

Project Update

New I-25 Southbound Off-Ramp to Open May 14 New I-25 Southbound On-Ramp to Open May 15

<u>Saturday, May 14:</u> a new Interstate-25 southbound exit ramp to Cimarron Street/US 24 opens and the existing loop off-ramp permanently closes. Motorists will use the new, more direct off-ramp located to the north of Cimarron Street/US 24 (mile post #141), about a quarter mile south of the Bijou exit.

<u>Sunday, May 15:</u> motorists wanting to head southbound on Interstate-25 from Cimarron Street/US 24 will use a new on-ramp. The new ramp will provide double the acceleration and merge distances than the previous ramp.

The new southbound exit ramp and southbound on-ramp will enhance operations, correct existing safety and design deficiencies, and serve the existing and anticipated short-term and long-term travel demand in this area. The partial cloverleaf loop ramp design is outdated and does not adequately support the 9,500 vehicles per hour that travel through the I-25/Cimarron corridor during peak times each day. Over the past few decades, road authorities have been implementing new interchange designs with more direct exit ramps to reduce congestion and improve safety.

"Since the existing loop off-ramp has been in place for the past 56 years, there will be an adjustment for motorists who frequent this area," said Project Director Dave Watt, Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT). "The traveling public should watch for signage to access the new exit ramp, drive slowly and avoid distractions," said Watt. "If you are heading southbound on the interstate and miss the new Cimarron Street/US 24 exit, you can continue on the interstate and use the next exit at Nevada Avenue/Tejon Street."

Phase 1 Look-Ahead (more details available in weekly eAlerts) Sign up at <u>www.cotrip.org</u>, then click on the bright green telephone. Scroll down to the "Projects" list for I-25 and Cimarron Interchange:

Various overnight lane restrictions and traffic realignments on I-25 and Cimarron Street/US 24 will continue to allow for removals, restriping and paving activities; to set barrier; and for bridge construction. This phase is anticipated to continue through late winter 2016. Additional activities to expect in May/June 2016:

- Full overnight closures of southbound I-25 between Bijou and South Nevada/Tejon exits for the following activities:
 - New southbound I-25 off-ramp (closure of existing loop ramp)

- New realignment of the southbound I-25 on-ramp from Cimarron Street/US 24 (to the west)
- Temporary split lane reconfiguration on southbound I-25 between Cimarron Street/US 24 and South Nevada/Tejon Street (left two lanes split to existing northbound pavement, right lane split to existing southbound pavement)
- Shift westbound and eastbound US 24 traffic to the south, onto the new permanent US 24 bridge over Fountain Creek
- $\circ~$ Full northbound I-25 closure between Cimarron/US 24 and Nevada/Tejon exits to set temporary barrier and to shift traffic to the east





You Can Also Expect:

- Speed reduction to 55 mph on I-25 between Colorado Avenue and South Nevada/Tejon Street exits and 30 mph speed reduction on US 24 between 8th Street and I-25
- Narrowed lanes and reduced shoulders
- Three lanes maintained northbound and southbound I-25 during the day

Project website: www.codot.gov/projects/i25cimarronDB Project hotline: 719-302-6781 Sign up for project updates by emailing: dot_i25cimarron@state.co.us

