

March 16, 2011

I-70B Reconstruction Project Update for the week of March 20th

Eastbound Through Lanes:

Traffic has been switched over to the north side of Highway 6 & 50 (I-70B) and the old asphalt surface on the eastbound lanes is being removed. This is being done with a grinding machine or “roto-miller” and the by-product is ground asphalt, which is being reused on the project. The current project schedule is now calling for the roto-milling to be done by this Saturday, 3/19/11. Earthmoving crews will start in as the roto-milling work continues towards the east. The subsurface of the eastbound lanes need to be brought down in elevation to match that of the new median. This work could start as early as today (3/16/11) and will continue through the middle of next week (3/23/11). After excavation, Class 6 road base needs to be placed and compacted to accept the new concrete lanes. The road base will be laid next week.

If this schedule is followed, crews can begin to pave the new eastbound lanes towards the end of next week (3/25/11). However, if upon excavating the material under the old roadway it is discovered that “over-excavation” is required, this can delay the paving schedule for 1 to 2 weeks. Over-excavation is required when the underlying soils are not structurally suitable to carry the load of the new roadway and must be removed and replaced with structural material. I will know more about whether or not over-excavation is needed by next week.

During the time that the eastbound lanes are under construction, two through lanes in each direction will be located on the north side of the highway. Although no left turn lanes will be provided, left turns off of Highway 6 & 50 (I-70B) will be allowed from the left through lane. Right turns will work the same way from the right through lane until the eastbound lanes are reopened.

Median Work:

No work on the median is anticipated for this week. Median work will resume once the eastbound lanes are in place.

North Accesses and Frontage Road:

Crews will begin the “hand work” – curb & gutter and several flat hand pours – this week on the North Frontage Road. This work will continue through March 26th. Work will be off-and-on during this time as the concrete is allowed to cure. Hand pours on the 24 ½ Rd. intersection will continue through the end of the week.

South Frontage Road:

Excavation on the south frontage road is complete and preparation for paving is commencing. Crews will begin to machine-pave parts of the South Frontage Road at the end of this week and continue through early next week (3/23/11). We are still waiting for Qwest to remove their overhead lines in the area of the 24 ¾ Road intersection, and work on the South Frontage Road cannot be completed until these lines are removed. Crews will also do the hand pours (curb & gutter, etc.) through the end of next week (3/25/11).

Those with questions or concerns about the project, or who want to receive regular updates on the project progress, may reach Tom Newland, Public Information Manager for the project, at (970) 773-3457 or I70B@sopris.net.