



West I-70 Express Lanes (PPSL) April 2015 Newsletter

Update on SH-103 Bridge

Although the SH-103 (Exit 240) Bridge was reopened to vehicular traffic in February, there is still work to be done to finish the bridge deck driving surface and open the structure to pedestrians and cyclists. This work includes:

- Waterproofing the bridge deck and putting down the final layer of asphalt in mid-April. This work will necessitate closing half the bridge at a time and using flaggers to direct traffic over the structure.
- Forming and pouring the bridge rail and sidewalks.
- Forming and pouring the approach slabs on both ends of the bridge.

Each of the on-ramps and off-ramps in this interchange must also be reconstructed. Because there are certain minimum temperature requirements that must be met when the asphalt is put down for these ramps, this work could not be done during the winter months.

Furthermore, it was agreed that the reconstruction of these ramps would be postponed until after the majority of the ski areas had closed to keep this interchange in service during the peak winter travel season. To maintain traffic through a portion of the interchange at all times, these ramps will be closed in phases starting with the ramps on the west side of the SH-103 Bridge. Once these ramps are completed, crews will close and rebuild the ramps on the east side of the SH-103 Bridge.

Beginning in mid-April, the ramp closure sequence will be:

- The eastbound I-70 off-ramp to SH-103 and SH-103 on-ramp to westbound I-70
- The SH-103 on-ramp to eastbound I-70 and the westbound I-70 off-ramp to SH-103

It will take about one month to rebuild all the ramps but Exits 239 and 241 will remain open for travel in and out of Idaho Springs.

Upcoming Construction Activities

Work to rebuild the East Idaho Springs Bridge at Exit 241 will begin this month. The existing bridge will remain open while the new bridge is built just east of it. The current structure will be taken down in the fall after traffic is moved onto the new bridge. Other work to be done this spring and summer includes:

- Moving the weigh station in Downieville. This work is scheduled to be done in May and will involve lane closures in both directions of I-70.
- Rockfall mitigation work will be done above the eastbound lanes of I-70 between Exits 240 and 241. This work is scheduled to be done in May and will involve eastbound I-70 lane closures.
- Improvements to Charlie Taylor Water Wheel Park will be done this spring and summer, requiring the park to be closed for several weeks.
- Asphalt milling and paving work along I-70 is scheduled to begin in June and continue throughout the summer. This work will be done at night to minimize traffic impacts, but lane closures will be necessary.



Work begins in April to build a new bridge over I-70 in the Exit 241 interchange. The current bridge will remain in place for people to use while the new bridge is built immediately east of it and the existing structure will be taken down in the fall. This bridge reconstruction will involve short-term, overnight closures of I-70 for various activities like setting the girders and pouring the deck.

Sign-up for GovDelivery

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