



I-25/Cimarron Interchange Design-Build Project

eNewsletter



Colorado Department of Transportation

August 2016

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Please forward/share this email with others who may have an interest in the I-25/Cimarron Interchange project.

Project Schedule

- Phase 0 Construction (offline): complete
- Phase 1 Construction (mainline work) begins: underway
- Fully Operational: Fall 2017

Stay Connected

Website:
[Colorado Info Project](#)
Email:
dot_i25Cimarron@state.co.us
Hotline: (719) 302-6781
To receive project updates and construction notices, send an email to:
dot_i25Cimarron@state.co.us

Quick Links

[Project Website](#)
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I-25 Over Cimarron Street Girder Set



One of the more visible project milestones took place in early July with the setting of 30 girders for the new I-25 bridge over Cimarron Street/US 24. The girders are the back bone for the new bridge structure.

Prior to setting the bridge girders, there is a long preparation process, which includes: several months of planning and coordination starting with pre-casting the concrete girders (casting into forms offsite before being transported to the job site); constructing temporary bridge supports (called falsework); building on-site access for cranes and trucks with enough room to maneuver a 72- to 155-foot long girders into a position; and coordinating roadway closures and detours.



Tyler Rue directs the placement of the girders.

Construction Zone Travel: Please remember this an active construction zone with more narrow lanes to provide room for work activity on new improvements. Drive the speed limit and stay safe.

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Fun Fact

Concrete is used to build the roadway and bridges.

HOW MUCH: 32,000 cubic yards
FUN FACT: Enough concrete to fill the Colorado Springs Olympic Training Center Pool seven times



This girder set operation extended over several nights. The girders are first transported from EnCon Colorado in north Denver. Then, a 500-ton and a 300-ton capacity cranes are used simultaneously to set four to seven girders each night, totaling 30 girders at the end of the operation. Each 72- to 155-foot girder weighs up to 180,000 lbs. For safety reasons, full closures of US 24 are required when setting girders. This is the first of two phases of girder sets. Additional closures will be required in order to set the remaining 18 girders, to pour the deck, and to set deck panels.

Prioritized Project Goals

Project goals were established and approved by the Executive Oversight Committee. The goals provide direction to the project team and to the design-build contractor team.

Project Goals

1. Maximize overall safety, capacity and operation of the interchange and the surrounding transportation network within the Project budget;
2. Complete Project construction to be fully operational before winter 2017;
3. Minimize impacts and inconvenience to the community, motorists, businesses, downtown and the public during construction; and
4. Achieve an aesthetically pleasing design compatible with current and future amenities and enhancements in and around the interchange.

Progress To Date

- Realigned southbound I-25 on-ramp at Cimarron Street/US 24

Design-Build Process Focuses on Partnering and Teamwork



I-25 Cimarron Executive Oversight Committee and Community Stakeholders

A Design-Build project is an efficient, cost effective approach in which design and construction occur simultaneously under a single contract. On the I-25 Cimarron Interchange project general contractor, Kraemer North America and their designer, Tsiouvaras Simmons Holderness, Inc. (TSH) work together to develop the initial design. Design plans are then presented to CDOT and the team collaborates to finalize the plans. One of the many benefits to this approach is that it saves time (constructability) and money (economy). In some instances, crews can start on some early design packages to allow for construction to begin while design plans are being finalized, rather than wait until the design is 100 percent complete.

- Permanently closed/removed southbound I-25 loop exit ramp to Cimarron Street/US 24
- Opened new southbound I-25 exit ramp to Cimarron Street/US 24
- Temporary concrete plant operational
- Travel on eastbound US 24 bridge over Fountain Creek
- Embankment - majority of southbound I-25 work complete
- Various utility relocations
- Drainage work - installed 60-inch storm sewer line under I-25
- Extended and completed Bear Creek Concrete Box Culvert
- Extensive work on Fountain Creek
- Completed Phase 1 foundation work for the new I-25 bridge (piers, abutments, etc.)
- Demolition of the south half of the Cimarron over Fountain Creek bridge
- Phase 1 girder set and deck pour for the US 24 bridge over Fountain Creek
- Implemented southbound I-25 lane split to allow for reconstruction of the southbound lanes and to prepare for the final alignment of I-25

What the Project Involves

Planned improvements include reconstructing I-25 between Colorado Avenue (to the north) and the Nevada Avenue/Tejon Street interchange (to the south), and include a continuous northbound travel lane between the south Nevada Avenue/ Tejon Street interchange and the Cimarron interchange. Project boundaries on Cimarron are between 8th Street to the west and the Cimarron bridge over Fountain Creek to the east. Once

Design-Build is an alternative to the traditional Design-Bid-Build project delivery method in which the owner contracts separately with a designer and a contractor, and the design firm delivers 100 percent complete design documents before construction can begin. The Design-Build method is a popular trend in the construction industry today because not only does it save time and money but it fosters partnerships between team members, which in turn adds value to a project. Through this streamlined approach, the project team cohesively resolves contractual questions, concerns, and modifications. United from the onset of the project in May, 2015, an I-25 Cimarron project team works to successfully complete a project faster, cost effectively, and with optimized project quality.

Design-Build is also defined by the attitude of everyone involved in the project. The entire project team thinks and acts as a single entity. "Design-Build is intended to be a highly collaborative, fully integrated process that is built on trust, mutual respect, teamwork, innovation and creative problem-solving," says Project Director Dave Watt, (CDOT). "Design-Build releases the capability of the team to deliver projects faster, better and for optimum cost - best value for the money, time and effort invested. All the while complying with the state and federal requirements for quality, safety and documentation."

Project Team Spotlight

Henning Brings "Boots on the Ground" Experience to the Project

Stefan Hennig is not just Kraemer's Regional Quality Control Manager, but an educator too. From working his way up throughout his 12 years with Kraemer, he feels the lessons learned from his "boots on the ground" experience are important to share with his fellow coworkers. He is a firm believer in, "if you meet quality and safety goals, the money and schedule will follow." The I-25/Cimarron team has done just that - "the partnering between CDOT and Kraemer on this project is probably the best I have ever seen, and I am not just saying that," Hennig said. "Communication is open, honest, and candid. It is good to be a part of a team so willing to resolve issues together."



Stefan Hennig, Kraemer Regional Quality Control Manager

Hennig's role on the project is to not only help resolve issues but to stay ahead of them. Planning your work and understanding what you are building is something Hennig stresses to the Kraemer team on a regular basis.

construction is complete in 2017, the project will provide:

- Improved interstate and interchange operations and safety;
- Improved highway alignment and improved ramps, acceleration/deceleration lanes for increased vehicle storage and safety;
- New I-25 bridge structures;
- New connection between 8th Street and Cimarron Street;
- Improved trail connectivity and aesthetic treatments.
- Reconstruction of approximately 2,100 feet of Upper Fountain Creek, enhancing stream habitat.

Project Partners

- Colorado Department of Transportation
- Federal Highway Administration
- City of Colorado Springs
- El Paso County
- The Community

Progress Photos

I-25 Southbound Bridge Work



I-25 Southbound Off-Ramp

"There is a devil in the details - and every detail counts when it comes to construction."

Other than Stefan's attention to detail, you would likely notice his subtle German accent, leadership qualities, great sense of humor and maybe even his camouflage hat. Stefan was born in Germany and moved to the United States in 1997 to attend college at Purdue University. He has now been a Colorado resident for 13 years, and takes full advantage of all that Colorado has to offer. In his pastime he enjoys hunting, and everything that goes with it - hence the camouflage.

Summer Work Continues - A Look Ahead

More details available in weekly eAlerts. Sign up at www.cotrip.org, and then click on the bright green telephone. Scroll down to the "Projects" list for I-25/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; shift traffic and for bridge construction. This phase is anticipated to continue through late winter 2016. Construction schedules are subject to change based on weather/other unforeseen circumstances.

Additional activities to expect in summer 2016:

August:

- Full overnight closures on Cimarron Street (Sierra Madre to US 24) to set girders for the Cimarron over Fountain Creek bridge
- Full overnight closure of I-25 southbound on and off-ramps at Cimarron Street/US 24 to realign traffic with US 24 intersection changes

September:

- Various overnight lane restrictions on US 24 to shift permanent lane configuration west of the interchange
- Overnight lane restrictions southbound I-25 (Bijou Street to Nevada Avenue/Tejon Street) to switch traffic on to new pavement
- Overnight full closure of northbound I-25 (Bijou Street to Nevada Avenue/Tejon Street) to switch traffic on to new pavement

You Can Also Expect:

- Speed reduction to 55 mph on I-25 between Colorado Avenue and south Nevada/Tejon Street



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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

Additional Project Information

For more information about the project, visit the [CDOT website project page](#). To receive future I-25/Cimarron project e-newsletters and construction notices, send an email to dot_i25Cimarron@state.co.us.

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