

Table 3-29. Summary of Critical Issues and Environmental Impacts - Comparison of Alternatives

Component/Receptor	No Action Alternative	F-Modified	K1	Preferred Alternative L	Least Impacting Build (Action) Alternative
Construction costs	N/A	\$47.4 million; span lengths of 185 to 210 feet	\$38.7 million; span lengths of 148 to 210 feet	\$40 million; span lengths of 167 to 202 feet	K1
Right-of-way acquisition costs	N/A	9 commercial lots, ranch property, reclaimed gravel quarry > \$98, 444.	9 commercial, ranch property, reclaimed gravel quarry >\$91,430.	2 parcels (commercial and county), ranch property, reclaimed gravel quarry > \$338,876 .	K1
Traffic Analysis	Decreased LOS and increased safety problems on US 6	No at-grade intersections LOS improved on US 6	No at-grade intersections LOS improved on US 6	1 at-grade intersection; LOS improved on US 6; less congestion at intersection of Cooley Mesa Road and US 6	Similar; L best reduces congestion and improves safety
Air quality	Gradual decrease could cause nonattainment by 2025	Improvement	Improvement	Improvement	No difference among action alternatives
Noise	Gradual increase of 10–11 dB(A) by 2025	Gradual increase of 10–11 dB(A) at 15 commercial properties by 2025; average 6.6 dB(A) increase at residential properties	Gradual increase of 10–11 dB(A) at 14 commercial properties by 2025; average 6.6 dB(A) increase at residential properties	Gradual increase of 10–11 dB(A) at 1 commercial property by 2025; average 5.8 dB(A) increase at residential properties	L
Socioeconomics	Less opportunity for new jobs	Potential loss of business in Eagle-Gypsum; more jobs during construction and higher land development rate near airport	Potential loss of business in Eagle-Gypsum; more jobs during construction and higher land development rate near airport	Potential loss of business in Eagle-Gypsum; more jobs during construction and higher land development rate near airport	No difference
Environmental justice	No issues	No issues	No issues	No issues	No difference
Land use	Development as platted	Requires new, circuitous access to commercial properties	Requires new, circuitous access to commercial properties	No access restrictions	L
Right-of-way	No issues	0.956 acre of 9 parcels at Cooley Mesa Road 1.084 acres of private ranch property 0.662 acre of BLM land 0.008 reclaimed gravel quarry	0.956 acre of 9 parcels at Cooley Mesa Road 0.917 acre of private ranch property 0.013 acre of BLM land 0.008 reclaimed gravel quarry	6.098 acres of 2 parcels at Cooley Mesa Road (county and commercial) 0.059 of private ranch property 3.006 acres of BLM land 0.024 reclaimed gravel quarry	L for number of parcels K1 for total acreage
Recreation	No issues	No issues	No issues	No issues	No difference
Prime farmland	No issues	No issues	No issues	No issues	No difference
Visual resources	No issues	Strong visual contrast would result from addition of 125-foot structural elements into setting and changes in landform from grading of cut and fill slopes. Changes would occur within foreground views of residence, recreation sites, and travelways, resulting in high impacts.	Strong visual contrast would result from addition of 120-foot structural elements into setting and changes in landform from grading of cut and fill slopes. Changes would occur within foreground views of residence, recreation sites, and travelways, resulting in high impacts.	Slightly less visual contrast would result from addition of 90-foot bridge into setting and changes in landform from grading of cut and fill slopes, especially at I-70. Changes would occur within foreground views of residence, recreation sites, and travelways, resulting in high impacts.	L
Hazardous materials	None known	None known	None known	None known	No difference
Section 4(f)/6(f) properties	No issues	No issues	No issues	No issues	No difference
Historic properties	No issues	May affect one NRHP-eligible, and one “need data” property	May affect two “need data” properties	Would not affect any known historic properties	L
Paleontology	No issues	No issues	No issues	No issues	No difference
Vegetation	No issues	Permanent loss (5.81 acres); temporary disturbance (3.41 acres); total land cover loss 9.22 acres.	Permanent vegetation loss (5.01 acres); temporary disturbance (3.40 vegetative acres); total land cover loss 8.41 acres.	Permanent vegetation loss (37.56 acres); temporary disturbance (5.92 vegetative acres); total land cover loss 43.48 acres.	K1
Aquatic habitat	No issues	Largest area of river substrate disturbed	Second largest disturbance of river substrate	Little substrate disturbed	L
Wildlife	No issues	Permanent loss (10.65 acres); temporary disturbance 6.06 acres	Permanent loss (9.41 acres); temporary disturbance 6.71 acres	Permanent loss (24.50 acres); temporary disturbance 6.16 acres	K1
Wildlife crossings	Small crossing remains partially filled	Temporary disturbance but potential improvement of small crossing; construction may indirectly affect Cottonwood Creek crossing	Temporary disturbance but potential improvement of small crossing; construction may indirectly affect Cottonwood Creek crossing	Temporary disturbance of small crossing but potential to improve it	No difference for small crossing; L best avoids Cottonwood Creek crossing
Raptor nests	No issues	Construction-related impacts on 6 nests	Loss of 1 nest; construction-related impacts on 6 nests	Construction-related impacts on 7 nests	F-Modified
TES species	No issues	Minimal disturbance of bald eagle winter foraging habitat; minimal loss of suitable leopard frog and Harrington beardtongue habitats	Minimal disturbance of bald eagle winter foraging habitat; minimal loss of suitable leopard frog and Harrington beardtongue habitats	Minimal disturbance of bald eagle winter foraging habitat; minimal loss of suitable leopard frog and Harrington beardtongue habitats	No difference
Wetlands	No issues	0.03 acre permanent loss, 1.59 acre temporary	0.03 acre permanent loss, 1.71 acre temporary	0.03 acre permanent loss, 1.45 acre temporary	L best for temporary impacts; similar permanent impacts
Floodplains	No issues	Three piers in flood fringe; 100-yr flood may increase 0.5 ft	Three piers in flood fringe; 100-yr flood may increase 0.5 ft	Two piers in flood fringe; 100-yr flood may increase 0.5 ft	Few differences but L less floodplain loss
Water resources	No issues	Largest permanent disturbance in 100-year floodplain, may contribute to temporary erosion and sedimentation into river	Second largest permanent disturbance in 100-year floodplain, temporary erosion and sedimentation into river	Least permanent disturbance in 100-year floodplain, may contribute to temporary erosion and sedimentation into river	Few differences; L best for less floodplain disturbances
Geology and soils	No issues	Erosive soils encountered	Erosive soils encountered	Debris flow and erosive soils encountered	F-Modified or K1

= Greatest impact level     
  = Intermediate impact level     
  = Least impact level