

CHOOSE YOUR MOVE



US 36 EXPRESS LANES PROJECT

XPRESS

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CONTACT US

HOTLINE:
303-404-7042

WEBSITE:
www.us36
expresslanes.com

To receive email updates during the project, click on the cell phone icon in the upper right corner. You can then subscribe to a variety of lists including "US 36 Express Lanes Project."

EMAIL:
info@us36express
lanes.com

MOBILE WEBSITE:
m.us36expresslanes.
com



Paving operations on westbound US 36 near McCaslin Boulevard for new Express Lanes

NEW EXPRESS LANES MEAN NEW SWITCHABLE HOV TRANSPONDERS

With high occupancy vehicles (HOV) and tolled vehicles sharing the new US 36 Express Lanes, a new switchable HOV transponder will be introduced when the lanes open. The switchable transponder is necessary to accurately decipher between HOV and tolled vehicles that are all traveling on a single-lane facility.

If a vehicle is considered an HOV, the driver must slide the switch to the red "HOV" position to use the Express Lanes for free. Likewise, if vehicles don't have enough passengers to classify as an HOV, the driver must slide the transponder switch to the green "TOLL" option, and the system will know to begin charging the appropriate tolls.

The existing ExpressToll transponder will be compatible on the US 36 Express Lanes, however, since there isn't a switch to identify the car as HOV or tolled, all vehicles will be charged the toll, no matter how many people are in the vehicle.

Many details about the transponders – including any associated costs – are still being determined and will be announced as they are finalized.

All tolling equipment, existing and new, will be able to be used on any road that has tolls (I-25, E-470 and US 36), however, travelers using US 36 will be encouraged to get the new switchable HOV transponder so they can use the new multi-use HOV/toll lanes effectively and efficiently.



Example of the new switchable HOV transponder

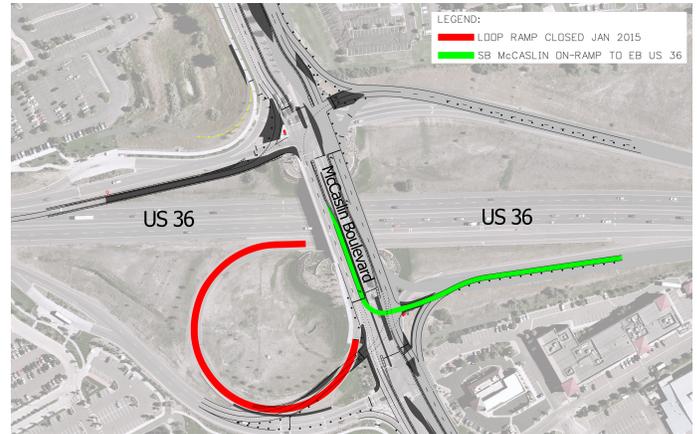
OUT WITH THE OLD, IN WITH THE NEW

US 36 Loop Ramp to Close January 2015

Construction of the Diverging Diamond Interchange (DDI) at McCaslin Boulevard in Louisville/Superior is progressing right on schedule. In January 2015, the existing loop ramp from southbound McCaslin Boulevard to eastbound US 36 will close permanently. This closure is necessary to construct the new eastbound US 36 dedicated RTD bus ramp, which will mirror the nearly completed westbound US 36 dedicated RTD bus ramp at McCaslin Boulevard.

Prior to the loop ramp closure, the new southbound McCaslin Boulevard to eastbound US 36 on-ramp will be completed, and traffic will be directed to the new ramp for access to eastbound US 36. During this phase of construction, traffic will yield at a temporary light to make a left turn onto the eastbound ramp. Upon completion, this movement will be a free flowing movement, without a yield at a light. This unrestricted movement is just one of the benefits of the innovative DDI.

To learn more about a DDI, including how to drive one, click here for an instructional video: http://youtu.be/CQLEBp_-QsM.



Rendering of McCaslin Boulevard loop closure and new eastbound US 36 on ramp

INNOVATION ATTRACTING EDUCATION

The construction of the new DDI on McCaslin Boulevard is attracting attention both locally and nationally, and the engineering school at the University of Colorado in Boulder has taken particular interest.

On Nov. 5, four civil and architectural engineering students from CU Boulder requested a behind-the-scenes tour of the construction taking place on the DDI as part of their final class project. The design-build concept sparked many questions from the students because the concept is not always easily understood.

“Often, we find ways to be more efficient with construction and to be more innovative as we design from the bottom up,” said Mark Gosselin, CDOT Project Director. “This out-of-the-box methodology has proven very effective on other projects. As the design progresses, the collective team comes together on the best way to move forward with the design.”



CU Boulder students on US 36 Express Lanes site tour

Design managers from HDR, the design firm on the US 36 Express Lanes Project, instructed students about the basics. One of the biggest questions for the students was how drivers would use the DDI. As only the third interchange of its kind in Colorado, the McCaslin DDI has stirred curiosity for not just the CU Boulder students, but also motorists watching and waiting for the completion.

“People are afraid of these things,” commented Ahmed Alhasini, a senior at CU. “Is it because you appear to be driving on the wrong side of the road?”

A DDI guides traffic onto the opposite side of the roadway to create a free-flowing movement.

“There is no right or wrong side of the road,” explained Taylor Johnson with HDR. “We point you in the right direction and you won’t even realize you are on the opposite side of the road until after you are directed back.”

As construction progresses and nears completion, an entire campaign will help drivers get a better visual of what’s ahead when traffic is placed onto the new DDI in fall 2015.

IT GETS BETTER

Are you stressed out about driving on US 36? Try a new way to get to work, and 36 Commuting Solutions will make your commute easier. 36 Commuting Solutions is working to reduce traffic congestion by encouraging the use of riding RTD, carpooling or vanpooling. Join a new vanpool and you’ll be sent a one-time \$75 cash incentive. Carpool applicants can use MyWaytoGo.org to log eight round trips over two months for their carpool incentive. After your first month of four logged trips, 36 Commuting Solutions will send you a \$50 money order. Then they’ll send out the \$25 money order when you finish logging your carpool trips. If you would like to try riding RTD, choose transit and receive a free 10-ride Regional Ticket Book worth \$45. Get started by completing a quick survey on 36commutingsolutions.org.

