



I-25/Cimarron Interchange Design-Build Project



eNewsletter

Colorado Department of Transportation

August 2017

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Please forward/share this email with others who may have an interest in the I-25/Cimarron Interchange project.

A Push Towards Completion



The end is near for the I-25/Cimarron Interchange Design-Build project. In a few months, traffic shifts, trail detours and overnight full closures will be a thing of the past for this project.

"The project team continues to maintain the quality and schedule during the final push toward completion of the project," said Kassie Watson, Kraemer project manager. "We are focused on continuing to minimize inconvenience to the public while still safely protecting both the public and our crews. Thanks to everyone for your patience while we implement the final phase."

Prior to project completion this December, activities that warrant occasional, minor traffic impacts remain.

Overnight closures are expected on I-25 and Cimarron Street/US 24 to prepare for and conduct Stone Mix Asphalt (SMA) paving operations through the end of August. SMA paving is used on high-volume interstates throughout the U.S. SMA has, on average, 70 to 80 percent coarse aggregate in the mix, which provides better stone-to-stone contact and improves rut resistance and durability.

After SMA paving, final lane striping will be placed as well. To do so, overnight full closures on I-25 and Cimarron Street/US 24 will also be required. In addition the Colorado Avenue bridge maintenance work will be completed.

Final aesthetics and drainage work will continue through the end

Project Schedule

- Phase 0 Construction (offline): complete
- Phase 1 Construction (mainline work): completed Fall 2016
- Phase 2 Construction: Late 2016 to Summer 2017
- Operationally complete: Dec. 1, 2017

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Website:

[Colorado Info Project](#)

Email:

dot_i25Cimarron@state.co.us

Hotline: (719) 302-6781

To receive project updates and construction notices, send an email to:

dot_i25Cimarron@state.co.us

Quick Links

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Prioritized Project Goals

Project goals were established and approved by the Executive Oversight Committee. The goals provide direction to the project team and to the design-build contractor team.

Project Goals

1. Maximize overall safety, capacity and operation of the interchange and the surrounding transportation network within the Project budget;
2. Complete Project construction to be fully operational December 2017;
3. Minimize impacts and inconvenience to the community, motorists, businesses, downtown and the public during construction; and
4. Achieve an aesthetically pleasing design compatible with current and future amenities and enhancements in and around the interchange.

Project Partners

- Colorado Department of Transportation
- Federal Highway Administration
- City of Colorado Springs
- El Paso County
- The Community

What the Project Involves

of the project and may require intermittent lane restrictions. Some of these activities include:

- Storm drainage outfalls and inlet tie-ins
- Irrigation system installation
- Concrete staining
- Landscaping/seedling

The paved section of Pikes Peak Greenway Trail at America The Beautiful Park, east of Fountain Creek, is currently closed through mid-September for bridge work. The gravel section of the Pikes Peak Greenway Trail, west of Fountain Creek, remains open, but users are encouraged to watch for flaggers along the trail. Please do not remove barricades around biking and walking areas. This is for your protection as well as for that of the construction workers.

Additional stream and trail improvements will continue. All trails will open this winter.

With a final push to completion there will be more construction activity. Drivers are Urged to Slow Down and Pay Attention

- Speed reduction to 30 mph on US 24/Cimarron Street between 8th Street and I-25 (westbound and eastbound)
- Speed reduction to 55 mph on I-25 between South Nevada Avenue/Tejon Street and Cimarron/US 24 (northbound and southbound)
- Speed reduction to 45 mph on I-25 from Cimarron/US 24 to Bijou Street (northbound and southbound)
- Speed reduction to 30 mph on US 24/Cimarron Street between 8th Street and I-25 (westbound and eastbound)
- Pay close attention when driving near the I-25/Cimarron Project.
- Do not follow too closely. Allow proper distance between vehicles.
- Slow down, observe speed limits, avoid distractions, and allow extra time for your commute.
- Alternative route advised.

Community Leader Project Tour - July 2017

"I'm really excited about the pedestrian bridges and trails. This is such a better experience. The previous Midland Trail was dark and narrow under I-25. This entire trail experience may step up the interest in volunteering with friends groups."
Susan Davies, Executive Director, Trails and Open Space Coalition



Planned improvements include reconstructing I-25 between Colorado Avenue (to the north) and the Nevada Avenue/Tejon Street interchange (to the south), and include a continuous northbound travel lane between the south Nevada Avenue/ Tejon Street interchange and the Cimarron interchange. Project boundaries on Cimarron are between 8th Street to the west and the Cimarron bridge over Fountain Creek to the east. Once construction is complete in 2017, the project will provide:

- Improved interstate and interchange operations and safety;
- Improved highway alignment and improved ramps, acceleration/ deceleration lanes for increased vehicle storage and safety;
- New I-25 bridge structures;
- New connection between 8th Street and Cimarron Street;
- Improved trail connectivity and aesthetic treatments.
- Reconstruction of approximately 2,100 feet of Upper Fountain Creek, enhancing stream habitat.

"The pedestrian bridges look wonderful. It will be nice to have these pedestrian bridges and connectivity in place for the annual "Bike To Work" event. The locals will love the new quadrant intersection."

*Susan Edmondson, Executive Director
Downtown Partnership*



"It's really great that the project incorporated the large engraved stones from the old bank building demolished years ago into the landscaping."

Dan Stuart, former Transportation Commissioner

Project Milestone: I-25 Bridge Over US 24/Cimarron Street in Final Configuration



Progress Photos (July 2017)



On Aug. 2, the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) opened both sides of the Interstate-25 bridge over US 24/ Cimarron Street and placed traffic on new, permanent I-25 pavement. Traffic is now in its final configuration, marking a major project milestone and moving the project into Phase 3, final construction. The project is on schedule to be fully operational before Dec 1, 2017.

The new I-25 bridge at Cimarron Street/US 24 consists of three girder segments of varying lengths, that when spliced together with post tensioned cables, creates an efficient two-span bridge with roughly a 200-foot primary span and a 170-foot secondary span. The process maximizes the length of the bridge span and eliminates the need for a another pier, which would





otherwise need to be constructed in the middle of US 24/Cimarron Street.

The new I-25 bridge at Cimarron Street/US 24, over Fountain Creek, was constructed as a full-width structure and provides CDOT and the City of Colorado Springs many immediate and future safety, capacity and operational benefits.

"There will continue to be traffic impacts as we approach project completion," said Dave Watt, CDOT project manager. "We understand this is inconvenient for the traveling public and appreciate their patience and cooperation."

Another Milestone: 8th Street/US 24 Quadrant Intersection Open



The new 8th Street Quadrant Intersection opened July 21. The Quadrant Intersection will take getting used to for motorists traveling in the area. The quadrant and the entire interchange has been designed to properly function once the project is complete. The project team continuously works with the City of Colorado Springs Traffic Department to monitor and adjust signal timing as needed to improve the flow of traffic.

Once the project is complete, this innovative addition will significantly reduce the amount of conflicting traffic at the US 24/8th Street intersection by spreading the traffic out," said Dave Watt,



CDOT project manager. Adding the new US 24/8th Street connection is anticipated to accommodate 20 percent more weekday rush hour traffic capacity and 40 percent more weekend rush hour traffic capacity in this area overall. The additional connection will accommodate long-term traffic demands and reduce congestion-related accidents."

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Colorado Place - Business Feedback about Quadrant Intersection

Billy's Old World Pizza - Jim (Owner)

"At 5 p.m. the traffic is crazy going to I-25. Customers are happy with the new connection. The new connection will help business and property values. I appreciate everything the project team is doing to help us out. The new connection is a life saver."



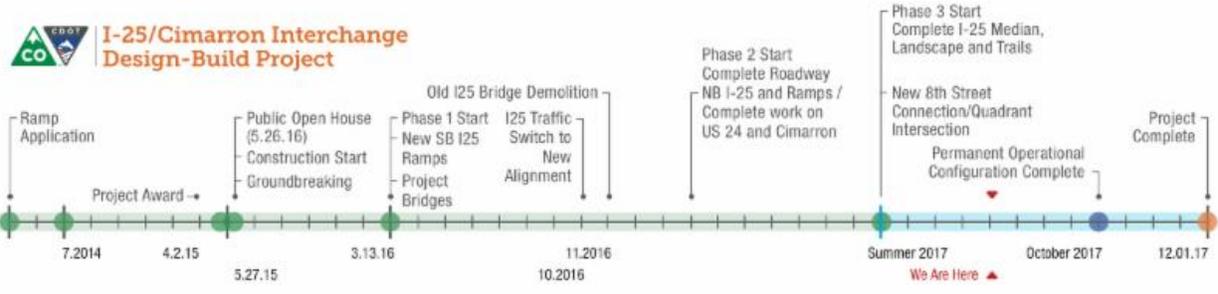
Xtivia - Melina Tricarico (Human Resources Director)

"I love the new connection. It's much easier to get out of the parking lot now. Before I felt like I was risking my life by turning onto 8th Street. Wonderful!"

8th Street Lounge

"The timing of the traffic lights seems off."

*The project team and the City of Colorado Springs continues to monitor and adjust the timing of the traffic lights to try to improve traffic flow. Please keep in mind that the quadrant and the entire interchange has been designed to properly function once the project is complete.



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