



I-25/Cimarron Interchange Design-Build Project



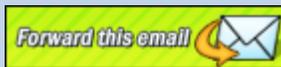
eNewsletter ▶

Colorado Department of Transportation

December 2017

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

With the I-25/Cimarron Interchange Design-Build Project now substantially complete this is the last issue of the project eNewsletter.

Community Celebrates I-25/Cimarron Interchange Project Completion



CDOT Thanks the Community for Cooperation and Patience.

The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) thanks and recognizes the numerous agencies, staff, and community organizations that played significant roles in the success of the Interstate-25/Cimarron Interchange reconstruction project. We also thank the Project Partners:

- City of Colorado Springs
- El Paso County
- Federal Highway Administration
- Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments

"Numerous community members also gave valuable time to provide input on the project goals and aesthetics. We thank those individuals and organizations for your contributions, as well as local businesses, residents and the traveling public for your patience and cooperation throughout construction," said Dave Watt, CDOT project director. "Special recognition goes to the Design-Build contractor team of Kraemer North America and TSH. Your outstanding work and contribution to the project helped assure it was delivered on-time and on-budget."

Without everyone involved, all working together collaboratively fulfilling their role, a project like this would not be the success it is.

Project Schedule

- Phase 0 Construction (offline): complete
- Phase 1 Construction (mainline work): completed Fall 2016
- Phase 2 Construction: Late 2016 to Summer 2017
- Project complete: December 2017

Quick Links

- [Project Website](#)
- [CDOT Website](#)

Prioritized Project Goals

Project goals were established and approved by the Executive Oversight Committee. The goals provided 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
- Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments
- The Community

Interstate-25/Cimarron Interchange Exceeds Expectations

Community Celebrates with Ribbon Cutting Ceremony



From left to right: CDOT Executive Director Michael Lewis, Mayor John Suthers and Transportation Commissioner Rocky Scott

The Colorado of Transportation (CDOT) and contractor, Kraemer North America, joined with the community in celebrating completion of the second largest transportation project in the Pikes Peak region's history, the I-25/Cimarron Interchange Design-Build Project, with a ribbon cutting ceremony Oct. 26 at America The Beautiful Park.

CDOT Region 2 Transportation Director (RTD) Karen Rowe welcomed guests and recognized the numerous agencies, staff and community organizations that played significant roles in the success of this project. "As a transportation community, we challenged this team.



CDOT Region 2 Transportation Director Karen Rowe

We believe they have absolutely met these project goals, and in many ways, have exceeded expectations," said Rowe. "They came through in a big way, largely due to great partnerships between all involved and with what is an excellent Design-Build Team of Kraemer North America, the contractor, and Tsiouvaras Simmons Holderness (TSH), the design firm. CDOT, the citizens and the traveling public are the beneficiaries of this good work."

The \$115 million project (including landscaping) was fully funded by multiple federal, state, RAMP (Responsible Acceleration of Maintenance and Partnerships), local federal Metro funds, and local sources, including local match funding from the City of Colorado Springs and El Paso County.

What the Project Involved

Improvements included reconstructing I-25 between Colorado Avenue (to the north) and the Nevada Avenue/Tejon Street interchange (to the south), and a continuous northbound travel lane between the south Nevada Avenue/Tejon Street interchange and the Cimarron interchange. Project boundaries on Cimarron: between 8th Street to the west and the Cimarron bridge over Fountain Creek to the east.

Tour of New Trail Facilities

A 2.0 mile (one way) route for bicyclists and pedestrians alike enables a close-up experience of some of the new trails around the I-25/Cimarron Interchange project.

Depart from Acacia Park, in the heart of Downtown Colorado Springs. Follow the proposed alignment for the cycling infrastructure that will connect downtown-proper to the Pikes Peak Greenway. The trip is along the west side of Monument Creek, where the City of Colorado Springs Parks & Rec Phase 1 project of Legacy Loop is focused, through historic Monument Valley Park by the pool, pickleball courts, Demonstration and Heritage Gardens, the old Van Briggie building and on to Legacy Loop Plaza (on Recreation Way just off the I-25/Fontanero Street exit). Once arriving at Legacy Loop Plaza, head south via the on-street bike lanes along North Spruce Street and then Walnut Street to access the north side of the new Midland Trail connection and gateway created as part of the I-25/Cimarron Interchange reconstruction project.

"This project is a shining example of how CDOT is successfully delivering transportation solutions to our customers within the state of Colorado," said CDOT Executive Director Michael Lewis. "The I-25/Cimarron Interchange has been designed and constructed to provide the region and traveling public improved transportation operations, safety and so much more with the aesthetics and trails/creek improvements," said Lewis.

Improvements made as a part of this project include:

- A reconstructed Interstate-25 providing an improved highway alignment and ramps, acceleration/ deceleration lanes and shoulders for better I-25 operations;
- Reconstructed new and wider I-25 bridge structures;
- Enhancements of the interchange traffic flow, sight distances, and safety operations;
- A new connection between 8th Street and US 24 providing up to 40 percent improvement in traffic capacity in that area;
- Better trail connections, improved water quality, and aesthetic enhancements; and
- Reconstruction of approximately 2,100 feet of Upper Fountain Creek, enhancing stream habitat.



Former Transportation Commissioner Dan Stuart and CDOT's Dave Watt tour the project.

During the ribbon cutting event, students and alumni from the Colorado Springs Conservatory led the singing of the National Anthem and delighted the crowd of 200 with its original rendition of the ["Ballad of the I-25/Cimarron Interchange"](#). Cutting the ribbon officially opening the new trails under the interchange, were five bicyclists representing the project's local Working Team Stakeholders and Aesthetics/Trails/Parks Committee, as well the many members of the community and future generations who will enjoy this interchange and the trails/creeks for years to come. Bicycle riders

included: Allen Beauchamp/Bicycle Colorado Springs, Kate Brady/City of Colorado Springs Bicycle Planner, Susan Davies/Trails and Open Space Coalition, Ross Williams/El Paso County Parks Planner, and Kara Winger/Olympian. In addition to

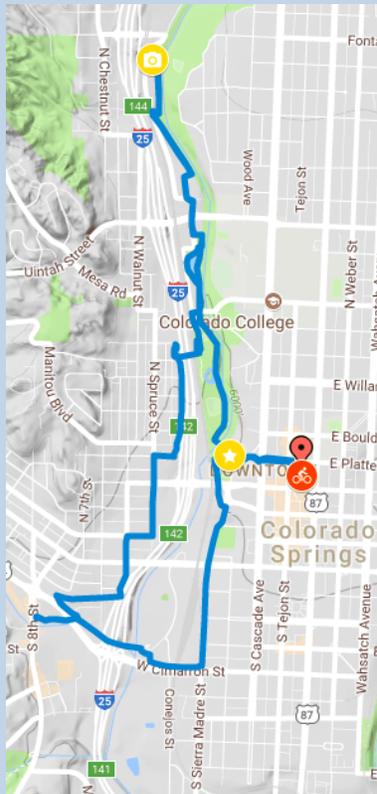


CDOT's Michael Lewis, other speakers included Transportation Commissioner Rocky Scott, Federal Highway Administration's John Cater, El Paso County Commissioner Stan VanderWerf and City of Colorado Springs Mayor John Suthers.

Return to America the Beautiful Park via the newest two-way protected cycle-track recently installed on the Cimarron Avenue Bridge.

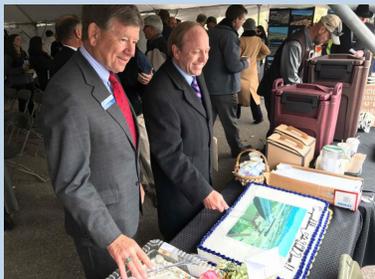
The total distance is seven miles and takes about an hour by bicycle, or longer by foot, to complete.

-- provided courtesy of Bike Colorado Springs



[Click here](#) to enlarge map.

I-25 Interchange Ribbon Cutting Event - Oct. 26



Mayor Suthers extended gratitude to the project team -- "This project epitomizes how our collective transportation funding and a commitment to work together results in an end product that benefits everyone," he said. "The I-25/Cimarron interchange, with its impressive new look and overall improved safety and capacity, has given us a new Gateway into the City of Colorado Springs as well as to the towns and mountains to the west. The creek and trail improvements are a successful example of how to make transportation infrastructure function well for vehicle traffic, also useable to citizens for other modes of transportation (walking/biking), which supports the city brand as an outdoor recreation destination. I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to all who went above and beyond to deliver to our citizens an interchange of which we and future generations can all be very proud."



[Click here](#) to view a short video of the I-25/Cimarron Interchange Ribbon Cutting Event.

Pearl Harbor Veteran Jim Downing Honored with Interstate-25/Cimarron Bridge Dedication



Earlier in October, the I-25/Cimarron Interchange Bridge was officially dedicated in honor of Colorado Springs resident Lt. Jim Downing, recognizing his heroism in service to the country. Lt. Downing is a WWII veteran, Pearl Harbor survivor, original member of the Colorado Springs-based ministry [The Navigators](#), and [Guinness World Records](#) "oldest male author."

Sponsored by Colorado House Representatives Dan Nordberg and Tony Exum, along with Senators Bob Gardner and Michael Merrifield, House Resolution 17-1031 unanimously passed the



Aerial Photos



Lt. Downing Dedication Event

legislature May 9, 2017. The Navigators sponsored a dedication ceremony Oct. 20 at America the Beautiful Park. "The I-25 bridge over Cimarron Street/US 24 is the gateway to Colorado Springs, and that's why it is so fitting that it be named in honor of a man who exemplifies the values of our city," said Representative Nordberg. "Jim's faith in God, love of country, and commitment to helping others should serve as an example to all of us and embodies why his is truly the greatest generation," he said.

At age 104, Lt. Downing is the second oldest known Pearl Harbor survivor, honored for his role in the aftermath of the infamous attack. As a crew member of the USS West Virginia that fateful morning, Jim memorized the names of fallen comrades to notify their families that their sons died as heroes. His recent book, *The Other Side of Infamy*, shares his life story with a new generation.

"This is an honor, and I gratefully accept it on behalf of all those who have served our country," Jim Downing says. "This bridge is a beautiful reminder to me of the most important bridge in my life--the bridge God has provided between earth and heaven."



CDOT Project Director Dave Watt and Lt. James Downing

The sign designating the name of the bridge was donated by Road Side (materials) and Work Zone Traffic Control (labor). Both were subcontractors on the I-25/Cimarron Interchange Design-Build project. [Click here](#) to view the Lt. Downing Bridge Dedication event.

Shining Example of Partnering



Previous Interchange Configuration -- BEFORE



Landscaping



Old bank building (located at the corner of Pikes Peak and Tejon) stones uncovered during



Completed Project Configuration -- AFTER

"A safe and efficient transportation system is one of the most important benefits CDOT provides our region," said Transportation Commissioner Rocky Scott. "The I-25/Cimarron Interchange Design-Build Project is a shining example of how partnering between our transportation agencies, local jurisdictions and the community contributes to the successful design and construction of massive infrastructure projects," said Scott.

When CDOT launched the RAMP program (Responsible Acceleration of Maintenance and Partnerships (RAMP) in November 2012, it was to expedite the implementation of projects and solicit partnerships in transportation. The Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments (PPACG), along with El Paso County and the City of Colorado Springs, joined CDOT in submitting a RAMP application to fund the \$115 million interchange project. "This kind of collaboration is an outstanding example of how to fund impactful projects that benefit the entire region," said CDOT Project Director Dave Watt.

CDOT and the project team involved agency partners and numerous community stakeholders during the early stages of design and kept them involved with regular project updates and communication throughout the duration of construction. Since 2013, stakeholders from throughout the area provided input to the project team that helped establish the prioritized project goals, define aesthetic treatments, contribute to trail/creek enhancements and suggest optimal maintenance of traffic during construction.

Additional examples the project team's partnering include extensive work by Colorado Springs Utilities to relocate utility lines, the Colorado Springs Police Department's Homeless Outreach Team working to address issues with homeless individuals in the area, close coordination of construction impacts to the numerous businesses surrounding the project area, and ongoing collaboration with the bicycle community to identify and maintain appropriate detours during reworking of the trail system.

project construction were repurposed as part of the project landscaping.



New pedestrian bridge. Photo credit: Bike Colorado Springs

What's Next

"CDOT continues to work on additional projects throughout the Pikes Peak Region. We will be working on I-25 Rockrimmon bridge and surface treatment maintenance, US 24 intersection safety enhancements, cable rail improvements between Fountain and Pueblo, and I-25 flood recovery repair at Monument," said CDOT Program Manager Mark Andrew. "Motorists will also see work begin on the I-25 Gap project."

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