



# I-25/Cimarron Interchange Design-Build Project

eNewsletter



Colorado Department of Transportation

February 2016

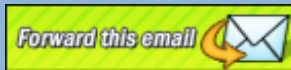
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Please forward/share this email with others who may have an interest in the I-25/Cimarron Interchange project.

## Project Schedule

- Phase 0 Construction (offline): July 2015
- Phase 1 Construction (mainline work) begins: March 2016
- Fully Operational: Winter 2017

## Stay Connected

Website:

[Colorado Info Project](#)

Email:

[dot\\_i25Cimarron@state.co.us](mailto:dot_i25Cimarron@state.co.us)

Hotline: (719) 302-6781

To receive project updates and construction notices, send an email to:

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## I-25/Cimarron Phase 1 Construction Starts More Changes Ahead



Since the project first broke ground last summer 2015, crews have been hard at work off-line on utility relocations, bridge and wall work, and completing embankment work in preparation for the transition into the next phase of construction of the Interstate-25/Cimarron Design Build Project. "Phase 1 begins in mid-March with a traffic switch from the original I-25 southbound off-ramp loop into a new ramp configuration. This switch marks the start of construction impacts to traffic, but in the long term these changes will maximize overall safety, capacity and operation of the interchange," said CDOT Project Director Dave Watt. Phase 1 is anticipated to continue through late winter of 2016.

Here is what you can expect:

- For the safety of the travelling public, the speed limit will be reduced to 55 miles per hour due to increased construction activity and traffic impacts
- Narrowed lanes and reduced shoulders
- Re-striping activities and setting barrier on I-25, Cimarron Street and US 24
- Various traffic realignments
- Median work on US 24 and I-25 to allow for future alignment
- Realigning the existing I-25 southbound on-ramp
- Removal of the current I-25 southbound clover leaf off-ramp, opening of a new exit ramp utilizing the temporary bridge constructed in September
- Bridge construction - US 24 bridge over Fountain Creek, I-25 bridge over Cimarron/US 24 and Cimarron Street

## Quick Links

[Project Website](#)

[CDOT Website](#)

## Sign Up to Receive E-newsletters / eAlerts

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## 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.

bridge over Fountain Creek

- Three lanes of traffic will be maintained northbound and southbound I-25 during the day
- Temporary traffic signals on US 24 at the new I-25 southbound off-ramp
- Nighttime work with intermittent lane restrictions
- Onsite concrete batch plant near the US 24 and 8<sup>th</sup> Street Intersection
- Paving operations throughout the project area

Watch for future traffic alerts highlighting new alignments and anticipated lane closures. The project team understands this area maintains high volumes of traffic daily and will minimize impacts to the traveling public as much as possible. Always be on high alert for construction traffic through the area, and avoid distractions.

The community can expect to see a lot of change in the coming months, but change means progress. The I-25/Cimarron project remains on schedule and is well on its way to a more efficient interchange.

## Temporary Concrete Plant Operational in March 2016



Example of a concrete batch plant similar to the one being installed in the I-25/Cimarron project area

Once an Express Inn Hotel, soon to be a temporary concrete batch plant. Due to the large amount of concrete needed on the I-25/Cimarron project, a concrete batch plant is soon to be mobilized near the 8<sup>th</sup> Street and US 24 intersection. Once crews assemble the plant in late February and conduct testing, it is expected to be operational by mid-March 2016.

So what exactly is a concrete batch plant? It is a facility that involves the process of combining sand, water, aggregate and cement to produce concrete. The mixture then goes through proper rotation and is poured into trucks for delivery.

An onsite concrete plant will mean positive things for the

## 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 S. Nevada/ Tejon interchange and the Cimarron interchange. Project boundaries on Cimarron are between 8<sup>th</sup> Street to the west and the Cimarron bridge over Fountain Creek to the east. Once 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.

## Progress To Date

- Road and embankment work, southbound I-25 off-and on-ramps; embankment, cut, clearing and fill
- Eastbound US 24 bridge over Upper Fountain Creek
- Utility relocations

project and the community: reduced concrete truck traffic through the project area and on roads beyond the project, and an increase in productivity and quality. The shorter the distance a truck must travel to deliver concrete often results in higher quality material when poured.

The temporary batch plant will supply approximately 22,000 cubic yards of concrete, nearly four times the amount used when constructing Sports Authority Field at Mile High stadium. The plant will only supply the concrete for the roadway pavement work of this project. Local ready-mix suppliers will provide the concrete for bridges, curb and gutter work and trails.

The batch plant will be in place through spring 2017. Typical operations will run from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Occasional nighttime work may be required as a means to avoid impacting daytime travel.

Please watch for trucks entering and exiting the plant and avoid distractions, as this is a very active area.

## Concrete - Bridge and Pavement

32,000 cubic yards of concrete will be poured for roadway and bridges throughout this project, comparable to filling up the Colorado Springs Olympic Training Center pool seven times.

## Project Team Spotlight

### Kraemer Project Manager Mike Ingram

Construction activity on the massive US 6 Bridges Design-Build project in Denver may be winding down, but for Kraemer Project Manager Mike Ingram, it's "on to the next one." He is now leading the Kraemer team on the I-25/Cimarron Interchange reconstruction project. Mike is a seasoned highway construction pro having been with Kraemer for 10 years. He has managed major local community projects such as the Academy/Woodmen overpass, North Powers bridges, and



## Project Partners

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

## Progress Photos

### US 24 Bridge Over Fountain Creek

Crews continue work on the new US 24 Bridge over Fountain Creek, which will be relocated to the south. The existing bridge will eventually be removed and traffic will shift to allow for the realignment. The new bridge will be constructed with pre-stressed box girders and a cast-in-place concrete deck. The bridge will have integral abutments with cast-in-place concrete wing walls. This structure has been commonly used by CDOT and has proven to be low maintenance, with a long service life. The height of the bridge will provide 12 feet of vertical clearance to the trail below.



many other multi-million dollar highway construction projects in both Colorado and Texas.

Mike started in the construction industry at a young age working for the Texas Department of Transportation throughout high school and college. He lived out his dream of attending Texas A&M where he earned a degree in Civil Engineering. He still wears his Aggie ring and cheers on A&M's football team. In fact, he is what you would call a die-hard fan, and when asked what he enjoys to do in his free time besides watching Aggie football he smiled and responded, "There is no other free time." Mike has witnessed this tradition live on as both of his sons attended A&M and are, of course, die-hard fans as well.

In 1999 Mike and his family pack up and moved to Colorado, and have loved it here ever since. The I-25/Cimarron project is special to him because it is right in his backyard. "Building a job where you live is much more personal," he said. "I am looking forward to being a part of a job that will make such a drastic change throughout this community."

The community can expect to see a lot of changes in the coming months as crews move into the next phase of construction. Mike's motto: "Do work safely, within budget, on time, and with minimal impact to the travelling public."

## 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](mailto:dot_i25Cimarron@state.co.us).



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