



I-25/Cimarron Interchange Design-Build Project

eNewsletter



Colorado Department of
Transportation

July 2017

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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): completed Fall 2016
- Phase 2 Construction: Late 2016 to Summer 2017
- Operationally complete: December 2017

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Website:

[Colorado Info Project](#)

Email:

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Hotline: (719) 302-6781

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Quick Links

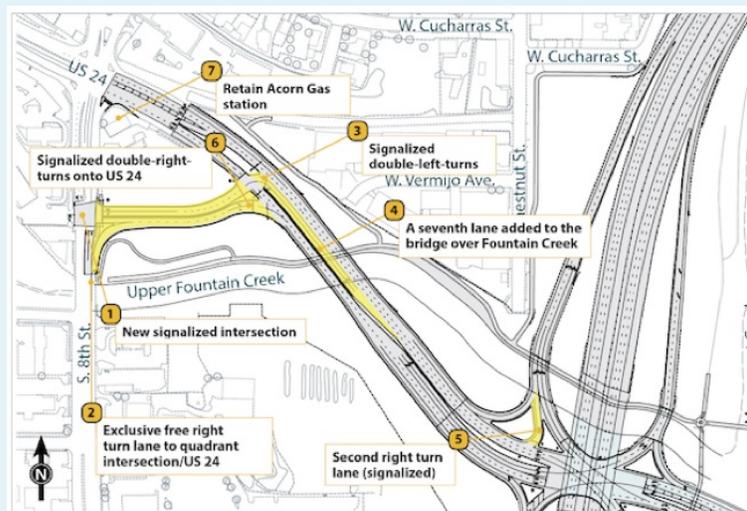
[Project Website](#)

Innovative 8th Street/US 24 Quadrant Intersection Complete and Ready for Traffic

The new 8th Street Quadrant Intersection is scheduled to open later this week. Improvements to the 8th Street/US 24 Quadrant Intersection are designed to accommodate current and future traffic demands and reduce congestion-related accidents.

The newly constructed quadrant takes existing heavy traffic at US 24/8th Street intersection, approximately 60,000 vehicles per day, and moves it through two separate signalized intersections. "This innovative addition to the project suggested by the contractor will significantly reduce the amount of conflicting traffic at the US 24/8th Street intersection by spreading the traffic out," said Dave Watt, CDOT project manager. Adding the new US 24/8th Street connection is anticipated to accommodate 20 percent more weekday rush hour traffic capacity and 40 percent more weekend rush hour traffic capacity in this area overall. The additional connection will accommodate long-term traffic demands and reduce congestion-related accidents.

On opening day, about 1,300 vehicles will use the Quadrant Intersection in the evening peak hour, which equates to 13,000 to 15,000 vehicles per day. In 2035, about 1,870 vehicles will use the Quadrant Intersection in the evening peak hour, which equates to about 18,000 to 20,000 vehicles per day.



Quadrant Intersection improvements include:

- A new signalized intersection on 8th Street

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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.

Project Partners

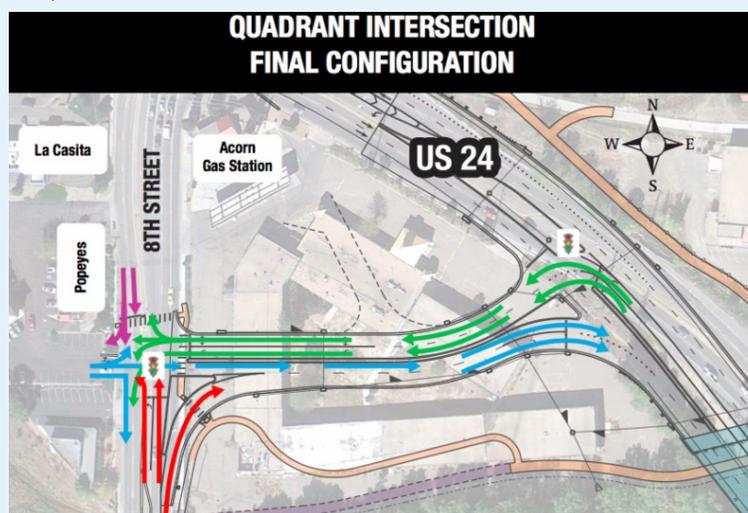
- Colorado Department of Transportation
- Federal Highway Administration
- City of Colorado Springs
- El Paso County
- The Community

What the Project Involves

Planned improvements include

- Exclusive right turn lane from northbound 8th Street to eastbound US 24
- Signalized left turns from westbound US 24 to 8th Street using the new connection while maintaining a single left turn lane from the current intersection.
- There is a single left turn lane from westbound US 24 to southbound 8th Street.
- A second southbound I-25 to westbound US 24 right turn lane
- Double right turns from the quadrant road to eastbound US 24
- A design that retains the Acorn Gas Station and provides new access from the quadrant road
- A design that maximizes the safety, capacity, and operation of the interchange and surrounding transportation network, while improving the capacity at US 24 and 8th Street

The new 8th Street/US 24 Quadrant Intersection will take some getting used to for motorists traveling in the area. Below is a description, along with a graphic to help illustrate this new, efficient route.



- Motorists heading west on US 24 wishing to get to 8th Street can utilize the new Quadrant Intersection by turning left where the old Express Inn was previously located, south of Acorn Gas Station. Once at 8th Street, there will be a new signalized intersection -- one designated left turn to southbound 8th Street, and one lane through/left turn/right turn.
- Motorists heading north on 8th Street, wishing to get to US 24 need to utilize the new Quadrant Intersection by taking the free right turn at the intersection and then use the two designated right turn lanes to access eastbound US 24. **Keep in mind motorists will not be able to turn right onto eastbound US 24 from northbound 8th Street during construction; watch for signage to direct you.**
- There is a single left turn lane from westbound US 24 to southbound 8th Street.
- The new entrance into Acorn gas station will be open off of the new Quadrant Intersection. See dotted lines in graphic below. Access off of 8th Street remains open.

[Video Simulation: New 8th Street to US 24 Connection](#)

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.

Bridge, Creek, Trail and Landscaping Work Still Ahead

Prior to project completion, scheduled for late 2017, there are several key elements of work left to complete, including:

- Finish the northbound I-25 bridge and northbound I-25 on-ramp bridge
- Complete the Cimarron Street/US 24 intersection under I-25 and install new, permanent traffic signals
- Final paving and landscaping
- Trail enhancements
- Upper Fountain Creek improvements

You Can Also Expect:

- Speed reduction to 55 mph



Colorado Avenue Bridge Work Added to Project

Simultaneous Work Designed to Minimize Inconveniences



Required maintenance work on Interstate-25 over the Colorado Avenue Bridge for longevity and to improve the ride quality has been planned. Project efficiencies on the I-25/Cimarron Interchange project has enabled CDOT to add the

Colorado Avenue Bridge work into the scope. The work is being completed by Kraemer North America while they are simultaneously constructing the I-25/Cimarron project.



"To minimize inconvenience to the traveling public, the best time to do this work is now while construction of the interchange is ongoing," said Watt. This work started in late June and will continue into October. This will eliminate the need for CDOT to have a separate

contractor conduct work after the interchange construction is complete, risking winter weather delays.

Motorists Be Aware - Temporary Short Merge Lanes Ahead!

- Three through lanes on I-25 in each direction in the vicinity of the I-25 bridge over Colorado Avenue are open. Continuous auxiliary lanes onto northbound I-25 from Cimarron Street to the Bijou Street exit, and onto southbound I-25 from Bijou Street to the Cimarron Street/US 24 exit changed to merge lanes. Please be aware of shorter merge distances to accommodate space for crews to work.
- For the safety of the public as well as the construction crews, the posted speed limit is reduced to 45 miles per hour on northbound and southbound I-25 between Bijou Street

on I-25 between South Nevada Avenue/ Tejon Street and Cimarron/US24

- Speed reduction to 30 mph on US 24/Cimarron Street between 8th Street and I-25
- Speed reduction to 45 mph on I-25 from Cimarron/US24 to Bijou Street
- Narrowed lanes and reduced shoulders
- Three lanes maintained northbound and southbound I-25 during the day

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and Cimarron Street/US 24.

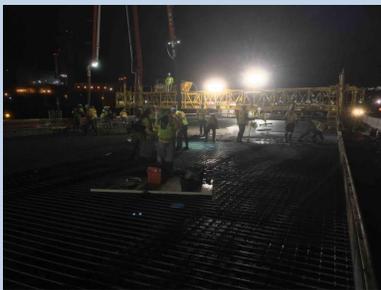
Project Aesthetics and Landscaping Taking Shape

"To achieve an aesthetically pleasing design compatible with current and future amenities and enhancements in and around the interchange" is a project goal for the I-25/Cimarron Interchange team. With considerable community and stakeholder input, a detailed landscape and urban design plan was produced and refined as part of the design process. As a key collaborative stakeholder in the project, the City of Colorado Springs helped to fund the landscaping construction and maintenance -- important for a community that serves as the gateway to downtown Colorado Springs, and the mountain corridor to the west. Signs of the landscaping are beginning to take shape now with the small willow trees planted adjacent to Fountain Creek.

[CLICK HERE](#) for Landscape Plan.

Progress Photos

Setting NB I-25 Bridge Deck



Trail Work



The retaining walls along Fountain Creek and the Midland Trail under the interstate began with THK Associates, Inc. (a landscape architectural design firm) working collaboratively with an aesthetics committee comprised of community stakeholders to create three panel design options. The natural fish habitat and aquatic elements of the creeks under the interchange bridges are reflected on the retaining walls.



Concrete Work



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Finishing touches of the retaining wall panel molds were completed by a Colorado sculptor to create a visually appealing experience for the trail along the creeks.

Bike and Pedestrian Trail Improvements Improve Community Multi-Modal Options

Improving multi-modal transportation options for the community, is a significant and exciting aspect of the I-25/Cimarron project. Community input indicated a desire to have the trail follow alongside the creek for a more enjoyable experience. Working collaboratively with the City of Colorado Springs as well as with the bike and trail community, the new alignment of the Midland Trail was designed along Upper Fountain Creek near the confluence with Monument Creek. It is being constructed with a concrete surface, aesthetic features and improved lighting under I-25.

The new trails will connect to the regional trail system in Colorado Springs to the east and west of the project. Trail connectivity is anticipated to be complete and all trails open this fall with the landscaping work finishing later in the fall.

Placement of one new pedestrian bridge over Monument Creek enables more convenient connection between the new Midland Trail and pedestrian/bicycle transportation routes to the east of the project, including a new access pathway to America the Beautiful Park, a signature park for the community.

Kraemer removed the original Fountain Creek pedestrian bridge intact. It is now being used by the Humane Society of the Pikes Peak Region for access to its dog park. The new pedestrian bridge over Upper Fountain Creek is located just east of the old location and is a longer and wider structure to accommodate creek improvements.

Summer Work

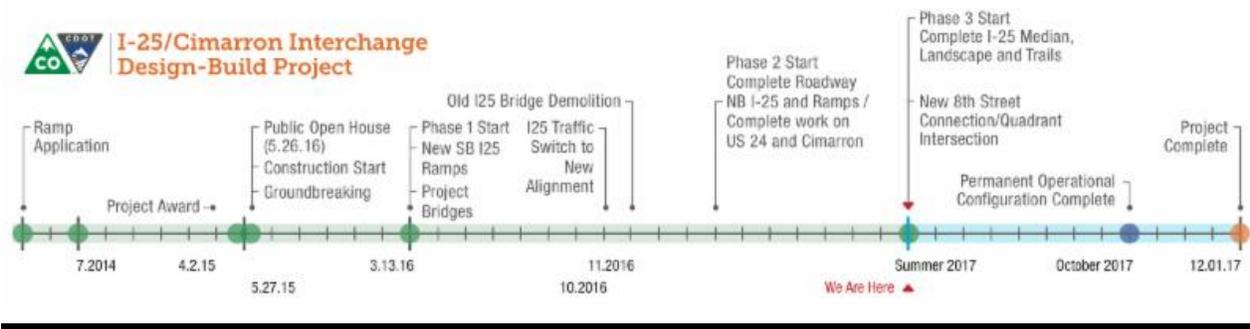
Phase 2 work was completed in early July. Some of the Phase 3 work has begun with the remaining Phase 3 shift scheduled for the end of July.

As part of the project Phase 2 construction, the Single Point Urban

Interchange (SPUI) configuration under I-25 at Cimarron Street/US 24 became operational June 23. The new interchange will enhance operations, correct existing safety and design deficiencies, and serve the anticipated traffic demand in this area.

Phase 3 - Late Summer to Late 2017

- Paving operations on I-25 and Cimarron Street/US 24 requiring various closures
- Switch northbound I-25 onto final alignment late July/early August
- Landscaping
- Finish aesthetics
- Install median barrier, lighting, conduit
- Final striping
- Storm drainage outfalls, laterals/inlet tie-ins
- Finish island/median curbs and median cover
- Complete remaining trails and stream improvements



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