

**OEA Growth Summit 2007  
Transportation Workshop 1  
Outline of Fort Carson Case Study**

**Regional Context for Transportation Planning and Improvements**

**Three Counties**

- El Paso, Fremont, and Pueblo

**Three Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO's)**

- Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments
- Central Front Range Regional Planning Commission
- Pueblo Area Council of Governments

**Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments PPACG**

- COG for the region for the past 40 years
- 3 counties in region: El Paso, Park, and Teller
- Coordinates with Pueblo and Fremont counties and two sister COG's
- MPO for the Colorado Springs Urban Area
- Administers Pikes Peak Rural Transportation Authority (PPRTA) funding
- Military Impact Planning Program formed in 2006 with award of an OEA grant for growth plan
- Partnered with the Colorado Defense Mission Coalition (CDMC) in 2006 to do the Fort Carson Regional Growth Plan
- Building on a long and strong history of support for the military presence in the community

**Transportation Issues**

**Major Issues Related to Fort Carson**

- Existing and projected congestion on roadway network surrounding Fort Carson: South Academy Boulevard, Powers Boulevard, Interstate 25 and State Highway 16.
- Reducing congestion and improving access at gates to Fort Carson: Gate 20 and Gate 4.
- Construction of new Arrival/Departure Air control Group (A/DACG) facility at the Colorado Springs Airport and designation of a new rapid deployment route.

**Regional Approach to Issues**

- Needed transportation improvements included in local, regional and state transportation planning processes.
- Fort Carson viewed as equivalent to a local government.
- With BRAC 2005 priorities for funding and improvements reallocated to meet Fort Carson's growth.
- PPACG as regional coordinator of partnerships for transportation improvement projects.

**Transportation Improvements**

**Transportation Projects In Progress**

1. SH 16/I-25 Interchange Improvements
2. Rapid Deployment Route and Defense Access Road to A/DACG
3. South Metro Accessibility Phase 1

**1. SH 16/I-25**

**Description:**

- Widen SH 16 to four lanes from Fort Carson Gate 20
- Replace interchange with I-25
- Reconstruct interchange with US 85
- New bridge structures to accommodate Army's heavy equipment for rapid deployment route

**Cost:** \$60.5 million **Funding:** Federal \$12.8m State \$45.2m Local \$ 2.5m

**Partners:** Federal Highway (FWHA), CDOT, PPACG, El Paso County

**Environmental Assessment:** Completed June 2007; FONSI September 2007

**Status:** Break ground March 2008; **Completion:** Late 2009 (18 months)

## **2. Defense Access Road**

### **Description:**

- Construct 1 mile+ link to connect re-designated Rapid Deployment Route to new 90-acre A/DACG facility
- Includes utility infrastructure
- Part of overall City of Colorado Springs Airport Business Park planning and design

**Cost:** \$8.1 million **Funding:** Department of Defense, Defense Access Road Program  
Additional \$1.2m for design and environmental work by City of Colorado Springs

**Partners:** DoD, Federal Highway Administration, CDOT, City of Colorado Springs

**Environmental Assessment:** Completed with FONSI in September 2005 as part of EA for Airport Business Park and A/DACG facility by City of Colorado Springs

**Status:** Final design for DAR in process; A/DACG facility under construction

**Completion:** Late 2009 to coincide with A/DACG

## **3. South Metro Accessibility - Phase 1**

### **Description:**

El Paso County portion:

–Widen South Academy Boulevard from SH 115 to I-25

–Replace bridge structures

–Improve access to Fort Carson Gate 4

City of Colorado Springs portion:

Design and construct new expressway between Academy Boulevard and Powers Boulevard

**Cost:** \$78.8 million (County portion \$25.7m; City portion 53.1m)

**Funding:** Pikes Peak Rural Transportation Authority (PPRTA)

**Partners:** PPRTA, El Paso County, City of Colorado Springs

**Environmental Assessment:** EA not required due to local funding and categorical exclusions

**Status:** County portion under construction; City portion in design and ROW acquisition

**Completion:** 2014 for entire Phase 1

## **Emerging Transportation Issues**

Issues emerging in the Fort Carson Regional Growth Plan

- Improving transit service and ridership
- Pedestrian and bike access and circulation
- Building a more efficient land use pattern
- Activating new access at Gates 6 and 19
- Coordination with other TPR's and CDOT

## **Contact and Information**

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