

CITY OF COLORADO SPRINGS SOUTH DOWNTOWN RAILROAD UNDERPASS RECONSTRUCTION

May 20, 2020

Purpose

The City of Colorado Springs has initiated a study to determine the best approach for **optimal location** and design of two railroad bridges at the south end of downtown Colorado Springs. The aging bridges over South Nevada Avenue (70 years old) and S. Tejon Street (115 years old) are in **poor condition and** require replacement.





Goals

- Gain understanding of the long-term needs and opportunities for this public infrastructure
- Effectively address railroad operational, maintenance and safety needs
- Maintain and improve traffic operations on Nevada Avenue, Tejon Street, and intersecting streets
- Complete a Quiet Zone study and implement the findings
- Address pedestrian and bicycle connectivity and safety across the railroad tracks
- Design bridges and associated improvements that are compatible with and improve access to surrounding neighborhoods and land uses, and are supportive of development opportunities
- Design bridges and underpasses to be **welcoming and attractive**
- Address **cost effectiveness** to construct and maintain the bridges
- Develop an **improvement program and funding strategy** to provide financing through a combination of City, regional, federal, state and railroad sources
- Develop beneficial internal and external City partnerships
- Inform the public and engage stakeholders potentially impacted by the project

Alternatives Development & Screening Process

| Existing Conditions & Project Purpose Goals | Screening Level 1: Alternatives and Components | Screening Level 2: Comparative Evaluation of Stand Alone Alternatives | Screening Level 3: Detailed Screening Criteria for Evaluation of Stand Alone Alternatives |
|--|--|---|--|
| 1)Project Purpose & Overall Goals 2) Approach 3) Long-Term Needs & Opportunities PURPOSE: Project Initiation | Project Influences Alternative Elements Design Components Objectives PURPOSE: ID range of alts 2) Screen out fatally flawed alternatives | Community and Environmental Consideration Technical Evaluation Economic Impacts and Benefits PURPOSE: Define short list of alternatives Level 2B added for more detail on Alt H (in existing RR ROW) | 1) Detailed Technical Screening Criteria (quantitative evaluation) PURPOSE: 1) Select a preferred alternative for railroad bridge location, Nevada and Tejon street improvements |

Next Steps Design

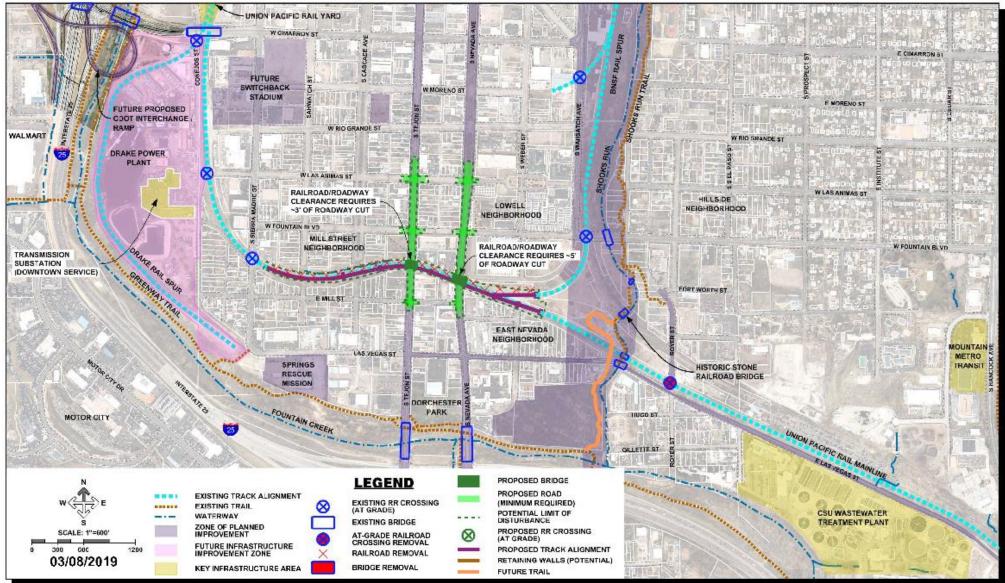
Alternative H (Within Existing RR ROW)



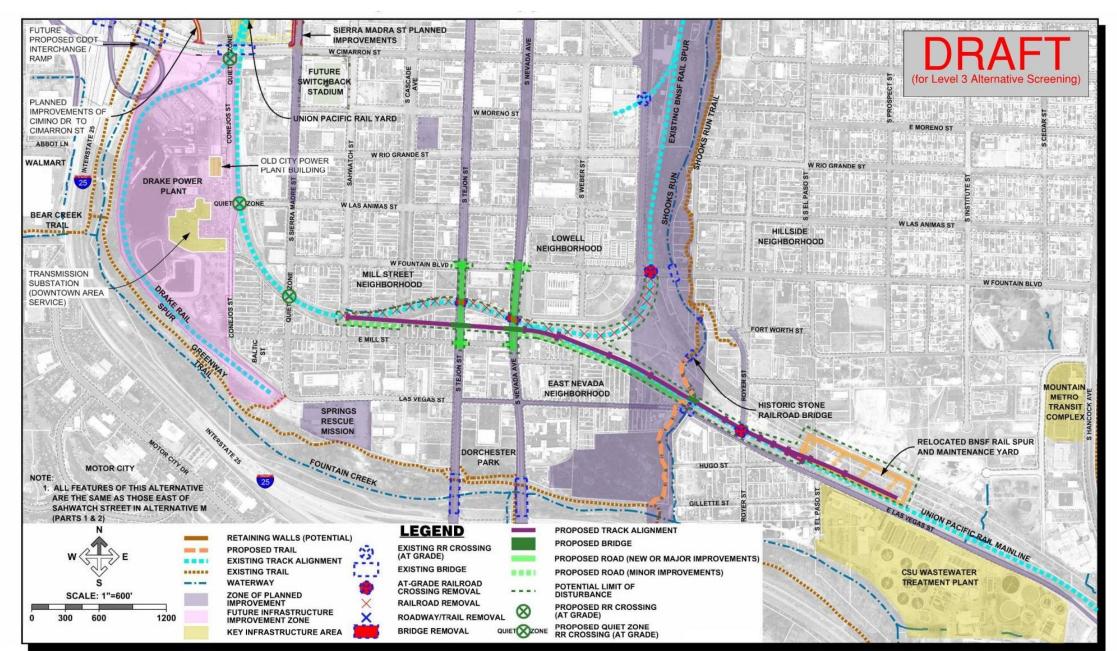
South Downtown Rail Underpass Reconstruction



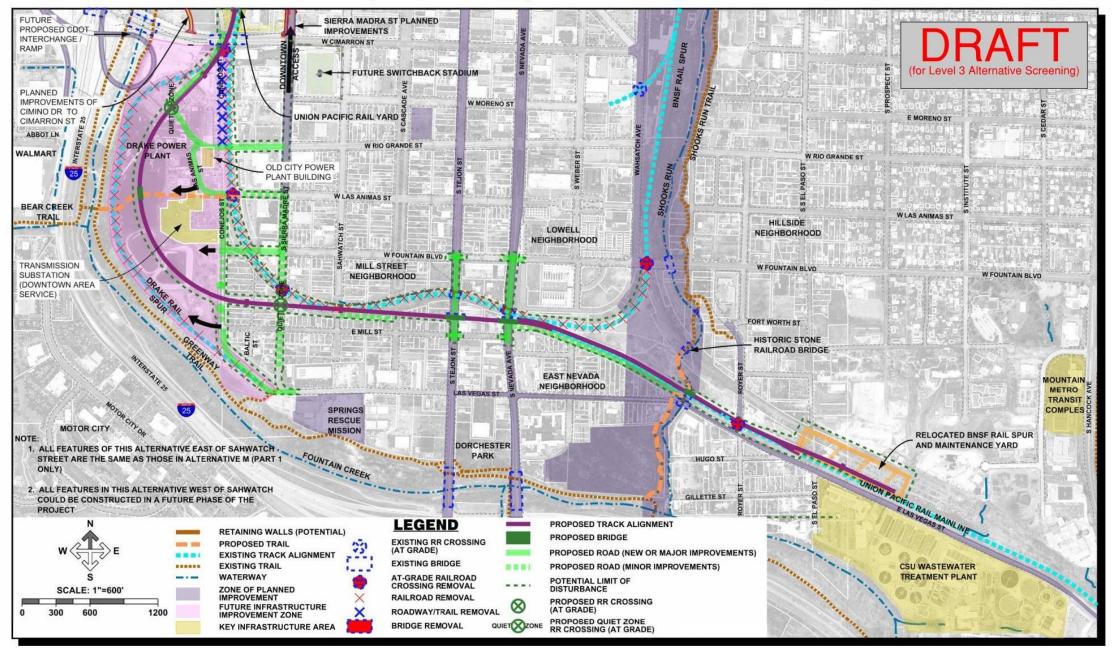
Alternative H - South Shift Alignment A (Inside Existing Railroad Right-of-Way)



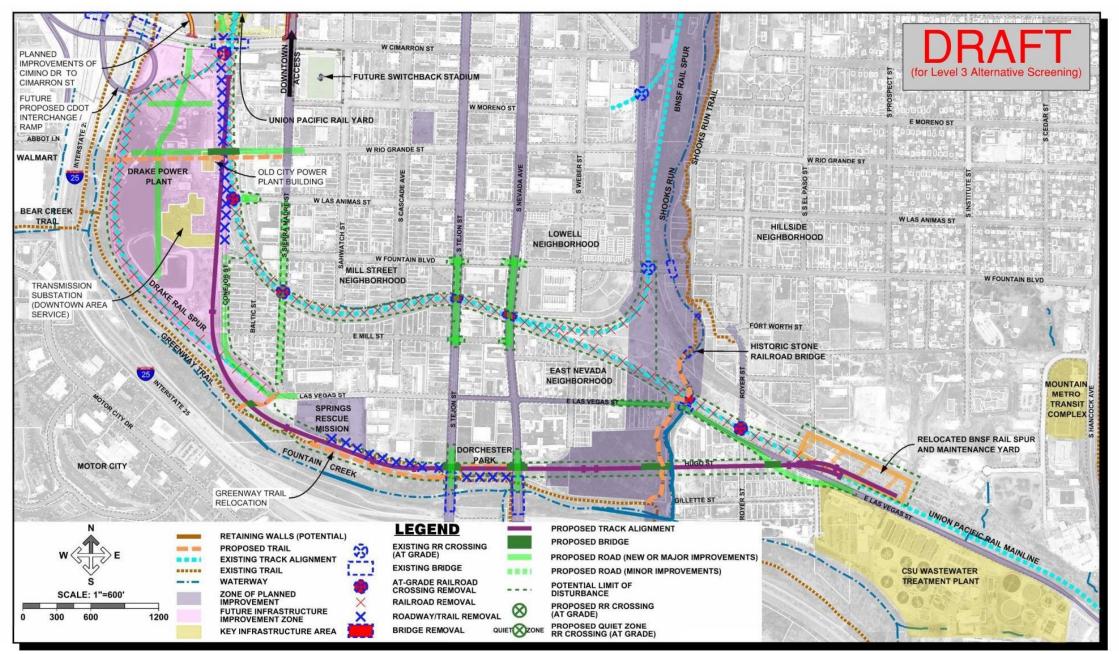
Alternative M1(Part 1 Only)



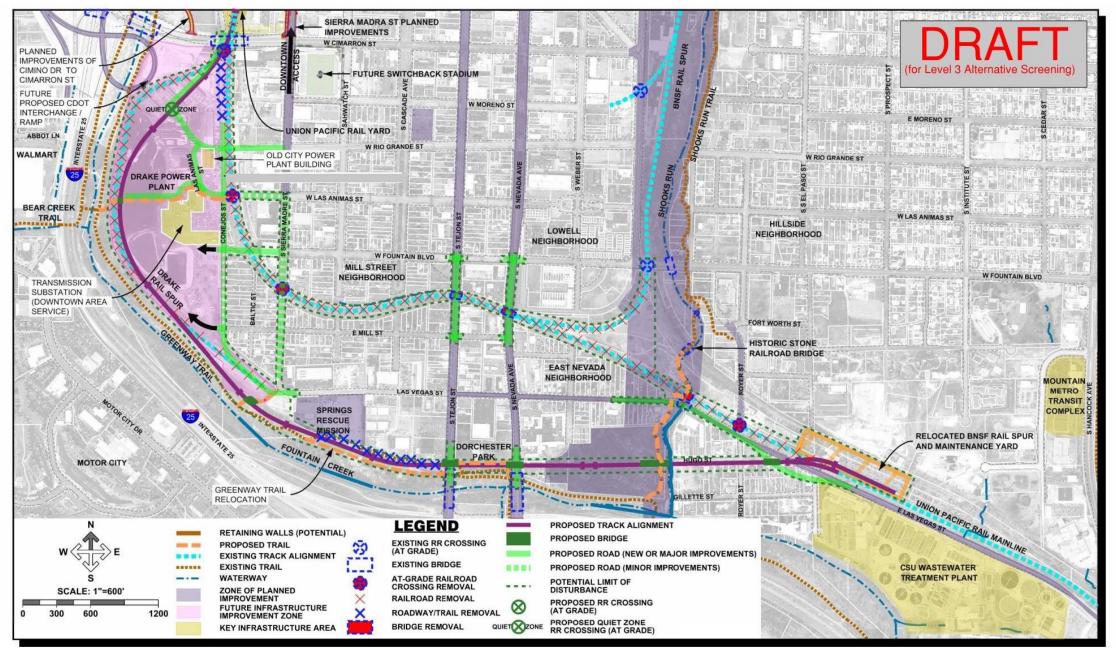
Alternative M (Parts 1 & 2)



Alternative N



Alternative O



Cost Estimates

Alternative H Alternative M1 Alternative M2 Alternative N Alternative O \$53.7 Million \$42.0 Million \$47.0 Million \$111.0 Million \$122.0 Million

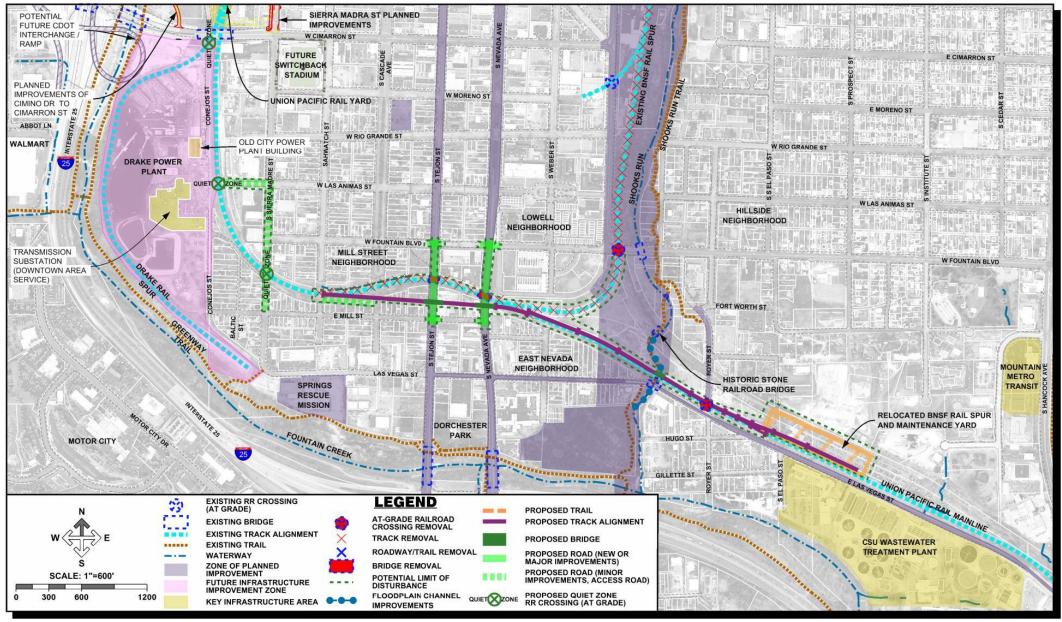


South Downtown Rail Underpass Reconstruction

Preferred Alternative



January 9, 2019



City of Colorado Springs Bridge Replacement Design Services UPRR/BNSF Underpasses – S Nevada & S Tejon



South Downtown Rail Underpass Reconstruction Progress Report - April 2020

PROJECT PLANNING

• Completed Final Planning Reports (copy of Planning Alternatives Evaluation Report attached)

PROJECT COST & FUNDING

- Cost: \$40M to \$48M
- Potential Funding Sources:
 - o BNSF Railway
 - Union Pacific Railroad
 - Local (Requires ballot initiative voter approval)
 - Others? (i.e. Federal Railroad Administration Grant)

PROJECT SCHEDULE

- Preliminary Design:
- 2020
- Local Funding Ballot Initiative:
- Final Design:

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- November 2022
- Construction:
- May be postponed until November 2022 vote No earlier than 2025

WHAT'S INCLUDED IN PROJECT?

- Track Realignment
- Nevada Avenue and Tejon Street Bridge Replacements
- Bike & Pedestrian Safety Improvements Nevada Avenue & Tejon Street
- Quiet Zone At-Grade Crossings Conejos-Las Animas-Sierra Madre
- Shooks Run Bridge Replacements
- Legacy Loop Trail Connection at Shooks Run
- Shooks Run BNSF Yard Relocation
- Other safety/mobility improvements (sidewalks/fencing)

WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW?

- Preliminary Design Roadway/Bridge/Track/Trail Layouts and Plans
- Ongoing City/Railroad Coordination via Skype Conferences

WHAT'S HAPPENING NEXT?

- Engagement activities to resume in line with State COVID-19 social distancing guidelines
- Initial Engagement focus will be one-on-one property owner meetings

