

Arapahoe Road/I-25 Interchange

Final System Level Feasibility Study

Submitted by



On Behalf of



Submitted to



In Association with



June 2008



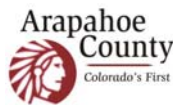
Arapahoe Road/I-25 Interchange System Level Feasibility Study

Submitted to



Colorado Department of Transportation

On Behalf of



Arapahoe County

10730 East Briarwood Avenue, Suite 100
Centennial, CO 80120

In Association with



City of Centennial

City of Centennial



City of Greenwood Village

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June 2008

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1. Introduction

This report documents the information required for the I-25 and Arapahoe Road Interchange System Feasibility Study, in compliance with the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) Policy Directive 1601 Interchange Approval Process. This document will be used by CDOT to evaluate the interchange improvements request.

1.1. Project Location

A partial cloverleaf interchange currently exists at Arapahoe Road and I-25, in the growing southeast I-25 corridor. Arapahoe Road (SH 88) is located in the southern portion of the Denver Tech Center and serves as a key east-west regional roadway connection. I-25 runs north-south through the study area, extending north through Denver and Fort Collins and south through Colorado Springs. A diamond interchange exists approximately 1 mile north of Arapahoe Road at Orchard Road, and approximately 1 mile south of Arapahoe Road at Dry Creek Road. RTD's Southeast Corridor LRT line extends along the west side of I-25 crossing over Arapahoe Road and the southbound interchange ramps. The project location is illustrated in Figure 1.

Figure 1. Project Location



1.2. Purpose for Project

The need for interchange improvements at Arapahoe Road and I-25 has grown substantially since the 1980's. These needs are based on the analysis and findings documented in separate documents prepared as part of the Arapahoe Road Corridor Study, including the *Existing Transportation Conditions Report* (May 2006), the *Land Use and Socioeconomic Data Report* (July 2006), the *Revised Final Travel Forecast Summary* (April 2007), *Revised Final Environmental Overview* (April 2007), *Final Alternatives Development and Analysis Report* (June 2007), and *Final Corridor Report* (November 2007).

The goals of this project are to:

- Relieve existing and future congestion along Arapahoe Road and at the I-25/Arapahoe Road interchange
- Enhance regional mobility and local accessibility
- Improve the operations and safety of Arapahoe Road, which is operating at over capacity, and I-25, which is compromised by ramp backups on the mainline freeway

1.2.1. Mobility and Congestion

Traffic volumes have increased substantially since the mid 1980's when the last significant improvements were made to the Arapahoe Road corridor and I-25 Interchange. Highly congested conditions have historically existed for five to six hours per day, creating significant queues and delays for travelers using the interchange. Throughout the day, delays along Arapahoe Road within the interchange area have created queues along the Southbound I-25 off-ramp that back up onto I-25, affecting interstate operations and safety.

Although recent signal timing modifications have improved the progression of ramp traffic through the interchange and reduced queues along the Southbound I-25 off-ramp, significant queuing continues along Arapahoe Road at the Boston/Clinton and Yosemite Street intersections for traffic entering the interchange area. Also, the interchange continues to operate at peak capacity with the slightest increase in volume or any traffic incident creating gridlock conditions on Arapahoe Road and the freeway ramps.

Existing traffic volumes at the interchange create operating conditions characterized by restricted movements and backups. Overall level of service for the interchange area intersections are classified as LOS D, E, and F (over 80 seconds of average delay per vehicle) during the AM and PM peak hours, representing potential gridlock conditions. Specific movements that currently exhibit operational problems include the southbound left turn at the Southbound I-25 off-ramp and the PM peak queues at the northbound ramp terminal intersection. The westbound through movement at the Boston/Clinton Street intersection experiences substantial delays from drivers maneuvering into the right lanes to access I-25.

Operation forecasts with 2030 traffic from projected regional growth degrade to a high level of congestion. The Northbound I-25 mainline is projected to operate at LOS F in the AM peak period while the Southbound I-25 mainline is projected to operate at LOS F in the PM peak period. During the AM peak hour, both ramp terminal intersections are projected to operate at LOS F and the Yosemite Street intersection is expected to operate at LOS E. During the PM

peak hour, the Yosemite Street, Northbound I-25 Ramp, and Boston/Clinton Street intersections are all projected to operate at LOS F. Therefore, without roadway improvements, in the year 2030 drivers will experience significantly more congestion surrounding the Arapahoe/I-25 interchange area.

1.2.2. Safety

The Arapahoe/I-25 interchange experiences the highest crash rate among the interchanges in the southeast corridor. During the last three years for which data are available, 128 crashes occurred within the interchange area, representing an economic cost of more than \$1.6 million. Even at the slow speeds within the interchange, over 20 percent of these crashes involved injuries. Most crashes within the interchange area are rear-end collisions resulting from congestion and queues of vehicles at the ramps and signalized intersections. Travel flow is interrupted and becomes dangerous as congestion creates unexpected or sudden stops.

Although recent signal timing modifications have improved the typical peak hour operations, the current interchange configuration operates at peak capacity and any slight increase in traffic volumes or incident causes vehicles on the Southbound I-25 off-ramp to back up onto the interstate, creating hazardous conditions on I-25, the ramp and Arapahoe Road.



Poor operations at the I-25 interchange and intersections along Arapahoe Road currently cause delays for emergency vehicles, resulting in longer response time for incidents on Arapahoe Road and I-25. The retrofit design of Arapahoe Road under the I-25 and light rail bridges does not provide any area for vehicle breakdown outside of the travel lanes.

Research conducted by FHWA, the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, and the National Highway and Traffic Safety Administration has concluded that as LOS worsens (or congestion increases), the total crash rate and the severity rate tends to increase. Based on recent CDOT statewide research (Kononov and others, 2008), it is expected that future growth in traffic and increases in congestion on I-25 will result in an increase of about 67 percent in the fatal/injury crash rate and an increase of approximately 8 percent in the rate of total crashes. Additionally, this research indicates that differences in vehicle speeds, such as a vehicle entering or exiting the mainline traffic stream from or to a ramp, is correlated to increases in crash and severity rates.

Projected 2030 operations at both the freeway off-ramp terminal intersections are LOS F during the AM and/or PM peak hours, resulting in long and unpredictable queues. During peak hour

operations, vehicles attempting to exit I-25 will need to abruptly slow down and come to a complete stop due to queues extending from the signals onto the I-25 freeway mainline. This leads to the risk of increased crash and severity rates in the future on the I-25 mainline.

1.3. Project History

The need for an efficient interchange at I-25 and Arapahoe Road has been identified and studied in previous projects. The following sections give the status of the interchange project in previous and concurrent planning studies.

1.3.1. Initial Construction and Subsequent Improvements

The Arapahoe Road/I-25 Interchange was constructed in conjunction with the initial I-25 “Valley Highway” in the late 1950’s. The initial interchange configuration was a simple diamond interchange. As area development occurred through the 1970’s, interchange modifications were needed to increase interchange capacity. In the mid 1980’s, the cloverleaf loop ramps were constructed in the northwest and southeast quadrants to serve the heavy left-turning movements onto the freeway. Approach lanes on Arapahoe Road to the new loop ramps were constructed by removing the slope paving under the I-25 bridge. The construction of vertical walls beneath the bridge abutments allowed for the loop ramp approach lanes to be constructed between the bridge piers and the abutment walls. This retrofit interchange has now been in operation for over 25 years.

1.3.2. Arapahoe Road Interchange Transportation Analysis for Southeast Corridor Project

This 1999 report of the potential transportation impacts of the Southeast Corridor LRT project in the area of the Arapahoe Road/I-25 Interchange provided technical documentation of the transportation analyses completed for the Southeast Corridor Environmental Impact Statement. This report documented poor levels of service at the majority of intersections within the interchange area. It was noted that the 2020 Regional Transportation Plan proposed improvements to the interchange, but these improvements would not be made as part of the Southeast Corridor LRT project (eventually known as T-REX). It should be noted that the lack of improvements at the Arapahoe/I-25 interchange with the T-REX project was based solely on the limitations of funding, not a lack of need for capacity improvements. Because improvements to this interchange were included in the Regional Transportation Plan, it was believed that the improvements could be achieved in the future as a separate project with Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) funding.

1.3.3. T-REX

Construction occurred at the I-25/Arapahoe Road Interchange during the Transportation Expansion (T-REX) project and, although needs for improvements at the interchange were recognized, no capacity improvements were made to address the operations of the interchange due to funding limitations. In conjunction with the construction of the RTD Southeast Light Rail line, more lanes were added on I-25 and the southbound exit ramp at Arapahoe Road was modified to accommodate the LRT bridge piers, which made the operations of the exit ramp worse by introducing sight distance restrictions. The I-25 bridge was widened and aesthetic

treatments to the bridge façade and landscaping were also completed. A pier for the LRT structure over Arapahoe Road and the southbound ramps was placed in the median dividing the eastbound Arapahoe Road through lanes from the lanes leading to the eastbound to northbound loop ramp. This pier placement was planned to accommodate the future widening of Arapahoe Road with a shift in centerline to the south.

1.3.4. Arapahoe Road Corridor Study

Current and forecasted traffic volumes and increasing traffic congestion along Arapahoe Road between I-25 and Parker Road prompted Arapahoe County to initiate a Corridor Study in 2005 to address regional mobility and local accessibility, and to build consensus on a locally preferred, realistic investment strategy for the timely implementation of recommended transportation improvements within the study area.

An overall improvement plan was developed in conjunction with this study process to address the vision for the Arapahoe Road corridor. This vision statement, developed with input from the Corridor Study's Executive Committee, comprised of local agency elected officials and CDOT, is as follows:

"Over the next 20 years and beyond, Arapahoe Road between I-25 and Parker Road will serve as a highly effective arterial corridor that meets the needs of commuters, employers, residents and the communities it serves. Arapahoe Road will provide a balance of improved regional mobility, local accessibility and enhanced safety, with minimal impact on neighborhoods, corridor business and the environment".

Project objectives to achieve this vision include:

- Collaborating with local jurisdictions and the public to find creative solutions that will consider current transportation plans, comprehensive land use and economic plans.
- Providing roadway and intersection improvements that maintain safe and reliable travel through and within the Arapahoe Road corridor, including improvements on other nearby corridors that could accommodate a portion of regional traffic.
- Expanding mobility opportunities, including transit, bicycle and infrastructure facilities.
- Accommodating or supporting previous transportation and infrastructure improvements.
- Enhancing the corridor image, design character and identity of places within the project corridor.
- Avoiding or minimizing community or environmental impacts resulting from the recommended improvements.

1.4. Regional Planning Context

DRCOG, as the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Denver area, is responsible for developing a regional transportation plan that defines the integrated, multimodal, metropolitan transportation system. The Metro Vision Plan represents the preferred regional development and transportation plan, unconstrained by the region's ability to fund improvements. DRCOG also developed the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), which is

a fiscally-constrained regional transportation plan that includes those transportation facilities identified in Metro Vision that can be provided through the horizon year based on reasonably expected revenues. The current Metro Vision Plan and RTP, which were adopted by the DRCOG in January 2008, are for the horizon year of 2035. However, the forecasts and analyses used for this study are based on the 2030 Regional Transportation Plan because the study began before the release of the current RTP. All of the planning context, land use, and travel forecast information cited in this report are from the 2030 RTP. It is believed the land use and travel forecasts within the new 2035 RTP would not change the recommendations in this report and would only reinforce the need for interchange improvements at I-25 and Arapahoe Road.

1.4.1. Regional Growth Forecasts

DRCOG forecasts a 47% population growth, from 2.64 million in 2005 to 3.88 million in 2030, for the Denver Metropolitan Region. Employment opportunities are expected to increase to 2.36 million by 2030, which is a 51% increase from 2005.

The relative locations of new households and employment between 2005 and 2030 are shown in **Figures 2 and 3**, respectively. New households will be distributed throughout the region. They are expected to form along the edge of the currently developed area as well as at redevelopment sites and urban centers within the City and County of Denver, the freestanding communities, and several inner ring suburbs. New employment sites will be concentrated in several urban centers and corridors oriented along freeways and transit lines. This reflects the historical trend of employers locating near key transit and highway corridors.

Note that the area surrounding the Arapahoe/I-25 interchange contains many new employment sites. These employment forecasts reinforce the need to evaluate and implement improvements to the transportation system to serve the businesses within the study area.

1.4.2. 2030 Regional Transportation Plan

The 2030 Regional Transportation Plan represents the fiscally-constrained transportation plan for the region, based on a prioritization of the elements identified in the 2030 Metro Vision. DRCOG recognizes a commitment to the preferred plan for the region, but considering reasonably expected revenues, all elements of Metro Vision are not affordable.

Figure 4 illustrates the 2030 RTP Fiscally Constrained Roadway System Improvements. The plan includes the following improvements that will directly affect the study area:

- New interchange at Arapahoe Road and Parker Road
- Widening of Arapahoe Road from I-25 to Potomac Street
- Reconstruction of I-25/Arapahoe Road interchange

As part of CDOT Policy Directive 1601, it is necessary for the proposed improvements to be included in the constrained plan. The reconstruction of the Arapahoe/I-25 interchange is included in the current fiscally-constrained plan. The 2030 RTP is currently being updated to the 2035 plan, which does not include as many projects as contained in the 2030 RTP. The draft 2035 RTP does include the I-25/Arapahoe Road interchange improvements.

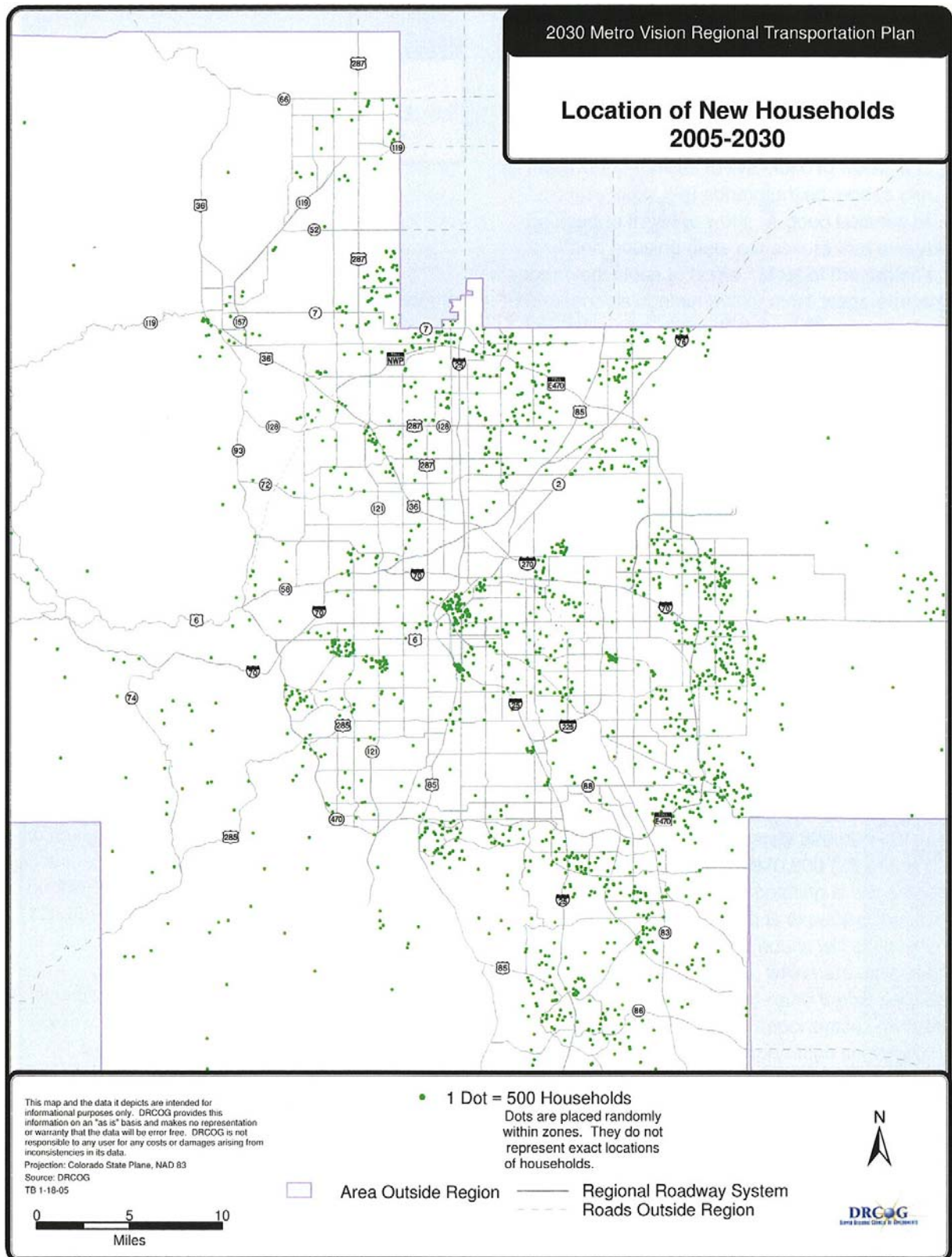
Figure 2. Location of New Households 2005-2030

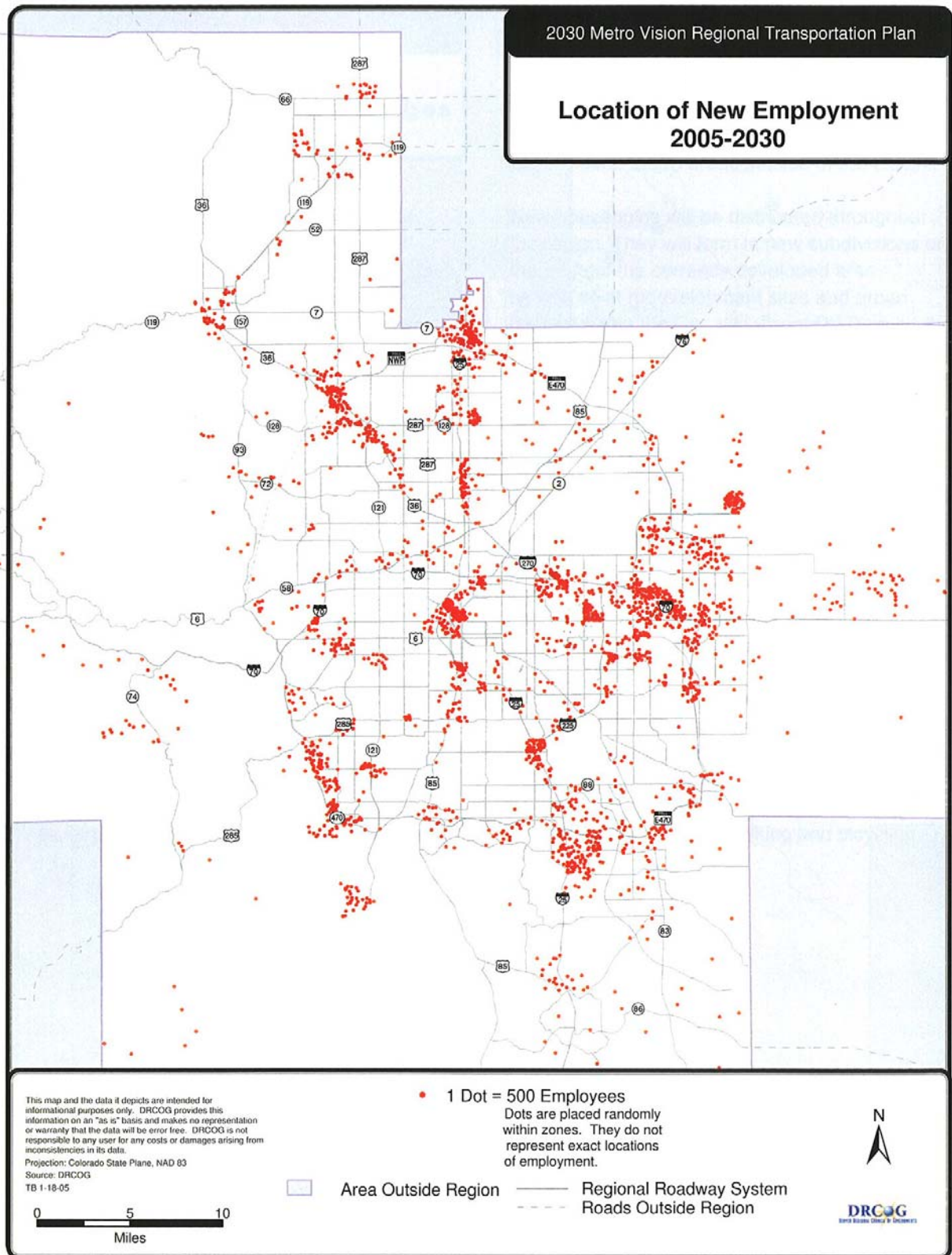
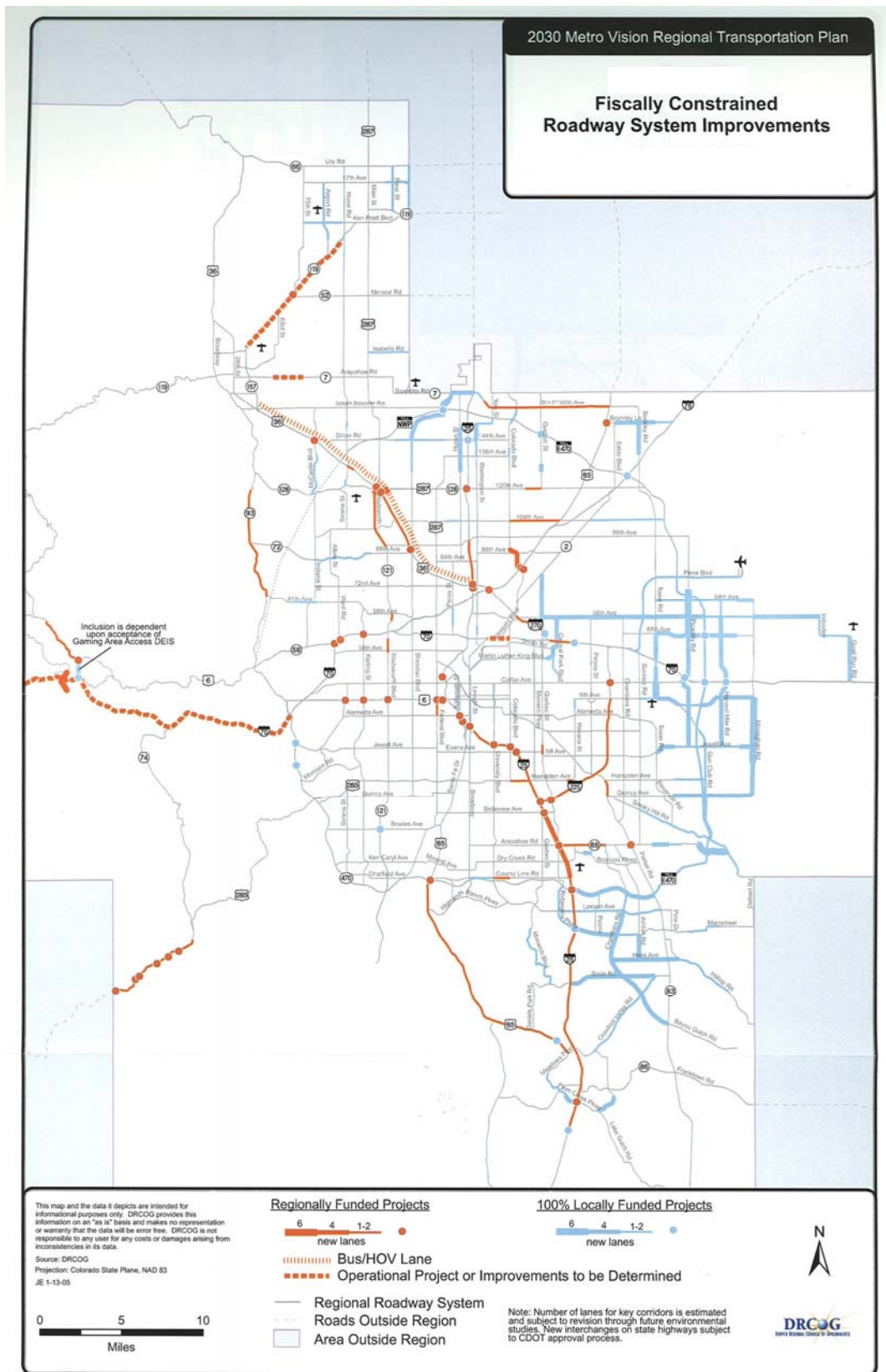
Figure 3. Location of New Employment 2005-2030

Figure 4. 2030 RTP Fiscally Constrained Roadway System Improvements

1.4.3. Local Plans

The Arapahoe/I-25 interchange reconstruction is consistent with the local communities' long-range plans. The interchange improvements are identified in the transportation plans of Arapahoe County, Greenwood Village, and Centennial. Planned land uses surrounding the interchange include mostly commercial redevelopment. To support the local redevelopment plans, the interchange improvements should be planned to handle increased levels of traffic.

1.5. Submittal Requirements for Interchange Approval Process

The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) Policy Directive 1601B (PD 1601B) requires that all requests for new interchanges and improvements to existing interchanges on major state highways be reviewed and evaluated in a consistent manner through the use of established guidelines. These guidelines provide general direction regarding the content and format of information to be provided to CDOT and the Colorado Transportation Commission for its review during the interchange approval process. The documents that must be provided for the interchange approval include the System Level Feasibility Study, the appropriate environmental documentation of any other impacts and consequences of the interchange, preliminary design, and an Intergovernmental Agreement documenting funding and maintenance responsibilities.

The System Feasibility Study (SFS) is the first study required through the 1601 process. The SFS examines general traffic impacts of the new interchange within the context of existing and planned regional and local transportation facilities. The SFS details any benefits derived from the proposed improvement for the study area roadways and adjacent interchanges.

The environmental documentation is completed after the SFS and generally in conjunction with or after the preliminary design, to analyze the physical, social and environmental impacts associated with the proposed improvements.

The preliminary design of the interchange determines the precise location and extent of traffic impacts to the state transportation system. This design identifies all necessary improvements to the interchange and surrounding road system (state and local) to accommodate anticipated traffic. Preliminary engineering plans at a 20 – 30% design level of detail are provided.

An Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) will also be necessary for this project. The City of Centennial, Greenwood Village, Arapahoe County and CDOT will need to document any funding and maintenance agreements, and identify any desired construction phasing.

This report presents only the System Feasibility Study for the Arapahoe Road and I-25 Interchange in compliance with CDOT Policy Directive 1601 Interchange Approval Process.

1.5.1. Public Involvement Process

Potential improvements to the Arapahoe/I-25 interchange were discussed within the public involvement process for the Arapahoe Road Corridor Study.

The study held four public meetings, to introduce the project and discuss corridor travel conditions and the need for improvement, to present the range of implementation options, to

present alternatives and preliminary analysis, and discuss the recommended improvements. The Arapahoe/I-25 interchange analysis and improvements were included in the presentation at each public meeting.

In an effort to gain as much community input as possible, the study utilized many methods of advertising and outreach. Each meeting was preceded by a news release, which was sent to local newspapers and television stations as well as local jurisdictions' Public Involvement Officers for inclusion in their community bulletins and newsletters. Also, a newsletter was mailed and e-mailed to businesses and residents in the area surrounding the corridor prior to each public meeting. Input was solicited at the public meetings and community members were also able to submit comments via the project website (www.arapahoecorridor.com) throughout the course of the study.

A Community Resource Panel (CRP) was formed to advise the project team of the concerns of various groups of stakeholders in the area. The CRP was divided into four separate focus groups, including representatives from:

- Homeowners' Associations and Neighborhood Associations
- Emergency Providers
- Bicycle and Trails groups
- Businesses, Metro Districts and Chambers of Commerce

The project team worked with the CRP to identify project needs, review proposed improvement alternatives, discuss likely impacts of improvements and possible mitigation or resolution techniques, and provide input on project implementation and phasing. The Business, Metro Districts and Chambers of Commerce CRP were particularly interested in the improvements planned for the Arapahoe/I-25 interchange area. Comments received at public and CRP meetings were posted on the website along with answers to frequently asked questions.

1.5.2. Agency Coordination

A series of meetings were also held with local agency representatives that comprised the corridor study's Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). The committee met approximately every two months throughout the 18-month study to provide technical input and review of plans and documents. Specific meetings were held with representatives of the City of Centennial and the City of Greenwood Village to discuss possible future redevelopment plans for the area surrounding the I-25 interchange.

2. Existing Conditions

2.1. Study Area

The study area is located along Interstate 25 (I-25) between the Dry Creek Road and Orchard Road interchanges. Arapahoe Road is State Highway 88 (SH 88) within the I-25 interchange area. The Arapahoe Road/I-25 interchange includes six ramp junctions with the current partial cloverleaf configuration. Arterial intersection operations were examined along Arapahoe Road through the interchange area from Yosemite Street to Boston Street/Clinton Street. The study area is located in Arapahoe County and includes the cities of Greenwood Village and Centennial. In addition, system-level transportation forecasts and plans were examined in a larger regional level as they relate to the traffic operations along I-25 and Arapahoe Road.

2.2. Existing Land Use

The Arapahoe Road/I-25 interchange is surrounded with office and commercial development, and includes portions of commercial and office areas in Greenwood Village and the Denver Technological Center. Today, big box retail uses such as Target, Home Depot and Lowe's occupy the majority of land near the I-25 interchange. Other land near the interchange is occupied by smaller scale retail and commercial uses and sections of office-park development. Southwest and northeast of the interchange predominantly single family residential development exists. The interchange provides access to several close major regional destinations, including:

- The Arapahoe at Village Center Light Rail Station is located northeast of the interchange at the intersection of Caley Avenue and Yosemite Street and provides access to downtown Denver and other regional destinations. This new station built with the T-REX project is contributing to the intensification of adjacent office and retail employment, and future higher density residential use in Transit Oriented Development (TOD) near the station location.
- The Southeast Business Corridor, a major employment center for the Denver metropolitan region, surrounds the interchange. The Arapahoe Road interchange is one of five interchanges along I-25 (County Line, Dry Creek, Arapahoe, Orchard, Bellevue) that serves as primary access to the employment area.
- Centennial Airport, located about two miles southeast of the interchange, is the second busiest general aviation airport in the United States. Over 2,000 jobs are supported by this airport.
- Coors Amphitheatre, located about one mile northwest of the interchange along Greenwood Plaza Boulevard, is a regional concert venue with a seating capacity of approximately 17,000.
- Over 1,700 hotel rooms are located within a half-mile of the interchange.

2.3. Existing Roadway Network

The existing Arapahoe Road/I-25 interchange is a partial cloverleaf configuration in which the westbound to southbound and the eastbound to northbound movements through the interchange are accommodated via loop ramps. Below I-25, Arapahoe Road provides only two through lanes in each direction between the bridge piers, plus lanes north and south of the bridge piers to accommodate traffic bound traffic for the loop ramps. Upon approaching I-25, drivers must pay close attention to the specific lane they are traveling since the outside through lane in each direction forces traffic onto the ramps entering I-25.



Through the I-25 interchange, traffic signals are spaced every 600 to 900 feet. Four traffic signals comprise the I-25 interchange complex including Yosemite Street at the west end, the southbound off-ramp intersection, the northbound off-ramp intersection, and the Clinton Street/Boston Street intersection. One-quarter mile is provided from the Clinton Street/Boston Street to Dayton Street signalized intersection to the east of the interchange.

The traffic signals through the interchange area and along the Arapahoe corridor are coordinated by time of day via a central computer system. The signal cycle lengths are 120 seconds during the AM and PM peak periods and 100 seconds during the rest of the day, including the noon peak period.

I-25 – This is a major interstate highway facility through the Denver Metropolitan area and Colorado. Near Arapahoe Road, I-25 provides five through lanes in each direction following completion of recent improvements as part of the T-REX transportation expansion project.

Arapahoe Road (SH 88) –Arapahoe Road is a major regional arterial extending east-west through the southeast Denver Metropolitan area from Broadway to Smokey Hill Road east of E-470. It is a state highway (SH 88) between I-25 and Parker Road (SH 83). The roadway consists of three lanes of traffic east and west of I-25, with only two lanes in each direction carried through the interchange.

Havana Street – Located about one mile east of the Arapahoe/I-25 interchange, Havana Street is a six-lane facility extending south and curving into Dry Creek Road. The Dry Creek/I-25 interchange serves as a convenient southern alternate connection to I-25 for the study area.

Peakview Avenue - This is a two-lane east-west facility located north of and within one-quarter mile of Arapahoe Road. Its western terminal is at Yosemite Street where it “dead ends”

into commercial development near I-25. From here, the road extends east one mile to Havana Street where it curves south and intersects with Arapahoe Road (as Havana Street) part of Greenwood Village's "Serpentine Road".

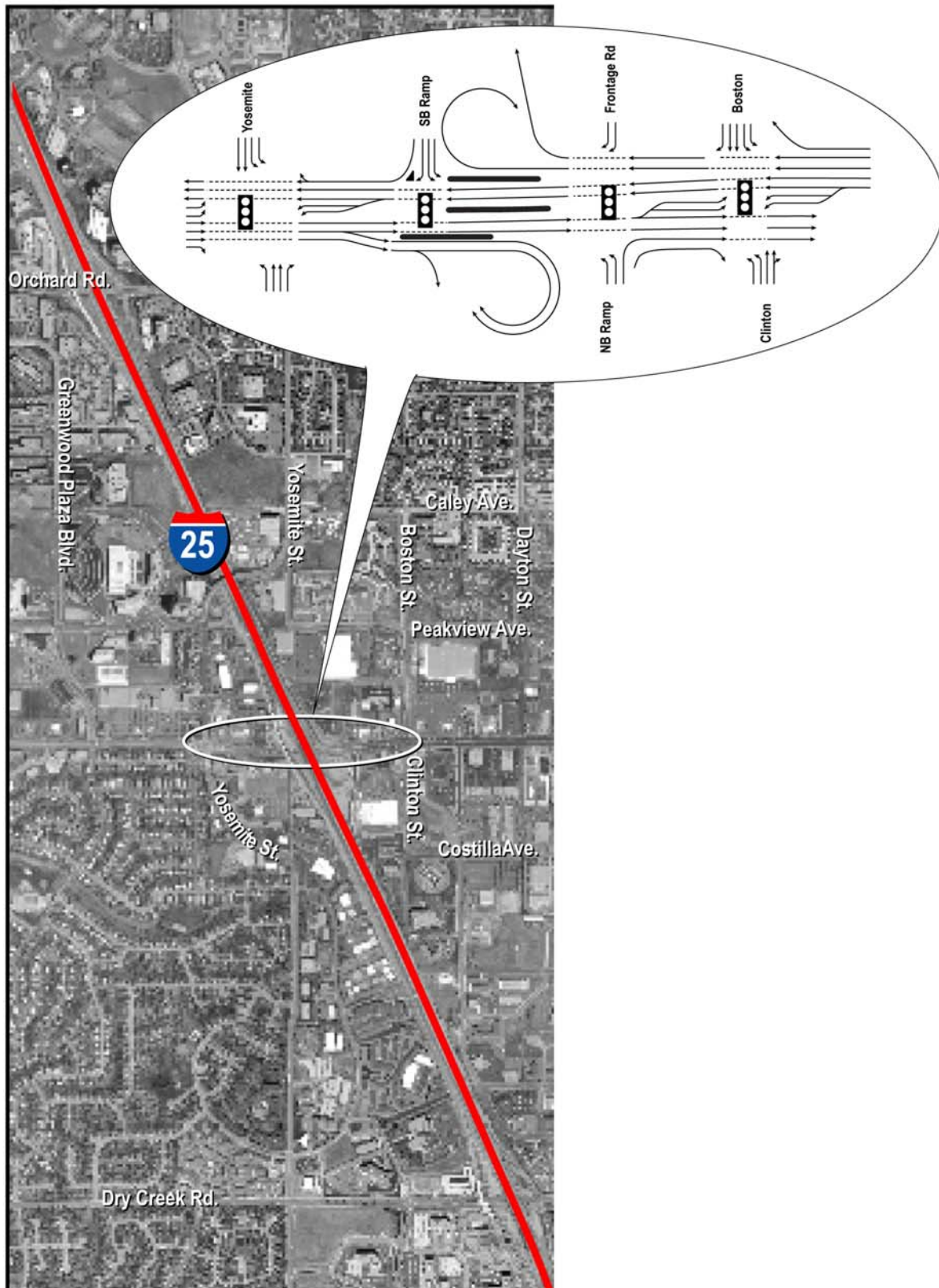
Orchard Road – One mile north of Arapahoe Road is the parallel facility of Orchard Road. This roadway has an interchange with I-25 and extends east 2.5 miles to Peoria Street. This is a four-lane arterial roadway just east of I-25 that transitions to a two-lane road east of DTC Boulevard and then to a two-lane residential collector street east of Dayton Street.

Yosemite Street – This is a major north-south four-lane arterial roadway that intersects Arapahoe Road immediately west of I-25. This facility extends south through the Park Meadows retail area and continues south to Lincoln Avenue in Douglas County. North of Arapahoe Road, the roadway crosses over I-25, provides access to the Arapahoe at Village Center Light Rail Station, and becomes DTC Boulevard within the Denver Tech Center. This road interchanges with I-225 nearly three miles north of Arapahoe Road.

Boston/Clinton Street – This north-south roadway, immediately east of I-25, provides access to a variety of facilities within the study area. North of Arapahoe Road, Boston Street has four travel lanes up to Caley Avenue, one-half mile north of Arapahoe Road. This segment provides access to adjacent businesses but also serves as the prime connection to Yosemite Street (via Caley Avenue) as part of Greenwood Village's "Serpentine Road". South of Arapahoe Road, Clinton Street also provides access to nearby businesses in the form of an I-25 Frontage Road. It extends two miles south and terminates at County Line Road (as Inverness Drive West).

Costilla Avenue – About one-quarter mile south of Arapahoe Road is Costilla Avenue, which parallels Arapahoe Road as a collector roadway east of the interchange, beginning at Clinton Street. East of Havana Street the road becomes Briarwood Avenue, which extends one-half mile east to Lima Street. This road is discontinuous between Lima and Peoria Streets, then is reestablished east of Peoria Street and extends as far east as Jordan Road. The roadway cross-section varies from two lanes to four lanes.

Figure 5 depicts the surrounding area roadway network and the existing lane configuration at intersections in the study area.

Figure 5. Existing Roadway Network & Intersection Lane Configuration

2.4. Existing Traffic Volumes

Traffic count data within the interchange area were collected for the Arapahoe Road Corridor Study during January 2006. The traffic count data are included in **Appendix A**.

Historic traffic volumes within the interchange area were obtained from Arapahoe County and CDOT. As shown in **Table 1**, there was an effect on the traffic volumes from 2001 to 2002 within the I-25 area from the commencement of the T-REX construction and the volumes on Arapahoe Road east of I-25 decreased over ten percent before rebounding somewhat in 2003. There has been substantial growth in traffic traveling on I-25 and Arapahoe Road through the interchange area in the last two years.

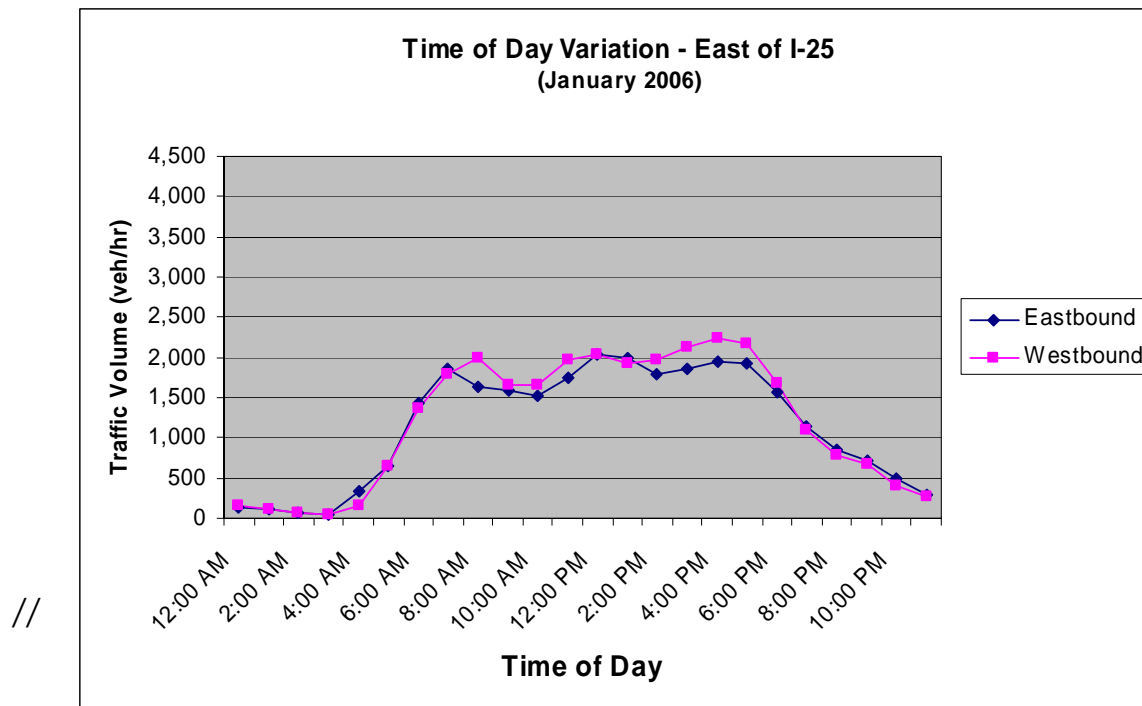
Table 1. Arapahoe Road/I-25 Historic Traffic Volumes

Roadway	Location	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
I-25	S of Arapahoe Rd	130,600	130,300	130,400	-	-	153,100	172,000
	N of Arapahoe Rd	158,900	158,800	158,800	-	-	179,500	194,600
Arapahoe Road	E of I-25	64,200	55,800	60,000	59,600	56,800	-	69,600

Source: CDOT Crash Rate Books 2001-2003, CDOT Traffic Data Website, and Arapahoe Road Corridor Study traffic counts

As shown in **Figure 6**, the daily traffic volumes on Arapahoe Road immediately east of the I-25 interchange are distributed almost equally in the eastbound and westbound directions throughout the day. The noon peak period traffic volumes at this location are generally as high as the traffic volumes experienced during the typical AM and PM commuting periods, which creates lunch hour traffic congestion surrounding the retail and eating establishments around the interchange.

Figure 6. Weekday Hourly Traffic Volumes



2.5. Existing Operational Analysis

Operational analysis was completed utilizing methods outlined in the latest Highway Capacity Manual (HCM 2000). Intersection operations were analyzed using Synchro software. Freeway segment and merge/diverge analysis was completed with Highway Capacity Software (HCS+).

Level of Service (LOS) is a measure of the quality of traffic flow and level of congestion on a roadway or intersection, measured on a scale from A to F. For signalized intersections, LOS is defined by the average control delay per vehicle. LOS A indicates very low control delay, averaging less than ten seconds per vehicle. LOS F indicates highly congested conditions with control delay in excess of 80 seconds per vehicle at the intersection. LOS D or better is often viewed as the realistic optimal operation for peak hour level of service in urbanized areas.

For basic freeway sections, level of service is defined by the maximum allowable density. LOS A describes free-flow operations where vehicles are almost completely unimpeded in their ability to maneuver within the traffic stream. LOS F indicates breakdowns in vehicular flow caused by traffic incidents or points of recurring congestion. The ramp merge and diverge level of service analysis is based on the density in the ramp influence area, defined as 1500 feet downstream (or upstream) from the physical merge (or diverge) point. LOS A represents unrestricted operations and LOS F represents unstable operation in which queues are formed on the freeway and ramps and continue to grow as approaching demand flows exceed the discharge capacity of the downstream freeway.

CDOT recently collected new peak hour turning movement volumes within the interchange area for a signal timing and short-term improvements project. These recent traffic volumes were compared with the volumes previously collected for this project and the movements to the Northbound I-25 entrance ramp and from the Southbound I-25 off ramp were substantially higher, while the movements from the Northbound I-25 off ramp were substantially lower. All other movements at the interchange intersections remained generally consistent. The traffic volumes for this project were updated only for the movements to and from the ramps that showed large differences.

The existing lane configurations, balanced peak hour traffic volumes, and current signal timings were used to analyze the LOS at each interchange area intersection, ramp merge/diverge, and freeway segment during the AM and PM peak hours. The freeway and ramp operations are based on the current lane configuration of I-25, which consists of five general purpose travel lanes in each direction with outside auxiliary lanes between interchanges.

The existing peak hour traffic volumes and results of the peak hour analyses are illustrated in **Figure 7** and summarized in **Table 2**. To simplify the illustration, the freeway segment and merge/diverge LOSs shown in the figure are for the peak hour in the peak direction (northbound during the morning peak hour and southbound during the evening peak hour). Output reports for the existing operational analysis are provided in **Appendix B**.

The intersections at Yosemite Street and the Southbound I-25 off ramp were calculated to operate at LOS D or LOS E during the peak hours analyzed based on HCM methodology. Highway Capacity Manual methods are the preferred standard methodology for traffic operations analysis. However, the HCM methodology for signalized intersections does not take into account the interaction of closely-spaced intersections, such as within this interchange

area. It should be noted that while the level of service for the Southbound I-25 exit ramp and Arapahoe Road intersection is shown to be LOS E and LOS D during the morning and evening peak hours, the queues along the Southbound I-25 off ramp occasionally back up from the signalized intersection onto the freeway mainline, a distance of approximately 1000 feet. These queues are due to the capacity constraints for through traffic along Arapahoe Road. The traffic queues at the downstream intersections on Arapahoe Road (at Yosemite Street or at Boston/Clinton Street), back up through the ramp intersections during some signal cycles during the peak hours, even with the recent signal timing improvements.

Table 2. Arapahoe Road/I-25 Existing Peak Hour Level of Service (LOS)

Roadway / Intersection	Control / Facility Type	LOS	
		AM Peak Hour	PM Peak Hour
Yosemite St/Arapahoe Rd	Signalized Intersection	D	D
SB I-25 Exit Ramp/Arapahoe Rd	Signalized Intersection	E	D
NB I-25 Exit Ramp/Arapahoe Rd	Signalized Intersection	C	B
Boston St/Clinton St/Arapahoe Rd	Signalized Intersection	E	E
SB I-25, North of Arapahoe Rd	Freeway Segment	C	D
SB I-25, South of Arapahoe Rd	Freeway Segment	B	D
NB I-25, South of Arapahoe Rd	Freeway Segment	C	B
NB I-25, North of Arapahoe Rd	Freeway Segment	D	C
SB I-25 Exit Ramp	Ramp Diverge	A	A
SB I-25 Loop Ramp	Ramp Merge	B	C
SB I-25 Entrance Ramp	Ramp Merge	B	F
NB I-25 Exit Ramp	Ramp Diverge	A	A
NB I-25 Loop Ramp	Ramp Merge	A	A
NB I-25 Entrance Ramp	Ramp Merge	F	C

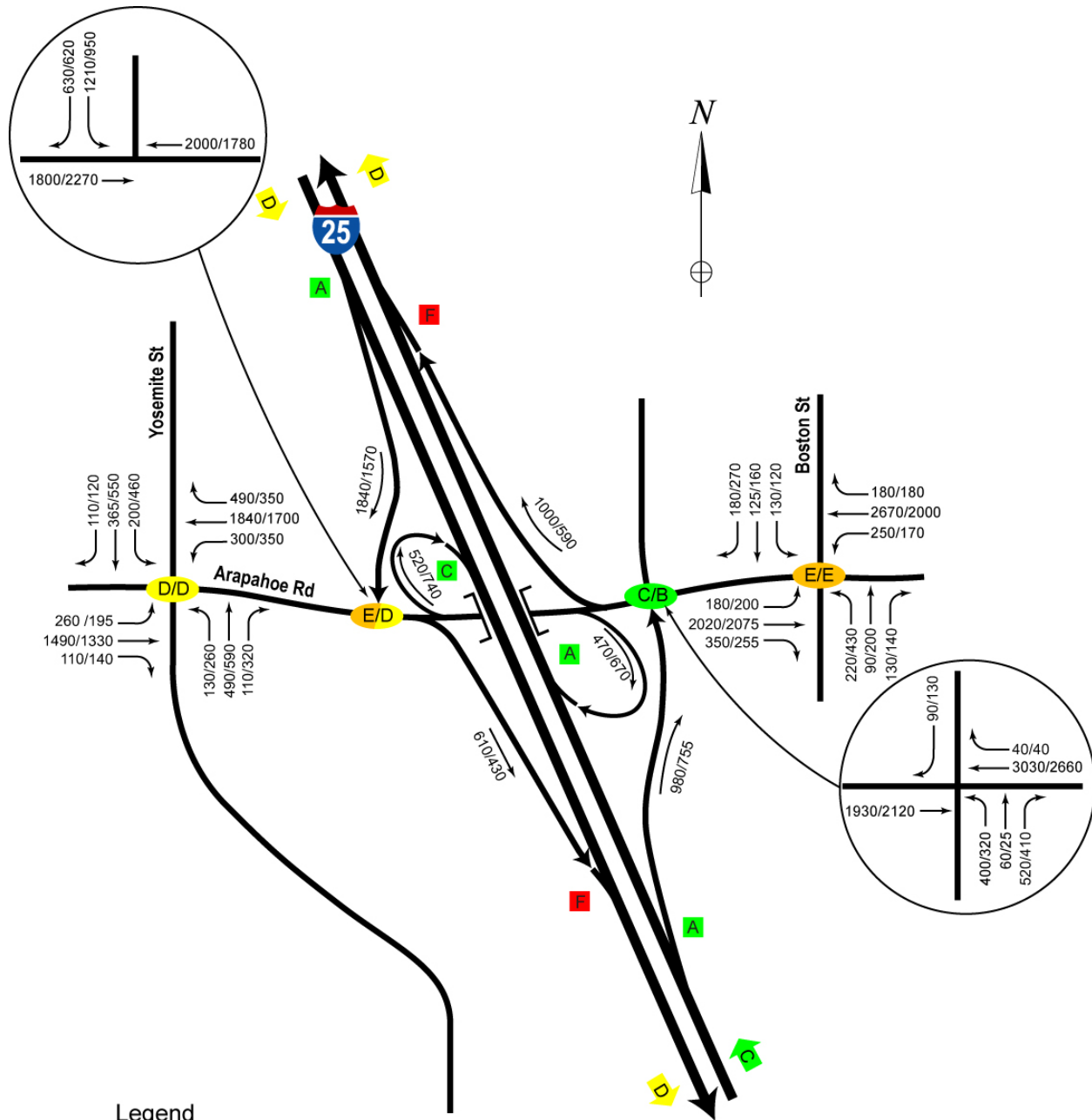
Source: Highway Capacity Manual analysis by David Evans and Associates, Inc.

The Northbound I-25 off-ramp terminal intersection operates at LOS C during the AM peak hour and LOS B during the PM peak hour. The Arapahoe Road and Boston Street/Clinton Street intersection operates at LOS E during the AM and PM peak hours. Due to the large amount of traffic bound for the Northbound and Southbound I-25 on ramps, much of the traffic traveling through these intersections is in the two right westbound lanes on Arapahoe. The outside lane is added at the Boston Street/Clinton Street intersection and the right lane on Arapahoe Road often backs up through the Dayton Street signal, located approximately a quarter mile east of Boston Street/Clinton Street.

The recent T-REX improvements have reduced congestion on the I-25 freeway. The freeway segments and merge/diverges operate at LOS D or better during the peak hours, except the diamond entrance ramp merges, which operate at LOS F due to heavy freeway volumes.

All four I-25 on ramps are controlled with ramp meters during the AM and PM peak hours. Although queues do not consistently back up to Arapahoe Road, the queues do fully utilize the ramps for storage.

Figure 7. Existing Peak Hour Traffic and Level of Service



Legend

- A/A Intersection AM/PM Peak Hour LOS
- A Merge/Diverge Design Hour LOS
- A Freeway Design Hour LOS

Notes:

- Levels of Service based on Highway Capacity Manual (HCM) methodology
- Ramp and freeway design hour shown is NB in the AM peak hour and SB in the PM peak hour

2.6. Interim Improvements Operational Analysis

An interim operational improvements project is being planned for the Arapahoe Road/I-25 interchange, currently in the final design process by CDOT. The improvements are being funded through “TRENCH contingency funds”. The improvements within the interchange area will include:

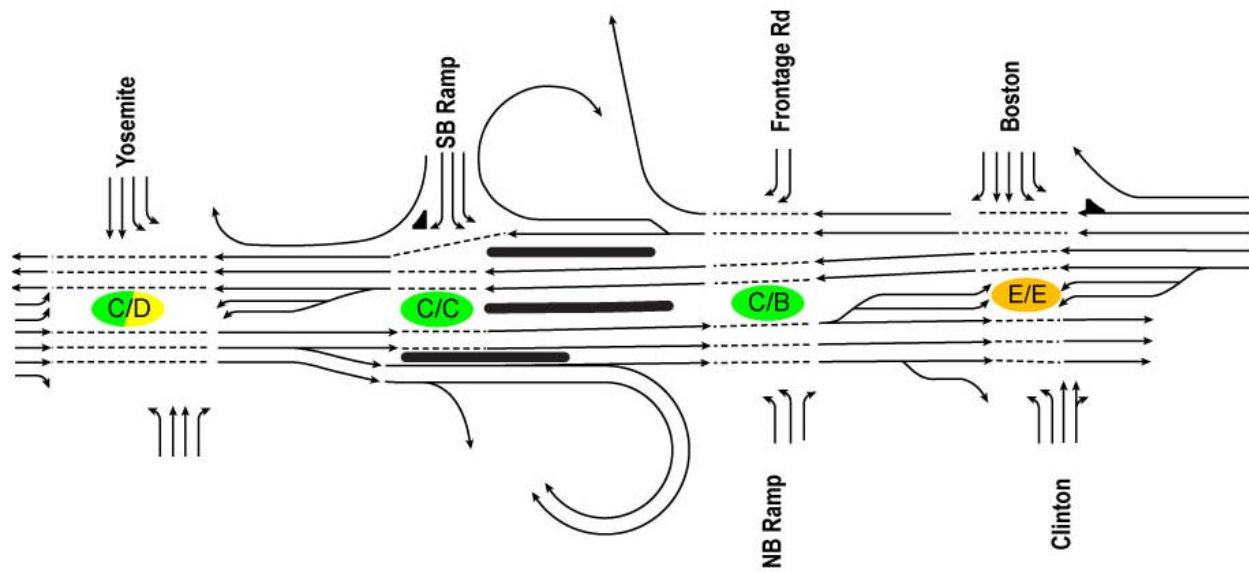
- An additional eastbound and westbound through lane on Arapahoe Road through the ramp intersections on the outside of the existing bridge piers and barriers that will tie into the outside lanes approaching the Yosemite Street and Boston/Clinton Street intersections
- A westbound right turn lane under the bridge from the new through lane outside the bridge piers and barrier to the Southbound I-25 loop ramp (This right turn lane will begin just west of the existing lanes leading to the Northbound I-25 entrance ramp)
- A free-flow southbound right turn lane from the Southbound I-25 exit ramp that will drop as a westbound right turn lane at Yosemite Street
- Modifications to the barrier median on the east leg of the Southbound I-25 exit ramp intersection to provide more room for truck traffic turning left from the exit ramp onto eastbound Arapahoe Road
- Additional advanced signage with overhead sign structures on Arapahoe Road east and west of the interchange

The lane configurations of the interchange intersections with the interim improvements are illustrated in **Figure 8**. The proposed interim improvements were analyzed with the balanced peak hour traffic volumes and optimized signal timings. The results of the peak hour analyses are summarized in **Table 3**. These results show that the interim improvements will provide a benefit to the interchange traffic operations in the short term, particularly at the Southbound I-25 exit ramp and Yosemite Street intersections.

Table 3. Arapahoe Road/I-25 Interim Improvements Peak Hour Level of Service (LOS)

Roadway / Intersection	Control / Facility Type	LOS	
		AM Peak Hour	PM Peak Hour
Yosemite St/Arapahoe Rd	Signalized Intersection	C	D
SB I-25 Exit Ramp/Arapahoe Rd	Signalized Intersection	C	C
NB I-25 Exit Ramp/Arapahoe Rd	Signalized Intersection	C	B
Boston St/Clinton St/Arapahoe Rd	Signalized Intersection	E	E

Source: Highway Capacity Manual analysis by David Evans and Associates, Inc.

Figure 8. Interim Interchange Improvements and Peak Hour Level of Service

2.7. Crash History

Crash data along Arapahoe Road were obtained from CDOT for 2001-2003 (the latest data available at the beginning of this study). Rates and summaries were calculated for the I-25 interchange. The crash rates are summarized in **Table 4**.

Table 4. Arapahoe/I-25 Interchange Crash Rates

	PDO	Injury	Fatal	Total
Arapahoe/I-25 Interchange Crash Rates	0.85	0.17	0.00	1.02

Source: CDOT Detailed Crash Summary Reports

Note: Property Damage Only (PDO) and Injury rates reported per Million Vehicle Miles Traveled (MVMT) and Fatal rate reported per 100 Million Vehicle Miles Traveled (100 MVMT)

The severity of crashes is summarized in **Table 5**. Due to the slow speeds experienced through the interchange with recurring traffic congestion, the percentage of crashes involving injuries within the interchange area (20%) is lower than the percentage of injury crashes at typical three and four-legged intersections within Colorado (27-31%).

Table 5. Arapahoe/I-25 Interchange Crashes Severity

	Crash Severity						
	Property Damage Only (PDO)		Injury		Fatal		Total
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Arapahoe/I-25 Interchange Crashes	101	79%	27	21%	0	0%	128

Source: CDOT Detailed Crash Summary Reports

Most crashes (46 percent) were rear end crashes, which is consistent with the number of signalized intersections in the area and the recurring congestion. About 25 percent of the crashes were broadside crashes and about 20 percent of the crashes were side swipe same direction. There were no crashes in the interchange area involving pedestrians and bicyclists during the years studied.

2.8. Engineering Opportunities and Constraints

The current Arapahoe/I-25 interchange does not have adequate capacity to accommodate traffic volumes today or into the future. Arapahoe Road currently contains three lanes approaching the interchange in each direction, but only two lanes are carried eastbound and westbound through the interchange, which severely limits the capacity of the interchange.

The location of the light rail bridge recently constructed with the Transportation Expansion (T-REX) project along the west side of I-25 highly constrains the options for the interchange, particularly the Southbound I-25 exit and entrance ramps and the potential modification of the Arapahoe Road horizontal alignment. A pier for the LRT structure over Arapahoe Road was placed in the median dividing the eastbound Arapahoe Road through lanes from the lanes leading to the eastbound to northbound loop ramp. This pier placement was planned to accommodate future widening of Arapahoe Road with a shift in centerline to the south. However, the existing I-25 bridge over Arapahoe Road, widened for additional lanes on I-25 with the T-REX project, cannot accommodate widening Arapahoe Road.



An abutment for the LRT structure straddles the Southbound I-25 exit ramp at Arapahoe Road.



This straddle bent has reduced the sight distance for vehicles exiting the freeway and approaching the signal at Arapahoe Road, which has hindered the ramp operations. The bent also greatly limits the options for improving the Southbound I-25 off-ramp layout without reconstructing the LRT bridge.

2.9. Local and Property Access

The existing roadways within the interchange area are shown in **Figure 9**. West of I-25, right turn only intersections exist along both the north and south sides of Arapahoe Road between I-25 and Yosemite Street. The South Yosemite Court right turn only intersection on the north side serves commercial development (primarily fast-food restaurants) in the northwest quadrant of the interchange. South Yosemite Court extends north in a curvilinear alignment from Arapahoe Road to South Yosemite Circle, which intersects with South Yosemite Street at a signalized intersection, and further to an unsignalized intersection with South Yosemite Street.

The South Xanthia Court right turn only intersection along the south side of Arapahoe Road west of I-25 extends south to an unsignalized intersection with South Yosemite Street. The roadway serves the commercial development (primarily sit-down restaurants and auto service centers) in the southwest quadrant of the interchange. Further south along South Yosemite Street, additional access is provided to the southwest quadrant commercial development, including two private driveways to the Southgate Shopping Center, and South Yosemite Court which serves office development near I-25.

East of I-25, only one access exists between I-25 and the South Boston Street/Clinton Street intersection. This access is located along the north side of Arapahoe Road opposite the Northbound I-25 off-ramp. Northbound off-ramp traffic can travel straight north to this access road, but southbound traffic is restricted to right turn only movements. No left turns are permitted from eastbound Arapahoe Road into this access road. The road extends north in a curvilinear alignment to East Southtech Drive, and provides access to hotels and big box development in the northeast quadrant of the interchange.

2.10. Alternate Transportation Modes

2.10.1. Transit

The existing transit services in the vicinity of the Arapahoe/I-25 interchange were detailed in the *Existing Transportation Conditions Report* (May 2006) prepared in conjunction with the Arapahoe Road Corridor Study. Nearby transit services and facilities are focused on the Arapahoe at Village Center park-n-Ride, located north of the interchange at Caley Avenue and Yosemite Street, and the Arapahoe LRT Station. The station platform is on the west side of I-25 and is served by a pedestrian bridge over the interstate leading to the park-n-Ride on the east side.

Arapahoe Crosstown (Route 66) is the east-west local bus route that serves destinations along Arapahoe Road. It runs from the LRT/Littleton Downtown Station (along the Southwest LRT Corridor) east along Arapahoe Road to Parker Road, and south on school days to the Pinery park-n-Ride. In the vicinity of the I-25/Arapahoe interchange, the route uses Yosemite Street north of Arapahoe Road to transfer passengers at the Arapahoe LRT Station, then Caley Avenue to Boston Street to continue east on Arapahoe Road. Therefore, the buses turn at the Yosemite Street and Boston/Clinton Street intersections and do not travel through the ramp intersections within the interchange area.

Other routes in the interchange vicinity include Route 465 – South Yosemite, Route 727 – DTC Boulevard, Route 169 L – Buckley/Tower/DIA, and the Arapahoe call-n-Ride (Route 1409).

These routes use Yosemite Street, Clinton Street, Boston Street and Caley Avenue in the vicinity of the I-25/Arapahoe interchange.

None of the existing transit routes serving the area travel directly through the Arapahoe/I-25 interchange, but rather travel around the interchange to efficiently access the Arapahoe LRT Station and Arapahoe at Village Center park-n-Ride.

2.10.2. Pedestrians and Bicyclists

Pedestrian and bicycle conditions in the vicinity of the Arapahoe/I-25 interchange were summarized in the Arapahoe Road Corridor Study *Existing Transportation Conditions Report* (May 2006). Also, in conjunction with that study, Community Resource Panel meetings with area bicycle advocates were held to gain information on existing bicyclist activities and concerns.

Although sidewalks exist along Arapahoe Road through the interchange, little pedestrian activity has been observed. Pedestrians must negotiate through the high traffic volume area and cross the free-flowing traffic movements of the loop ramps in the northwest and southeast quadrants of the interchange. In order to facilitate the peak hour signal timing through the interchange area, the pedestrian timing to cross Arapahoe Road at the Northbound I-25 off-ramp was recently removed. Due to the existing barrier to separate Eastbound Arapahoe traffic bound for I-25, there is also no pedestrian crosswalk across Arapahoe Road at the Southbound I-25 off-ramp.

Separate bike lanes or widening of general purpose lanes do not exist along Arapahoe Road through the confined, retrofit interchange area. In discussion with area bicycle advocates, bicyclists currently choose to avoid the Arapahoe Road corridor and the Arapahoe/I-25 interchange and instead use Yosemite Street and the Yosemite Street overpass of I-25 to negotiate around the interchange area.

Figure 9. Existing Interchange Area



3. Environmental Issues

3.1. Environmental Overview

An environmental overview was conducted as part of the Arapahoe Road Corridor Study to identify the potential environmental issues that may influence the type, locations or design of the alternatives forwarded for further evaluation in this study and in future environmental evaluation processes under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

In the environmental overview report, each resource is described in terms of existing conditions, the potential impacts from a range of possible alternatives and the potential mitigation or Best Management Practices that could reduce or eliminate impacts. The major findings of the analysis within the Arapahoe/I-25 interchange area are discussed below.

Air Quality: Motor vehicles are a major source of air pollutants in the interchange area, particularly those pollutants that have been problematic for the larger Denver metropolitan area. Pollutant hot-spots can exist around a congested intersection. There are local changes that could be used individually or collectively to reduce local pollutant emissions, such as signal timing or the number of driving lanes. For the range of speeds within the Arapahoe/I-25 interchange area, any changes that will reduce vehicle idling time or increase average vehicle speeds will reduce pollutant emissions from mobile sources.

Improvements to the Arapahoe/I-25 interchange were included in the DRCOG 2030 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), which was subject to air quality conformity analysis. During the future NEPA process for this project, carbon monoxide hot-spot analysis will be conducted as required.

Hazardous Materials: Several potential hazardous material sites were identified within the general area of the interchange area. Most of these sites are outside of the impact area of the interchange configuration options. The sites include automotive service stations, storage units, and commercial facilities.

Contributors of potential contamination within the general interchange area include:

- 9138 E. Arapahoe Road (east of interchange) – Gasoline station with open liquid petroleum gas tank.
- 9301 E. Arapahoe Road (east of interchange) – Automobile dealership and service with an UST and a closed LUST (November 1991).
- 9171 E. Arapahoe Road (east of interchange) – Gasoline station with seven USTs and one active LUST (1990).
- 6767 S. Clinton Street (southeast of interchange) – Commercial facility with no violations.
- 9250 E. Costilla Avenue (southeast of interchange) – Industrial/commercial facility with backup diesel generator.
- 9600 E. Costilla Avenue (southeast of interchange) – Storage units with potential for methamphetamine lab activity. No such activity reported.

- 6802 S. Yosemite Street (southwest quadrant of interchange) – Gasoline station with three open gasoline Underground Storage Tanks (USTs) and one closed Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST) (March 2001).
- 6900 S. Yosemite Street (southwest quadrant of interchange) – Commercial facility with no violations.
- 6770 S. Yosemite Street (southwest quadrant of interchange) – Automotive station with vehicle maintenance bays. Unknown material handling and disposal practices. Potential materials include: fuel, motor oils, hydraulic fluids, degreasers, paints, and solvents. No reported soil and groundwater contamination.

There are two leaking underground storage tank (LUST) sites within 100 feet of right-of-way in the interchange study area. One of these sites is still active and one site has been closed and clean-up has been completed. The active LUST site is located along Arapahoe Road east of the interchange and west of Boston Street (9171 East Arapahoe Road).

Historic and Archaeological Resources: Historic and archeological resources are tangible remains of past human activity and include sites, buildings, structures, districts, features and artifacts at least 45 years old. To warrant consideration of impacts in a federally-assisted or sponsored transportation project, historic and archeological resources must be listed on, or meet the eligibility criteria established for, the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). A file search, literature review, aerial photo review, and reconnaissance “windshield” survey revealed no previously recorded significant historic or prehistoric resources within the Arapahoe/I-25 interchange area.

Environmental Justice: U.S. Census data (year 2000) was evaluated to better understand the potential impacts of a future project to minority and/or low-income populations and as a basis for outreach methods to those populations during a future NEPA process. The Census block south of Peakview Avenue and north of Dry Creek Road, between I-25 and Havana Street has minority populations higher than the county they are located within (Arapahoe or Douglas County) and a higher percentage of individuals living in poverty compared to the county percentage.

During the future NEPA process for this project, data on low-income and minority populations will be updated and the extent to which any populations may be affected will be identified. The interchange improvements will be designed to avoid impacts to these populations to the extent feasible. If impacts to these populations cannot be avoided, mitigation measures will be identified to reduce impacts and coordination with affected groups will be conducted to identify the best means for reducing such impacts.

Section 4(f)/6(f) Resources: No potential Section 4(f)/6(f) resources were identified within the study area near or adjacent to the interchange roadways that could be improved as part of this project.

Biological Resources: Existing data on wildlife, wetlands and special status species that are known to occur or may potentially occur within the interchange area were collected from a variety of data sources including Arapahoe County, the USFWS county list of federally listed species, and the Colorado Division of Wildlife (CDOW) list of state listed species and species of

concern. A visual survey of wildlife and special status species habitat and potential wetland areas was also conducted.

A small area of wetland vegetation was identified in the southeast quadrant of the interchange between the existing Target and hotel sites west of the Clinton Street and Costilla Avenue intersection. The majority of the Arapahoe Road corridor is occupied with noxious weeds, including diffuse knapweed and leafy spurge.

Any necessary wildlife surveys may be conducted during the environmental documentation for the project in accordance with CDOW survey protocol. A weed management plan is warranted to prevent the spread of noxious weeds within the study area.

Water Resources: The Study Area is located within the Cherry Creek Watershed. This watershed is nearly fully developed in the northern reaches and transitions southward to a more sparse development including farmsteads, open land and large lot residential areas. Cherry Creek is a right bank tributary to the South Platte River and is located within Denver, Arapahoe, Douglas and El Paso Counties. Cherry Creek Reservoir is located northwest of the interchange area and is a major water feature within the watershed. The reservoir is the main attraction for Cherry Creek State Park and is used extensively for boating and fishing. It provides a habitat for a diverse variety of animal species and vegetation. All of the drainages along Arapahoe Road east of the interchange are within the Cherry Creek Basin and all are tributary to Cherry Creek Reservoir. The area is controlled by the Cherry Creek Basin Water Quality Authority (CCBWQA). The CCBWQA has requirements for projects such as transportation improvements to improve the water quality within the basin. Phosphorus loads are a primary concern; storm runoff transports most of the phosphorus within the watershed. Stormwater issues include stormwater runoff control on construction sites and post-construction stormwater management.

The Arapahoe/I-25 interchange is in the Urban Drainage District which administers the floodplain modifications for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) designated floodplains. The Arapahoe County Stormwater Authority and local city floodplain administrators conduct the initial review for proposed floodplain impacts and determine if Urban Drainage and FEMA coordination is necessary. Any improvement of a drainage structure that lies within a FEMA administered floodplain will probably require this coordination.

Noise: Traffic volumes are likely to increase in the future within the Arapahoe/I-25 interchange area even without the proposed project, and this would likely increase the traffic noise to neighboring properties. The current land uses adjacent to the interchange area are generally Category B (homes, hotels, parks, etc.) and Category C (commercial). Category B is the most noise sensitive and there are several Category B properties within 500 feet of the proposed interchange construction area. There are approximately 45 homes west of the Arapahoe Road/Yosemite Street intersection and about 20 homes located near the Yosemite Street/Alton Way intersection. There are three hotels in the southwest quadrant of the interchange and one hotel in the northeast quadrant of the interchange.

Any changes to study area roads that would increase traffic volumes or move the roads closer to any current receivers would also likely increase the traffic noise at the receivers. Whether any of these changes would cause a traffic noise impact according to CDOT criteria would need to be assessed through a more thorough noise analysis during the future NEPA process for this project.

Geology and Paleontological Resources: The Arapahoe/I-25 interchange area contains the Louviers Alluvium geologic unit. The paleontological sensitivity of this geologic unit was evaluated using the Potential Fossil Yield Classification system and identified as a Class 2 unit. Class 2 units are sedimentary geologic units that are not likely to contain vertebrate fossils or scientifically significant invertebrate (or plant) fossils. Ground-disturbing activities are not likely to require mitigation.

3.2. Environmental Clearance Streamlining

The Arapahoe Road Corridor Study was conducted following FHWA/FTA guidance regarding the integration of transportation planning and the NEPA process, which encourages the use of planning studies to provide information for incorporation into NEPA documents. The goal of this early integrated planning effort is to streamline subsequent alternatives analysis during the NEPA clearance work for individual projects, such as the Arapahoe/I-25 interchange improvements.

Although the Arapahoe Road Corridor Study is a planning study and does not yet include NEPA clearance, the following steps were taken to streamline the future NEPA process:

- Developing a vision statement and objectives that readily translate to a project Purpose and Need,
- Conducting evaluation and documentation of a broad range of alternatives and the screening process to narrow preferred alternatives,
- Identifying logical termini for the study corridor, and identifying segments with independent utility for potential future NEPA clearances within fiscally constrained budgets,
- Including public and agency input during the study process,
- Conducting an environmental overview of resources potentially affected by the range of options, and
- Requesting concurrence by the Executive Committee at key decision points that mesh with those of the NEPA process:
 - Vision statement and objectives,
 - Range of alternatives,
 - Major screening criteria, and
 - Identification of a recommended option.

These steps were documented in various formats (meeting notes, public meeting materials, project memos and reports) that may be included as background reference as the transportation planning process transitions into NEPA clearance projects.

4. Future Conditions

4.1. Forecasting Approach

Traffic forecasts for the interchange were developed with the Arapahoe Road Corridor Study. The 2030 Denver Regional Council of Governments' (DRCOG's) regional travel demand forecasting model, Version 94, was used as a basis for developing year 2030 forecasts for the corridor study. This version of the regional model incorporates DRCOG's recent improvements to several aspects of the modeling process, including the forecasting of traffic on tollways. The travel forecast methodology and results are documented in the *Arapahoe Road Corridor Study Revised Final Travel Forecasts Summary* (April 2007).

The regional model includes the fiscally-constrained 2030 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) as its basis. The planned interchange at Arapahoe Road/Parker Road is included in the 2030 RTP and it has been included in the baseline Arapahoe Road corridor modeling. The other major improvement to the Arapahoe Road corridor roadway network included in the 2030 RTP is widening to eight lanes between I-25 and Potomac Street. This widening was not included in the baseline modeling, since it represents an alternative analyzed in the corridor study.

The DRCOG Traffic Analysis Zone (TAZ) zonal structure was imposed over the study area, defining the 112 TAZs within the boundaries of the Arapahoe Road land use study area.

Due to the complexity of real-world driver behavior and individual roadway characteristics, travel demand forecasting models cannot be expected to result in precise representations of traffic volumes on each roadway. A common technique used to improve the reliability of travel demand forecasts is referred to as post-processing adjustment. This technique uses comparisons of the base year (2005) model's predicted traffic volumes versus actual traffic counts (which are documented in the *Arapahoe Road Corridor Study Existing Transportation Conditions Report*). These comparisons provide estimations of the error associated with the model's representation of travel conditions. The model-produced forecasts are then adjusted to account for the errors found in the model to provide more reliable forecasts. This post-processing adjustment process, as prescribed in the Transportation Research Board's publication *NCHRP 255*, was applied to the Arapahoe Road Corridor traffic forecasts.

4.2. Land Use

The I-25 interchange area has developed and will continue to develop in a high density land use pattern because of the regional access offered by I-25. The relatively recent construction of the Southeast Corridor Light Rail will contribute to further higher density development and redevelopment, with the potential for a significant amount of high density residential and commercial mixed use development influenced by light rail transit. Current development plans for the area include:

- The Greenwood Village Center is a 2 million square foot development planned north of the interchange that will include 1,600 new homes, over 350 hotel rooms, shopping, entertainment and open space, serving as a downtown core of the city.

- A 1.1 million square foot redevelopment project called Streets at Southglenn will convert the Southglenn Mall, located about 3.5 miles west of the interchange along Arapahoe Road, into an urban neighborhood with new homes and retail expansion.
- Centennial is planning a mixed use community called the Centennial City Center. This will be located along Arapahoe Road about three miles east of the interchange in a main street configuration with 200,000 square feet of retail and 600 new homes.

4.3. 2030 Roadway Network

The roadway network from the Arapahoe Road Corridor Study 2030 No Build model included the following roadway network improvements within the study area over existing conditions:

- New interchange at Arapahoe Road and Parker Road

The DRCOG 2030 model network includes the widening of Arapahoe Road from I-25 to Potomac Street. This improvement was removed to create the 2030 No Build model roadway network for the Arapahoe Road Corridor Study and this I-25 Interchange System Level Feasibility Study. The 2030 general roadway network within the study area used for the traffic forecasts is shown in **Figure 10**. The 2030 No Build analysis also included the interim lane configuration improvements, as described in Section 2.6 of this report, which are planned for construction within the interchange area within the next couple of years.

4.4. 2030 No Build Traffic Forecasts

No Build 2030 traffic forecasts from the modeling and adjustment process are shown in **Figure 11**. Significant traffic growth is expected on the roadways surrounding the Arapahoe/I-25 interchange, even without the widening of Arapahoe Road to eight lanes from I-25 to Potomac Street. The following is a summary of forecasted traffic volume growth on the corridor and surrounding roadway system:

- **I-25:** I-25 volumes are forecast to increase by more than 50 percent by 2030, to reach levels of approximately 270,000 to 290,000 in the vicinity of Arapahoe Road.
- **Arapahoe Road:** West of the interchange, traffic volumes on Arapahoe Road are expected to increase almost 40 percent over existing levels while traffic volumes are expected to increase about 20 percent east of the interchange.
- **Boston Street/Clinton Street:** Traffic projections on Boston Street/Clinton Street are expected to increase about 10 percent north of Arapahoe Road and increase approximately 20 percent over existing levels south of Arapahoe Road.
- **Yosemite Street:** Traffic volumes on Yosemite Street are expected to increase approximately 50 percent north of Arapahoe Road and about 60 percent south of Arapahoe Road.

Figure 10. 2030 Roadway Network



4.5. 2030 No Build Operational Analysis

To conduct traffic operational analysis of 2030 conditions, turning movement forecasts were developed using a combination of data from existing traffic counts, forecasted daily traffic, and forecasted peak hour traffic. Intersection, freeway segment, and ramp merge/diverge levels of service analyses were performed using the 2030 No Build traffic projections and roadway network. **Figure 11** shows the AM and PM peak hour traffic forecasts and **Figure 12** illustrates the Levels of Service (LOS) calculated for the Arapahoe/I-25 interchange area. Analysis worksheets are included in **Appendix C**.

The analysis shows that, even with the interim interchange improvements, three of the four signalized intersections along Arapahoe Road are expected to operate at LOS F during the AM and/or PM peak hours by 2030. The Southbound I-25 off-ramp intersection is expected to operate at LOS E during the AM peak hour. Taking the interactions of the closely-spaced intersections into consideration, the average queue on the southbound exit ramp is expected to reach 900 feet and the maximum queue would extend into the I-25 mainline lanes during the AM peak hour, creating a potentially dangerous situation for freeway and ramp traffic.

The I-25 freeway also degrades significantly from LOS C and LOS D under existing conditions to LOS F in 2030 between the Orchard Road and Dry Creek Road interchanges during peak hours in the peak direction (northbound during the morning peak hour and southbound during the evening peak hour). This high level of freeway congestion would result in failing ramp merge/diverge operations at the Arapahoe Road interchange. With these operational failures on the freeway, the queues from the ramp metering would back up to Arapahoe Road and impact the traffic traveling through the interchange area with only two lanes provided through the interchange ramp intersections.

Table 6. Arapahoe Road/I-25 No Build 2030 Peak Hour Level of Service (LOS)

Roadway / Intersection	Control / Facility Type	LOS	
		AM Peak Hour	PM Peak Hour
Yosemite St/Arapahoe Rd	Signalized Intersection	F	F
SB I-25 Exit Ramp/Arapahoe Rd	Signalized Intersection	E	C
NB I-25 Exit Ramp/Arapahoe Rd	Signalized Intersection	F	D
Boston St/Clinton St/Arapahoe Rd	Signalized Intersection	F	F
SB I-25, North of Arapahoe Rd	Freeway Segment	D	F
SB I-25, South of Arapahoe Rd	Freeway Segment	D	F
NB I-25, South of Arapahoe Rd	Freeway Segment	F	D
NB I-25, North of Arapahoe Rd	Freeway Segment	F	D
SB I-25 Exit Ramp	Ramp Diverge	B	F
SB I-25 Loop Ramp	Ramp Merge	C	F
SB I-25 Entrance Ramp	Ramp Merge	F	F
NB I-25 Exit Ramp	Ramp Diverge	F	A
NB I-25 Loop Ramp	Ramp Merge	F	A
NB I-25 Entrance Ramp	Ramp Merge	F	F

Source: Highway Capacity Manual analysis by David Evans and Associates, Inc.

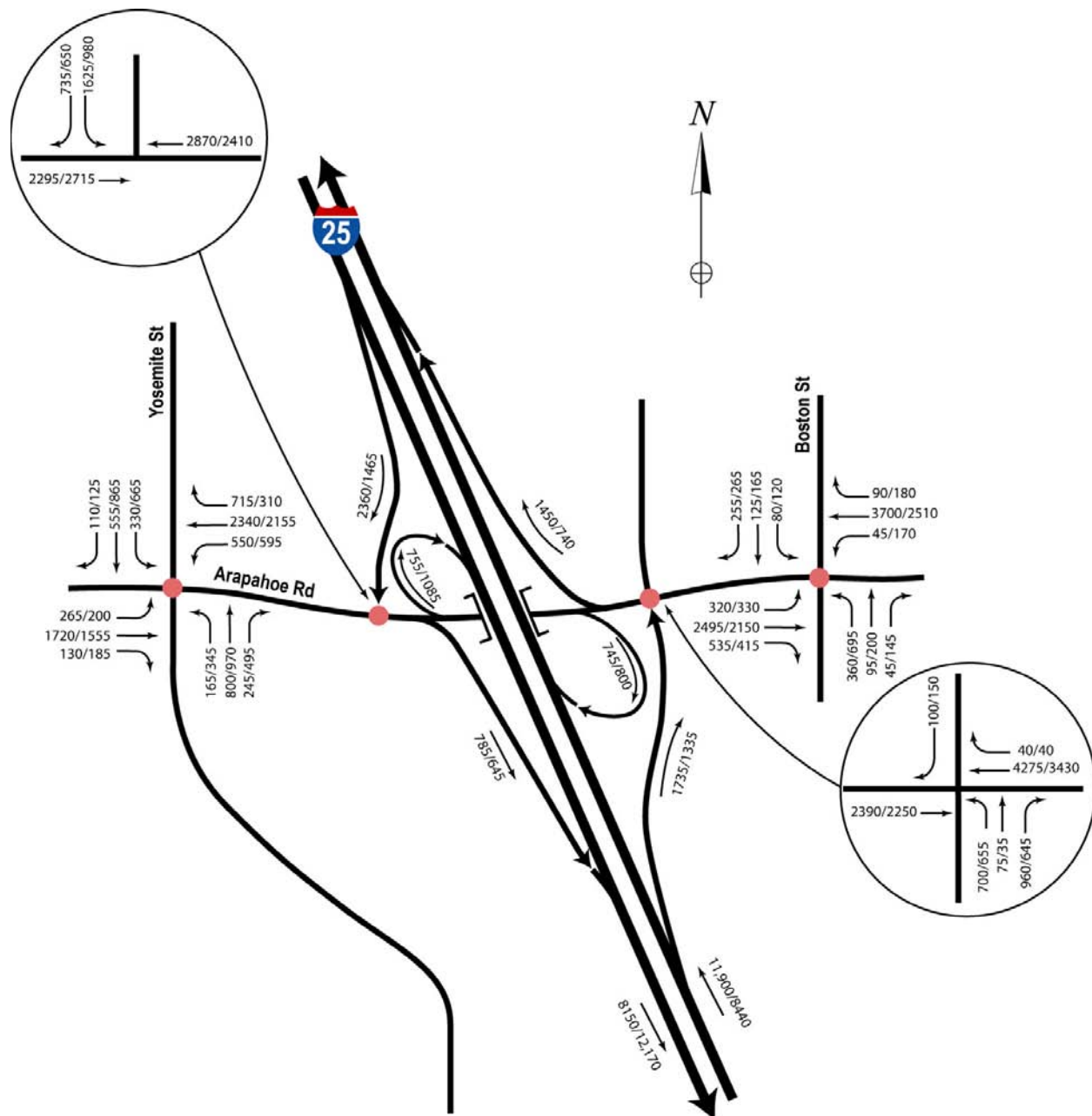
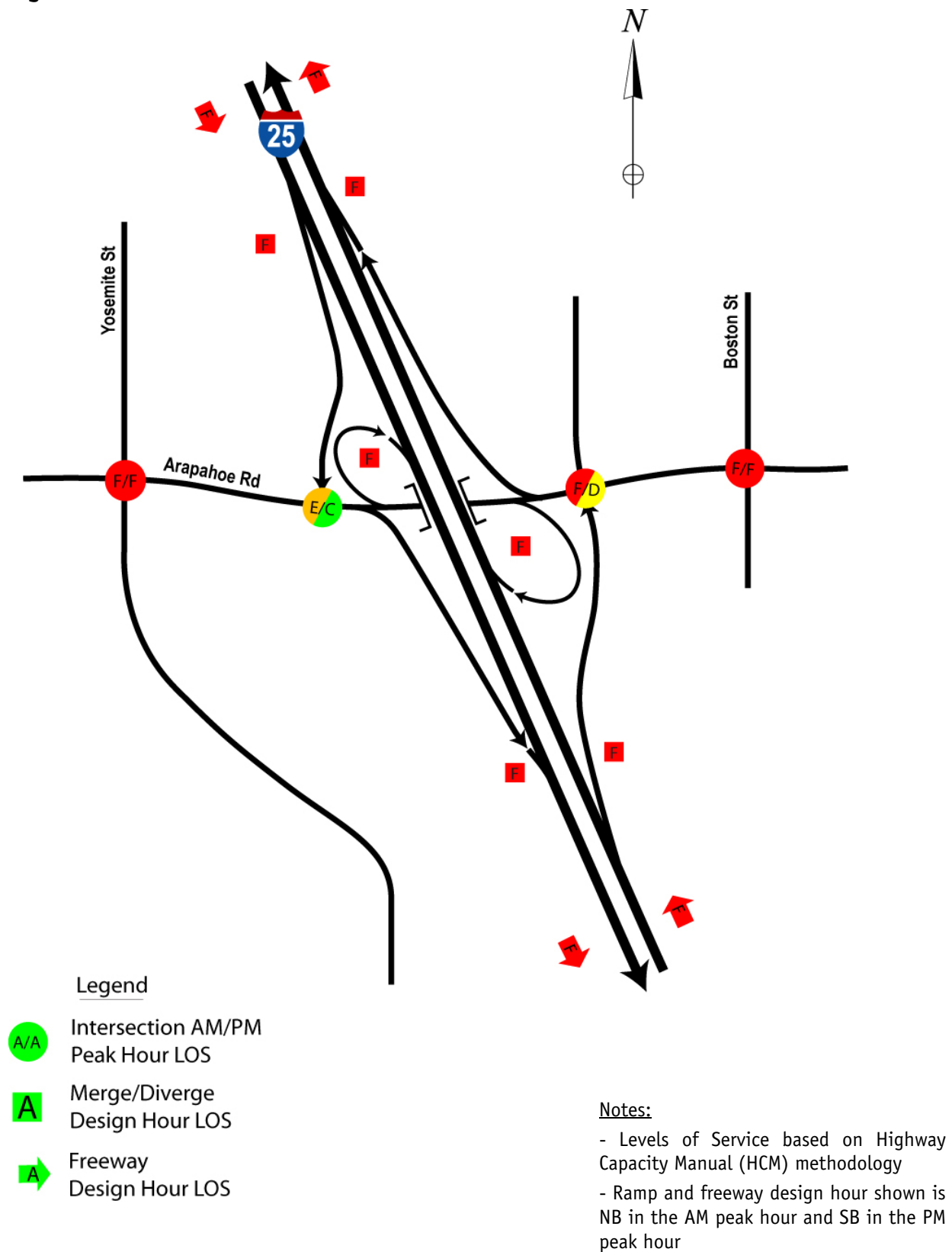
Figure 11. 2030 No Build Traffic Forecasts

Figure 12. 2030 No Build Peak Hour Level of Service



5. Evaluation of Alternatives

In 2005, Arapahoe County, CDOT, Greenwood Village, and Centennial sponsored the Arapahoe Road Corridor Study, which included the evaluation of initial configuration options for the Arapahoe/I-25 interchange. The corridor study included an extensive task force and public meeting process. The study Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and Executive Committee (EC) were comprised of engineers, planners, and stakeholder agency representatives that reviewed and guided the study process. The corridor study evaluation effort led to the selection of the interchange alternatives examined in this System Level Feasibility Study report.

5.1. Preliminary Interchange Options

The Arapahoe Road Corridor Study considered a range of options for improvements to the Arapahoe/I-25 interchange. The initial options considered, shown in **Figure 13**, include improvements to the existing cloverleaf type interchange, concepts with improved ramp intersection operations, and three level interchange concepts.

Alternative A - Improved Partial Cloverleaf: Conceptual design options were considered for improving the existing partial cloverleaf interchange design geometry. The concept includes increasing the loop ramp radius for the loop within the NW quadrant. The partial cloverleaf interchange would also include additional east/west travel lanes on Arapahoe Road for a total of six lanes traveling through the interchange.

Alternative B - Single Point Urban: The single point urban interchange option would replace the existing partial cloverleaf interchange and its two signalized ramp intersections with a single three-phase signalized intersection on Arapahoe Road. Due to the substantial width of the intersection, a long, deep clear span structure is required, and relatively long clearance intervals are required at the ramps signalized intersection. The tight ramp configuration would result in excess right-of-way from the current two cloverleaf ramps.

Alternative C - Tight Urban Diamond: The tight urban diamond interchange configuration includes two closely-spaced signalized intersections to serve ramp terminal and Arapahoe Road traffic movements. Due to the proximity of the signalized ramp intersections, signal operations of the two intersections would be operated as one signal with four-phase overlap phasing. Much of the Arapahoe Road left turn storage may be provided outside the signalized intersections, with signal timing developed to minimize the number of vehicles stored between the ramp intersections. This alternative also includes additional east/west travel lanes on Arapahoe Road for a total of six lanes traveling through the interchange.

Alternative D - Directional Ramps: This option consists of directional ramps to/from north I-25 with diamond configuration ramps to/from south I-25. This alternative includes additional east/west travel lanes on Arapahoe Road for a total of six lanes traveling through the interchange. This interchange option would have significant impacts to I-25 lane alignments due to the widening that would be required for shoulder areas for the grade change-related barriers of the flyover/tunnel ramps. (I-25 widening would be all to the east due to the proximity of the light rail bridge to the west.) Tunneling for a curved ramp underpass would be complicated and require storm drainage accommodations. A short weave area would result

for southbound I-25 to eastbound Arapahoe Road traffic prior to the Boston Street/Clinton Street intersection.

Alternative E - Tunnel: With this option, the eastbound to northbound and westbound to southbound ramp movements would be accommodated as tunnels under the interchange. All eastbound and westbound traffic bound for I-25 would be separated from Arapahoe Road west of Yosemite Street and east of Boston Street/Clinton Street, respectively, with local access to the southwest and northeast quadrants crossing over the on ramps. The existing four through lanes on Arapahoe Road would remain without additional widening through the interchange.

Similar to the directional ramp option, the merge of the westbound to southbound ramp would require additional shoulder area along the southbound on ramp, consequently requiring a shift in the alignment of I-25. The curved tunnel ramps would require complicated construction and drainage accommodations.

Alternative F - Diverging Diamond: A diverging diamond interchange is a form of diamond interchange in which the two directions of traffic on the intersecting arterial roadway cross to the opposite side on both sides of the bridge at the freeway. Simple two-phase traffic signal control of the ramp intersections could improve overall interchange and corridor traffic operations. However, driver expectancy issues may increase the number of crashes within the interchange area. The speed limit on Arapahoe Road would also need to be substantially reduced through the interchange to be consistent with the low design speed of the curving intersection approaches. This alternative includes additional east/west travel lanes on Arapahoe Road for a total of six lanes traveling through the interchange.

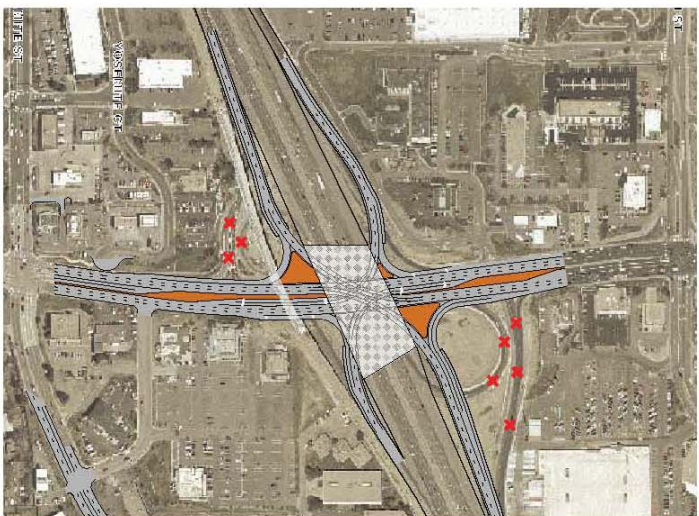
Alternative G - Three Level Diamond: The three level diamond option would include an underpass for east/west Arapahoe Road through traffic under the existing level of Arapahoe Road. The underpass would provide two lanes in each direction for through travel on Arapahoe Road. Ramp intersection movements would occur on the existing level of Arapahoe Road, and I-25 would remain the top level of the interchange. Turn accommodations for ramp traffic bound for the adjacent Yosemite Street and Boston Street/Clinton Street would be made to eliminate weaving traffic movements along Arapahoe Road. The underpass would require complicated construction and drainage accommodations.

Alternative H - Yosemite to Costilla Connection: With this option, the existing interchange configuration and number of lanes remain, but a new underpass of I-25 south of Arapahoe Road would be constructed to connect Yosemite Street and Costilla Avenue. This would provide an alternate route for east/west through traffic to bypass the interchange area along Arapahoe Road. The new five-lane section of Costilla Avenue would begin at a T-intersection with Yosemite Street west of I-25, cross under the freeway south of the Target property, and connect at the existing Costilla Avenue and Clinton Street intersection. The existing section of Costilla Avenue east of Clinton Street would also be improved to meet the existing five-lane section at Fulton Street.

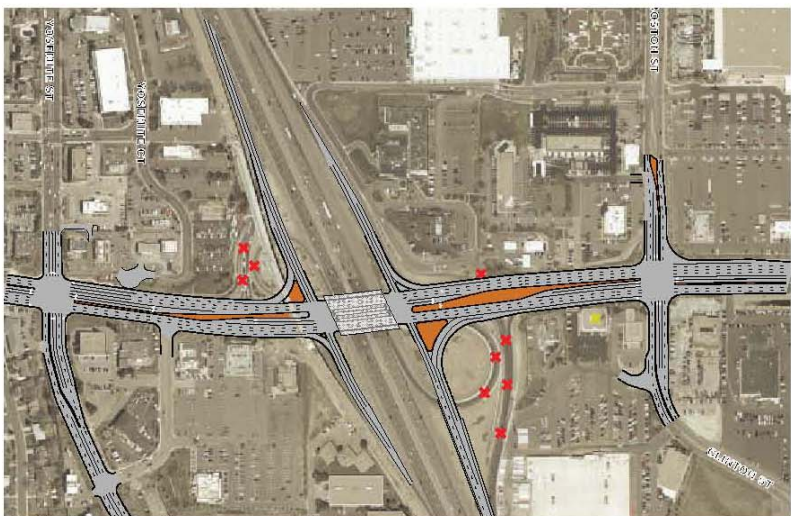
Figure 13. Preliminary Interchange Layouts



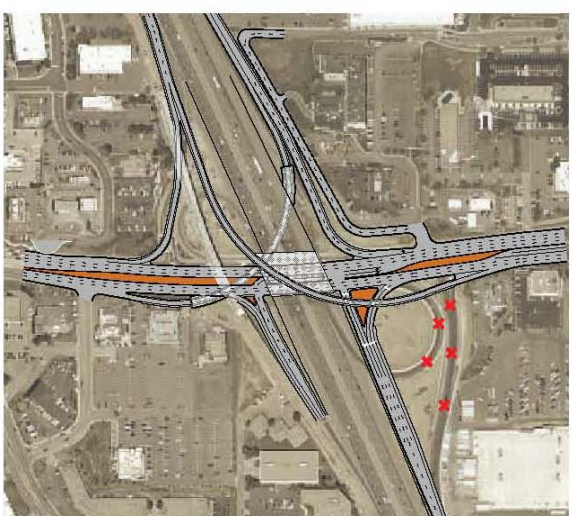
Alt. A - Improved Partial Cloverleaf



Alt. B - Single Point Urban Interchange



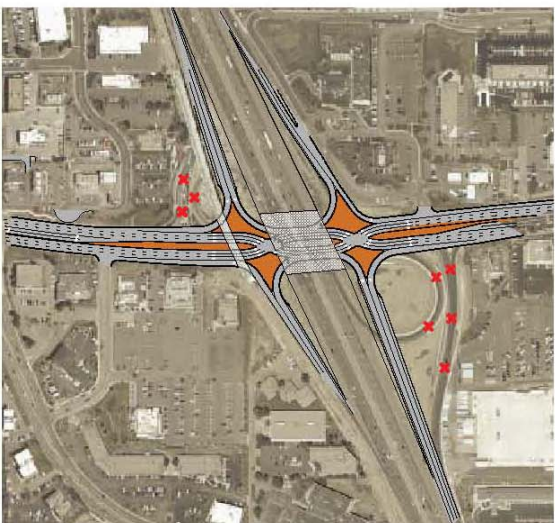
Alt. C - Tight Urban Diamond Interchange



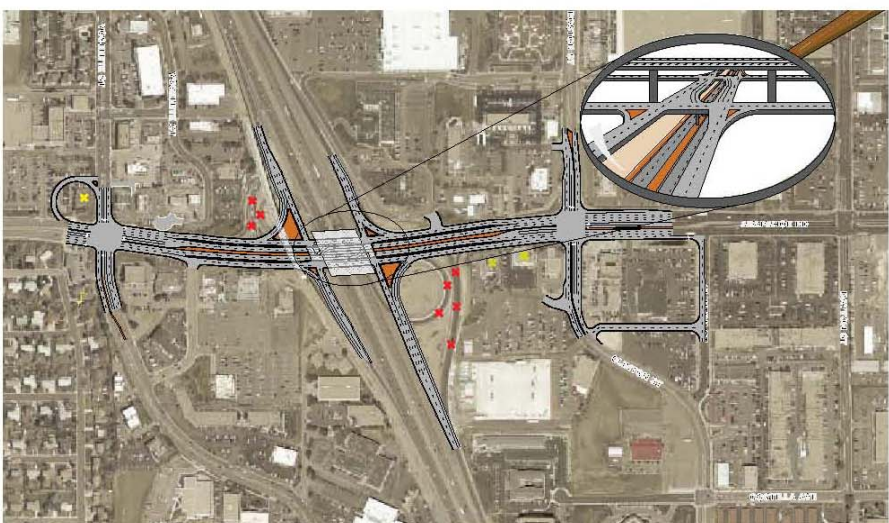
Alt. D - Directional Ramps Interchange



Alt. E - Tunnel Interchange



Alt. F - Diverging Diamond Interchange



Alt. G - Three Level Diamond Interchange



Alt. H - Costilla Connection

5.1.1. Preliminary Evaluation

The seven initial alternatives were evaluated against a wide range of applicable evaluation criteria. These criteria were categorized as:

- Traffic Operations/Level of Service (LOS)
- Safety/Crash Potential
- Access to Adjacent Land Uses
- Constructability/Phasing
- Right-of-Way Requirements
- Existing Business Impacts
- Construction/Implementation Cost

Table 7 provides a summary of the evaluation of preliminary alternatives. This evaluation matrix provides a comparative analysis of the alternatives related to the evaluation criteria.

5.1.2. Traffic Operations/Level of Service

These criteria consider the number of traffic signals within the interchange area (including the signalized intersections at Yosemite Street and Boston Street) and the direct connection for heavy turning movements to/from I-25. It also considers weaving movements or complex operations required to accommodate local movements within the interchange area. The evaluation indicates that the Improved Partial Cloverleaf (Alternative A) and Yosemite and Costilla Connection (Alternative H) would best comply with the project goals related to this criteria. The Single Point Urban interchange would remove a signal from Arapahoe, but limits the capacity of the movements accessing I-25. The Tight Urban Diamond interchange would continue to require Arapahoe Road traffic to travel through four closely-spaced signalized intersections and would limit the capacity of the left turns accessing I-25. The Directional Ramps, Tunnel, Diverging Diamond, and Three Level Diamond alternatives would provide high capacity for certain movements through the interchange, but all would create complicated weaving movements and/or unusual maneuvers that would degrade overall interchange operations.

5.1.3. Safety/Crash Potential

The number of conflict points in the interchange area, potential queuing and weaving conflicts along Arapahoe Road and interstate ramps, and driver expectancy are considered in this evaluation. The Single Point Urban (Alternative B) alternative indicates the best compliance with project safety goals due to one less intersection on Arapahoe Road. The Improved Partial Cloverleaf (Alternative A) also has moderate compliance with the safety goals since increased capacity would reduce the number of congestion-related crashes. The Tight Urban Diamond (Alternative C) would introduce increased left turn conflicts and queuing at the two ramp intersections since left turns would occur at the ramp intersections and the queues would need to be stored on the approaches to the interchange, outside the area between the ramp intersections. Although the Yosemite and Costilla Connection would reduce volumes through

the interchange, the additional intersection on Yosemite introduces additional conflict points. The Directional Ramps, Tunnel, Diverging Diamond and Three Level Diamond alternatives have driver expectancy safety concerns due to the unusual configurations and short distances for lane changes and turning movements between the four interchange area intersections.

5.1.4. Access to Adjacent Land Uses

Access limitations and restrictions resulting from the interchange configuration are considered in this evaluation. Each of the interchange configuration alternatives will impact access to adjacent development areas to some degree. The Yosemite and Costilla Connection (Alternative H) would provide additional access opportunities across I-25 south of the interchange. The Improved Partial Cloverleaf (Alternative A) and Tunnel (Alternative E) configurations provide the potential for signalized access to the southwest quadrant across from the Southbound I-25 off-ramp.

5.1.5. Constructability/Phasing

This criterion considers the accommodation of traffic through the interchange during construction. Each of the interchange configuration alternatives would have some detour and construction impacts to traffic traveling through the area. The Yosemite and Costilla Connection (Alternative H) would have no impact to traffic through the interchange. The greatest impacts would result from alternatives that would be difficult to build in phases and/or would require the realignment of I-25, including the Single Point Urban (Alternative B), Directional Ramps (Alternative D), Tunnel (Alternative E), and Three Level Diamond (Alternative G) alternatives.

5.1.6. Right-of-Way Requirements
































































Impacts are based on the number of parcels affected. The most right-of-way within the interchange area would be required with the Directional Ramps and Tunnel alternatives and the least amount of right-of-way is required with the Single Point Urban (Alternative B) configuration. The Yosemite and Costilla Connection (Alternative H) would require substantial right-of-way along the new roadway alignment. The Improved Partial Cloverleaf, Tight Urban Diamond, and Diverging Diamond alternatives would require minimal, if any, additional right-of-way outside of the existing interchange footprint.






5.1.7. Existing Business Impacts

Impact to existing businesses within the study area is considered the key differentiating environmental characteristic for this level of screening. Other, more specific, environmental criteria are considered in the next level of alternative assessment.

Impacts are based on the number of existing businesses displaced. No impacts to existing buildings are anticipated with the Improved Partial Cloverleaf (Alternative A), Single Point Urban (Alternative B), Tight Urban Diamond (Alternative C), and Diverging Diamond (Alternative F) configurations. The Yosemite and Costilla Connection (Alternative H) would require major impacts to at least two buildings south of the interchange area.

Table 7. Preliminary Evaluation of Interchange Options

Evaluation Criteria	No Build	Alt. A Improved Partial Cloverleaf	Alt. B Single Point Urban	Alt. C Tight Urban Diamond	Alt. D Directional Ramps	Alt. E Tunnel	Alt. F Diverging Diamond	Alt. G Three Level Diamond	Alt. H Yosemite and Costilla Connection
Traffic Operations / LOS	No improvements to existing congestion or queuing. 	Four intersections on Arapahoe Rd; No left turns at ramp terminals. Direct connection for EB to NB and WB to SB left turns. 	Three intersections on Arapahoe Rd; Limits capacity of EB to NB and WB to SB left turns. 	Four intersections on Arapahoe Rd; Limits capacity of EB to NB and WB to SB left turns. 	Four intersections on Arapahoe Rd; High capacity for heavy movements to/from north I-25; Weaving movements for SB to EB ramp traffic to Boston St. 	Four intersections on Arapahoe Rd; High capacity for movements to I-25; Complicated movements Yosemite & Boston intersections. 	Four intersections on Arapahoe Rd; Two-phase ramp terminal operations; Unusual weaving operations along Arapahoe Rd at ramp terminals. 	Two intersections for thru traffic on Arapahoe Rd; Weaving at Yosemite & Boston intersections; Complex turning and local movements at Yosemite & Boston intersections. 	Four intersections on Arapahoe Rd; New signalized intersection on Yosemite north of Alton Way; About 3,000 vpd removed from Arapahoe Rd thru interchange. 
Safety / Crash Potential	No changes in crash potential. 	Arapahoe Rd traffic continues to stop at four intersections; Limits queuing from I-25 on-ramps to outside lanes of Arapahoe. 	Single intersection limits conflicting movements; Decreased storage length for I-25 on-ramp queues. 	Arapahoe Rd traffic continues to stop at four intersections with increased left turn conflicts. 	Arapahoe Rd traffic continues to stop at four intersections; Decreased turn conflicts at ramp terminal intersections; Decreased storage length for SB I-25 on-ramp queues. 	Arapahoe Rd traffic continues to stop at four intersections; Decreased conflicts at ramp intersections; Removes Arapahoe queuing from I-25 on-ramps; Weaving issues east & west of interchange. 	Critical driver expectancy safety concern with unusual travel lane configuration thru interchange; Short weaving section along Arapahoe Rd between ramp intersections. 	Arapahoe Rd thru traffic grade-separated, limiting conflicting movements; Driver expectancy safety concern with movements required at Yosemite & Boston intersections. 	Arapahoe Rd traffic continues to stop at four intersections; Decreased volumes on Arapahoe thru interchange decreases conflicts; Increased conflicts on Yosemite and Costilla Ave. 
Access to Adjacent Land Uses	Continuing congestion degrades existing access conditions. 	Closes right-in/right-out access to NW quadrant; Potential for added signalized access to SW quadrant across from SB off-ramp (only with CDOT approval). 	Closes right-in/right-out access to NW quadrant and signalized access to NE quadrant. 	Closes right-in/right-out access to NW quadrant and signalized access to NE quadrant. 	Closes right-in/right-out access to NW quadrant; Replaces signalized access to NE quadrant with unsignalized right-in/right-out access. 	Closes right-in/right-out access to SW quadrant; Potential for added signalized access to SW quadrant across from SB off-ramp (only with CDOT approval). 	Closes right-in/right-out access to NW quadrant; Replaces signalized access to NE quadrant with unsignalized right-in/right-out access. 	Closes right-in/right-out access to NW quadrant; Replaces signalized access to NE quadrant with unsignalized right-in/right-out access; Complex movements to provide access at Yosemite & Boston. 	Provides additional access opportunities south of interchange with additional traffic on Costilla connection. 
Constructability / Phasing	No construction impacts. 	Could be built in phases with minimal impacts to existing Arapahoe alignment during construction. 	Difficult to build in phases; Requires detours of Arapahoe and multiple construction phases on I-25. 	Difficult to build in phases. 	Constructability issues with third level bridges and tunnels; Requires realignment of I-25 	Constructability issues with tunnel. 	Difficult to build in phases. 	Constructability issues with lower level for Arapahoe thru traffic; Difficult to build in phases. 	Could be built in phases; No impact to Arapahoe interchange during construction. 
Right-of-Way Requirements	No ROW impacts. 	Minimal ROW required if loop ramps remain within existing interchange footprint. 	Least ROW required than other build alternatives. 	Minimal, if any, ROW required. 	ROW required in all four quadrants for flyover ramps. 	ROW required in SW and NE quadrants for tunnel approaches. 	Minimal, if any, ROW required. 	ROW required along Arapahoe thru interchange and at Yosemite & Boston intersections for roadways for local circulation. 	Substantial ROW required along new roadway alignment. 
Existing Business Impacts	None. 	No impacts if loop ramps remain within existing interchange footprint. 	None anticipated. 	None anticipated. 	Potential building impacts in SW, NE, and SE quadrants for flyover ramps. 	Potential for substantial building impacts in SW and NE quadrants for tunnel approaches. 	None anticipated. 	Potential building impacts in SW and SE quadrants with widening required along Arapahoe Rd. 	Major impacts to two buildings with substantial impacts to parking for adjacent properties. 
Construction / Implementation Cost	No construction costs. 	\$50-60 million 	\$70-80 million 	\$50-60 million 	\$120-170 million 	\$120-170 million 	\$40-50 million 	\$100-140 million 	\$35-45 million 

Legend:  High compliance with project goals  Moderate compliance with project goals  Limited compliance with project goals  Little compliance with project goals  Low level of compliance with project goals

5.1.8. Construction/Implementation Cost

An initial estimate of the range of construction costs was developed. More detailed cost estimates are provided for the detailed alternatives later in this report. The initial estimates indicate that the Directional Ramps, Tunnel, and Three Level Diamond alternatives would be the most expensive. The Improved Partial Cloverleaf (Alternative A), Tight Urban Diamond (Alternative C), Diverging Diamond (Alternative F), and Yosemite and Costilla Connection (Alternative H) alternatives would be the least expensive interchange configurations.

5.2. Preliminary Screening Summary

5.2.1. Alternatives Screened Out

Based on the results of the preliminary alternatives evaluation, the following alternatives are not forwarded for further detailed evaluation. Primary reasons that these alternatives have been screened from further consideration are highlighted below.

- **Alternative C – Tight Urban Diamond:** The diamond interchange ramp intersections with Arapahoe Road would not provide sufficient capacity to accommodate future traffic volumes. The eastbound to northbound and westbound to southbound left turn movements would exceed the capacity of double left turn lanes and queues would extend through the interchange. Limited storage length would be provided between the two ramp intersections. Traffic signal progression along Arapahoe Road would be compromised with the additional left turn phases at the ramp signals. Due to the nature of the construction within existing travel areas, there would be some difficulty with building the interchange ramps and intersections in phases.
- **Alternative D – Directional Ramps:** The locations of the eastbound to northbound and southbound to eastbound ramp merges/diverges along Arapahoe Road would result in complex weaving maneuvers that would be difficult to sign with traffic interactions at the Boston/Clinton and Yosemite Street intersections. The northbound to westbound and westbound to southbound left turns would require the ramp terminals to remain signalized. The westbound to southbound left turn movement would exceed the capacity of double left turn lanes and queues would extend through the northbound ramp intersection. All traffic headed for Southbound I-25 would travel on one diamond ramp, rather than the diamond ramp and loop ramp with the existing type of configuration, which results in decreased storage length for queues from the ramp meter or the I-25 merge.

The flyover and tunnel ramps would require complicated construction and realignment of the freeway. Due to the nature of the construction within existing travel lanes, it would be difficult to build in phases. New right-of-way would be required in all four quadrants of the interchange with potential business building impacts in the southwest, northeast, and southeast quadrants.

- **Alternative E - Tunnel:** The locations of the I-25 entrance ramp diverges along eastbound and westbound Arapahoe Road would result in complex lane changing maneuvers east and west of the Boston/Clinton and Yosemite Street intersections. The

I-25 exit ramp terminals would remain signalized. The tunnels under Arapahoe Road would require complicated construction. New right-of-way would be required in the southwest and northeast quadrants of the interchange for the approaches to the tunnels with the potential for business building impacts.

- **Alternative F – Diverging Diamond:** The unconventional layout with realigned lanes for drivers to travel on the left side of the roadway creates critical safety concerns related to driver expectancy. The unusual weaving operations surrounding the ramp terminal intersections are inconsistent with a long-term solution for the relatively high non-peak speeds of Arapahoe Road. All traffic headed for Northbound or Southbound I-25 would travel on single diamond ramps, rather than the diamond ramps and loop ramps with the existing type of configuration, which results in decreased storage length for queues from the ramp meters or the I-25 merge. Due to the nature of the construction within existing travel lanes, it would be difficult to build in phases.
- **Alternative G – Three Level Diamond:** The decision point between Arapahoe Road through movements and freeway ramp access movements would be difficult to sign with the short distance and traffic interactions at the Boston/Clinton and Yosemite Street intersections. Providing local access within the interchange area would be complicated with the grade-separation of Arapahoe Road movements. All traffic headed for Northbound or Southbound I-25 would travel on single diamond ramps, rather than the diamond ramps and loop ramps with the existing type of configuration, which results in decreased storage length for queues from the ramp meters or the I-25 merge. New right-of-way would be required along Arapahoe Road. The tunnels under Arapahoe Road would require complicated construction and the nature of the construction within existing travel lanes would make it difficult to build in phases.
- **Alternative H – Yosemite and Costilla Connection:** The travel modeling indicates that the alternate route between Yosemite Street and Clinton Street along Costilla Avenue would decrease traffic traveling along Arapahoe Road through the interchange by 3,000 vehicles per day with most volume reduction expected during the peak hours. Although a benefit to traffic operations at the ramp terminal intersections, the travel forecasts show that the connection would not divert sufficient traffic to eliminate the need for additional capacity improvements within the immediate interchange area. The connection would be best combined with another build alternative to provide the reduction of traffic volumes through the interchange as well as a potential alternate route during the interchange reconstruction.

5.2.2. Alternatives for Further Consideration

Based on the results of the preliminary alternatives evaluation, the Improved Partial Cloverleaf (Alternative A) and Single Point Urban (Alternative B) alternatives are forwarded for more detailed evaluation. The Improved Partial Cloverleaf and Single Point Urban interchange configurations provide the best traffic operations and safety benefits and perform better than the other alternatives in almost all of the preliminary evaluation criteria.

Due to the additional capacity, access, and construction phasing benefits identified for the Yosemite and Costilla Connection in the preliminary evaluation, both alternatives moving













































































forward into the detailed alternative assessment were modified to include a new underpass of I-25 south of Arapahoe Road connecting Yosemite Street and Costilla Avenue as a means for east/west through traffic to bypass the interchange area. **Table 8** illustrates the comparison of the preliminary alternatives with the evaluation of the modified alternatives, Improved Partial Cloverleaf with Costilla Connection (Modified Alternative A) and Single Point Urban Interchange with Costilla Connection (Modified Alternative B), related to the preliminary evaluation criteria.

The modification to add the Costilla Connection makes the two alternatives even more superior to the other configurations considered in the preliminary evaluation. The reduction in traffic volumes through the interchange resulting from the underpass increases the traffic operations and safety benefits of the improvements. The new roadway connection would provide additional access opportunities across I-25 south of the interchange. The construction of the Costilla Connection would not impact traffic through the interchange. However, phasing the construction of the underpass first would provide a valuable alternate route for traffic during the interchange reconstruction of either the Improved Partial Cloverleaf or Single Point Urban configurations.

Adding the Costilla Connection to the alternatives does add substantial right-of-way, existing business impacts, and costs since it is a new roadway alignment through a developed area. However, the Improved Partial Cloverleaf and Single Point Urban interchange configurations required minimal, if any, right-of-way and existing business impacts, so the modified alternatives still perform better overall than the larger-scale alternatives (Directional Ramps, Tunnel, and Three Level Diamond). The traffic operations, safety, access, and construction phasing benefits of the modified alternatives outweigh the additional right-of-way impacts and construction costs.

The Costilla underpass connection is also an element of the recommended alternative in the Arapahoe Road Corridor Study.

Table 8. Preliminary Evaluation of Modified Interchange Options

Evaluation Criteria	No Build	Alt. A Improved Partial Cloverleaf	Alt. B Single Point Urban	Alt. C Tight Urban Diamond	Alt. D Directional Ramps	Alt. E Tunnel	Alt. F Diverging Diamond	Alt. G Three Level Diamond	Alt. H Yosemite and Costilla Connection	Mod. Alt. A Improved Partial Cloverleaf with Costilla Connection	Mod. Alt. B Single Point Urban with Costilla Connection
Traffic Operations / LOS											
Safety / Crash Potential											
Access to Adjacent Land Uses											
Constructability / Phasing											
Right-of-Way Requirements											
Existing Business Impacts											
Construction / Implementation Cost	No construction costs 	\$50-60 million 	\$70-80 million 	\$50-60 million 	\$120-170 million 	\$120-170 million 	\$40-50 million 	\$100-140 million 	\$35-45 million 	\$85-105 million 	\$105-125 million 

Legend:  High compliance with project goals  Moderate Compliance with project goals  Limited Compliance with project goals

 Little compliance with project goals  Low level of compliance with project goals

6. Detailed Alternative Assessment

Based on the preliminary screening of alternatives, the following alternatives are forwarded for more detailed evaluation.

- Modified Alternative A - Improved Partial Cloverleaf with Costilla Connection
- Modified Alternative B - Single Point Urban Interchange with Costilla Connection

6.1. Evaluation Criteria

Criteria were defined in the following areas for evaluation of the detailed interchange alternatives:

- Traffic Operations and Safety Performance – Intersection Levels of Service (LOS), delay, and potential queue lengths for critical movements were quantified for each alternative. Crash potential as a result of conflict points and queuing was also considered.
- Design and Construction – Geometric considerations, constructability issues, and potential construction phasing were considered in this evaluation.
- Environmental Issues – These criteria considered community/business impacts, hazardous materials impacts, water resources, noise impacts, as well as air quality impacts.
- Right-of-Way Requirements – Quantification of the required acres of right-of-way for each alternative was calculated.
- Construction Costs – Costs for construction, contingencies, construction engineering, and construction management are included in this analysis. This analysis excluded the cost for right-of-way acquisition.

6.2. Traffic Operations and Safety Performance

Traffic operations were analyzed for the No Build and two interchange alternatives based on travel forecasts developed for each configuration. **Figures 14 and 15** show the peak hour traffic forecasts for the two build alternatives.

These traffic volumes were developed from the Arapahoe Road Corridor Study traffic forecasts and are based on the DRCOG 2030 model with the addition of the recommended alternative for the Arapahoe Road Corridor Study, which includes the Costilla Avenue connection and improvements to Arapahoe Road, Broncos Parkway, and Easter Avenue, as well as the parallel routes adjacent to Arapahoe Road (Peakview Avenue and Briarwood Avenue).

Relative to the No Build projections, the Arapahoe/I-25 interchange and Arapahoe Road corridor improvements show an additional 2,000 vehicles per day on I-25 north of Arapahoe Road and a decrease of approximately 5,000 vehicles per day on I-25 south of Arapahoe Road. These changes will have little impact on the future congested operations along I-25.

Figure 14. Improved Partial Cloverleaf (Mod. Alt. A) 2030 Traffic Forecasts

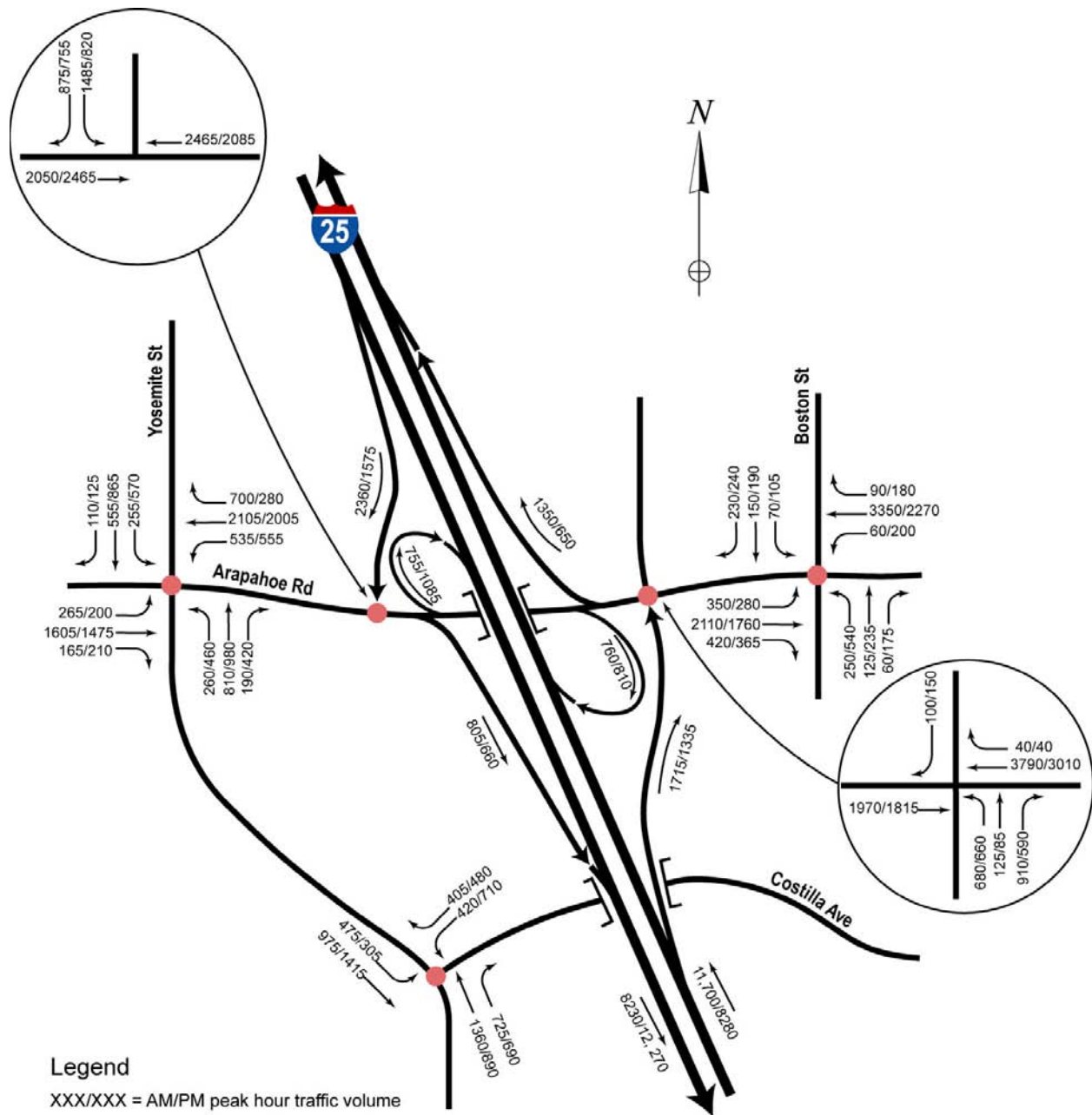
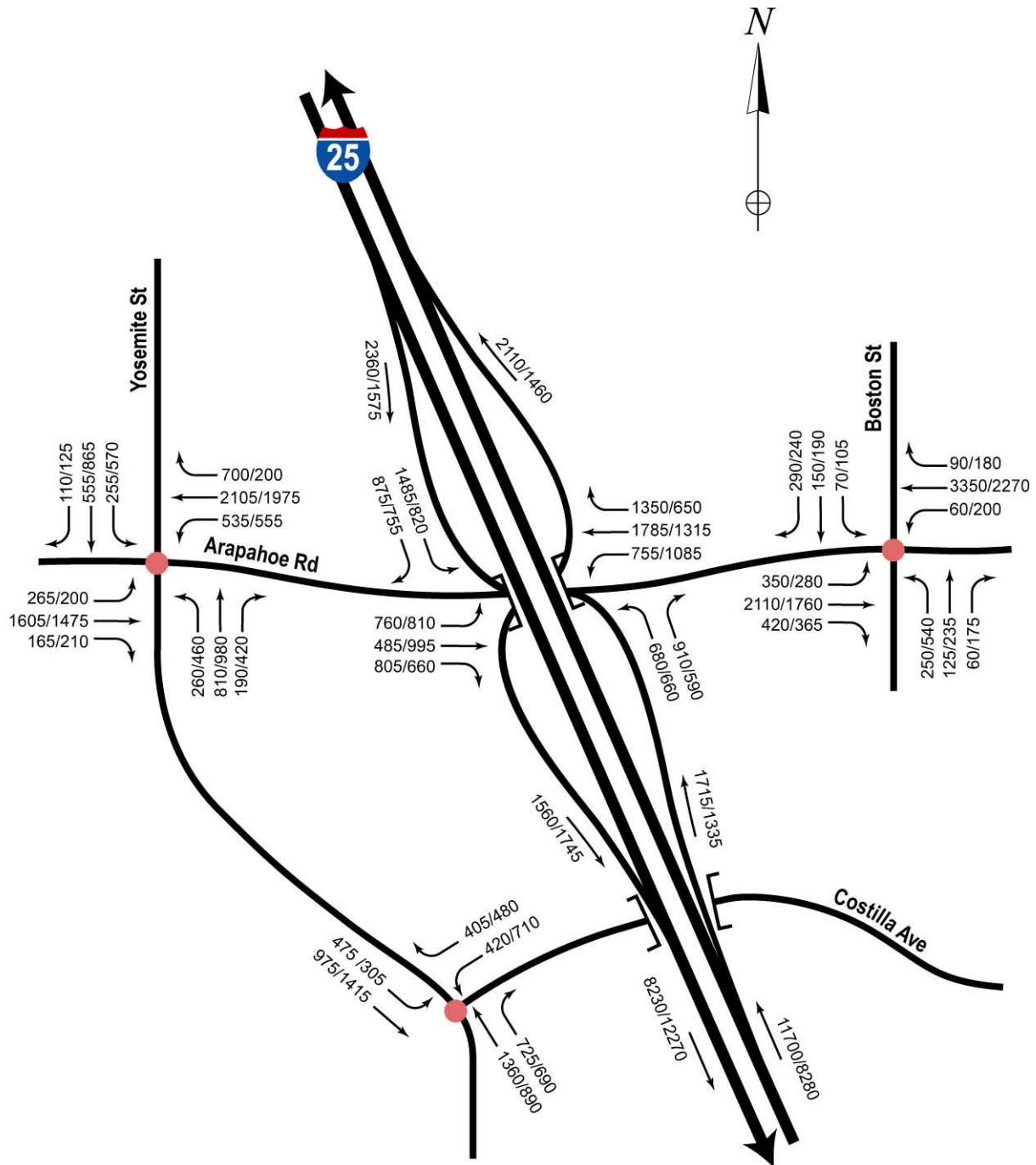


Figure 15. Single Point Urban (Mod. Alt. B) 2030 Traffic Forecasts



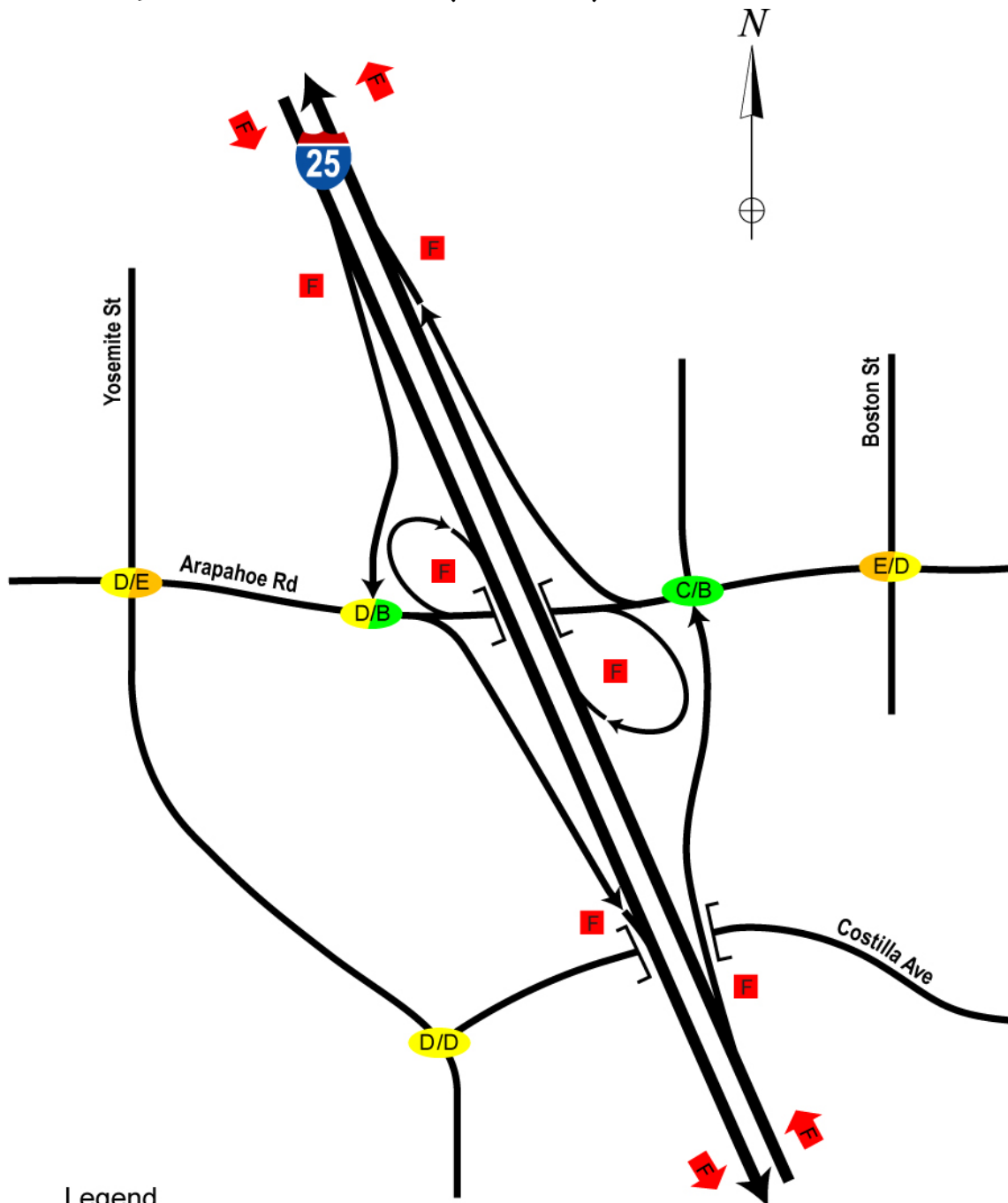
As noted with the preliminary alternatives screening, traffic volumes generally decreased on Arapahoe Road through the interchange with the addition of the Costilla Avenue connection. Traffic volumes on Arapahoe Road decreased almost five percent during the peak hours between Yosemite Street and Boston Street/Clinton Street. Daily volume projections on Yosemite Street were also reduced slightly, although the turning movements to the south leg of the Arapahoe Road and Yosemite Street intersection increased during the peak hours with traffic utilizing the Costilla Avenue connection.

Three key operational parameters distinguish the detailed alternatives: intersection level of services, queue lengths on the freeway ramps and between intersections along Arapahoe Road, and crash potential due to number of conflict points and queuing. The respective measures used to demonstrate the performance level for each parameter are the level of service for each of the intersections along Arapahoe Road, the 95th-percentile queue lengths for the approaches at the ramp terminal intersections, and crash potential measured by the number of conflict points at the ramp terminal intersections and locations of long queues. This information is summarized in **Table 9**. Capacity analysis output is included in **Appendix D**.

Table 9. Traffic Operations and Safety Performance – Evaluation of Alternatives

Alternative	Level of Service	Average Queue Length	Crash Potential	
	AM/PM Peak Hour At Arapahoe Intersections	AM/PM Peak Hour (feet)	Number of Conflict Points at Ramps	Intersection Approaches with Long Queues ⁽¹⁾
No Build	Yosemite: F/F SB Ramp: E/C NB Ramp: F/D Boston/Clinton: F/F	<u>SB Ramp Intersection</u> SB: 900/400 EB: 150/750 WB: 975/525 <u>NB Ramp Intersection</u> NB: 625/350 EB: 475/400 WB: 1375/450	SB Ramp Signal: 5 NB Ramp Signal: 5 Total: 10	NB Exit Ramp SB Exit Ramp NB Entrance Ramp SB Entrance Ramp EB Arapahoe at SB Ramp WB Arapahoe at Boston WB Arapahoe at Yosemite
Improved Partial Cloverleaf with Costilla Connection (Mod. Alt. A)	Yosemite: D/E SB Ramp: D/B NB Ramp: C/B Boston/Clinton: E/D	<u>SB Ramp Intersection</u> SB: 425/325 EB: 175/75 WB: 975/225 <u>NB Ramp Intersection</u> NB: 575/325 EB: 425/250 WB: 200/175	SB Ramp Signal: 5 NB Ramp Signal: 5 Total: 10	NB Entrance Ramp SB Entrance Ramp WB Arapahoe at SB Ramp WB Arapahoe at Yosemite WB Arapahoe at Boston
Single Point Urban with Costilla Connection (Mod. Alt. B)	Yosemite: D/E SB & NB Ramp: D/C Boston/Clinton: E/D	<u>Ramp Intersection</u> NB: 225/250 SB: 775/350 EB: 400/300 WB: 625/375	Ramp Signal: 16 Total: 16	SB Exit Ramp NB Entrance Ramp SB Entrance Ramp WB Arapahoe at Yosemite WB Arapahoe at Boston

⁽¹⁾ Long queues defined as 95th-percentile queue over 700 feet during AM and/or PM peak hour(s)

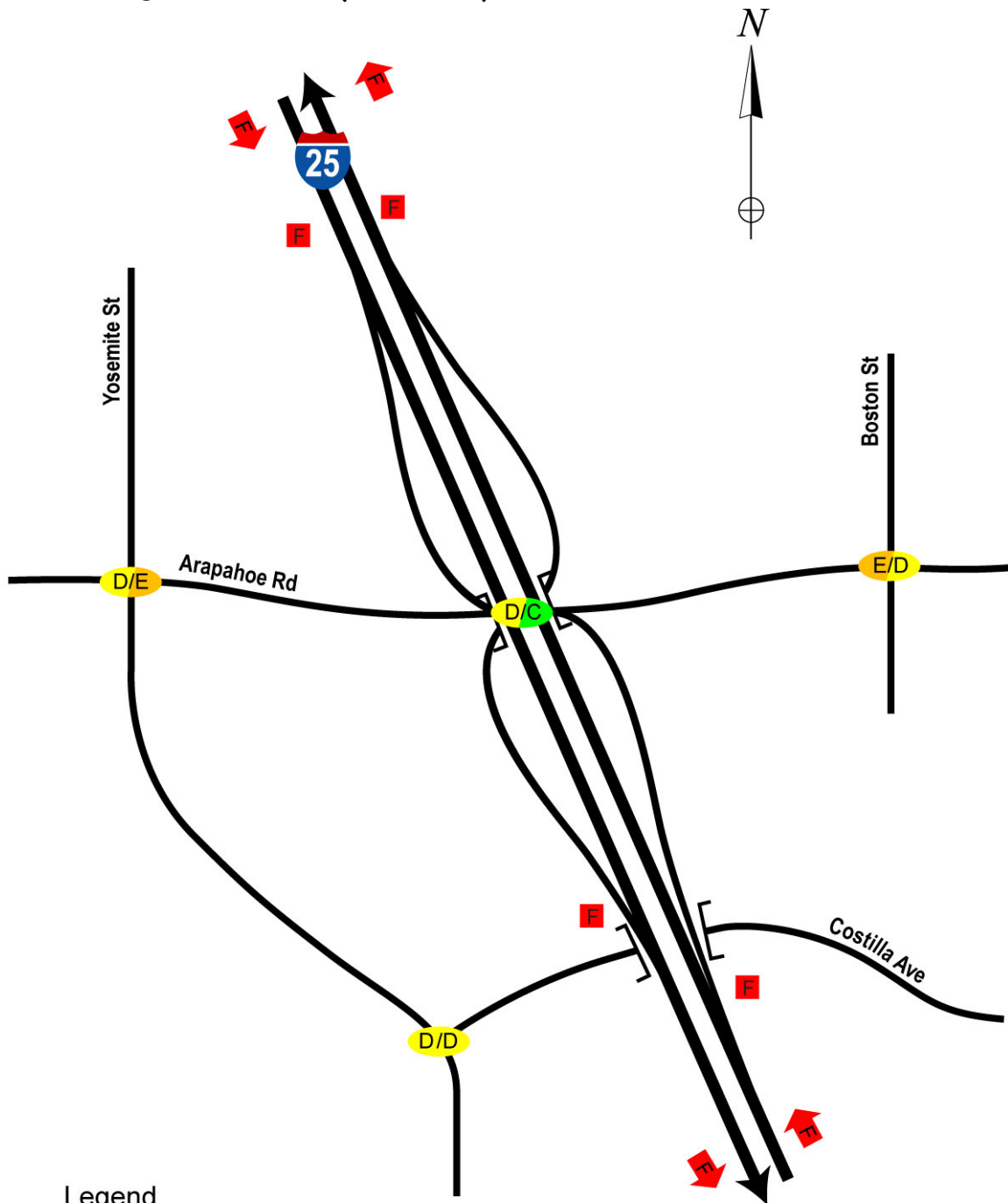
Figure 16. Improved Partial Cloverleaf (Mod. Alt. A) 2030 Peak Hour Level of ServiceLegend

- A/A Intersection AM/PM Peak Hour LOS
- A Merge/Diverge Design Hour LOS
- ▶ Freeway Design Hour LOS

Notes:

- Levels of Service based on Highway Capacity Manual (HCM) methodology
- Ramp and freeway design hour shown is NB in the AM peak hour and SB in the PM peak hour

Figure 17. Single Point Urban (Mod. Alt. B) 2030 Peak Hour Level of Service

Legend

- A/A Intersection AM/PM Peak Hour LOS
- A Merge/Diverge Design Hour LOS
- A Freeway Design Hour LOS

Notes:

- Levels of Service based on Highway Capacity Manual (HCM) methodology
- Ramp and freeway design hour shown is NB in the AM peak hour and SB in the PM peak hour

No Build:

With the increase in traffic volumes expected by 2030, the No Build scenario results in a substantial increase in delay within the interchange area, resulting in more queuing of ramp traffic onto I-25. The No Build operational analysis is described in Section 4.5 of this report. Three of the four interchange area intersections operates at LOS F during the AM and/or PM peak hour. The queues from the entrance ramps to I-25 and through the intersections along Arapahoe Road cause gridlock through the interchange, creating the potential for increased safety problems related to congestion along both Arapahoe Road and I-25. The average queue on the southbound exit ramp is expected to reach 900 feet and the maximum queue would regularly extend into the I-25 mainline lanes during the AM peak hour.

Modified Alt. A – Improved Partial Cloverleaf Interchange with Costilla Connection:

With this alternative, traffic operations along Arapahoe Road improve from LOS F to LOS D at most intersections along Arapahoe Road during the AM and PM peak hours, due to the additional arterial lanes through the interchange. The Arapahoe Road and Boston/Clinton Street intersection operates at LOS E during the AM peak hour and the overall intersection delay is reduced by almost 65 percent from the No Build alternative. Average delay at the Yosemite Street intersection is reduced over 30 percent during the PM peak hour.

Although the Southbound I-25 off ramp essentially remains in the current configuration due to the LRT bridge constraints, the additional southbound left turn lane (for a total of three left turn lanes) and the five-lane cross-section on Arapahoe Road improves the conditions for turning traffic from the ramp. Queues on the Southbound I-25 off-ramp are reduced to an average queue of 425 feet and a maximum queue of 450 feet during the AM peak hour.

Each ramp signal contains five conflict points, which is less than a typical T-intersection since the left turn movements are accommodated with the loop ramps and do not have to cross opposing traffic. The number of conflict points within the interchange area is the same as the No Build scenario.

During the PM peak hour, the queues for traffic entering I-25 extend to Arapahoe Road due to the ramp metering and congestion on I-25. However, because of the loop ramp layout, the ramp back ups are limited to the outside lane along Arapahoe Road and, due to the additional lane through the interchange, through traffic on Arapahoe Road is not blocked. Therefore, the degradation of freeway merging operations has limited impact on traffic traveling on Arapahoe Road through the interchange.

Modified Alt. B - Single Point Urban Interchange with Costilla Connection:

With this alternative, a signalized intersection is eliminated along Arapahoe Road, which increases intersection spacing. Intersection operations are LOS D or better during the AM and PM peak hours, except at Yosemite Street, which operates at LOS E during the PM peak hour, and at Boston/Clinton Street, which operates at LOS E during the AM peak hour. The overall intersection delay at Boston/Clinton Street is reduced by almost 70 percent during the AM peak hour from the No Build alternative. Average delay at the Yosemite Street intersection is reduced almost 35 percent during the PM peak hour.

Queues on the Southbound I-25 off-ramp approaching Arapahoe Road are reduced to an average of 625 feet and a maximum queue of 800 feet during the AM peak hour. A longer cycle length may be required to clear movements through the ramps signal due to the size of

the intersection. This longer cycle length may create longer queuing along the off-ramps and Arapahoe Road, as well as complicate signal progression with the Yosemite Street and Boston/Clinton Street intersections.

Although both ramps are accommodated at one signalized intersection on Arapahoe Road, the higher number of turning movements (including the left turns for the entrance ramps) results in more overall conflict points within the interchange area than the No Build or Improved Partial Cloverleaf with Costilla Connection alternatives. This increases the potential for collisions of two (or more) vehicles.

With this configuration, all traffic headed for I-25 would travel on one diamond ramp, rather than the diamond ramp and loop ramp with the existing type of configuration, which results in decreased storage length for queues from the ramp meters or the I-25 merges. Because of the ramp metering and congestion on I-25 expected during the AM and PM peak hour, the queues on the I-25 entrance ramps extend through the Arapahoe Road signal. Traffic attempting to turn left onto the freeway ramps backs up into the inside through lanes on Arapahoe Road while traffic attempting to turn right onto the ramps backs up into the outside lanes. Therefore, I-25 congestion and ramp metering creates virtual gridlock within the interchange area. Without ramp metering, entrance ramp queues are reduced and the related congestion is avoided. If future traffic volumes cause these types of operational issues with ramp metering, the metering may be limited in use or removed. However, for many years prior to that traffic volume condition, the ramp metering would improve highway operations and safety. Therefore, the management of the ramp metering system at this location would be critical for the operation of this interchange alternative.

6.3. Design and Construction

Conceptual designs were developed for the two build interchange alternatives. Each of the alternatives was designed within the constraints of the existing light rail bridge piers.

Modified Alt. A – Improved Partial Cloverleaf Interchange with Costilla Connection:

This alternative requires reconstruction of the I-25 bridge over Arapahoe Road to accommodate three through lanes on Arapahoe Road, which will result in construction-related impacts to I-25 and Arapahoe Road traffic. Horizontally this interchange layout is identical to the existing interchange with the majority of the work being done to accommodate the widening along Arapahoe Road, a deeper structure depth, and consequently profile grade line changes to both Arapahoe Road and mainline I-25.

The existing interchange was constructed under the T-REX project with variances to limit reconstruction and right-of-way acquisitions. At least two of the six ramps were constructed with variances. The Southbound I-25 loop ramp was constructed with less than a 25-mph minimum radius and the Southbound I-25 entrance ramp was constructed with less than a 50-mph vertical design speed at the gore with mainline I-25. The location of the LRT alignment west of the freeway also reduced the ramp meter lane drop taper from the T-REX project standard of 50:1 to 30:1 at this same location.

Similar issues are created with the design for this alternative, such as reduced design speed at the ramp terminals with Arapahoe Road, reduced horizontal design speed of the Southbound I-25 loop ramp, and the need to raise the grade for Northbound and Southbound I-25 above four

percent for a short distance to accommodate increased structure depths and changes to the Arapahoe Road profile grade line.

The following summarizes design considerations and concerns for this alternative based on the conceptual design (less than ten percent design effort):

- Design will require over 2,000 feet of reconstruction of I-25;
- Design will require design variances for the horizontal design of the loop ramps (less than 25-mph) and vertical design of I-25 (greater than four percent vertical grade);
- Arapahoe Road will need to be raised approximately three feet to accommodate the ramp profiles; and
- Conceptual design is based on an assumed structure depth of five feet and two inches.

The cloverleaf loop ramps in the northwest and southeast quadrants will allow for detention of storm drainage flows within the interchange, simplifying the conveyance of stormwater runoff through the project area. Assuming that two to six feet of depth could be accommodated within the loop ramp areas, a total of 16 acre-feet of detention could be recognized. For an interchange of this configuration and size, 15-20 acre-feet is a feasible range for detention (10-year discharge). In addition to the detention, however, an additional one to five acre-feet of water quality storage is probable for the anticipated contributing runoff area for the interchange. Some or all of this additional area may be accommodated in linear ditches adjacent to mainline I-25 or provided by mechanical treatment systems.

Modified Alt. B - Single Point Urban Interchange with Costilla Connection:

This alternative requires a long, single span bridge structure to accommodate the left turns to and from the ramps at the Arapahoe Road intersection, which would require exceptionally deep structural girders. This bridge design will require lowering Arapahoe Road and raising I-25 to provide adequate vertical clearance, which would result in more complex construction phasing and substantial impacts to I-25 and Arapahoe Road traffic during construction. Lowering Arapahoe Road creates particularly severe phasing issues at existing intersections and access points. Temporary roadways and multiple stages of traffic detours would be required to maintain traffic on both Arapahoe Road and I-25 during bridge construction. Construction of the west side ramps would need to avoid impacts to the existing light rail bridge, which would require creative design solutions. This is particularly critical adjacent to the LRT retaining walls and ballast walls west of I-25.

The following summarizes design considerations and concerns for this alternative based on the conceptual design (less than ten percent design effort):

- Design will require over 4,000 feet of reconstruction of I-25;
- Horizontal or vertical design may require variances; and
- Conceptual design is based on an assumed structure depth of eight feet and four inches.

Like the Improved Partial Cloverleaf with Costilla Connection alternative, available area for detention and water quality storage volume will primarily be handled within or immediately adjacent to the interchange improvements. The primary storage area will be in the southeast

quadrant of the interchange where the existing northbound exit ramp and entrance loop ramp will be removed. This area equates to approximately the same volume as the Improved Partial Cloverleaf with Costilla Connection alternative and will provide adequate storage for detention, but may need additional water quality volume in the form of linear ditches and mechanical cleansers.

6.4. Environmental Issues

The impacts to the human and natural environments with the study area that would result from implementation of each of the final alternatives were evaluated. This evaluation was based on the information provided with the project environmental overview, described in Chapter 3 of this report.

No Build:

The No Build condition would have some negative impact to air quality within the study area due to increasing congestion. No other new environmental impacts are applicable if the project is not constructed.

Modified Alt. A – Improved Partial Cloverleaf Interchange with Costilla Connection:

This interchange alternative would close the right-in/right-out access to the northwest quadrant, located on the north side of Arapahoe Road between the Southbound I-25 ramp and Yosemite Street intersections. Access to the properties would continue to be provided off Yosemite Street. The Costilla Connection south of Arapahoe Road would require major impacts to at least two buildings, an office building west of I-25 and a hotel east of I-25. More specific parking and construction impacts may be assessed during the project environmental documentation.

This interchange alternative would have minor impacts to wetlands within the project area, potentially only in the southeast quadrant of the interchange in the area of construction for the Costilla Avenue connection.

The interchange project would have a minor, yet positive, impact on the air quality of the Southeastern Denver Metropolitan region based on the anticipated decreases in intersection delay and congestion along Arapahoe Road. During the subsequent NEPA process for this project a carbon monoxide hot spot analysis will be conducted, as required.

Recognized environmental conditions related to hazardous materials include potential impacts related to automotive service stations, storage units, and commercial facilities in the southwest quadrant of the interchange, east of the interchange along Arapahoe Road, and along Costilla Avenue east of I-25. Further evaluation of the potential hazardous material sites may be warranted prior to final design of the project. During the subsequent NEPA process for this project a Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) of hazardous materials will be conducted.

Modified Alt. B - Single Point Urban Interchange with Costilla Connection:

This alternative would close the right-in/right-out access to the northwest quadrant and the signalized access to the northeast quadrant of the interchange. Access to the properties in the northwest quadrant would continue to be provided off Yosemite Street and property access for the northeast quadrant would continue to be provided off Boston Street. Similar to the

Improved Partial Cloverleaf with Costilla Connection alternative, the Costilla Connection south of Arapahoe Road would require major impacts to at least two buildings, an office building west of I-25 and a hotel east of I-25. More specific parking and construction impacts may be assessed during the project environmental documentation.

This interchange alternative would have similar impacts to wetlands, air quality, and hazardous materials resources as the Improved Partial Cloverleaf with Costilla Connection alternative.

6.5. Right-of-Way Requirements

The acres of right-of-way required for each build alternative shown below were calculated based on the conceptual design layout of the interchange. The right-of-way for both of the alternatives includes approximately 5.0 acres for the Yosemite to Costilla Connection.

- Improved Partial Cloverleaf with Costilla Connection (Mod. Alt. A): approx. 6.1 acres
- Single Point Urban with Costilla Connection (Mod. Alt. B): approx. 6.8 acres

The larger area of right-of-way needed for the Single Point Urban with Costilla Connection alternative is mostly within the northeast quadrant of the interchange, where the Northbound I-25 entrance ramp curves around and encroaches upon the existing access road and parking areas. With the Improved Partial Cloverleaf with Costilla Connection alternative, this area is not impacted.

These right-of-way estimates do not include total takes of parcels, which may be required for either alternative depending on the final details of access location, parking impacts, and right-of-way negotiations. Both interchange alternatives may also require additional business relocations depending on the final Arapahoe Road alignment. Two commercial buildings (an office and a hotel) would be directly impacted by the Costilla/Yosemite connection.

6.6. Construction Costs

The ranges of construction costs shown below were identified for the two build alternatives based on an initial opinion of probable construction cost, including contingencies, construction engineering, and construction management. The figures for both of the alternatives include \$35-45 million for the Yosemite to Costilla Connection. These cost estimates shown were developed in September 2006 and are the cost data provided to DRCOG for development of the Draft 2035 Plan to identify Federal funding for the interchange improvements. These initial estimates do not include right-of-way (see Section 6.5 for right-of-way area requirements).

- Improved Partial Cloverleaf with Costilla Connection (Mod. Alt. A): \$85 - 105 million
- Single Point Urban with Costilla Connection (Mod. Alt. B): \$105 - 125 million

6.7. Summary of Alternatives Evaluation

A summary matrix of the detailed alternatives evaluation is provided in **Table 10**. The final screening identified concerns associated with the Single Point Urban with Costilla Connection alternative related to the potential for gridlock congestion and queuing on Arapahoe Road

















from the ramp metering system and future congestion along the I-25 mainline. There are much larger construction impacts for I-25 related to the long, single span bridge structure as well as concerns with compromising the existing light rail infrastructure in the southwest quadrant of the interchange. The Single Point Urban configuration also requires the closure of the signalized access to the northeast quadrant of the interchange.

The No Build alternative would not provide the capacity necessary to meet the forecasted travel demand at the interchange, resulting in increased traffic congestion, safety concerns, and air quality impacts.



Based on the results of the alternatives evaluation, Modified Alternative 1 - Improved Partial Cloverleaf with Costilla Connection is recommended for further evaluation in the subsequent NEPA process for the interchange improvements. This interchange configuration will provide the necessary transportation facilities and services to adequately accommodate travel demand through and beyond the 2030 planning horizon with minimal impacts to surrounding properties. Most improvements within the immediate interchange area would be generally located within the existing interchange footprint with widening impacts along Arapahoe Road and construction along I-25 for the bridge reconstruction. The majority of project environmental and property impacts would be located along the Costilla/Yosemite alignment.



This analysis concludes that the Improved Partial Cloverleaf with Costilla Connection configuration with improvements along Arapahoe Road will provide the greatest benefit with limited impacts. However, further design analysis may identify limiting design variances and more benefits for shifting I-25. Therefore, these types of design details should continue to be explored during the environmental documentation for the interchange.


Table 10. Detailed Evaluation of Alternatives

Evaluation Criteria	No Build	Mod. Alt. A Improved Partial Cloverleaf with Costilla Connection	Mod. Alt. B Single Point Urban with Costilla Connection
Traffic Operations	See Tables 7 and 8 for details regarding Traffic Operations and Safety Performance		
			
Design and Construction	Not applicable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Standard single span bridge - 2000' of I-25 reconstruction - Construction simplified while maintaining traffic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Non-standard, deep bridge girders required - 4000' of I-25 reconstruction - Difficult to construct while maintaining traffic on I-25 - Compromises existing LRT infrastructure 
Right-of-Way Requirements	Not applicable	Interchange = 1.1 acres Costilla connection = 5.0 acres Total = approx. 6.1 acres 	Interchange = 1.8 acres Costilla connection = 5.0 acres Total = approx. 6.8 acres 
Environmental Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As congestion increases, business access will be negatively impacted - As congestion increases, air pollution will increase - No other environmental impacts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Closes right-in/right-out access to NW quadrant - Positive impact to air quality as traffic operations improved substantially - Minor impacts to wetlands - Potential hazardous material impacts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Closes right-in/right-out access to NW quadrant and signalized access to NE quadrant - Positive impact to air quality as traffic operations improved substantially - Minor impacts to wetlands - Potential hazardous material impacts 
Construction Costs	None 	\$85 – 105 million 	\$105 – 125 million 
Summary			

Legend:

 High compliance with project goals
  Moderate compliance with project goals

 Limited compliance with project goals
  Little compliance with project goals

 Low level of compliance with project goals

7. Preliminary Recommended Improvements

7.1. *Description of Recommended Alternative*

Based on the results of the evaluation of alternatives, Modified Alternative A - Improved Partial Cloverleaf with Costilla connection is recommended. This interchange configuration, shown in **Figure 18**, will provide the necessary transportation facilities and services to adequately accommodate travel demand through and beyond the 2030 planning horizon for this study. Components of the conceptual design for the interchange, including local access, major intersection design along Arapahoe Road, and movements to/from I-25, are discussed in this section of the report. Roadway profiles developed for the conceptual design of the Recommended Alternative are included in **Appendix E**.

7.1.1. I-25 Mainline

I-25 will be designed to meet the requirements of the typical section, which includes five twelve-foot through lanes in each direction, ten-foot inside and outside shoulders, a two-foot wide concrete median barrier and twelve-foot acceleration/deceleration lanes, where required. Because the improvements are generally located within the existing interchange footprint, the existing interchange ramp merges and diverges along I-25 will remain in the current locations along I-25 and the existing lane add/drop configurations will not be modified.

7.1.2. I-25 Ramps

The interchange ramps will be designed to accommodate the 2030 traffic volume projections discussed earlier in this report. The entrance ramps will provide one lane access to I-25, narrowing from two lanes at the ramp meter locations. The ramps will include a four-foot left shoulder, a fifteen-foot wide lane, and a minimum six-foot right shoulder. The exit ramps will consist of two lanes, diverging I-25 as a drop lane and an option lane approaching the ramp gore.

7.1.3. Arapahoe Road

Arapahoe Road will be designed to meet the requirements of CDOT and local agency standard specifications. The typical section will match the existing Arapahoe Road section east and west of the interchange, carrying three twelve-foot lanes through the interchange area.

During the Arapahoe Road Corridor Study agency coordination process, the possibility of enhanced local access to the southwest quadrant of the interchange via a roadway constructed directly across from the Southbound I-25 exit ramp was discussed with the local agencies with the Improved Partial Cloverleaf interchange configuration. The local agencies were told that the signal operations, allowable movements, and safety concerns for such an access would need to be studied in detail with traffic projections considering the trip generation of the potential redevelopment within the southwest quadrant area prior to any access approvals. The operation of a south leg at the Southbound I-25 ramp intersection would need to consider interactions with Eastbound Arapahoe Road traffic bound for the I-25 entrance ramps and the closure of the existing right-in/right-out access into the southwest quadrant east of Yosemite

Street. CDOT currently opposes providing this access across from the Southbound I-25 exit ramp and the access is not shown with the Recommended Alternative in Figure 17.

7.1.4. Costilla Avenue Connection

Costilla Avenue from Yosemite Street to Fulton Street will be designed to meet the requirements of the City of Greenwood Village's and Arapahoe County's standard design criteria. The typical section will include eight to ten-foot attached sidewalks, four eleven-foot through travel lanes, three-foot buffers for bikes adjacent to the curb and gutter, and an eleven-foot painted median.

The Yosemite Street/Costilla Avenue intersection, located approximately 300 feet north of the existing Yosemite Street/Alton Way signal, will be designed providing Yosemite Street with the major through movements to avoid queuing impacts at the Yosemite Street/Alton Way intersection. A short length of raised median will be required to accommodate piers for the structures at I-25. The I-25 structures were assumed with two 42-foot spans and structure depths of three feet. A reduced minimum design speed of 35 mph will be required to limit property impacts east of the I-25 underpass.

The north curb line of Costilla Avenue from Clinton Street to Fulton Street will be held through this section with the majority of the widening impacts occurring to the south.

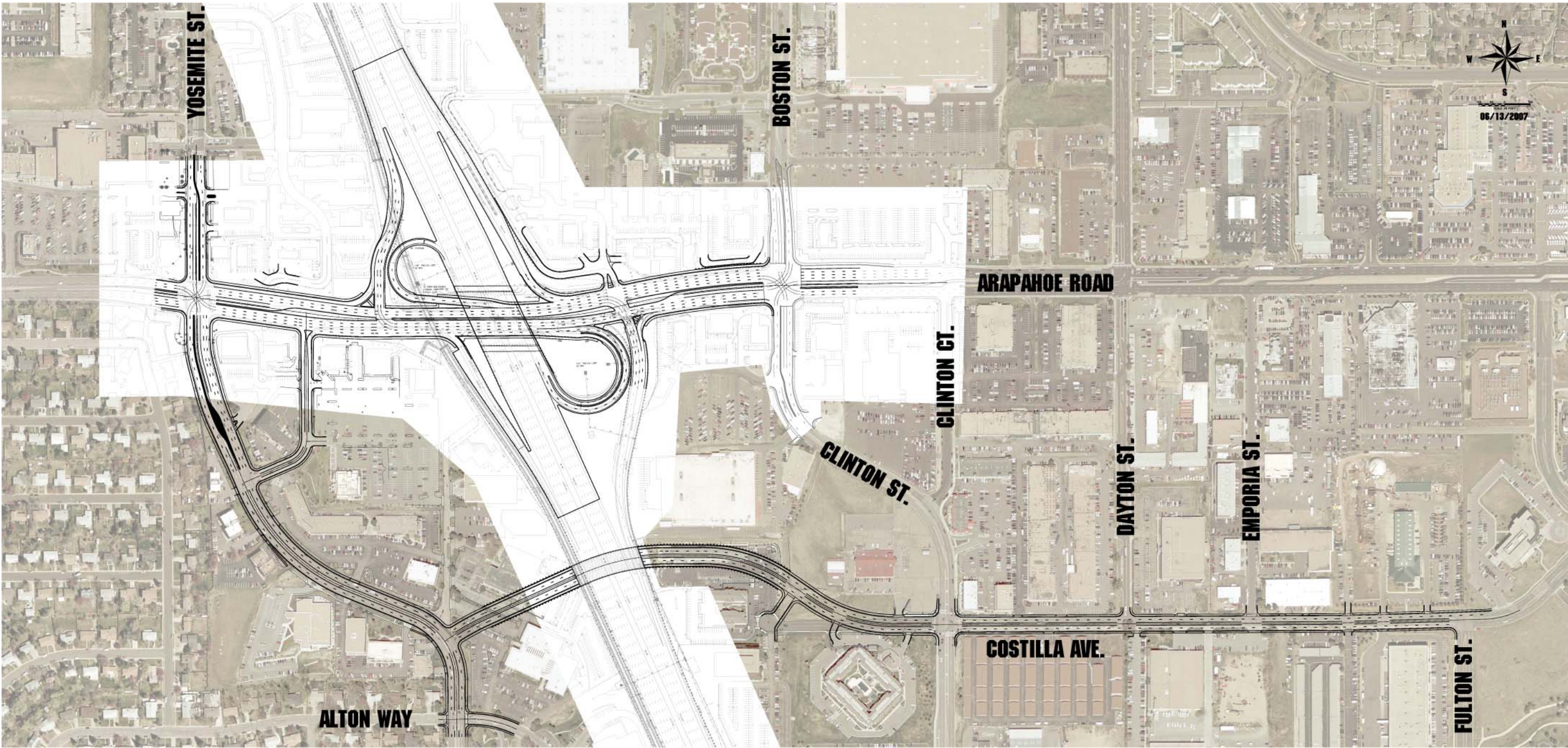
7.2. Alternate Transportation Modes

Alternate mode accommodations to be implemented with the Arapahoe/I-25 interchange improvements will be implemented consistent with the recommended improvements of the Arapahoe Road Corridor Study. These improvements include improved sidewalks along both the north and south sides of Arapahoe Road from Yosemite Street, through the interchange, to the Boston/Clinton Street intersection. Sidewalks will also be constructed along both sides of Costilla Avenue from Yosemite Street to Fulton Street.

Bicycle accommodations will be focused on the new Costilla Avenue crossing of I-25. Bicycle advocates input during the Arapahoe Road Corridor Study indicated a desire to utilize roadways parallel to rather than along Arapahoe Road itself. Widened outside travel lanes as described above will ultimately connect with bicycle improvements along Briarwood Avenue resulting in a parallel bike route from Yosemite to Jordan Road.

Expanded fixed route local transit services recommended in conjunction with the Arapahoe Road Corridor Study will utilize the Yosemite to Costilla connection under I-25 to serve locations south of the interchange, avoiding the interchange itself as existing routes do today via the Yosemite Street overpass.

Figure 18. Preliminary Recommended Interchange Alternative



7.3. Preliminary Funding Package

7.3.1. Preliminary Cost of Recommended Improvement

The costs for the Arapahoe/I-25 interchange improvements, based on the limited conceptual design completed to date, are estimated to be:

Construction cost estimate: \$53.7 million

Design cost estimate: \$8.1 million

Utilities cost estimate: \$1.5 million

NEPA Documentation: \$1.0 million (funded through current TIP)

Construction Management: \$11.3 million

Total: \$75.6 million (not including right of way)

All costs are based on 2006 dollars and do not include maintenance or financing costs. An estimate of probable cost for the recommended improvement is included in **Appendix F**.

Right of way costs for the project will be comprised of three components: full parcel takes (including buildings and businesses), partial parcel takes which may diminish the total value of the property, and partial takes which will not diminish the value of the property. Due to the complexity of determining property and building values, right of way costs are difficult to estimate. At this time, the right of way costs are conceptually estimated to be in the range of \$15 to 30 million.

7.3.2. Proposed Funding Plan

The reconstruction of the Arapahoe/I-25 interchange has long been viewed by the surrounding local governments and the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) as an integral part of the Regional Transportation Plan (see Section 1.5). The 2030 RTP was recently updated to the 2035 plan, which does not include as many projects as contained in the 2030 RTP due to fiscal constraints. This project was part of the 2030 fiscally constrained plan and is included in the new 2035 fiscally-constrained RTP. Therefore, the proposed interchange improvements are eligible for funding in the competitive process of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for allocation of funds under the metropolitan allocation of the Surface Transportation Program (STP-Metro). The DRCOG 2035 fiscally-constrained plan includes \$83 million for this project, which is a combination of local and federal/state funding.

Due to the inherent regional benefits of the project, Arapahoe County will continue to pursue the TIP process for funding a portion of the cost of this project. This feasibility study and other coordination required to initiate the project are being completed as part of the Arapahoe Road Corridor Study. Arapahoe County has obtained current TIP funding for the environmental clearance coordination and documentation for the Arapahoe/I-25 interchange reconstruction (\$1 million). The County will pursue additional TIP funding for portions of the design, right of way acquisition, construction, and construction management efforts. Earmarked funding will also be pursued after the Arapahoe Road/Parker Road interchange is fully funded.

Maintenance costs and agreements on maintenance issues within the interchange area will be negotiated between CDOT and the surrounding communities with a separate Intergovernmental Agreement.

7.4. Project Support

Support for long-term improvements at the Arapahoe/I-25 Interchange has been received from each of the agencies represented as part of the Arapahoe Road Corridor Study. A letter of support from CDOT Region 6 Transportation Director Randy Jensen (dated October 25, 2007) notes that "...CDOT supports evaluating the needs at I-25/Arapahoe Road Interchange as the next priority project along the Corridor...". The City of Greenwood Village adopted a Resolution on October 15, 2007 in support of the Corridor Study recommendations, including the Arapahoe/I-25 interchange improvements.

Formal endorsements and letters of support are also soon expected from the City of Centennial, the City of Aurora, and Arapahoe County.

Appendix A
Existing Traffic Count Data

Appendix B
Existing Operational Analysis

Appendix C
No Build Operational Analysis

Appendix D
Alternatives Operational Analysis

Appendix E
Recommended Alternative Profiles

Appendix F
Estimate of Probable Construction Cost