



I-25 SOUTH GAP PROJECT DEPLOYS SMART WORK ZONE TECHNOLOGY

Innovative work zone technology aims to keep motorists safe and informed

The I-25 South Gap corridor is one of the busiest in the state, carrying more than 80,000 vehicles on average every day. To ensure these drivers—and our crews—get home safely, the I-25 South Gap project team is on the cutting edge of technology. Smart Work Zone technology will help increase safety and maintain traffic flow through this vital transportation corridor.

The I-25 South Gap is using Smart Work Zone technology in the following ways:

1. Truck warning system

- With an average of three trucks delivering and/or picking up material every five minutes daily throughout the 18-mile work zone, the I-25 South Gap project team wants to warn drivers about trucks entering/exiting the highway. To do so, a sensor is attached to a portable sign in the work zone. When a construction truck passes the sensor, a variable message board (pictured to the right)



farther back in the corridor is triggered and will light up a sign to warn motorists in time to slow down and yield to the truck.

2. Queue warning system

- As a vital transportation corridor for commuting and commerce, it's important to keep motorists apprised of delays so they know what to expect and can take alternate routes as needed. With this technology, sensors detect speeds upstream, which update the variable message signs to let motorists know estimated time it will take to get to certain locations such as Larkspur, Monument, etc.

3. Portable Variable Speed Limit Signs

- The project will soon have the ability to change the speed limits in real-time based on weather conditions, crashes or construction-related impacts. Those enforceable speed limits will be displayed on 22 variable speed limit signs that will soon be installed along northbound and southbound I-25 from Monument to Castle Rock. The variable signs will replace existing static speed limit signs.





4. Pan tilt zoom cameras

- Additional portable cameras have been installed to capture areas along the corridor that CDOT cameras currently don't have access to. These cameras feed into the Onsite Project Traffic Operations Center to help the project team see traffic in real-time.

5. Onsite Project Traffic Operations Center

- This is the first-ever project in Colorado to have an onsite Traffic Operations Center to monitor current roadway conditions and possibly reduce congestion by suggesting alternate routes to drivers when incidents occur. Typically, construction projects feed into the larger TOCs across the state. Having a TOC onsite benefits both motorists and the project team because the TOC can gather and provide real-time information.



ABOUT THE PROJECT

CDOT is improving 18 miles of I-25 between Monument and Castle Rock by widening the highway from two to three lanes in each direction. The new lane will operate as an Express Lane, allowing motorists the choice of taking the Express Lane for a faster more reliable travel time in exchange for a toll. Express Lanes will be free to vehicles with three or more people and motorcycles. All travelers will have the choice of taking the general-purpose lanes for free.

The \$350 million project also includes shoulder widening, rebuilding bridges, new wildlife crossings, resurfacing with new pavement and modernizing technology. Project completion will occur in 2022.

Travel options to improve commutes are available during construction. Some of the services include a new Bustang route from Colorado Springs to the Denver Tech Center. CDOT is partnering with the Denver Regional Council of Governments' Way to Go program to provide more commuting options, such as incentives to vanpool and carpool. Visit i25myway.org to learn more.

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