

US 34 BRIDGE REPLACEMENT

COMMUNITY MEETING ON UPCOMING PROJECT

September 2009

YOU ARE INVITED TO AN INFORMATIONAL MEETING

WHEN: Wednesday, October 14th from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. with a formal presentation at 6:15 p.m.

WHERE: Estes Park Municipal Building Facilities in the Board Room (170 MacGregor Avenue in Estes Park)

WHY: CDOT has a contractor on board to replace two bridges on US 34 at mileposts 65.4 and 66.3. The project will begin in late October or early November and will require a full closure of US 34 in early 2010 for up to 12 days for each bridge. CDOT and its contractor will provide information about the construction schedule and process as well as the upcoming closure in early 2010. The meeting is a great opportunity for residents and commuters to learn more about the project.

Project Overview

In late October or early November 2009, the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) will begin a bridge replacement project on US 34 between milepost 65.4 and 66.3. The project will replace two structurally deficient bridges that were originally constructed in 1937. To complete the project, CDOT and its contractor will have to completely close US 34 for up to 12 days for each bridge in early 2010. CDOT will work with its contractor in order to reduce the closure time as much as possible.

SEMA Construction, Inc. is the contractor of this \$3.8 million project scheduled to be complete by the end of May 2010.



Why does US 34 have to close?

Unfortunately, there are many factors that prevent CDOT from constructing a detour. First of all, this segment of US 34 is in a canyon with limited space. In order for CDOT to build a detour, additional right of way would need to be purchased, which includes many homes. In addition, there would be many environmental impacts with the Big Thompson River below the bridges and the many trees along the route.

Further, both bridges were constructed in 1937 and are steel truss bridges. With steel truss bridges, it is impossible to remove half of the bridge at a time as once a portion of a truss bridge is removed, the entire bridge must be removed as well.

CDOT has decided to close US 34 during the winter months rather than the summer so traffic is not impacted during peak tourists times. CDOT is working with emergency service providers and the county to ensure the safety of motorists and residents remains the number one priority.

What is the detour route?

CDOT will officially sign the detour route to take motorists to State Highway 66 and over to US 36 to avoid heavy traffic and large loads on local roads. However, residents will still be able to use local roads as a detour route as they see fit.

What is the timeline for the project?

Contractor Begins Design – September 2009
Contractor Begins Construction – Late October or Early November 2009
Complete Closure of US 34- Early 2010
Construction Complete – By Memorial Day 2010

Questions?

If you have questions about the project or the meeting, 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.dot.state.co.us/US34TrussBridges/>

