



I-25/Cimarron Interchange Design-Build Project



eNewsletter ▶

Colorado Department of Transportation

January 2017

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I-25/Cimarron Interchange Project Team Keeps Close Eye on Weather Conditions



Project Schedule

- Phase 0 Construction (offline): complete
- Phase 1 Construction (mainline work): completed Fall 2016
- Phase 2 Construction: Late 2016 to Summer 2017
- Operationally complete: December 2017

Despite last month's single digit temperatures, recent mild weather enabled construction workers to continue working on the I-25 Cimarron Interchange project. To stay on schedule and within budget, crews continue working through winter weather conditions when it's safe to do so; however, not all activities can be conducted in cold weather, requiring careful planning and increased attention to job site safety.

Some activities dependent on winter temperatures include restriping, asphalt paving and pouring concrete. "Equipment used to restripe lane lines will freeze if it is too cold," said Mike Ingram, Kraemer North America Project Manager. "Asphalt paving is also an activity that is restricted during cold weather, causing a majority of the asphalt plants to shut down during the winter season. Concrete pours are dependent on weather conditions as well," said Ingram. "In extremely low temperatures, concrete may not reach strength specifications and has the potential to freeze. If temperatures allow for a concrete pour during the winter, crews will utilize blankets and heaters to help with the curing process. Hot water is typically added when concrete is batched to help with this process."

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:

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Quick Links

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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 December 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.

Fall 2016 Accomplishments

- Northbound I-25 off-ramp fill south of US 24
- Switched southbound I-25 traffic onto new pavement/bridge

The construction team keeps a close eye on the forecast to plan upcoming work because, as the saying goes in Colorado - "if you don't like the weather, wait five minutes!"

Above quality, schedule and budget, safety is a top priority for the project team. Extra precautionary measures are taken to avoid slip and fall hazards, frost bite, etc. Colorado average 300 sunny days per year helps keep those frigid temperatures at bay, but if not, the project team is prepared for what winter 2017 may bring.

Executing a Major Traffic Shift



In January, crews will complete a number of highly visible traffic shifts along the I-25/Cimarron corridor as the project continues into Phase 2 (nearly two-thirds of the project is now complete). With so many moving pieces, traffic impacts and crew members involved, the in's-and-out's of executing a major traffic shift can be complicated.

- Northbound I-25 traffic shift to the west onto new pavement and over the new I-25 bridge
- I-25 bridge demolition
- Job wide paving and restriping operations
- Removed pedestrian bridge crossing Fountain Creek and transported to Humane Society
- Various utility relocations
- Cimarron and US 24 bridge deck pours
- Restored the auxiliary lane on southbound I-25 between Bijou and US 24
- Various ramp realignments
- US 24, Cimarron and I-25 bridge girder sets

[CLICK HERE](#) to view the project phasing information.



Steps to executing a major traffic shift:

- Extensive planning is conducted prior to any traffic shift. The I-25 Cimarron Interchange project traffic team consisting of CDOT, Kraemer North America, Wilson & Company, Rocky Mountain Sign, and the City of Colorado Springs Traffic Department analyzes the traffic switch to be sure it allows room for the next phase of construction. It also must meet all safety criteria.
- From these meetings, a licensed engineer prepares the official Traffic Control Plan and submits it to CDOT management for approval.
- The project traffic control company (Rocky Mountain Sign) prepares a Method of Handling Traffic (MHT) for any lane closures or detours needed to implement the traffic control plan.
- When the shift begins, crews first place the signs indicating the necessary lane closures, starting from the point furthest from the point of the closure.
- After signs are in place, crews set construction cones and formally close the lane with the help of an arrow board.
- They repeat this process for any additional lanes closing at later times.
- Crews proceed to close any turn lanes at intersections leading to ramps set to close.
- Then they shift any barriers, resetting them in the new location.
- Next comes concrete or asphalt paving and time for it to cool down and dry.
- Striping new roadway segments follows paving.
- Most traffic changes are completed in a single overnight work shift. Major traffic shifts may require longer duration closures.

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

Project Partners

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

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 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 Photos



Additional Bridge Work on I-25



I-25 northbound off-ramp



I-25 northbound off-ramp paving

CDOT Encourages Smart, Safe Winter Driving



Photo by Steve Garufi

As winter has arrived, the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) maintenance crews are on standby for the winter snow shift. When a storm event is predicted, maintenance crews begin a 24-hour operation-rotating 12-hour shifts-until they reach dry road conditions.

Winter Travel Tips:

- Have good snow tires. How do you know if you need new snow tires? Insert a quarter into the tire tread upside down, with Washington's head going in first; if the top of George's head is covered by the tread, your tires are OK (do this test in multiple points around each tire.) If the top of his head is visible at any point, you need new tires.
- Keep your gas tank full. It enables better traction and a bigger margin of error if you get stuck and have to keep the engine running periodically to keep warm.
- If you are stuck in a serious storm do not leave your car. Run the engine periodically and wait for help.
- Carry blankets, water, a flashlight, a shovel, some nutrition bars or other food for sustenance. Winterize your vehicle's safety kit by including extra blankets, sand for traction in the event you become stuck on ice or snow, jumper cables, an ice scraper and lock deicer.
- Remember that 4-wheel drive does not mean 4-wheel stop. A 4-wheel drive vehicle will not stop any better in icy conditions, especially if you have inadequate snow tires.
- Know the chain laws. Chain restrictions in Colorado are most often put into effect for commercial vehicles (semi-trailer trucks) and do not usually affect passenger vehicles.
- Drive for the conditions. In poor visibility or even whiteout conditions, don't drive faster than you can see ahead. High speeds in poor or no visibility can lead to large chain reaction accidents.



Dirt work on US 24/Cimarron St.



Cimarron Bridge paving

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In addition to these winter driving tips, CDOT reminds all motorists to respect winter weather, conduct a pre-trip inspection of your vehicle, and leave extra space between your automobile and others on the road (including plow trucks). Of course, always buckle up!

I-25/Cimarron Project Look Ahead

Phase 2 - Late 2016 to Summer 2017

- Pave northbound I-25
- Northbound I-25 on- and off-ramp realignment
- Install lighting signals and signs on Cimarron Street/US 24
- Provide additional lanes for 8th Street connection on US 24
- South end of project - northbound overlay for tie-in
- Northbound I-25 bridge work
- Northbound I-25 on-ramp bridge over Upper Fountain Creek
- Stream channel reconstruction and multi-use trail extension
- Begin landscaping
- Pedestrian bridges over Upper Fountain Creek and Monument Creek

Phase 3 - Summer 2017 to Late 2017

- Landscaping
- Finish aesthetics
- Install median barrier, lighting, conduit
- Final striping
- Laterals/inlet tie-ins
- Finish island/median curbs
- Complete remaining trails and stream improvements
- New connection between 8th Street and Cimarron Street - Connector is anticipated to reduce traffic at the intersection 20 percent on weekdays and 40 percent on weekends.

Pikes Peak Greenway Trail:

- The gravel section of the Pikes Peak Greenway Trail is closed through spring 2017. The paved section of the trail (east of Fountain Creek) will remain open.

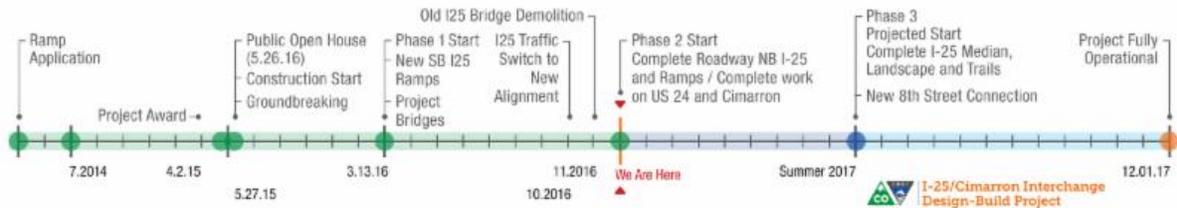
You Can Also Expect:

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