

News From  
**The Colorado Department  
of Transportation**

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## **BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT BEGINS ON HIGHWAY 50**

**PUEBLO COUNTY** – Work is underway to replace the St. Charles River Bridge on U.S. 50 Business Route in the Vineland area.

The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) project, about ½ mile east of Baxter Road (State Highway 233), will remove the current structure and build a new westbound bridge and rehabilitate the eastbound bridge. It also includes asphalt paving, new guardrail and fencing, earthwork, striping, seeding and mulching.

U.S. 50 is down to a single in each direction, and all traffic has been moved to the eastbound bridge, allowing construction of the new westbound bridge. A 40 mph speed limit is in place and vehicles wider than 11 feet are not allowed to travel through the area. Occasional stops of less than five minutes can be expected, Monday through Friday during daylight hours, primarily for truck hauling in and out of the work zone.

When the westbound bridge is completed, scheduled for April 2010, all traffic will be moved to the new bridge, allowing the eastbound structure to be rehabilitated. It includes adding new approach slabs and minor deck work.

The project is scheduled for completion in July 2010.

“That westbound bridge was built in 1942. It was a steel truss structure that was functionally obsolete. It only had a vertical clearance of 16 feet, which is outdated for today’s standards,” says CDOT Resident Engineer Karen Rowe. “This project will improve safety by eliminating the steel and concrete median barriers, allowing both bridges to become one structure with a painted median. There’ll also be wider shoulders.”

Hamon Contractors, Inc. of Denver, CO. is the contractor for the \$1.8 million project.

Motorists are reminded to please ***Slow for the Cone Zone***, stay alert and pay attention to and obey all work zone/advisory signs and flaggers. Traffic information about this or other CDOT projects is on the *cotrip.org* website or by calling 511 statewide.

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