



US 287 at Lamar - "Partnership with the Community"

PUBLIC MEETING

When: Tuesday, August 20, 2002

4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Where: Lamar Community Building

610 South 6th St., Lamar

Join us to discuss US 287 at Lamar!

UNA REUNIÓN PÚBLICA

Cuándo: martes el 20 de agosto de 2002

4 p.m. hasta 7 p.m.

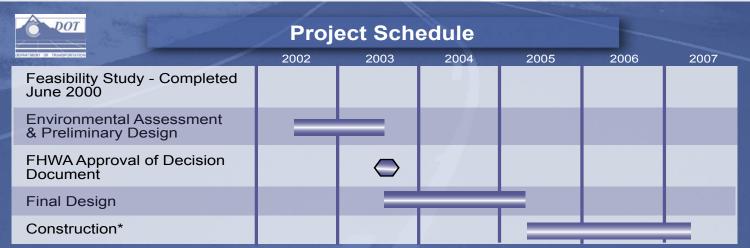
Dónde: El Edificio para la Comunidad de

Lamar

610 South 6th St, Lamar

¡Venga a discutir US 287 en Lamar!

Si tiene una pregunta o un comentario por favor llame a 719.336.1250



*Construction schedule dependent on funding

Have a Question or Comment? Call the Project Hotline 719.336.1250

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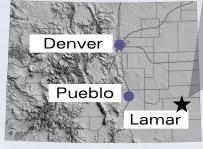
Newsletter No. 1 Summer 2002

The Road to the US 287 at Lamar Project

In the early 1980s, City of Lamar and Prowers County officials began developing a vision for an alternate truck route around the City of Lamar. They believed that a truck route taking trucks off of US 287 would improve traffic safety in the community by reducing the current volume of truck traffic along Main Street through the city. A Task Force of local business owners and officials was created to promote the vision of a truck route. The Task Force approached the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) and requested that such a truck route be included in long range planning efforts. This request and subsequent actions by local and State officials led to a preliminary evaluation of a new US 287 alignment around Lamar.

CDOT initiated a Feasibility Study in early 1999. The study considered new roadway corridors for US 287 around the City of Lamar. Several corridors were developed and studied. The corridors were

evaluated for their traffic operations, roadway design, drainage design, structural design and potential environmental impacts. As a result of this evaluation, a preferred corridor was selected and presented to the public in the Spring 2000. The



preferred corridor is located on the east side of Lamar and extends approximately 9 miles from the southern end near County Road (C-C) north across the Arkansas River and connects to State Highway (SH) 196 north of Lamar. (See Figure 1). CDOT also recognized that an alternative truck route alone would not solve all of the safety and congestion issues through Lamar so the project was defined to also include improvements to Main Street. The completion of the feasibility study and selection of the preferred corridor set the stage for CDOT to move forward on the next phase of project development.

Moving Closer To Solutions

Working together with the community, CDOT is underway with the development of an Environmental Assessment study (EA) for the US 287 at Lamar Project. The EA will build on the Feasibility Study and provide a greater level of detail on the proposed corridor alternative designs and the potential environmental

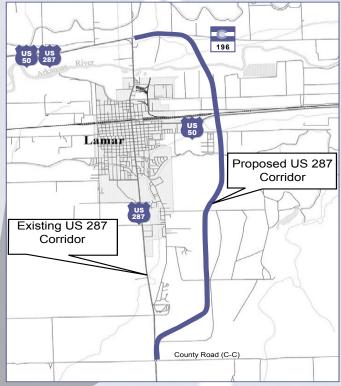


Figure 1

impacts of these proposed alternatives. As part of the formal EA process, the study must also consider a "No Build" alternative. This is generally defined as the "do nothing" alternative, leaving the conditions the way they are. In this case, if a "No Build" alternative was the selected alternative, improvements to Main Street would still be designed and funded.

Your input, as members of the Lamar community is critical to the success of this project. A series of public meetings and smaller working group meetings will be held to ask your help in identifying the issues that need to be resolved including historical, environmental and aesthetic concerns. The goal of the EA is to conclude with a US 287 Corridor Alternative that blends highway engineering and safety standards together with community desires and values. Once this environmental document is completed, it will be submitted to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) for review and approval. FHWA's approval of the decision document will clear the way for CDOT to begin the next phases of project development which will include final design if a new facility is recommended.

Please Come Tell Us What You Think

The first Public Meeting for the US 287 at Lamar Project is scheduled for Tuesday, August 20, 2002. The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) invites you to attend this first public meeting to kick-off the Environmental



Assessment study of US 287 at Lamar. The meeting will be held at the Lamar Community Building from 4pm to 7pm. This will be an open house-style meeting so come anytime between the scheduled hours. Join us to discuss the

environmental assessment process, and give us your thoughts about this project. Future opportunities to participate in the study will be presented at the meeting, so come be part of the first step toward a community plan for improvements to US 287.



US 287 near Lamar