



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
INTERMOUNTAIN REGION
Intermountain Support Office
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H3417 (IMDE-ONR) NHL

JUL 21 2004

Ms. Lisa Schoch
Colorado Department of Transportation
Environmental Programs Branch
4201 East Arkansas Avenue
Denver, CO 80222

Subject: I-25 Environmental Assessment, Project 151077.13.BN
Historic Resources Survey Report, Determinations of Effect

Dear Ms. Schoch:

Thank you for providing us with the material (via email, fax, and telephone conversation) on the proposed undertaking near the Air Force Academy, Cadet Area National Historic Landmark (NHL). As stated in 36 CFR Part 800.10 (c), federal agencies are required to notify the Secretary of the Interior (delegated to the National Park Service) of any consultation involving an undertaking at a National Historic Landmark.

As you indicated in your communication, consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office on this project (per Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act) took place before the Cadet Area was designated an NHL on April 1, 2004. The question that is posed is whether the undertaking may proceed--as the agency and the SHPO agreed during consultation--or whether you should re-open the consultation process.

According to the pages that we received from the Historic Resources Survey Report, Determinations of Effect, the components of the undertaking (the widening of I-25, the construction of the North Gate/Powers interchange, the upgrading of the Baptist Road/I-25 interchange, and the relocation of the Ackerman Overlook) will not affect the built environment in the Cadet Area, due to the great distance between I-25 and these buildings. It appears from the study that the impact from the North Gate/Powers Interchange was lessened as a result of the design charrette involving stakeholders, which developed an acceptable interchange design for the area.

In addition, the draft Memorandum of Agreement specifies that at the North Gate Interchange, "CDOT will maintain the interstate and its ramps at or below the existing centerline grade to lessen the possibility of viewing them from high vantage points within the Academy property, including the Cadet and Academic areas."

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We believe that the analysis of impacts to the Cadet Area, and the mitigation measures detailed in the MOA, adequately addressed the impacts to the Air Force Academy, Cadet Area NHL. Thus, we do not propose re-opening the Section 106 consultation process regarding the I-25 undertaking.

We appreciate your interest in preserving our nation's historic resources. If you have any questions, please contact call me at (303) 969-2842.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lysa Wegman-French". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lysa Wegman-French, Historian
Heritage Partnerships Program

cc:

Amy Pallante, State Historic Preservation Office,
Carol Legard, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, 12136 West Bayaud, Room 330,
Lakewood, CO 80228

