

STATE OF COLORADO

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Environmental Programs Branch
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4201 East Arkansas Avenue
Denver, Colorado 80222
(303) 757-9281



March 24, 2010

Ms. Karla Petty, P.E., Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration
12300 W. Dakota Avenue, Suite 180
Lakewood, CO 80228

SUBJECT: Finding of Section 4(f) *De Minimis* Impact, CDOT Project I-25 Dillon Drive
Environmental Assessment, Pueblo County

Dear Ms. Petty:

This letter and the attached materials constitute a request for review and concurrence with a finding of *de minimis* impact for the project referenced above. The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), in cooperation with the City of Pueblo, has developed plans for a new access at I-25 and Dillon Drive, and also at I-25 and Eden Road. The proposed new access to I-25 would require construction of a new bridge over I-25 at Dillon Drive and new on- and off- ramps to I-25 south of the bridge at Dillon Drive. These new ramps would replace the existing ramps at the south half of the Eden Interchange. This configuration, called a "split diamond interchange," provides all of the movements of a typical "diamond" interchange except the freeway connections are split between two nearby roads. In this case, the connection would be from Dillon Drive and Eden Road. A new two-way road along the west side of I-25 at the existing frontage road would connect the south half of this interchange at Dillon Drive with the north half at Eden Road. In addition, a new rear access drive will be constructed west of the businesses fronting the I-25 access road on the west side of the interstate.

Six historic sites and one isolated find were newly recorded during the field inventory. There were no previously documented properties within the area of Potential Effects (APE). Five of the seven resources are evaluated as eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Of these, only one resource—the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railroad (5PE1665/5PE1665.12) will require a Section 4(f) use.

Resource Description

Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad Segment (5PE1665.12): The approximately 2,400 foot segment of the abandoned Atchison Topeka and Santa Fe (AT&SF) railroad grade was abandoned sometime before 1916. All of the rails, ties and gravel have been removed from the site. Although the AT&SF railroad has been determined eligible to the NRHP, this segment does not support the overall eligibility of the resource due to lack of physical integrity.

De Minimis Use

The new on- and off-ramps will be constructed south of Platteville Boulevard/Dillon Drive. In order to construct the ramps, approximately 0.2 acres of the railroad segment will be impacted by grading activities and incorporated into CDOT right-of-way.

Finding of De Minimis Impact

CDOT consulted with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) regarding this project most recently on February 16, 2010. The City of Pueblo Historic Preservation Commission was also afforded an opportunity to comment on the latest information provided regarding the project, but they elected not to respond. The SHPO concurred with CDOT's finding that the segment of the AT & SF Railroad does not support the eligibility of the entire linear resource, and that the proposed impacted would result in a *no adverse effect* determination for the resource. Please see the attached Section 106 correspondence for more information.

Based on the information presented above and on the attached documentation, the effects to 5PE1665.12 constitute a *de minimis* impact and the requirements of 23 USC 138, 49 USC 303, and 23 CFR 774 have been satisfied. This finding is considered valid unless new information is obtained or the proposed effects change to the extent that consultation under Section 106 must be reinitiated.

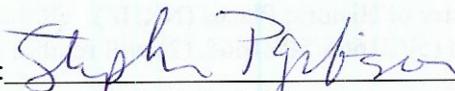
If you concur with this finding, please sign below. Any questions regarding this matter should be directed to CDOT Assistant Staff Historian Jennifer Wahlers at (303) 757-9758.

Very truly yours,


for Brad Beckham, Manager
Environmental Programs Branch

Enclosures: Section 106 correspondence
5PE1665.12 site form
Plan Sheets

cc: Craig Clark, CDOT Region 2
File/CF

I concur: 
for Karla Petty, P.E.
Administrator, Colorado Division

4/8/10
Date