



June 2022



Citizens provide input to the South Powers Extension Study Team

Approximately 50 citizens attended the Open House May 25 at the City of Fountain, City Hall for the South Powers Extension Study. Several displays were available that addressed topics: such as reason for the project; vision for the South Powers Boulevard corridor; existing conditions of environmental resources, land use, traffic & safety; benefits of combining a Planning and Environmental Linkages Study (PEL) and an Access Control Plan (ACP) into one study; and the history of the corridor. All displays shown at the May 25 in-person Open House are available by clicking the "Go to Virtual Open House" button on the project website: <https://www.SouthPowersStudy.com/>

Reminder:

A Virtual Public Open House about the project is available by clicking on the "Go to Virtual Open House" button on the website:

<https://www.SouthPowersStudy.com/>

Opportunity to post comments geographically on the Interactive Comment Map Tab will remain open through June 15

<https://www.southpowersstudy.com/interactive-map-1>

Frequently Asked Questions

What will be the result of the South Powers Boulevard Extension PEL/ACP?

The Vision for the South Powers Boulevard Extension is to develop a resilient facility that improves safety, connectivity, and reliability and provides a redundant route to I-25. The proposed corridor aspires to provide connectivity for all modes of transportation with an emphasis on implementing green infrastructure

practices. Powers Boulevard is planned to be a four to six-lane facility, approximately 36 miles in length, with its northern and southern terminus connecting with I-25. It is planned as an access-controlled facility, with interchanges no closer than one mile apart. Ultimately, the facility is intended to be a grade-separated freeway. This project focuses on Powers South from Mesa Ridge Parkway (CO 16) to an undetermined connection with I-25.

The PEL study will build upon these previous planning documents to identify a South Powers Boulevard Extension corridor alignment. El Paso County is working in collaboration with stakeholders to identify a range of short- and long-term improvements to identify projects that will improve corridor safety, maintain regional connectivity, improve functional integrity, and address current and future transportation needs along the corridor. The ACP will assist local agencies in making local land-use decisions and preserve ROW for future growth and development.

Why has it taken so long to move this project forward?

The timeframe for any project to move forward is often a combination of the right time/need to construct based on current and projected growth, coupled with other transportation priorities and available funding. Powers Boulevard is a critical corridor supporting local, regional, and national mobility. Since 1963, it was planned as a by-pass alternative for I-25 along the eastern edge of the City of Colorado Springs. Cooperative planning for Powers Boulevard was formalized in the early 1980's through an Intergovernmental Agreement between El Paso County and the cities of Colorado Springs and Fountain.

Read more at: <https://www.southpowersstudy.com/faq>

Background

Since 1963, Powers Boulevard has been planned as a by-pass alternative to Interstate-25 along the eastern edge of the City of Colorado Springs. As one of Colorado's 28 strategic corridors and a key element of the National Highway System, Powers Boulevard is a critical corridor supporting local, regional, and national mobility.



As a key component of the Region's Congestion Management Plan, South Powers Boulevard provides access to five major military installations, shall be the major north/south thoroughfare for the rapidly developing eastern edge of the City of Fountain, and provides direct access to the City of Colorado Springs Airport and its surrounding business park.

This project was identified in the 2000 South Powers Corridor Feasibility Study and referenced in the 2010 Powers Link Environmental Assessment. The PEL study will build upon these previous planning documents to identify a South Powers Boulevard Extension corridor alignment. It will support El Paso County, local agencies, stakeholders, and the public to determine future improvements.

Project Partners



COLORADO
Department of Transportation



Pikes Peak Area
Council of Governments
Communities Working Together



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration

Stay in touch

Find more information about this project: <https://www.SouthPowersStudy.com>

Stay Informed on the progress of the study: Send an email to SouthPowersStudy@gmail.com and request to be included on the enewsletter distribution.

Note: If you wish to no longer receive this specific project newsletter but want to continue receiving other project communications that you previously expressed interest in, please hit "reply" to this email and key in the message "REMOVE." Thank you.

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