



US 34 Big Thompson Canyon

TRAFFIC IMPACT OVERVIEW 2017/2018

This year's closure of the Big Thompson Canyon will be different in that there will be considerably more construction activity and several work zones spread out over about a 12-mile stretch of US 34 from just east of Mall Road to the Dam Store on the east end of the canyon.

As a result, during the time the canyon is closed to through traffic from Oct. 2, 2017, until late May 2018, there will also be various traffic impacts for canyon residents to navigate.

Canyon residents who live along US 34 between Mall Road and the Dam Store

The main closure points for this year's closure will be near mile point 66 (just east of Mall Road) on the west end of the canyon and near mile point 83 (just west of the Dam Store) on the east end of the canyon.

Canyon residents possessing a permit* will be allowed to pass through these closure points during these time frames:

- 6 to 8:30 a.m. every day
- 4 to 7 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 4 to 8 p.m. Friday through Sunday

During these open time frames, it will take longer to pass through the canyon than it did during last year's closure because of the number of work zones and the tight right-of-way conditions in some areas (particularly through the Narrows). We will operate two pilot cars as much as possible to expedite travel, but there will be times when single-lane configurations prohibit us from doing so.

Canyon residents living between work zones who use the Resident Scheduling Service to request travel at times other than these open time frames won't always be able to travel in the direction they want to go (for example, someone wanting to travel east toward Loveland might be told they need to go west toward County Road 43 to detour around the canyon). See map on reverse side for this route.

From October 2017 through February 2018, a section of US 34 from mile points 72 to 74 just west of Waltonia will be **completely closed** while work is done to repair the landslide area. During this time, **all drivers** (including those with permits traveling during the open times) will need to use County Road 43 for travel in and out of Estes Park.

*See permit fact sheet for more information on how to obtain a permit.

Canyon residents who live along County Road 43

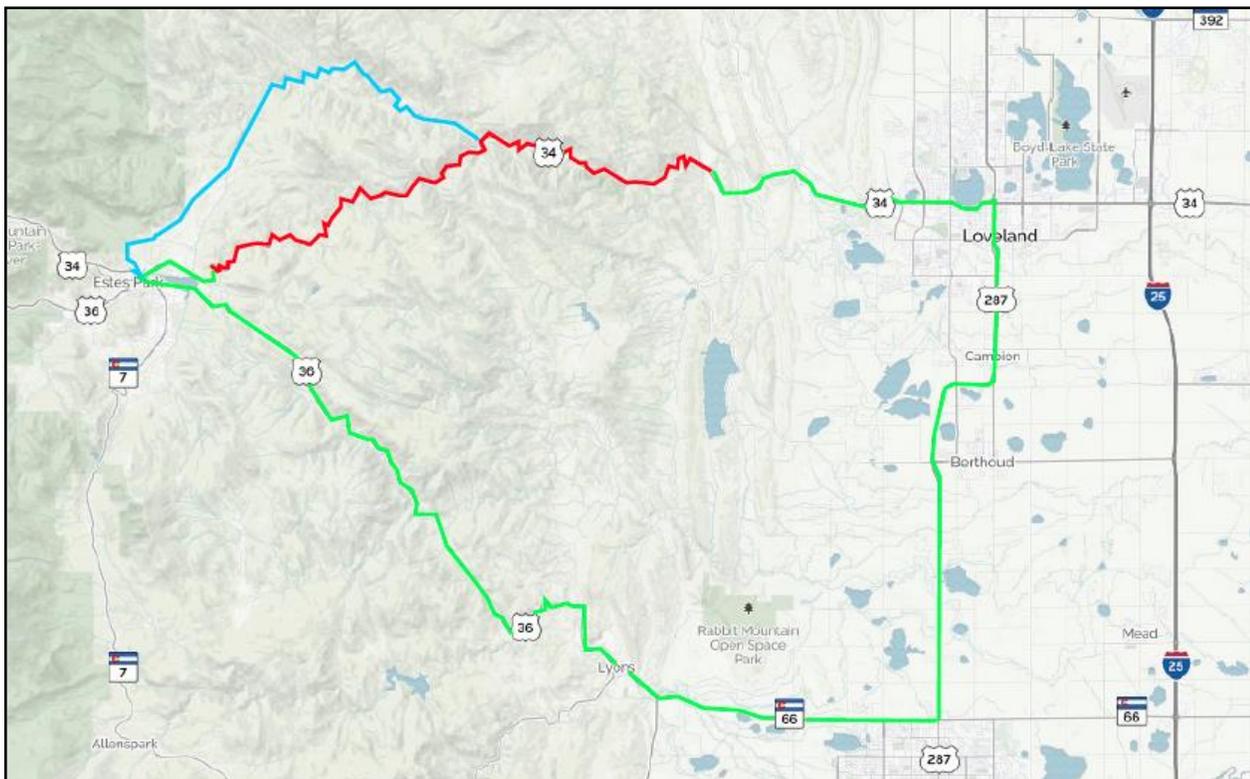
Given the amount of equipment that will be on US 34 and the number of work zones throughout, there will also be a closure point near the US 34 and County Road 43 intersection to prevent east-west travel on US 34 from this point.

Residents living along County Road 43 will always have the ability to travel in and out of Estes Park through Glen Haven. Travel toward Loveland can be done via permit during the aforementioned open time frames or at any time of the day by going west on County Road 43 to Estes Park and then taking US 36 south to Lyons, State Highway 66 east to Highway 287 and 287 north into Loveland.

People who live outside the canyon and commute on US 34

As with the first canyon closure, anyone living outside the permit boundary areas will need to use the US 36/State Highway 66/Highway 287 detour route (see map below). We looked into providing permits to all commuters to travel through the canyon during the morning and evening open times, but given the number of people who drive US 34 and the length of the work zones, the queues of waiting drivers would back up to the point that we would likely only be able to provide one or two traffic releases in each direction.

Furthermore, with the full closure of the canyon just west of Waltonia that will have all drivers using County Road 43 to get in and out of Estes Park, the signed detour route for commuters will often be quicker.



-  US 34 construction area
-  Detour route around canyon
-  County Road 43 detour around landslide closure

US 34 Detour Distances & Driving Time

Segment	Driving Distance
West of Narrows (Idlewild Lane) to Estes Park (US 34/US 36 intersection) via County Road 43	17.2 miles
West of Narrows (Idlewild Lane) to Loveland (US 34/Lincoln Ave. intersection) via County Road 43	79.8 miles
Drake (US 34/CR 43 intersection) to Estes Park (US 34/US 36 intersection) via County Road 43	15.2 miles
Drake (US 34/CR 43 intersection) to Loveland (US 34/Lincoln Ave. intersection) via County Road 43	77.8 miles
West of landslide (mile point 72) to Loveland (US 34/Lincoln Ave. intersection) via detour	55.6 miles
East of landslide (mile point 74) to Estes Park (US 34/US 36 intersection) via County Road 43	17.2 miles
East of landslide (mile poing 74) to Loveland (US 34/Lincoln Ave. intersection) via County Road 43	67 miles
Top of Storm Mountain to Loveland (US 34/Lincoln Ave. intersection) via County Road 43	80 miles
Estes Park (US 34/US 36 intersection) to the Dam Store via the detour	58.7 miles