



Fact Sheet

The US 24 West: Manitou Springs to Interstate 25 US 24 History

US 24 has a long history of serving Colorado and the communities along it. The corridor provides a vital east/west connection for the Pikes Peak region and is the only major access to the mountains between US 285 in Denver and US 50 through Pueblo. This corridor provides transportation access for many purposes including recreational and gaming access, daily commuter traffic, residential and business access, and intra-city east/west trips.

The corridor functioned as a local street in the 1920's and 30's by using Colorado Avenue, Cascade Avenue and Platte Avenue. US 24 was named the Midland Expressway when the current roadway was improved and opened for traffic in 1964. By 1968, US 24 was built from west of Manitou Springs to Cascade, and reached Woodland Park by 1977. US 24 became US Business 24 through Manitou Springs in 1976. Today, the Midland Expressway is 6.5 miles long and extends from the west Manitou Ave. interchange to Interstate 25.

Since 1964, only safety improvements and maintenance items have been accomplished on this segment of US 24. In the mid-1990's, amid increased congestion and demands for improvements, the Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments commissioned a study of the US 24 Corridor from Colorado Springs to Woodland Park. The focus of the study was to develop a prioritized list of short- and long-range improvements.

These projects were then scheduled in the State's Transportation Improvement Program. Available funds allowed for completion of projects such as shoulder work, intersection and access improvements, and acceleration and deceleration lanes. However, no funds were available for any significant or capacity improvements.

The project to address capacity and safety in the US 24 Corridor has been scheduled in the 2001-2006; 2002-2007 and the 2004-2009 TIP. This project is set to address those issues by conducting an Environmental Assessment of the corridor from Manitou Springs to Interstate 25.

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