

Project Team Seeks Stakeholders for Workshop Participation

El Paso County has initiated a process to analyze potential transportation infrastructure improvements to 1.5-miles of W. Colorado and Manitou avenues between N. 31st Street and the US 24 interchange. Representatives of organizations, business groups, citizens and other constituents in the study area are being sought to serve on the Stakeholder Committee to help provide a vision for the corridor.

Stakeholders commit to attending three workshops during the study to help shape the future of this segment of W. Colorado/Manitou Avenue. Participants agree to provide input from their respective organizations, and report back to their constituents as plan development progresses.

The first Westside Avenue Action Plan stakeholder meeting:

Time: 6 to 8 p.m.

Date: Monday, June 25

Location: Westside Community Center, 1628 W. Bijou St.

Anyone interested in serving as a stakeholder should RSVP to info@WestsideAvenuePlan.com

Additional stakeholder meetings will be in the fall and winter. The stakeholder meetings are open to anyone who wants to follow the discussions. Two public open houses also will be scheduled toward the end of summer and in January 2013 for citizens to see how the plan is progressing and to provide input.

The W. Colorado/Manitou Avenue arterial supports about 23,000 average daily trips and provides access to about 75 businesses. Stakeholders and citizens will provide input on the best way to address infrastructure improvements such as the lack of sufficient pedestrian and bicycle access, storm water drainage, auxiliary lanes and mobility, access management and street lighting, as well as environmental and historical impacts.

The Westside Avenue Action Plan is a collaborative effort among El Paso County, the cities of Colorado Springs and Manitou Springs, the Colorado Department of Transportation, and residents, businesses, community groups and other stakeholders. Representatives from all the jurisdictions believe infrastructure improvements to this corridor will serve as a catalyst for economic revitalization in the area while continuing to support the neighborhoods, businesses and the region's vibrant tourism industry.

The result of the 10-month study will be a Westside Avenue Action Plan that will include short-term transportation and safety improvement recommendations and a long-range livable, walkable vision for economic vitality for this corridor.

To receive periodic progress e-newsletters and learn how to get involved, send an e-mail to info@WestsideAvenuePlan.com requesting to be added to the contact list or, call the project message box at 719.629.7566 and leave your contact information.

###