



US 85 Corridor Improvement Studies

Open House Summary Report

OPEN HOUSE MEETING INFORMATION

Traditional Open House

Thursday, November 19th, 5:00 -8:00 p.m.
Valley View Christian Church
11004 Wildfield Lane, Littleton, CO 80125

Online Open House

Thursday, November 19th, 5:00 p.m. to Friday, December 18th, 5 p.m.
US 85 Corridor Improvements Website
<http://us85douglascounty.com/nov19/>

PURPOSE

To share information about the study process and status of the Highlands Ranch Parkway to C-470 and PEL studies in the US 85 Douglas County Corridor. Information was provided related to:

- Project backgrounds
- Purpose of the projects
- Environmental clearance process
- Proposed Highlands Ranch Parkway to C-470 construction and refinement objectives
- PEL alternatives screening process and considerations
- Project schedule and additional opportunities for public involvement

Members of the project team provided information about the project and answered questions. Suggestions and concerns about the project voiced by the meeting participants were collected for incorporation into the development of the alternatives and options for the improvements.

PRESENTED BY

Douglas County and the Colorado Department of Transportation

FORMAT

Both public meetings (in person and online) included exhibits included 37 boards covering the following topics:

- What’s happening on US 85 in Douglas County?
- What has already been done?
- Highlands Ranch Parkway to C-470 Project Purpose and Need
- What will be constructed from Highlands Ranch Parkway to C-470?
- Photo simulation of the High Line Canal Grade Separation
- Refinement Options Under Consideration
- Demand and Capacity Comparison
- Construction Schedule
- Why do a Planning Environmental Linkage (PEL) Study?
- What is a Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study?
- PEL Study Area
- DRAFT US 85 PEL Study Purpose & Need
- Level 1 Screening Process
- PEL Study Alternatives
- Existing Conditions from County Line Road to SH 67
- Existing Railroad Crossings
- PEL Study—2002 FEIS Selected Alternative
- NW Douglas County US 85 Corridor Feasibility Study
- Mainline Highway Improvements
- Intersection and Interchange Improvements
- Local Access Changes and Network Connection Improvements
- Transit Improvements
- Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements
- Scoping Schedule
- Roll plot maps on tables

Formal presentations covering the topics above were given to the traditional open house attendees. Presentations were offered at 5:30, 6:30 and 7:30 p.m on the November 19th open house.

ATTENDANCE

Online Open House Participants	91
Traditional Open House Participants	28 - See sign in form in Appendix A

PUBLICATIONS/MEDIA

Notice of this public meeting was conducted in the following ways:

- E-mail blasts to participating Corridor Stakeholder Group Members, CDOT team members, CDOT's "govdelivery" system via Bob Wilson and Douglas County's email contacts through Wendy Holmes
- Notice of the meeting was placed on the Denver Post "Your Hub" website at the following link: <http://yourhub.denverpost.com/blog/2015/11/douglas-county-cdot-to-host-nov-19-open-house-on-u-s-85-corridor-studies/120203/>
- An invitation to the open house was placed on the regional Nextdoor social media site at the following link: <https://nextdoor.com/events/co/highlands-ranch/us-85-corridor-open-house-470281>
- Follow up emails were distributed to CSG members and those individuals who signed into the meeting requesting that they distribute a reminder that online meeting was available for review and comment until December 18th.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

For many years Douglas County and the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) have been making improvements to the US 85 Corridor based on the 2002 South I-25/US 85 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Revised Record of Decision (ROD). As additional residential and commercial growth occurs in the northwest portion of the county, further studies are needed to identify what transportation improvements are necessary to support the development. Douglas County has secured additional funds to continue this work and is sponsoring two important studies of US 85. The two studies are separate but will be closely coordinated at each step in the process to allow citizen and stakeholder input. Ideally, these efforts will assist the County and other agencies in identifying issues of importance in order to implement the highest-priority near-term improvements as soon as possible.

- The PEL Study will update recommended improvements from approximately State Highway 67 (SH 67) in Sedalia to ½ mile north of C-470.
- The Highlands Ranch Parkway to C-470 Project will update the 2002 ROD to reanalyze impacts and begin design of recommended improvements for US 85 from Highlands Ranch Parkway to C-470.

Meetings Held Prior to the Open House

- October 29, 2015-Corridor Stakeholder Group (CSG) Meeting #1; Scoping and Level 1 Alternatives

Meetings Following the Open House

- December 16, 2015 – CSG Meeting #2; Level 1 Results and Level 2 Alternatives
- TENTATIVE January 2016 - CSG Meeting #3; Level 2 Results
- TENTATIVE February 2016 – Open House #2
- One-on-Ones and Stakeholders, as needed

MEETING SUMMARY

A combined 119 members of the community attended the Open House #1 for the US 85 Corridor Improvements Projects either online or at the traditional open house. The meeting attendees were presented with 37 exhibits related to the project and given the opportunity to visit with and ask questions of the project team representatives.

Open House Feedback Tools	Online participants were asked to complete a six-question survey which aimed at discerning the critical issues that most concerned attendees.
	Five lay-flat maps of the project area were provided along with pens for attendees to place comments on areas of the map where they had specific concerns
	An interactive online mapping tool allowed participants to provide geocoded comments on the project website.
	The project team members standing at each exhibit were asked to take notes of the comments heard during their conversations with attendees

COMMENT SUMMARY

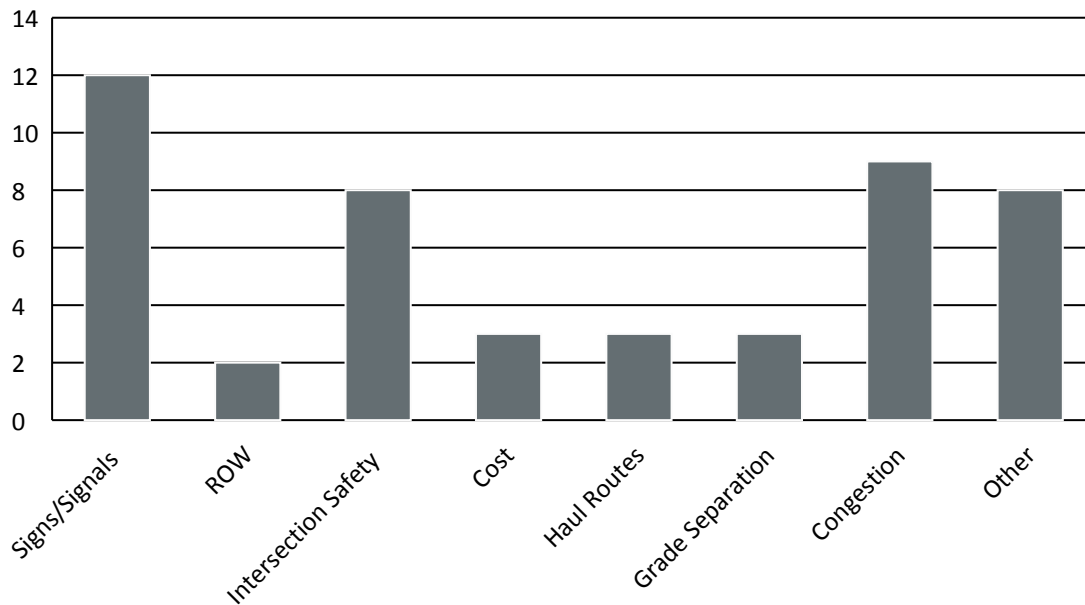
By the close of the November 19th Open House*, the project team had received 139 comments. The majority of comments were submitted online. A total of 91 survey comments were submitted during the online comment period. Twenty-seven (27) map comments were submitted during the online and traditional meetings. Additionally, members of the project team identified and made note of 12 discrete comments that came out during conversations they had with attendees in person. Following the traditional meeting, members of the project leadership team received three (3) emails with comments about the project.

**The online open house closed Friday, December 18th at 5 p.m.*

Each open house comment, other than survey responses, received was classified according to the primary interest that the commenter identified. A table of this information is presented below:

Primary Interests	Comments	Primary Interests	Comments
Signs/Signals	12	Haul Routes	3
ROW	2	Grade Separation	3
Intersection Safety	8	Congestion	9
Cost	3	Other	8

Comments Count



Online Survey Results

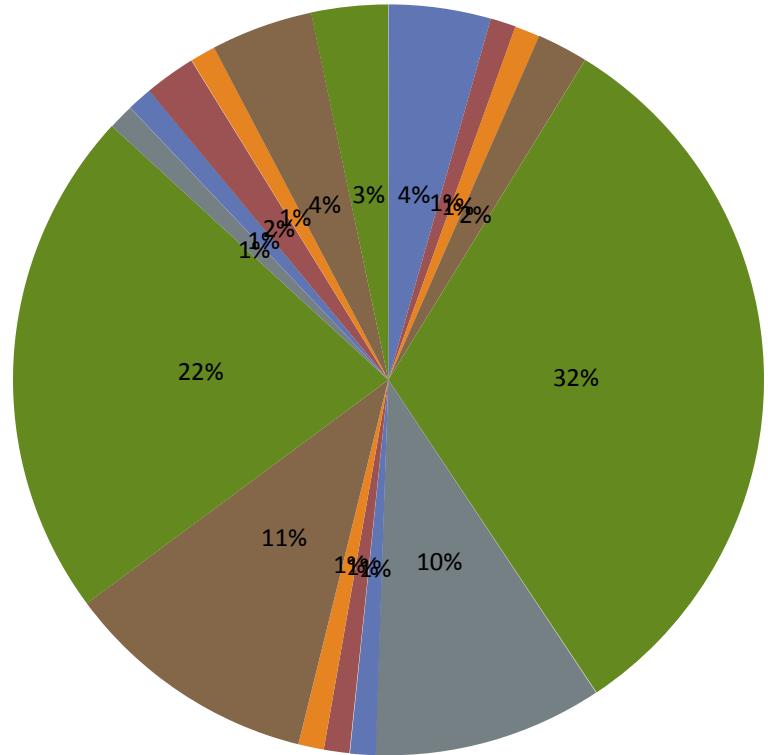
A six-question survey was provided to online meeting attendees in an online survey. The survey questions were asked in a manner intended to discern the critical issues that attendees most cared about.

Total Respondents	91
Question 1	31% of respondents said they used the US 85 corridor because they live in the area.
Question 2	On average, respondents ranked the following parts of the corridor most important: 1: Traffic 2: Safety 3: Accessibility
Question 3	86% of participants felt the project’s purpose and need statement reflected their vision for the future of the US 85 Corridor.
Question 4	85% of participants felt the north/south study area boundaries were appropriate.
Question 5	Five examples of improvements respondents wished to see: 1: Bike Paths 2: Traffic flow on Titan Road 3: Continuous lanes on US 85 4: Roxborough Park Access to US 85 5: Santa Fe and C470 interchange
Question 6	Five examples of features respondents wished to protect:

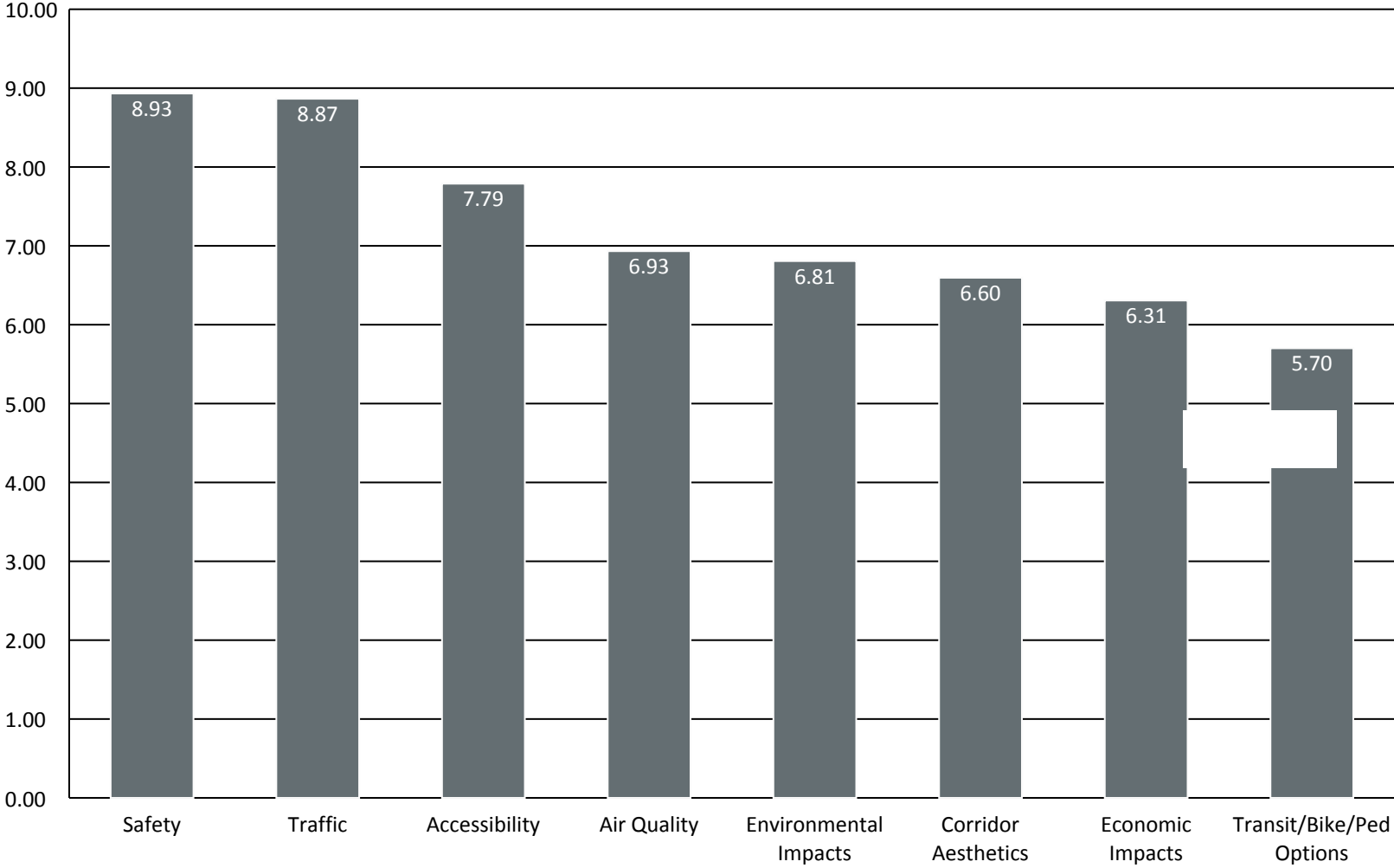
	1: Rural unlighted character	2: All Douglas County open spaces and wildlife corridors	3: Keep Titan Rd intersection accessible from both southbound and northbound 85	4: The watershed
	5: While I hate the way it (the US 85 corridor) looks, I would never advocate having the government force private property owners & private business owners to "clean up" unless it was a serious safety or environmental hazard.			
	Three examples of additional items participants wished to disuses:			
Questions 7	1: Eventual growth 470 to Castle Rock. How was Chatfield Basin growth not seen in 2002?	2: Why isn't light rail being continued from Mineral to Castle Rock with park and rides along the route?	3: It is much more important to improve the traffic flow, thereby improving safety, than it is to have a fancy bike path added.	

How do you currently use the US 85 Corridor?

- blank
- Emergency Services Provider
- I access the corridor to drive to Castle Rock for a variety of reasons and times.
- I commute on the corridor
- I live in the area
- I live in the area, I commute on the corridor
- I live in the area, I commute on the corridor, I own or operate a business on the corridor
- I live in the area, I commute on the corridor, I own or operate a business on the corridor, I shoot photographs in the corridor.
- I live in the area, I commute on the corridor, I walk/bike along the corridor
- I live in the area, I shop at a business located on the corridor
- I live in the area, I shop at a business located on the corridor, I commute on the corridor
- I live in the area, I shop at a business located on the corridor, I commute on the corridor, I like to drive on this road
- I live in the area, I shop at a business located on the corridor, I commute on the corridor, I own or operate a business on the corridor
- I live in the area, I shop at a business located on the corridor, I commute on the corridor, I walk/bike along the corridor
- I own or operate a business on the corridor
- I shop at a business located on the corridor
- I shop at a business located on the corridor, I commute on the corridor



Issues by Average Importance Rating



Average Rating is based on a 1-10 scale. A score of 10 equates to most important and a score of 1 equates to least important.

COMMENT TRENDS

Signs and Signals

The majority of written comments identified traffic signs and signals as a primary concern in the project area. Many survey participants also identified traffic signals as a concern. Of those who identified signals in their comment, many also fell into the category of safety. Participants raised concerns related to the need for additional wildlife crossing signs, additional signs noting the transition from four to two lanes north of airport road, and additional traffic control in the Murdock area.

Traffic and Congestion

Another comment trend in both the traditional and online public meetings was the idea of traffic congestion. Several commenters noted the increase in congestion near C470 and Titan Road. Several commenters also noted an anticipated increase in traffic congestion as homeowners continue to move into the corridor. One online meeting participant noted “Several homes are being added over the next 20 years. I don't believe 85 can handle the capacity. A discussion about sustainable growth would be nice.”

Accessibility

Commenters online and in person noted accessibility issues along the roadway. Specific areas of concern noted to be addressed were Roxborough Park, business access from C470 to Highlands Ranch, and northbound Santa Fe to west bound C470.

ACTION ITEMS

- Due to the small amount of public turnout and response for the first meeting, additional email follow up to direct stakeholders to the online public meeting will be undertaken. HDR has gathered email contacts for additional HOAs to contact residents directly rather than through the Corridor Stakeholder Group representatives in the hope that this will increase interest in the project and address some of the comments questioning the level of outreach.
- Improvements have been made to the website and online public meeting to make the sites easier to access and view, including making links more obvious on the website, and improving the map presentation. Some work to improve the accessibility of the online content is ongoing.