

## *Problem Statement*

Through Pueblo, I-25 serves interstate travel, regional travel to and from Pueblo, and trips with origins and destination within Pueblo. I-25 serves north/south travel, but has created a barrier to east/west mobility. Communities were divided by the original construction of the interstate. I-25 currently serves many local trips that might be better served by improvements to the local network..

The stretch of I-25 from 29<sup>th</sup> Street south to Stem Beach interchange is a 41 year-old facility. The standards used to design and build this road do not address the demands of traffic in 2000. Some of the changes made over the years are now inadequate because of increased volume and speed.

In various locations along the stretch of I-25 there are design problems described below:

- ◆ Aging bridges with inadequate bridge sufficiency ratings
- ◆ Curves with maneuvering speeds lower than the posted speed and the average operating speed
- ◆ Segments with narrow lanes
- ◆ Segments with shoulders too narrow to accommodate a broken down vehicle
- ◆ Ramps with inadequate length to reduce speed safely for maneuvering on the ramp or for stopping at the end of the ramp
- ◆ Ramps with inadequate length to increase speed to safely merge with highway speed traffic
- ◆ Flooding of the highway, the ramps, the crossroads, and the adjacent ditches

In addition to the design problems stated above, this stretch of I-25 has problems with operations such as accidents, delays and congestion:

- ◆ Accident rates at key locations that exceed the state averages
- ◆ Interchanges that do not connect to appropriate city arterials
- ◆ Interchanges entrances and exits that are too close together
- ◆ Poor levels of service at interchange intersections
- ◆ Poor levels of service on I-25 during peak hours resulting in congestion