

US 34 BIG THOMPSON CANYON

BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

May 2010

Project Overview

In mid-November 2009, the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) began a bridge replacement project on US 34 between milepost 65.4 and 66.3. The project replaced two structurally deficient bridges that were originally constructed in 1937. SEMA Construction, Inc. is the contractor for this \$3.8 million project scheduled to be complete before Memorial Day 2010.

What Work has Taken Place?

Crews demolished and replaced both bridges under two full closures of US 34. The upper bridge was replaced in February and the lower bridge was replaced in March and both bridges were completed in eight days, four days ahead of schedule (new lower bridge is pictured below).



Since the completion of the new bridges, crews have been working on various construction activities including storm drain pipe installation, reconstruction of approximately 300 feet of roadway at each bridge approach in order to match the elevation of the new bridges, installation of new guardrail, and staining the new bridge concrete. Much of this work just got underway as crews had to wait for warmer temperatures to return and the ground to unthaw.

Remaining work now includes drainage work, reconstruction of 300 feet of roadway, installation of new guardrail and signs, and staining the new bridge concrete. All of this work is expected to be complete by Memorial Day.

Traffic Impacts

For the remainder of the project, motorists can expect single-lane alternating traffic on US 34 at both bridges from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Flaggers will be on site to direct motorists through the work zone. Minor delays are expected.

What Happened to the Trusses?

The green steel trusses of the old bridges were often a common sight on US 34 through the Big Thompson Canyon and were considered a landmark. The bridges that were replaced as part of this project were the last of the steel truss bridges as the other bridges in the canyon had already been replaced.



To preserve the history and character of the steel trusses, the Town of Estes Park will incorporate the trusses into their pedestrian trail system. Currently, the truss are being restored and being painted dark green (see photo above).

Questions?

If you have questions about the project, please contact Mindy Crane at mindy.crane@dot.state.co.us or 303-757-9469. You can also call the project hotline at 970-685-0229. Please visit us on the Web at <http://www.coloradodot.info/projects/us-34-truss-bridges>.

