



# I-25/Cimarron Interchange Design-Build Project

eNewsletter

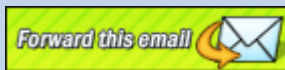


Colorado Department of Transportation

October 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: Dec. 1, 2017

### Stay Connected

Website:  
[Colorado Info Project](#)  
 Email:  
[dot\\_i25Cimarron@state.co.us](mailto:dot_i25Cimarron@state.co.us)  
 Hotline: (719) 302-6781  
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### Quick Links

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

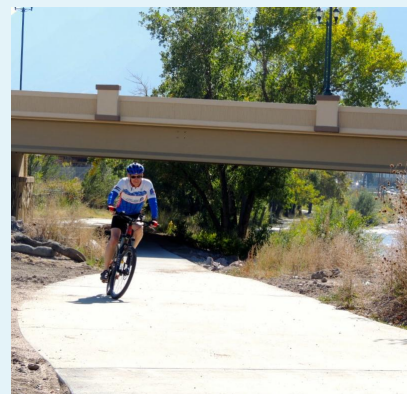
## Interchange Project Approaches Completion



### Trails Under I-25/Cimarron Opening Soon Experience the Improvements

The Interstate-25 and US 24/Cimarron Street Interchange Design-Build project includes several bike and pedestrian trail improvements and connections to parks, emphasized by the community as important to the overall aesthetics of the interchange, as well as for providing multi-modal transportation options. The project is operationally complete and the trails system fully open by the end of October.

"The previous asphalt-surfaced Midland Trail passed below I-25 through a former very low, dark, and narrow railroad tunnel," said CDOT Project Director Dave Watt. "The previous trail under the interstate was not in a very good location and it was not aesthetically pleasing." The new alignment of the Midland Trail is along Upper Fountain Creek with a concrete surface, aesthetic features and improved lighting under the I-25 bridge. The new trails connect to the regional trail system in Colorado Springs to the east and west of the project. The project also installed lighting for the existing Pikes



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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
- Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments
- The Community

Peak Greenway Trail underneath the Cimarron Bridge near Fountain Creek.

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



A pedestrian bridge that once spanned Upper Fountain Creek, east of I-25 and north of Cimarron Street was also replaced as part of the project. It was originally planned to be demolished to construct the new pedestrian bridge. Instead, the project contractor, Kraemer, relocated the intact old bridge structure to the Humane Society, connecting the main animal shelter over a drainage canal to provide them access to their dog park area.

Careful attention was paid to the design of the grade of the trail paths to assure the grade change complies with the Americans with Disabilities act. The gradual slope will also enable better views of the creek.

A bicycle and pedestrian roundabout at the confluence of Fountain and Monument Creeks will provide a unique gathering place for trail users.



Concrete retaining wall panels with designs reflecting native fish in their habitat were installed along the new Midland Trail directly under I-25 bridges and along the Pikes Peak Greenway Trail under the Cimarron Bridge.



**Experience it for yourself. Take time and enjoy a bike ride or walk along the Upper Fountain Creek on the new Midland Trail.**

## I-25/Cimarron Interchange Project Benefits

### What the Project Involved

Improvements included reconstructing I-25 between Colorado Avenue (to the north) and the Nevada Avenue/Tejon Street interchange (to the south), and a continuous northbound travel lane between the south Nevada Avenue/ Tejon Street interchange and the Cimarron interchange. Project boundaries on Cimarron: between 8<sup>th</sup> Street to the west and the Cimarron bridge over Fountain Creek to the east.

The completed project provides:

- 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.



The Interstate-25/Cimarron Interchange Design-Build project is a key transportation connection within the Pikes Peak region. The lack of gateway routes into downtown Colorado Springs and to the mountain communities to the west resulted in congestion for regional weekday commuters, and seasonal destination and recreational traffic. This project enhances traffic operations, capacity and safety of the I-25 network and US 24 connection by redesigning and rebuilding the bridge and ramp structures, most of which date back to 1959. This is the second largest highway project in Colorado Springs' history behind COSMIX (Colorado Springs Metro Expansion Project: 2005-2008).

Large transportation infrastructure projects like this benefit the local and statewide economy. CDOT, Federal Highway Administration, and the project partners invested more than \$113 million on this project to improve mobility by alleviating congestion and meeting future traffic growth needs, lowering maintenance cost and reducing accidents.

#### Long-term Project Benefits

- Enhances interchange traffic flow and safety operations
- Improves highway alignment and improves ramps, acceleration/deceleration lanes for increased vehicle storage and safety
- Gateway to the Mountains and Downtown Colorado Springs
- Provides better trail connections, improved water quality, and aesthetic enhancements
- Aging infrastructure brought up to modern engineering standards
- Long-term durability for this section of I-25

### Progress Photos (Fall 2017)





## Benefits to the Local Economy




As I-25 is a critical route for local commuters, summer tourism, military readiness, and access to the downtown central business district and communities to the west, and I-25 mobility is critical to the sustainability of key regional employment sectors, providing better trans-state commerce, easier for freight transport and mobility board to boarder. The I-25 Cimarron interchange is a major transportation node linking the region's main north-south and east-west highways. Other benefits include:

- Reconstructing the I-25 Cimarron Interchange was a top regional priority and supports plans for nearby redevelopment. The United States Olympic Museum is being built at the Southwest Downtown Urban Renewal Area, for which the Cimarron interchange is the closest and most logical Interstate access point.
- Adjacent to the I-25 Cimarron interchange, is America the Beautiful Park, dedicated in September 2005. The 21-acre park draws daily (free) uses and also hosts occasional events that attract large crowds.
- A positive impact of roadway construction activity is the creation or temporary construction jobs in the area. Construction worker salaries were spent on food, lodging, meals, entertainment and other purchases in the region, having a multiplier effect as the money is spent again by those local businesses.
- Tourism: perception of a city with a better transportation system:
  - The project eases congestion and increases safety by softening the curves, beautifying and improving area walkways and trails.
  - The project creates "a southern gateway" for downtown and the city and "changes the dynamics" of how people enter Colorado Springs and the communities to the west.

## Positive Contributions to Quality of Life

- Time savings translates into additional time for preferred activities.
- Living options from expanded mobility allows people to choose from a wider range of activities and opens up more options for places to live.
- Expanded employment freedom: An improved interstate makes it possible for people to pursue

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employment across far larger areas than before and brings more jobs within reach of employees.

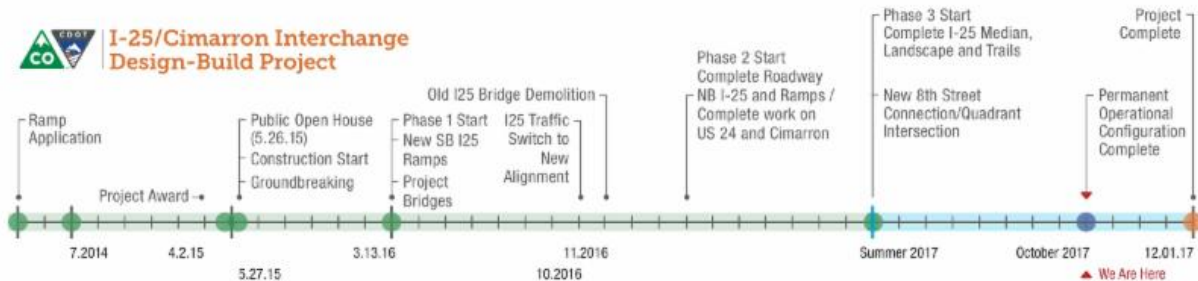
- Improved access to health care: The interstate makes it possible to transport those in need of acute care to hospitals much more quickly and over greater distances, reducing mortality.
- Improved air quality: Interstate contributes materially to the reduction of air pollution and, thereby, to improved health by permitting more consistent speeds and smoother traffic flows.

\*(Reference: excerpts from "40 Years of the US Interstate Highway System: An Analysis The Best Investment A Nation Ever Made - A Tribute to The Dwight D. Eisenhower System of Interstate & Defense Highways")

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## Upcoming Work

The project team is completing landscaping installation activities over the next few weeks. In addition, the contractor will be finishing punch list items throughout the project. There will continue to be daytime and overnight lane restrictions until the project is fully complete Dec. 1.



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