



## Colorado Highway 7 (Lower) Project Frequently Asked Questions

### What is the purpose of this project?

- The goals of this project are to maintain access during future flood events, build a safe system accommodating multi-modal transportation options and work in harmony with ecological river functions in the corridor based on commitments to the US Forest Service.

### Why weren't the emergency repairs enough?

- With nine miles of severe roadway damage or loss and debris flows that prevented access for almost 2 ½ months, the Colorado Highway 7 (CO 7) Lower Canyon project will provide resiliency to a canyon that sustained significant damage during the 2013 flood disaster. An emergency repair project allowed the highway to quickly reopen, but did not complete repairs to final grades or current transportation safety standards. The permanent repairs will mitigate any gaps left by the emergency repairs and restore ecological benefits.

### Why is CDOT recommending a full closure instead of daily lane closures?

- While impactful, the alternative to this full closure involves alternating one-way travel on CO 7 with long, unpredictable traffic queues for several years. This option puts both crews and motorists at higher safety risks and creates more frustration to the local communities because it will be nearly impossible to accurately predict delays.

### What are the dates of the full closure with scheduled openings?

- Following Labor Day 2021, CO 7 will close through Memorial Day 2022 between Mile Points 23 and 29.5 with morning and evening “scheduled openings” for traffic. The “openings” will consist of one-way traffic using pilot car operations and will still result in minor delays. Emergency responder access will be maintained at all times.

### During what hours can I travel through the closure?

- Morning and afternoon “openings” will be established in coordination with the school districts and input from roadway users. The roadway will be closed overnight and during all other times unless announced by the project.

### What is the detour when the canyon is closed?

- During the closure with scheduled openings motorists traveling between Estes Park to Lyons can use US 36.



### Will school bus operations be impacted?

- Project officials will select specific opening times to accommodate the school bus schedule and ensure that student transportation is not interrupted. The project team is coordinating with St.Vrain School District and their bus drivers.

### Will emergency responder access be impacted?

- Emergency responder access will be maintained at all times. The project team is coordinating with all local emergency groups.

### How can businesses access the corridor?

- Business personnel will need to use the morning and evening “scheduled openings” to service homes in the closure or commute along CO 7.

### Will my mail and trash service be impacted?

- The project team is currently coordinating with the postal service and sanitation companies to ensure that these services are provided during the “openings.”

### During the scheduled openings what kind of delays will motorists experience?

- During the “scheduled openings,” pilot cars will be operating in both directions. Motorists will likely need to wait at a flagger post until the pilot car arrives. The pilot car will then lead drivers through the closure area at a safe speed. Delays will vary based on when a driver reaches the closure and how long they are required to wait.

### After the daily closures, what delays can motors expect?

- From just after Memorial Day 2022 through fall 2022, traffic impacts will include daily single-lane closures and intermittent delays. Motorists will be stopped several times when traveling through the area for up to 30 minutes.

### Will crews be working nights and weekends?

- At this time, crews are planning to work as much as possible to complete the work on schedule. This includes night and weekend work at times. If it's possible to scale back work hours, the project team will announce this to the public and open the closure during those times.

### Will cycling access be open during construction?

- Cycling will be closed on Colorado Highway 7 between Mile Points 23 and 29.5 from August 2021 through Fall 2022. Cyclists should consider using alternate routes.



### Will trailheads remain open during construction?

- The Hall Ranch Open Space parking areas will remain open, except for a short closure to rebuild the entrance. Trailheads west of the closure will remain open but will only be accessible from CO 72 or Estes Park.

### Can commuters between Estes Park and Lyons use CO 7 during the closure?

- Commuters are encouraged to use US 36 to reach Estes Park. They will be allowed to use the morning and evening “openings” however, these openings will include delays.

### How is this project being funded?

- Colorado Highway 7 (Lower) is the final flood recovery project following the 2013 floods in Northern Colorado. All funding is provided by scope-limited Federal Emergency Relief funds.

### Why is the design for this project not yet finished?

- This project is being delivered as a Construction Management/General Contractor (CM/GC) method. This means Kiewit Infrastructure Co. was hired during the design phase to provide constructability and scheduling input to the design team. Together, the designers, CDOT, Kiewit and local stakeholders can begin work on small pieces of the project while other portions are still in the design phase. This allows the project team to investigate innovations and problem solve without delaying the overall construction schedule.

### What environmental protections will be put in place during construction?

- During construction, CDOT provides ongoing oversight of work for compliance with applicable federal, state, and local requirements to project sensitive environmental resources in the project corridor. CDOT has and will continue to coordinate with relevant resource agencies including the United States Forest Service, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and Boulder County. These agencies work collectively to enforce a multitude of control measures and best practices intended to protect air quality, water quality, and sensitive habitat, and public health.

### When will construction be complete on the nearby corridors?

- Construction on Colorado Highway 72 is complete, and work on Colorado 119 will be complete Spring 2021. The US 36 Mile Point 8 project will also be complete Spring 2021.

### Will CO 7 be open on holidays?

- Colorado Highway 7 will be open to managed traffic on Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas and Memorial Day. Other holidays will be assessed based on the construction progress and announced as work progresses.



**COLORADO**  
Department of Transportation

## FACT SHEET

To speak with a member of the project team please call 720-912-8870 or email [CO7info@kiewit.com](mailto:CO7info@kiewit.com). More information on the project can be found at <https://www.colorado.gov/projects/co7>.