

New Pueblo Freeway Environmental Impact Statement

Public Scoping Comments - February 19, 2003

The list below reflects the written scoping comments received at the New Pueblo Freeway Scoping Open House on February 19, 2003. The comments have been transcribed verbatim from the original comment sheets and letters.

1. Pueblo Resident:

An article in the Pueblo Chieftan today advised of a meeting tonight about the decision of work on I25.

I am unable to attend the meeting but would like to voice my opinions.

My wife, Betty, and I have been residents of Colorado for seven years. Six of them in Pueblo West and last year in Pueblo on 15th Street in Presbyterian Towers.

We lived in Illinois for our first seventy years. Illinois is a beautiful state, but quite congested. The too are always trying to improve Highways. They have many North-South and East-West super highways. Most are tollways to support construction and maintenance. However, to get to them sometimes is a problem caused by traffic congestion and antiquated road ways.

Since having lived in Colorado we have marveled at the ability to get from one place to another. For example, from 15th St. north via I-25 Highway 50/47, five minutes. To continue on west on 50 to Pueblo West, another 10 to 12 minutes.

We worked at Pikes Peak Raceway in the summer. From McColluch Blvd. Via 50 to I-25, then north to the Raceway on Fountain a distance of 30 miles it took 35 minutes. We also worked last summer from 15th St. in Pueblo it was about 20 miles and 20 minutes. Via I-25 north to Colorado Springs airport usually takes 45 minutes. To monument Colorado, about 1 hour and 10 minutes to 105.

I view of the fact of time involved to reach various destinations in comparatively short times, why is there a need for changing or realigning I-25. I must comment the Colorado Dept. of Transportation for the reconstruction of the Interstate and overpass of I-25 and Route 50, and also the intersection of Elizabeth and 50. This was a great improvement.

In my opinion, the exits or off ramps of I-25 in Pueblo see to be all right. There appears to be plenty of notice where and how far to travel . I would not change them only possibly straighten some tight turns and keep them all smoothly paved.

The idea of realigning I25 through Pueblo is a bad idea. The downtown area of Pueblo is suffering. Straightening the highway and making it further to get to downtown Pueblo may be a detriment to the community.

I hope the Pueblo council sees this and protects it.

Mr. Miller, being a comparatively new resident I have given my opinion. I honestly believe our existing roadways are good. The department appears to be maintaining them, just keep them in good shape.

2. Pueblo Resident:

After review the two alternatives I prefer the existing I-25 alignment for the following reasons

- Less ROW would be required
- The long tangent across the river in the Abriendo Ave area

Both alternatives show good connection to US 40 east. I like that!

I look forward to future meetings. Having experience in highway design and siting, I hope I can be of assistance.

3. Pueblo Resident:

I own and run a nightclub at 211 West Northern. Your proposed drawings show – removing of my parking and access to my business. The only access was driving east or west on 200 blk on Northern Ave. Your drawing creates a bridge on 200 blk, eliminating access directly and hides the view of my business. Also parking is both sides of 200 West Northern Ave, as well as the “large” empty lot across the street from me, which holds a lot of my customers cars. The proposed drawings denies access to my parkings as well.

4. Pueblo Resident:

My suggestion would be to leave the existing highway I-25 through Pueblo as is & as the business I-25. Build a completely new bypass around the West side of town to accommodate both Pueblo & Pueblo West. I would think that this option would be the following:

- Purchase vacant land at a fraction of the cost
- Plan for the future as the 2 cities grow and have a wide enough right-of-way the likely increased traffic in years to come
- The ability to complete the job in much less time and expense than having to work around existing I-25 traffic
- Would provide Pueblo West with a much needed additional access.
- Eliminate the sharp curves found in Pueblo, Colo, Spgs, Denver, etc. Bypass highways have not hurt Ft. Collins, Walsenberg, etc.

5. *Pueblo Resident:*

How is the city fathers or committee involved with connecting existing streets to become through fares east to west between I-25 who represents the committee?

Send me the names of contacts to on this committee.

6. *Pueblo Resident:*

I would like you to leave the Southbound ramp at 29th Street and created a quarter mile merging lane instead of the frontage road as proposed. The use only plan to have exit ramp at 50 B and still have that ramp at 50 B return to the north bound side of I 25 as proposed.

This will save money not building the entire length of frontage road on the west side of I 25 between 29th & 50 B.

7. *Pueblo Resident:*

I would like to be included in the neighborhood studies – my property would be impacted greatly if I-25 was moved east and straightened out (modified I-25). I understand the safety issues with the present curves.

The existing I-25 plan I would like to see, implemented with more safety (curves) without taking too many homes/neighborhoods.

8. *Pueblo Resident:*

Please consider the needs of bicyclists and pedestrians needing to cross I-25. Currently, there is no reasonable cross-over access between hwy 50/47 and eighth street (29th is very dangerous). I am an experienced bike commuter and bike/ped. facility planner and know there is a great opportunity to improve this situation.

It would appear that the proposed extension of Dillon Drive & modified (business) Hwy 50 interchange would afford the best opportunity to incorporate bike/ped. facilities to get across Fountain Creek and I-25.

9. *Pueblo Resident:*

I appreciate our informing us well in advance on your plans.

I look forward to the improvements on the freeway. The Central Avenue area has had many accidents on the North bound curved section of freeway. Semi trailer trucks have difficulty with that turn. The wall you put up on the freeway

side (Elm) is beautiful and I was long upset you didn't put one on the Rio Grand side. Now I know why!

I look forward to working with you!

I had experience with your DOT staff when my Mothers property had to be sold. She was treated well. She still would like the park named after her husband Santos Granillo.

10. Pueblo Resident:

I'm concerned about the wildlife along Fountain Creek. I live off Chinook Ln and watch the movement of white tailed deer, foxes, turkey and others along the creek. Please consider the impact and see if "flow" channels for them are available so as not to restrict them or place them further into harms way.

No need to add to mailing list, but contact if more info is needed