

The Pueblo Chieftain

Expect I-25 delays through mid-June

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Lanes, ramps to close during paving project.

The section of Interstate 25 between Ilex Street and City Center Drive is a bumpy ride, though the Colorado Department of Transportation said Tuesday those road conditions should change by mid-June.

In July 2015, crews started work on the Ilex project, which replaces bridges on I-25 between Ilex Street and City Center Drive in Pueblo. CDOT officials said work on the final layer of asphalt starts May 4.

“I know it seems like that project is done, but technically it’s not done,” said Michelle Peulen, a spokeswoman for CDOT Region 2. “We were doing some work that isn’t on main line I-25 to wrap things up because we were waiting for the temperatures to get warmer. Asphalt is very temperature-dependent, so we can only lay it when we are not having freezing temperatures.”

She said the final stage of paving would make a difference.

“Once we get that layer of asphalt down, those bumps are going to go away.”

Peulen said the roadway’s bridge joints would be covered up, making for a smoother ride.

Workers also plan to add striping.

“This will kind of be our last push,” Peulen said.

The work is scheduled to last approximately six weeks. Drivers should expect lane closures in both directions, as well as ramp closures. CDOT is expecting temporary delays with the work and recommends using alternate routes.

Peulen said a ribbon-cutting for the final project would be announced.

The new ramp’s biggest benefit is the overall impact to public safety, she said.

“With the longer on-ramp, there is better sight distance for the cars coming up the ramp, merging into traffic on I-25,” Peulen said.

There also is a longer entry and a continuous acceleration lane to D Street for cars to use while they are getting onto the highway. The acceleration lane allows oncoming cars to gain enough speed to safely merge onto I-25. In addition, a shoulder has been added to this area.

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