

# US 34 BIG THOMPSON CANYON

## BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

February 2010

### Project Overview

In mid-November 2009, the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) began a bridge replacement project on US 34 between milepost 65.4 and 66.3. The project will replace two structurally deficient bridges that were originally constructed in 1937. SEMA Construction, Inc. is the contractor of this \$3.8 million project scheduled to be complete by the end of May 2010.

### What Work has Taken Place?

Starting on February 3rd and continuing through February 10th, crews demolished and replaced the upper bridge located at milepost 65.4. The full closure of US 34 was scheduled to take place for 12 days, but the contractor worked nearly 24 hours a day in order to reopen US 34 four days early.



*Crews demolish the existing steel truss bridge. The truss will be incorporated into the Town of Estes Park trail system.*

### When's the Next Full Closure?

The contractor has decided not to move the second closure up a week. The next full closure of US 34 is still scheduled to take place on **March 1st through March 12th**, weather permitting. The designated detour route takes motorists to State Highway 66 and over to US 36 to avoid heavy traffic and large loads on local roads. However, residents will still be able to use local roads as a detour route, as they see fit.

For a list of frequently asked questions regarding the closure, please visit <http://www.coloradodot.info/projects/us-34-truss-bridges/frequently-asked-questions.html>.

### What Work Remains After the Second Closure

Following the second closure in March, crews will install the remaining drainage structures and pave the roadway in asphalt. The paving cannot take place until warmer temperatures return. Other minor work includes staining the concrete on the new bridges and installing the guardrail. During the last two months of construction, motorists can expect single-lane alternating traffic during daytime hours, Monday through Friday.

### What is the Timeline for the Project?

Contractor Begins Construction – Mid-November 2009  
First Closure of US 34- Early February 2010  
Second Closure of US 34- Early March 2010  
Final Work- April 2010 to Memorial Day 2010  
Construction Complete – By Memorial Day 2010

### Questions?

If you have questions about the project, please contact Mindy Crane at [mindy.crane@dot.state.co.us](mailto:mindy.crane@dot.state.co.us) or 303-757-9469. You can also call the project hotline at 970-685-0229. Please visit us on the Web at <http://www.coloradodot.info/projects/us-34-truss-bridges>.



*Crews worked 24 hours a day during the closure in order to reopen US 34 to traffic four days early. This particular photo show crews working on the new bridge deck.*

