

PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO PREPARE A PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (PEA)

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) announce their intent to prepare a Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) for proposed projects to repair, replace and relocate roads and bridges that have been damaged by major disasters throughout the State of Colorado. This analysis would be programmatic in nature and not address site-specific impacts, which would be evaluated prior to project approval. The PEA is in response to the 2013 floods, but will also apply to future disasters including floods, tornados, fires, etc.

The PEA is intended to address numerous individual sites where the repair, replacement, restoration and/or relocation of roads and bridges will be required, as appropriate. Sites are located both on and off the federal aid system, and on federal lands managed by other federal agencies (OFA). Work will be accomplished within the existing road right of way (ROW) to the extent practicable, but there likely will be locations where work outside the ROW to meet existing codes and standards, and/or to address conditions that have changed since the original construction, will be warranted. Agencies may provide funds for expansion, enlargement and other upgrades, along with replacement, relocation or changes in materials.

Some specific items of work may include, but will not be limited to:

- Operating equipment within waterways as needed for retrieval of flood debris, roadway material and to allow repair, replacement and relocation of damaged facilities
- Placement of temporary structures, bridges, crossings, utilities, staging areas, access and safety features, as needed during construction
- Repair, replacement and relocation of damaged structures, bridges, roadways, utilities and ancillary facilities such as paths, trails, and bike lanes
- Minor water channel modifications necessary to reestablish embankments and accommodate repair, replacement and relocation of facilities
- Repair, replacement and relocation of culverts, pipes and other drainage structures and crossings
- Repair, replacement and relocation of signals, signs, pavement marking, and safety features such as guardrail, etc.

The majority of the proposed project funding will be provided by FHWA or FEMA, but some funding may be provided by other federal, state and local sources. All federally-funded projects will be completed in compliance with applicable federal, tribal, state and local laws, regulations, etc.

This notice of intent to prepare a PEA for these actions is pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (PL 91-190) and associated environmental statutes, as implemented in FEMA's regulations 44 CFR Part 10 or FHWA's regulations 23 CFR 771. This PEA will address the purpose and need of the proposed projects, project

alternatives considered, affected environment, environmental consequences, and impact mitigation measures. Once completed, the draft PEA will be available for public review and comment. Notice is also published in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as implemented in 36 CFR Part 800; and Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management and Executive Order 11990, Wetlands Protection, as implemented in 44 CFR Part 9; since these actions may have the potential to affect historic, cultural and archaeological resources, floodplains and wetlands.

A comment period related to the proposed actions described above will remain open for 15 days following publication of this notice. Comments will be accepted by the affected public; local, state, and federal agencies; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate environmental impacts of the proposed projects. In addition to this initial comment period, the draft PEA will be available for public review and comment upon completion.

Interested persons may obtain more detailed information about the proposed PEA from or provide written comments to Stephanie Gibson, FHWA – Colorado Division, Environmental Program Manager, Stephanie.Gibson@dot.gov and/or Steven Hardegen, FEMA Region VIII, Regional Environmental Officer, Steven.hardegen@fema.dhs.gov.