

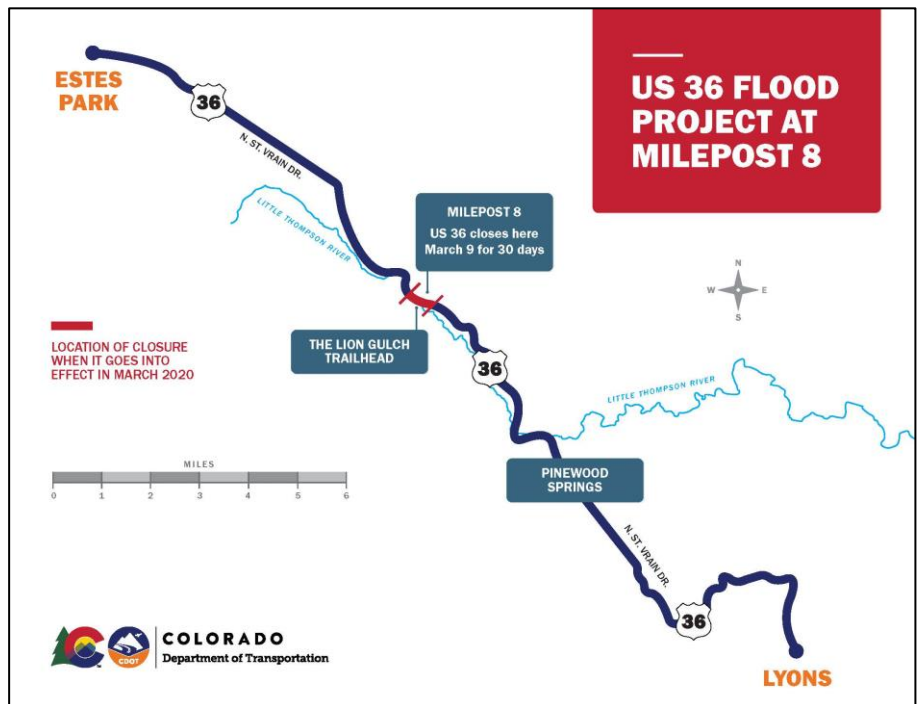


# US 36 Milepost 8 Project

In September 2013, 18.3 inches of rain fell in less than 24 hours creating a flood disaster across Colorado. Nearly 500 miles of CDOT roadway were affected at the peak of flooding, and 39 roadways were temporarily closed, including US 36 between Lyons and Estes Park. Since this disaster, CDOT has been installing permanent resiliency measures statewide.

## Project Purpose

The final flood recovery project on US 36 involves installing two major drainage structures under US 36 by removing the roadway surface, excavating, and drilling horizontally beneath the highway. This drainage system will put the Little Thompson River back into its natural alignment through Muggins Gulch and minimize erosion damage and highway closures during the next flood. The project is approximately eight miles south of Estes Park near the Lion Gulch trailhead. Work entails rock blasting, re-benching the embankment



between the highway and the Little Thompson River, restoring the river alignment, and placing riprap along the river's restored alignment. These permanent repairs are a follow-up to emergency repairs made after the 2013 flood disaster and will offer a permanent fix to meet long-term transportation safety and functional standards.

## Travel Impacts

**Monday, March 9**, US 36 will close completely for 30 days near Mile Point 8 to install drainage culverts beneath the roadway and blast rock. A large concrete box culvert will be installed on the west end of the project limits, and on the east end of the project, crews will build a 14-foot-wide tunnel beneath the highway.

This closure timeframe was selected by community agency representatives to encompass spring break when school bus operations will not be affected, and to minimize the impact on community events and tourism activities that pick up later in the spring. While impactful, the alternative to this one-month full closure would have involved alternating one-way travel on US 36 with long, unpredictable traffic queues for nearly four months.



While US 36 is closed, drivers will need to use Colorado Highway 7 or US 34 to travel to and from Estes Park. School bus services in the morning and afternoon will not be interrupted and emergency vehicles will be allowed through the construction area at all times except during rock blasting activities.

There will be specified times in the morning and evening when permitted vehicles will be allowed to travel through the closure area. Information on the vehicle permitting process will be shared with people living within a 5-mile radius of the project who are eligible to receive these vehicle permits. All other commuters will need to follow one of the two detours shown on this map.

Taking the Colorado Highway 7 detour from Lyons to Estes Park adds about 13.6 miles of travel and 22 minutes of drive time.

The Lion Gulch Trail will remain open to the public except during rock blasting.

**PROJECT TIMELINE**

Initial construction work began Monday, Feb. 17, and the project is anticipated to be complete in early 2021.

**STAY INFORMED**

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