

ORDINANCE NO. 04-172

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE INTERMODAL
TRANSPORTATION PLAN TO INCORPORATE THE SOUTH
METRO ACCESSIBILITY STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS**

WHEREAS, the completion of the South Metro Accessibility Study carries out a City Council Strategic Plan objective and a recommendation of the City's Intermodal Transportation Plan; and

WHEREAS, improved access to the Colorado Springs Airport is important to Airport users, to the continued success of the Airport and to the future economic development of the community; and

WHEREAS, the City has completed a 12-month study, which entailed extensive public involvement and technical analysis, resulting in recommendations from the South Metro Accessibility Study process; and

WHEREAS, the study recommendations were developed through an exhaustive evaluation of alternatives in coordination with El Paso County, the Colorado Department of Transportation, the Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments, the Colorado Springs Airport, the Colorado Springs Economic Development Corporation, Fort Carson and Peterson Air Force Base.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
COLORADO SPRINGS:

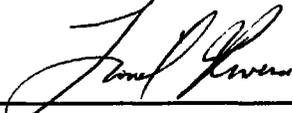
Section 1. Recognizing the need to meet the requirements of regional planning needs and applicable local, state and federal laws, City Council hereby accepts the substantive content of the South Metro Accessibility Study as submitted to the Citizens' Transportation Advisory Board at its July 6, 2004, meeting and the Planning Commission at its July 8, 2004, formal meeting.

Section 2. City Council hereby amends the Intermodal Transportation Plan to incorporate the South Metro Accessibility Study recommendations as outlined in the staff report to the July 8, 2004 City Planning Commission.

Section 3. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and publication as provided by the Charter.

Section 4. Council deems it appropriate that this ordinance be published by title and summary prepared by the City Clerk and that this ordinance shall be available for inspection and acquisition in the Office of the City Clerk.

Introduced, read, passed on first reading and ordered published this 27th day of July, 2004.



Mayor

ATTEST:



Deputy City Clerk

Finally passed, adopted and approved this 10th day of August, 2004.



Mayor

ATTEST:

Deputy 

City Clerk

I HEREBY CERTIFY, that the foregoing ordinance entitled "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE INTERMODAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN TO INCORPORATE THE SOUTH METRO ACCESSIBILITY STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS" was introduced and read at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Colorado Springs, held on July 27, 2004; that said ordinance was passed at a regular meeting of the City Council of said City, held on the 10th day of August, 2004, and that the same was published by title and summary, in accordance with Section 3-80 of Article III of the Charter, in the Daily Transcript, a newspaper published and in general circulation in said City, at least ten days before its passage.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the City, this 10th day of August, 2004.

Deputy 

City Clerk

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DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
Transportation Planning Division

04-172

DATE: July 15, 2004

TO: Lorne C. Kramer, City Manager *Lorne C. Kramer*

FROM: William Healy, Planning and Community Development Director *Wm. Healy*
Tim Roberts, Senior Transportation Planner *TR*

SUBJECT: **South Metro Accessibility Study (SMAS) Amendment to the Intermodal Transportation Plan**

SUMMARY:

The City of Colorado Springs Planning and Community Development Department requests an amendment to the City of Colorado Springs Roadway Element of the Intermodal Transportation Plan (ITP) to incorporate the recommendations from the South Metro Area Study (SMAS) into the Major Thoroughfare Plan.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION:

On August 12, 2003 City Council appropriated federal funding and local matching funds to conduct the South Metro Accessibility Study. Also on August 12, 2003 City Council authorized a contract between the City and the Colorado Department of Transportation to conduct the Study with federal funds.

BACKGROUND:

The purpose of the South Metro Accessibility Study (SMAS) is to develop successful transportation solutions that accommodate the SH 115 connection to the Colorado Springs Airport, accommodate economic development, and improve overall mobility in the south metro area. The study carries out the Direction 2000 Strategic Plan Objective to "Improve access to Powers Boulevard and the Colorado Springs Airport from I-25." The SMAS also addresses the 2004-2009 Strategic Action Plan Objective 1.2 2 to "Establish and implement an access plan linking major highway corridors to the Colorado Springs Airport."

The SMAS was a joint effort between the City of Colorado Springs and El Paso County and was prepared with the assistance of the CH2M Hill consulting firm. The study included an open public involvement process and a concerted effort to coordinate with key community stakeholders, including neighborhood residents, adjacent property owners, the Colorado Springs Airport, the Economic Development Corporation, the City Economic Development Office, Fort Carson, Peterson Air Force Base, and the Colorado Department of Transportation.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

A conceptual-level program cost estimate utilizing 2004 dollars was developed to determine planning level costs for the project. The project was broken down into several different construction categories ranging from new construction to reconstruction of complex interchanges. The total program-level cost estimate is \$208.2 million to plan, design, preserve rights-of-way, and construct the SMAS recommendations.

Due to the size of this project, it is recognized that constructing the recommended improvements in one package would be very difficult to accomplish. A seven-phase approach was developed to construct the project with the understanding that it be flexible to incorporate multiple phases should it be deemed necessary through the design and construction of the corridor. The first phase recommended from the study is included in the Rural Transportation Authority Category "A" project list totaling \$60 million. It is anticipated the first phase will meet the transportation needs of the area and fulfill the objectives of the study for the next 10 years

BOARD/COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION:

On February 18, 2004 the Airport Advisory Board unanimously endorsed Alternative "C" as the recommended alternative for the SMAS study. Alternative "C" is the recommended alternative from the study.

On July 6, 2004 the Citizens' Transportation Advisory Board recommended approval of the amendment to the Intermodal Transportation Plan to include the recommendations from the SMAS transportation study.

On July 8, 2004 the Planning Commission recommended approval of the amendment to the Intermodal Transportation Plan to include the recommendations from the SMAS transportation study.

STAKEHOLDER PROCESS

The SMAS process included two open house meetings, numerous meetings with property owners along the proposed corridor, coordination with military installations, the Economic Development Corporation, the Colorado Springs Airport, Springs Transit staff, Colorado Department of Transportation staff, and City and County senior management.

ALTERNATIVES:

Six alternatives developed as potential transportation solutions in the study area were analyzed to address the Goals and Objectives of the study. Common components were identified as critical elements for the study success, regardless of the alternative selected. Key common components include extension of a south entrance from the Colorado Springs Airport to Powers Boulevard, extend Mesa Ridge Parkway to Marksheffel Road, and no alternative preclude various transit options. The six alternatives can be found within the Executive Summary provided to City Council.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that Council approve the attached ordinance amending the Intermodal Transportation Plan to reflect the recommendations of the SMAS transportation study.

The ITP is part of a continuing effort to enhance the transportation system for the City of Colorado Springs and to develop a comprehensive approach to transportation planning. The purpose of the ITP is to guide policy and decision making with respect to serving the existing and long-term future transportation needs of the community.

The ITP is used to identify transportation corridors in association with new development and the growth of the community. It is legally tied to both the City Zoning Ordinance and Subdivision Ordinance. Additionally, the Plan is instrumental in guiding City capital investment decisions.

It is paramount that the citywide transportation plan identifies the facilities, programs and policies to serve the long-term mobility needs of the community and reflects the values of our citizens. The ITP is intended to support the Comprehensive Plan and serve as a refinement of the Comprehensive Plan with regard to transportation issues.

PROPOSED MOTION:

Council move to adopt the attached ordinance as presented.

Attachment

C Craig Blewitt, Transportation Planning Manager