



# US 6 Bridges Design Build

## I-25 Gap Lane Project Frequently Asked Questions

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### **Q. What is the I-25 Gap Lane Project?**

A: The I-25 Gap Lane Project is a new, fast track CDOT project that will realign I-25 between Santa Fe Drive and US 6 to add one through lane along northbound I-25.

Currently, the section of northbound I-25 between Santa Fe Drive and US 6 goes from four lanes down to three. This segment, or “gap,” often results in northbound traffic delays. The Gap Project will begin to address this congestion problem by adding a fourth through lane to northbound I-25 traffic between Santa Fe Drive and the US 6 interchange.

To accommodate work on the Gap Project, crews will implement two phases of full I-25 closures over the weekend of Aug. 8-11.

### **Q. Is this project separate from the US 6 Bridges Project?**

A: The \$4 million Gap Project is a state funded project, separate from the US 6 Bridges Project. In order to respond to the urgent nature of this project, CDOT added Gap Project work to the scope of the US 6 Bridges project.

### **Q: Why does the highway have to be closed to do this work?**

A: Adding a fourth lane in this area requires a significant amount of work over the weekend of Aug. 8-11. To minimize weekend inconvenience to the traveling public, crews will complete this work in two phases, enabling the highway to open during the day on Saturday and allow for normal operation during peak weekend traffic hours.

Crews will take advantage of these extended weekend closures by performing multiple activities, which would otherwise require at least **one month** of nightly lane closures and traffic shifts.

### **Q: Over what periods of time will the weekend closures occur?**

A: The first closure will occur from Friday night to Saturday morning. The highway will officially close at **10 p.m.\* Friday, August 8, through 8 a.m. Saturday, August 9**

The second closure will occur from Saturday night to Monday morning. The highway will once again close at **10 p.m.\* Saturday, August 9, through 5 a.m. Monday, August 11.**

***\*Note: I-25 completely closes by 10 p.m., although lane closures begin at 9 p.m.***

### **Q: What will crews be doing during these weekend closures?**

A: Crews will complete the following critical work on the I-25 Gap Lane and US 6 Bridges projects:

- Repave and restripe both directions of I-25 between Santa Fe Drive and US 6
- Demolish the north half US 6 bridge over I-25
- Relocate three storm sewer lines across southbound I-25
- Set girders for the northbound I-25 to westbound US 6 off-ramp bridge

**Q. Why is the highway being left open during the day Saturday?**

A: Traffic volumes on I-25 are typically higher during the day Saturday, so to help minimize the public's inconvenience, we will leave the highway open Saturday, Aug. 9, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 9 p.m., at which point lane closures will commence in preparation of the next extended full closure. When I-25 completely closes again at 10 p.m. Saturday, it will remain closed until 5 a.m. Monday, Aug. 11.

**Q: How can I detour around the highway closure?**

A: During these weekend closures of I-25, CDOT strongly encourages regional **through** traffic to avoid the area altogether by using I-225, I-70, US 285, C-470, E-470 or any other alternate route. CDOT will work with local jurisdictions to monitor traffic along detour routes and manage congestion across the broader transportation network. Local detour routes for the full I-25 closures will be:

**Northbound I-25** will detour to northbound Santa Fe Drive, continue north to 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue, west on 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue to Kalamath Street, and south on Kalamath Street to westbound US 6 to reconnect with northbound I-25.

**Southbound I-25** will detour west on US 6 to Federal Boulevard, south on Federal Boulevard to 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue to merge onto eastbound US 6 to reconnect with southbound I-25. There could also be delays along eastbound US 6 near I-25 with eastbound US 6 traffic following this detour route.

**Northbound Santa Fe Drive:** As part of this closure, northbound Santa Fe Drive will close at Mississippi Avenue for the weekend, with traffic detoured on Mississippi Avenue to northbound Broadway and then Lincoln Street. Access to businesses along Santa Fe Drive will be available via Alameda Avenue. Detour signage will guide commuters through the area.

**Q: Why wasn't this work done when the Santa Fe bridge was rebuilt?**

A: Money for the Gap Project was not allocated until after the Santa Fe Bridge reconstruction project was complete. Further, the Santa Fe Bridge replacement project focused on rebuilding the bridge over I-25, not making mainline highway improvements.

**Q: How will my I-25 drive through this area be different when this work is done?**

A: To accommodate a fourth through lane on northbound I-25, crews will narrow lanes from 12 feet to 11 feet, and limit shoulder width in both directions of I-25. The benefits should outweigh these tradeoffs, however. When I-25 reopens Monday morning, northbound drivers can use this additional lane to help improve traffic flow.

That said, due to ongoing US 6 Bridges Project work, drivers will not realize the full benefits of the Gap Project until the completion of the northbound I-25 off-ramp bridge to westbound US 6, currently scheduled for early 2015.

The Gap Project only provides a temporary fix to traffic congestion in this area, as the long-term solution will not come until funding is available to make permanent improvements to I-25 between Alameda Avenue and US 6.

**Q: If the weather is bad during the weekend of Aug. 8, will the work be rescheduled?**

A: If the weather forecast looks unfavorable to complete this work during the weekend of Aug. 8, the work will be rescheduled for the weekend of Friday, Aug. 15, through Monday, Aug. 18. The same highway closure timeframes, detours and traffic impacts will apply.