



Welcome to the North I-25 Express Lanes newsletter!

Winter has finally arrived in Colorado and we want to remind everyone to pay attention to changing weather conditions and to drive carefully through construction zones. There are 174,000 vehicles a day that travel the I-25 corridor and as our community continues to grow, remember newcomers are also navigating this corridor. Please help us keep our roads safe!

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

The I-25 construction team has enjoyed mild fall weather and made great progress in the first 100 days of the project. Barrier placement has been completed along the main corridor and at 120th Avenue, 136th Avenue and 144th Avenue ramps. Lanes may feel more constricted due to barrier placement and lane striping has changed. Please give your full attention to this configuration, as it will be in place until late 2017.

It may not be visible from the road, but our crews are hard at work south of 120th Avenue with a significant amount of utility work. Although the I-25 North Express Lanes project spans approximately a six mile stretch, 1/3 of the budget is spent on the first 4,000 feet! Current utility work includes moving power lines underground, relocating phone and internet lines and installing a 30 inch pipe under six lanes of live traffic!

Construction and utility work south of 120th Avenue will also require the closure of the pedestrian tunnel to the RTD wagon Road Park-n-Ride. The dates and duration of this closure will be determined in the coming months.

In addition to utility work, land on the west side of the highway, south of 120th Avenue, is being cleared and prepared for the installation of a new mechanically stabilized earth (MSE) sound wall. Further north, at 144th Avenue, work has begun on an expanded box culvert that passes under I-25. Constructing this box culvert will require a significant lane shift in the coming months. Work on the culvert will be completed by spring of 2017.

MEET THE TEAM

A project of this size and scope takes an enormous amount of talent and energy from a diversity of partners to make it a reality. In this issue, we are excited to highlight Dave Downing, Director of Community Development at the City of Westminster.





Dave Downing

Director of Community Development
City of Westminster

I was born and raised in the state of Texas and I thought I would live there forever. Like many Texans I would come to Colorado one week a year for a ski vacation. Thirty-six years ago, I sat down at a bar in Vail and met the prettiest girl I had ever seen. I married her.

That same year, I started a job with the City of Westminster. At the time, the intersection of Sheridan Boulevard and 92nd Avenue was one lane in each direction! Even thirty-six years ago, the City of Westminster had anticipated a project of this scale. We knew it was important to obtain the right of way on I-25, so as projects were developed, we obtained many of

these parcels free of charge through negotiations with developers. We have been holding on to this land for a number of years and we were finally able to transfer the ownership to CDOT free of charge.

What are your thoughts on Express Lanes?

We need express lanes to generate the funding for these large transportation projects. The money is not there to fund them the traditional way. Nobody loves paying the toll but I think people understand that we have to search for different ways to get the money. The City of Westminster also recognizes that what commuters want are different options for getting around. Driving along I-25 is just one of the many options. We now have the RTD North Metro Rail Line, bus travel, as well as bicycle transportation. I-25 is just one piece of the puzzle to provide the options that citizens are demanding.

BACKGROUND

The North I-25 Express Lanes project from 120th Avenue to Northwest Parkway/E-470 is a \$97.5 million project that will improve safety, capacity and user choice in a rapidly developing region.

This project will continue the previous Express Lanes project, which was completed on I-25 between US 36 and 120th Avenue, and will extend the Express Lanes to Northwest Parkway/E-470. The project will add capacity on I-25 up to Northwest Parkway/E-470 and construct a new asphalt surface from 120th Avenue to Colorado Highway 7. Motorists can expect the roadway to be in its final alignment by winter 2018.

Construction will take place Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. with periodic night and weekend work. Motorists can expect various lane closures on both northbound and southbound I-25 as well as periodic ramp closures. Traffic will be maintained during peak travel times throughout construction.

About Express Lanes: Express Lanes increase roadway capacity and help to manage congestion on the highways. The use of toll pricing during peak travel times reduces delays, manages congestion and maintains reliable travel times. Express Lanes currently are open between 120th Ave. and US 36 on North I-25 and, US 36 from Denver to Boulder and on the I-70 Mountain Express Lane. For more information, visit www.codot.gov/programs/expresslanes. To get an ExpressToll account and pass, visit www.expresstoll.com.





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Newsletter

Ways to Commute: Smart Commute Metro North is offering some incentives to help you commute smarter! For more information or to sign up, check out www.smartcommutemetronorth.org/idrivei25

Stay Informed: For updates on this project, the public may call (720) 737-5118 or email <mailto:i25northconstruction@gmail.com>. To sign up for "CDOT Alerts" visit www.tinyurl.com/i25-north-express. Major CDOT project updates are also available via CoTrip.org, Twitter @coloradodot or Facebook.

