

# Environmental

## ◆ What environmental studies were performed for the project?

- Biological resources assessment with US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) focused on the presence of noxious weeds, wetlands, migratory nesting birds, and threatened/endangered species habitat
- Wetland delineation through US Army Corps of Engineers will result in a permit for work at Antelope Creek
- Analysis of the project through the National Historic Preservation Act

## ◆ What did the studies conclude?

- No federally threatened or endangered species (including the Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse) are anticipated to be impacted due to the project
- Additionally, the proposed wetland mitigation is appropriate and there are no historic sites requiring preservation

## Environmental (con't)

- ◆ **Why didn't the City perform a full National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) study?**
  - ◆ Environmental Impact Studies (EIS) or Environmental Assessments (EA) are required for federally funded projects
    - The Arapahoe Road project is 100% locally funded, so there is no federal money to offset the additional cost of the assessment or the additional construction recommendations
    - The planning process is lengthy and expensive in its own right, and the recommendations that come out of the study may add 30% or more to the overall project cost
  
- ◆ **Is the project providing any noise mitigation?**
  - The City has offered adjacent property owners a choice between roadside enhancements (trees, or a berm, or an 8' vinyl privacy fence)
  - Each option creates a visual barrier between adjacent properties and the new roadway which has the added benefit of providing some mitigation of roadway noise
  
- ◆ **How will the project provide water quality for the roadway?**
  - Large underground vaults will be installed that separate the storm water with the accumulated sediments and pollutants
  - These underground vaults will receive continual maintenance by the Southeast Metro Stormwater Authority (SEMSWA) to remove the sediment and pollutants

# ARAPAHOE - Waco to Himalaya Environmental Impacts

