pace or Patty Mickey at 563-0681.

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563-0681
www.prclc.org

All proceeds benefit the Pine River Community Learning Center, a nonprofit specializing in adult, family & workplace education.

OPEN HOUSE & PUBLIC HEARING

US 550 at US 160 Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement

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Open House: 5 PM - 6 PM • Presentation 6 PM - 8 PM

Wednesday, November 2, 2011
Escalante Middle School Auditorium • 141 Baker Lane, Durango

News From
**The Colorado Department
of Transportation**



www.coloradodot.info

CONTACTS: Nancy Shanks, CDOT Public Relations
(970) 385-1428, (970) 749-3579 mobile

November 1, 2011

OPEN HOUSE & PUBLIC HEARING WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2

US 550 South Connection at US 160 in Grandview

LA PLATA COUNTY – The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) announce the draft findings of the alternatives evaluation for a US 550 connection to US 160 in Grandview. The Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) is available for viewing and public comment until November 28. The public is invited to view alternatives and ask questions during an open house, and hear a presentation and make comments during a public hearing.

OPEN HOUSE & PUBLIC HEARING

Wednesday, November 2, 2011

Escalante Middle School, 141 Baker Lane, Durango

(Open house will be held from 5 to 6:00 p.m.; hearing/public comment period will be from 6 to 8:00 p.m.)

CDOT and FHWA began the environmental process in early 2011. The SDEIS revisits *only* the alignment and connection of US 550 to US 160, not the entire US 160 corridor—it supplements the existing 2006 US 160 Environmental Impact Statement to address the newly identified impacts to historic and archaeological sites and any other changes related to the connection of US 550—both natural and manmade. The SDEIS evaluates three reasonable alternatives for a US 550 connection based on whether they meet purpose and need requirements for highway improvements (capacity, safety and access), as well as cost and logistical factors.

The alternatives evaluated are: 1) Revised G Modified, the 2006 Record of Decision Preferred Alternative (with a slight alignment shift), which would realign US 550 to connect at the current interchange—the SDEIS identifies this alignment as the Preferred Alternative. 2) Revised F Modified, which connects at Three Springs Blvd.; and 3) Eastern Realignment, which also connects at Three Springs Blvd.

OTHER WAYS TO GET INFORMATION AND MAKE COMMENTS: The document is available to the public at Durango, Bayfield and Ignacio public libraries, San Juan Public Lands Center, City of Durango, La Plata County and CDOT's main Durango office (address below). The 45-

day public comment period will end on November 28. To view the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement and make comments online, please go to this link:

<http://www.coloradodot.info/projects/us550-at-160>. Or, comments can be mailed to Sandra Taylor, CDOT, 3803 North Main Avenue, Suite 300, Durango, CO 81301; or faxed to: 970-385-1410.

#

**US 550 at US 160 Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement
OPEN HOUSE & PUBLIC HEARING**

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Colorado Department of Transportation
Region 5 – Environmental Unit
3803 North Main Avenue, Suite 300
Durango, CO 81301