

A tutorial on how collector-distributor lanes will help traffic flow between I-25 and US 6

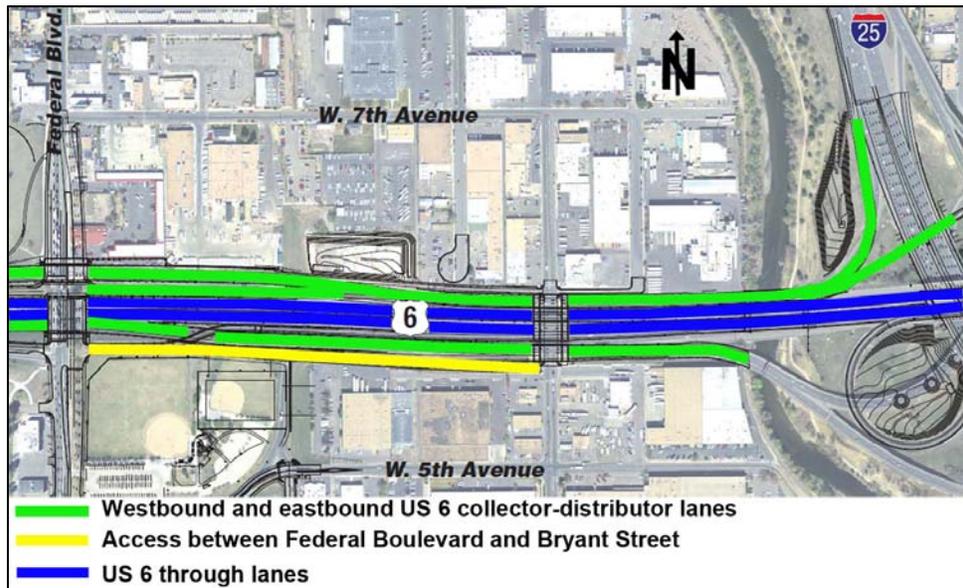
What are collector-distributor lanes?

A collector-distributor lane (sometimes referred to as a C-D lane) is a lane specifically designed to handle entering and exiting traffic along a highway. As its name implies, this lane “collects” traffic exiting from a highway and “distributes” it back onto a highway. These lanes are barrier separated from the main highway and provide direct access to local arterial roads and longer acceleration distances to merge onto a highway.

Where will they be incorporated on US 6?

When the US 6 Bridges Design-Build Project is complete in late October, there will be westbound C-D lanes on the north side of US 6 and eastbound C-D lanes on the south side of US 6 to help facilitate traffic flow to and from I-25.

The westbound C-D lanes on the north side of US 6 will run from the I-25 interchange to the Lowell/Perry exit and will collect traffic coming from northbound and southbound I-25 and distribute it to either Federal Boulevard or westbound US 6 about ¼ mile west of Federal.



The eastbound C-D lanes on the south side of US 6 will begin just west of Federal Boulevard and continue to the I-25 interchange to collect eastbound US 6 drivers and distribute them to either direction of I-25. Another C-D lane will connect Federal Boulevard to Bryant Street on the south side of US 6 to provide local access.

How will they help traffic flow?

These C-D lanes will help traffic flow by separating eastbound and westbound US 6 through traffic from drivers who are destined for I-25 or any of the local arterial streets. C-D lanes separate different traffic flows into distinct paths and they keep drivers in these alignments for a greater distance, eliminating weaving traffic movements that can cause drivers to tap on their brakes and slow down.

How will my commute change?

As with any new traffic pattern, when these collector-distributor lanes open this fall, drivers will need to pay extra attention to signage and lane assignments, particularly when traveling between I-25 and US 6. Here are a few of the major changes drivers will notice:

Eastbound US 6 to I-25: The barrier-separated lanes that will take eastbound US 6 drivers to I-25 will begin just west of the Federal Boulevard bridge, so drivers will need to be prepared to exit much sooner.

Eastbound US 6 to Bryant Street: Eastbound US 6 drivers wanting to access Bryant Street will need to exit at Federal Boulevard and continue east through that intersection to access Bryant Street.

I-25 to westbound US 6: Drivers making the movement from I-25 to westbound US 6 will follow the collector-distributor lanes on the north side of US 6 and pass beneath Federal Boulevard before merging into westbound US 6 near the Lowell/Perry exit.

I-25 to Federal Boulevard: There will be three collector-distributor lanes on the north side of US 6 – two coming from southbound I-25 and one from northbound I-25. Drivers coming from I-25 will need to be in the left C-D lane to access Federal Boulevard.

Bryant Street to westbound US 6: Drivers will need to follow the westbound C-D lanes on the north side of US 6 to about ¼ mile west of Federal Boulevard to access the highway.

Federal Boulevard to eastbound US 6: Drivers wanting to access eastbound US 6 from Federal Boulevard will use the braided ramp bridge to travel over the eastbound C-D lanes and enter eastbound US 6.

Federal Boulevard to I-25: Drivers will no longer merge directly onto eastbound US 6 to reach I-25. Instead, drivers will make this movement by taking the C-D lane between Federal and Bryant Street and veering to the left to merge in with the eastbound C-D lane traffic heading to I-25.

Federal Boulevard to westbound US 6: When the project is complete and the westbound C-D lanes are open on the north side of US 6, Federal Boulevard traffic will merge onto westbound US 6 from the right side.

Are there other examples of collector-distributor lanes in the area?

It will be the end of October before the US 6 Bridges Design-Build Project is substantially complete and the C-D lanes are open, so anyone wanting to get an idea now of how these lanes operate can see a similar alignment along southbound I-25 between Broadway and Washington Street. This C-D lane provides access to local streets along with a longer acceleration distance for drivers entering southbound I-25 from Broadway.

