



# I-25/Cimarron Interchange Design-Build Project



eNewsletter ▶

Colorado Department of Transportation

June 2016

## In This Issue

- Best Value
- Night Shift Project Work
- Project Team Spotlight
- A Look Ahead



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

## Quick Links

- [Project Website](#)
- [CDOT Website](#)

Sign Up to Receive E-newsletters / eAlerts

To receive future I-25/Cimarron

## Best Value for the Interstate 25 / Cimarron Interchange Project



Interstate-25 from Cimarron Street/US 24 will use a new southbound on-ramp. The new ramp will eventually provide double the existing acceleration and merge distances than the previous configuration.

Project goals for the I-25 Cimarron Interchange Design-Build Project were established in cooperation between Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), City of Colorado Springs, El Paso County, Federal Highway Administration and the affected community. "We communicated through the four prioritized goals within CDOT, to the contracting industry and the public. The goals remain a critical part of our communication efforts throughout the project implementation," says Project Director Dave Watt, (CDOT). They were provided to the proposing design-build teams to help them develop their proposals and to help in CDOT's selection of the team that delivered "Best Value."

The project goals are what helped Kraemer, the selected contractor team, provide several "Best Value" innovations in their proposal, extras the community will benefit from beyond the basic configuration:

- Additional 8th Street connection to US 24 (quadrant intersection)
- Building up embankment off line of the main I-25 and US 24/Cimarron Street interchange so

project e-newsletters and construction notices, send an email to [dot\\_i25Cimarron@state.co.us](mailto:dot_i25Cimarron@state.co.us).

## 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.

## 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 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:

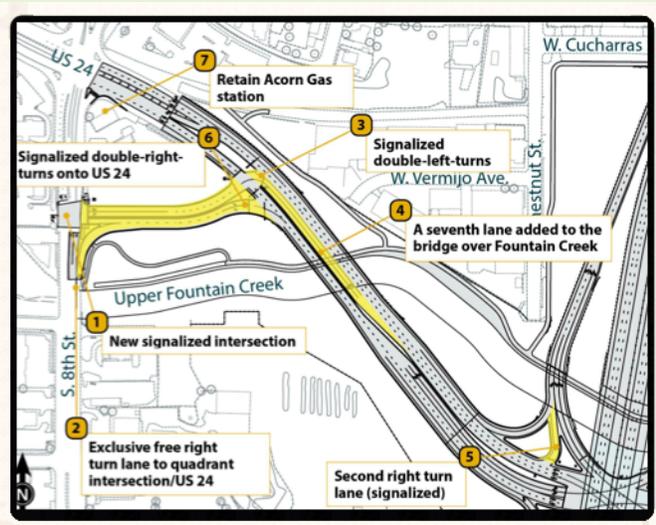
- Improved interstate and interchange operations and safety;
- Improved highway alignment and improved ramps, acceleration/deceleration lanes

as to reduce the duration of impacts to traffic, and allowing time over the winter for embankment to settle.

- No long-term ramp closures during construction as previously anticipated.
- Temporary bridge over Fountain Creek for hauling materials into/out of the project area is reducing truck traffic through neighborhoods/business areas. This bridge is now temporarily being used for the I-25 southbound off-ramp on to US 24 /Cimarron Street.

Kraemer is providing the following Additional Requested Elements (AREs) on this project:

- Full width I-25 bridges to accommodate for further future improvements
- Replacing US 24 bridge over Fountain Creek, providing additional lanes to 8th Street
- Trail and creek improvements along Fountain Creek up to 8th Street. The trail will be a 12-foot-wide paved trail with a minimum 12-foot clearance.



- Contractor defined ARE: Additional operational improvements on US 24 and at the I-25 and US 24 Interchange (quadrant intersection), triple left turn lane for northbound exit, added westbound thru lane on US 24 and the Fountain Creek Bridge.

"Weekend traffic issues were the most compelling reason for the quadrant intersection," said Kraemer Project Manager Mike Ingram. The immediate benefit is to reduce traffic at a congested intersection. This improvement is anticipated to increase rush hour capacity at the intersection by 20 percent during weekdays and by 40 percent on weekends.

"Our approach maximizes the safety, capacity, and operation of the interchange and surrounding transportation network, while improving the capacity

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

### Fun Fact

Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) pipe is installed underground to house fiber optic lines and utilities.

**HOW MUCH:** 9 miles (49,000 linear feet)

**FUN FACT:** Like climbing the Manitou Incline nearly 12 times.

### Progress To Date

- Interim southbound I-25 on-ramp - Complete
- Interim southbound I-25 off-ramp - Complete
- 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

at US 24 and 8th Street," said Ingram.

## How Night Shift Project Work Minimizes Impact on the Traveling Public



While the rest of us are sound asleep, construction crews on the I-25/Cimarron Interchange project are hard at work. They have good reason to be night owls. Their primary objective is to minimize the impact of the project on the traveling public.

"We want to avoid lane closures during daytime hours when there is substantially more traffic on the roadways," said Project Director Dave Watt, (CDOT). "Night work minimizes impacts to the public which is one of the project goals."

Eric Norwood, construction manager for the CDOT team from Wilson & Company, Inc. Engineers & Architects added another benefit of night work. "It also allows for more freedom for large equipment to move around without causing hazards to the public," he said. "This was especially true during the hauling of embankment material last fall, when typically 20 to 30 semi-trucks, each made about 20 round-trips per night into and out of the work zone."



When it came to constructing the new southbound I-

## Progress Photos



Southbound I-25 Off-Ramp



Southbound I-25 On-Ramp



US 24 Bridge over Fountain Creek



Installation of Fish Panels on Fountain Creek

25 off-ramp that recently opened, it required import of more than 30 feet of fill material to the west of existing southbound I-25. Don Garcia, CDOT deputy project manager, also with Wilson & Company, Inc. added, "It was estimated the existing ground would settle by as much as 12 inches over a period of months due to the weight of the fill material. By hauling and placing the material at night, the contractor was able to get the embankment built well in advance of building the bridge structures and putting traffic in this new alignment. This allowed engineers to be sure everything had settled before building the new roadway on top of the embankment," said Garcia.

It's not only the fill material that shifts. "One of the little known challenges for night workers is adjusting their eating habits," said Norwood. "Depending on individual preferences, breakfast for these workers is usually in mid-to-late afternoon, lunch is in the middle of the night and dinner might be a snack around sunrise. It takes some getting used to, but that late at night it is quieter and the cell phone doesn't ring as much!"

Overall, Watt knows the community has been very adaptable. "We appreciate your patience throughout construction, because once completed, the interchange will be safer, accommodate higher volumes of traffic and be aesthetically pleasing," he said.

## Project Team Spotlight

### Scott Asher, Project Manager

Scott Asher was born and raised near Madison, Wisconsin. He grew up near the lakes and remains a self-professed "big cheese head." He earned a Civil Engineering degree from the University of Wisconsin, Platteville, spending his college summers building custom houses in Door County, and moved to Colorado in 2003.



Scott spends what little leisure time he has with his wife Michelle and their three children, ages 13, 9 and 7. They enjoy skiing, hiking, and mountain biking. Each summer he tries to spend a week or two with his family on Lake Michigan where his parents retired. But Scott doesn't anticipate too much free time over the foreseeable future with the interchange Phase 1



Southbound I-25 Bridge Work



Work around Fountain Creek

MILESTONE EVENT - May 19, 2016



construction, now in full swing, that kicked-off in March.

As project manager, Scott is involved with numerous aspects of the complicated \$113 million project. He says his job is exciting and challenging, and that to him, the key to success is empowering the team. "I work to provide our team with the resources they need to keep the project moving forward," said Scott. A typical day involves reacting to a myriad of issues, checking in with the field office, visiting the site and meeting with the team to address challenges. "We work together to make certain we address concerns as they surface. The biggest challenge is sorting through the information and not becoming a bottleneck," said Scott. "My favorite part of the job is the collaboration that occurs with the project team. With a project of this size and scope, issues will naturally come up. We work hand-in-hand with the Kraemer contractor team addressing and resolving any concerns that may arise."

## Summer Work - A Look Ahead

More details available in weekly eAlerts. Sign up at [www.cotrip.org](http://www.cotrip.org), and then click on the bright green telephone. Scroll down to the "Projects" list for I-25/Cimarron Interchange.

The summer season is underway with more visitors to the region and additional traffic on the roadways. With ongoing commitment to the project goal of minimizing impacts and inconvenience to the community, motorists, businesses, and the downtown area during construction, the project will continue to have several night closures. The project remains on schedule to be fully operational by winter 2017.

### Split Lane Configuration - Mid-June

As part of Phase 1 for the Interstate-25/Cimarron St. project, a temporary split lane configuration on southbound I-25 between Cimarron Street/US 24 and south Nevada Avenue/Tejon Street will be required mid-June. The left two lanes of southbound I-25 will split onto existing northbound pavement and the right lane of southbound I-25 will split on to the existing southbound pavement. Northbound I-25 will shift to the east, utilizing the shoulder. Three through lanes will remain open in the day-time hours

This split lane configuration will be in place for several months to reconstruct the southbound lanes and prepare for the final alignment of I-25. The split lane configuration was utilized at C470 and Lincoln in Denver.

[CLICK HERE](#) for illustration of split lane



Like us on **Facebook** 

Follow us on **twitter**

configuration.

**Overnight Interstate Full Closures Ahead:** Prior to implementing this split lane configuration, a couple of overnight interstate full closures will take place:

- A full closure of northbound I-25 (Cimarron Street/US 24 to south Nevada Avenue/Tejon Street) to shift traffic; scheduled for early June. (Complete)
- A full closure of southbound I-25 (Cimarron Street/US 24 to south Nevada Avenue/Tejon Street) to install traffic control for the split, restripe and move barrier; scheduled for mid-June.

**Additional activities to expect in summer 2016:**

**June:**

- Overnight lane restrictions on westbound US 24 to switch traffic onto new pavement.
- Lane restrictions on southbound I-25 for paving operations.

**July:**

- Full overnight closures of US 24 at the I-25 Bridge to set I-25 Phase 1 girders.
- Full overnight closures on Cimarron Street (between Sierra Madre and I-25) to set girders for the Cimarron over Fountain Creek bridge.
- Lane restrictions on US 24 for shift to permanent lane configuration west of I-25.

**August:**

- A full overnight closure of I-25 southbound off-ramp for permanent alignment across permanent bridge; scheduled for August 2016.

[CLICK HERE](#) to view June Fact Sheet.

## 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).

To safely UNSUBSCRIBE from this project e-newsletter only, send an email to [Lisa@bachmanpr.com](mailto:Lisa@bachmanpr.com). This removes you from receiving information about this project only, but assures you continue to receive e-newsletters about other projects you signed up for in the past. SafeUnsubscribe below removes you from receiving ALL project e-newsletters.