

CHOOSE YOUR MOVE



**US 36**  
EXPRESS LANES PROJECT

# XPRESS

September 2014

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Westbound US 36 traffic in new temporary alignment and eastbound traffic on permanent concrete pavement near Wadsworth Parkway

## SMOOTHER WINTER COMMUTE AHEAD

The US 36 Express Lanes Project is approaching its final winter of Phase 1 construction, and commuters can anticipate a noticeably smoother ride in the chilly months ahead.

Eastbound traffic, from 88th Street in Louisville to the east of Federal Boulevard, will soon be on the permanent concrete pavement. With the completion of that section of roadway, approximately 65 percent of traffic has been transitioned onto the new surface.

In the next month, sections of westbound US 36 traffic will continue to be realigned onto temporary pavement while the old lanes are demolished and the permanent lanes are constructed. Once this is accomplished, the speed at which the new roadway can be constructed increases rapidly as traffic moves off the old roadway, and by October, almost 90 percent of all traffic on Phase 1 will be on new pavement.

With the icy touch of winter on the horizon, this is very exciting news for commuters who can look forward to a stable and durable driving surface. The deterioration of the old roadway has been a constant battle throughout construction, and the inclement weather from Colorado winters only hastened the decay of the old roadway.

“The existing roadway was literally giving out faster than we could repair it as ice, rain and snow penetrated the crumbling asphalt. We spent a lot of time and resources just patching the 62-year-old road to keep it drivable,” said Ames Granite Project Manager Ernie Green. “We’re looking forward to the first winter on the new concrete pavement because there will be an appreciable difference in the drive compared to winter last year.”

Phase 1 of the US 36 Express Lanes Project is scheduled to be completed in spring 2015.



## SUCCESSFUL GIRDER INSTALLATION ON THE MCCASLIN BOULEVARD BRIDGE

Ames Granite bridge crews successfully set six, 88,000-pound girders on the McCaslin Boulevard bridge the last week of August, which was necessary to provide the proper bridge support to widen the existing bridge for the new Diverging Diamond Interchange.

A Diverging Diamond Interchange crosses traffic to the opposite side of the road across an interchange so vehicles have unimpeded movement onto the freeway ramps. The McCaslin Boulevard bridge is being constructed in phases to accommodate traffic and will be complete in late 2015.



McCaslin Boulevard bridge girders swing into place

## US 36 AND MCCASLIN DIVERGING DIAMOND INTERCHANGE (DDI) TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

### Scheduled Activities on McCaslin Boulevard

- September – Construct the new bridge deck on McCaslin Boulevard
- Fall 2014 – Reconstruct northbound McCaslin Boulevard, the new westbound US 36 on-ramp and the bridge over the RTD bus lane
- November – Realign traffic from the west side of the McCaslin Boulevard bridge to the east side of the bridge and close the southbound McCaslin Boulevard to westbound US 36 loop ramp
- Winter 2014 through spring 2015 – Reconstruct southbound McCaslin Boulevard
- May through June 2015 – Realign traffic to the outside lanes of McCaslin Boulevard to construct the middle of the roadway
- Summer 2015 – Complete sidewalks and final aesthetics
- Fall 2015 – Set the aesthetic archway and realign traffic onto the new Diverging Diamond Interchange. To open the DDI, northbound and southbound McCaslin Boulevard (on top of the bridge) will be closed for one full weekend, with all on- and off-ramps remaining open.

### Scheduled Activities on US 36 (Foothills Parkway to 88th Street)

- September through fall 2014 – Reconstruct and lay new concrete pavement for westbound US 36 lanes from South Boulder Creek to 88th Street
- Fall 2014 through winter 2015 – Realign westbound traffic onto the new concrete pavement
- Spring through summer 2015 – Reconstruct existing roadway and lay new concrete pavement for eastbound US 36 lanes from South Boulder Creek to 88th Street
- Summer through fall 2015 – Realign eastbound traffic onto permanent concrete pavement
- Spring 2016 – Complete final landscape on the mainline

## TRAIL ALERT

During construction, closures may occur on existing trails along the corridor. We make every effort to find alternate routes when possible, while maintaining a safe route for bicyclists and pedestrians accessing the trails. When work is being performed, please pay attention to detour routes and signage. The following trails will be impacted over the next two months.

**The Big Dry Creek Trail** will be closed for approximately six weeks starting on Monday, Sept. 8, for drainage installation. A detour and signage will be in place to guide trail users.

Now through the beginning of October, modifications to the **South Boulder Creek Trail** will be in effect on either side of US 36. Expect intermittent delays of 10-15 minutes on the trail while crews make necessary improvements to the South Boulder Creek bridge. For the safety of the traveling public, flaggers will be on-site to assist pedestrians and bike riders in this area.

