



I-25/Cimarron Interchange Design-Build Project

eNewsletter



Colorado Department of Transportation

May 2016

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Please forward/share this email with others who may have an interest in the I-25/Cimarron Interchange project.

Project Schedule

- Phase 0 Construction (offline): complete
- Phase 1 Construction (mainline work) begins: underway
- Fully Operational: Winter 2017

Stay Connected

Website:

[Colorado Info Project](#)

Email: dot_i25Cimarron@state.co.us

Hotline: (719) 302-6781

To receive project updates and construction notices, send an email to:

dot_i25Cimarron@state.co.us

Quick Links

[Project Website](#)

[CDOT Website](#)

New I-25 Southbound Off-Ramp to Open May 14 New I-25 Southbound On-Ramp to Open May 15



[CLICK HERE](#) to enlarge

Saturday, May 14: a new Interstate-25 southbound exit ramp to Cimarron Street/US 24 opens, and the existing loop off-ramp permanently closes. Motorists will use the new, more direct off-ramp located to the north of Cimarron Street/US 24 (mile post #141), about a quarter mile south of the Bijou exit.

Sunday, May 15: motorists wanting to head southbound on Interstate-25 from Cimarron Street/US 24 will use a new on-ramp. The new ramp will provide double acceleration and merge distances than the previous ramp.

Sign Up to Receive E-newsletters / eAlerts

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Prioritized Project Goals

Project goals were established and approved by the Executive Oversight Committee. The goals provide direction to the project team and to the design-build contractor team.

Project Goals

1. Maximize overall safety, capacity and operation of the interchange and the surrounding transportation network within the Project budget;
2. Complete Project construction to be fully operational before winter 2017;
3. Minimize impacts and inconvenience to the community, motorists, businesses, downtown and the public during construction; and
4. Achieve an aesthetically pleasing design compatible with current and future amenities and enhancements in and around the interchange.

What the Project Involves

Planned improvements include reconstructing I-25 between Colorado Avenue (to the north) and the Nevada Avenue/Tejon Street interchange (to the south), and include a continuous northbound travel lane between the south Nevada Avenue/Tejon Street interchange and the Cimarron interchange. Project

The new southbound exit ramp and on-ramp will enhance operations, correct existing safety and design deficiencies, and serve the existing and anticipated short-term and long-term travel demand in this area. The partial cloverleaf loop ramp design is outdated and does not adequately support the 9,500 vehicles per hour that travel through



the I-25/Cimarron corridor during peak times each day. Over the past few decades, road authorities have been implementing new interchange designs with more direct exit ramps to reduce congestion and improve safety.

"Since the existing loop off-ramp has been in place for the past 56 years, there will be an adjustment for motorists who frequent this area," said Project Director Dave Watt, Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT). "The traveling public should watch for signage to access the new exit ramp, drive slowly and avoid distractions," said Watt. "If you are heading southbound on the interstate and miss the new Cimarron/US 24 exit, you can continue on the interstate and use the next exit at south Nevada Avenue/Tejon Street."

[CLICK HERE](#) to view Fact Sheet for more information.

What Lies Beneath: Recycled Materials Add Value to Project Outcomes



It's amazing what you find when you dig in the dirt in Colorado. Construction crews on the I-25/Cimarron Interchange project discovered decorative rocks from an 1800's bank building. The rocks are being incorporated into the landscaping plan for the new interchange.

boundaries on Cimarron are between 8th Street to the west and the Cimarron bridge over Fountain Creek to the east. Once construction is complete in 2017, the project will provide:

- Improved interstate and interchange operations and safety;
- Improved highway alignment and improved ramps, acceleration/deceleration lanes for increased vehicle storage and safety;
- New I-25 bridge structures;
- New connection between 8th Street and Cimarron Street;
- Improved trail connectivity and aesthetic treatments.
- Reconstruction of approximately 2,100 feet of Upper Fountain Creek, enhancing stream habitat.

Project Partners

- Colorado Department of Transportation
- Federal Highway Administration
- City of Colorado Springs
- El Paso County
- The Community

Fun Fact



Dirt has been brought in to make the roadway higher.

HOW MUCH: 32,000 cubic yards

FUN FACT: Enough dirt to fill Broadmoor World Arena Ice Hall more than six times.

But that's not all being recycled from this project, said Eric Norwood, Construction Manager for the CDOT team from Wilson & Company, Inc. Engineers & Architects. "Trees that are removed are mulched and will be used on the project. Also, demolition of the existing interchange produces a lot of various debris," said Norwood. "The Contractor is responsible for deciding where the waste material goes."

Mike Ingram, Project Manager for Kraemer North America, the Contractor, added, "For recycling steel, we take it to a steel salvage in Pueblo for melting. It is then repurposed for use elsewhere. For recycling concrete, it is crushed and made into new road base for future use. We will also recycle asphalt eventually, which will be repurposed for road/milling," said Ingram. "One company we use is Colorado Industrial Recycling which recycles scrap metal, signs, fencing, etc. We take concrete and asphalt to Recycled Aggregate Products."



While the materials used to construct the interchange itself are all new, efforts are made to recycle as much as possible in landscape areas. Riprap, or large boulders, are being recycled for slope stabilization along creek beds, under bridges, and wherever there is a drainage pipe outfall. This works to slow down water runoff so it doesn't wash out the area.

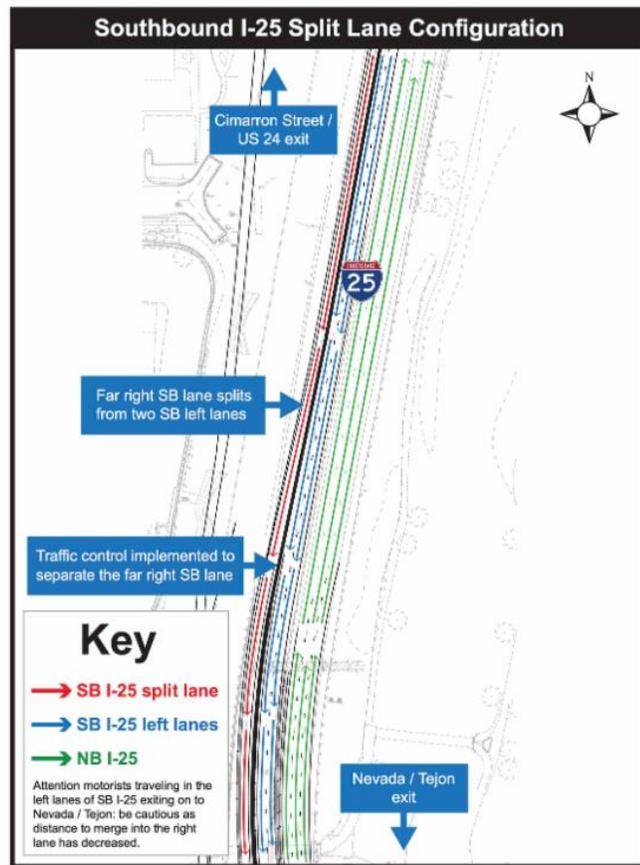


When even rocks are reused, you know that resources from this project site have great value. It appears the bank was just the beginning!

Prepare for Southbound I-25 Split Lane Configuration

Progress To Date

- Southbound I-25 on-ramp - opens May 15
- Southbound I-25 off-ramp - opens May 14
- Temporary concrete plant operational
- Girders set on US 24 bridge over Fountain Creek
- Embankment - majority of work complete
- Various utility relocations
- Drainage work - installed 60-inch storm sewer line under I-25
- Extended and completed Bear Creek Concrete Box Culvert
- Extensive work on Fountain Creek



Progress Photos



Southbound I-25 Off-Ramp

[CLICK HERE](#) to enlarge

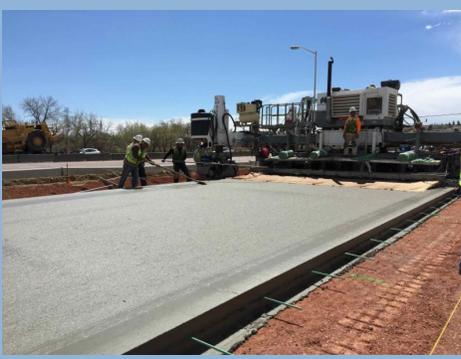
As part of Phase 1 for the I-25/Cimarron project, a temporary split lane reconfiguration on southbound I-25 between Cimarron Street/US 24 and south Nevada Avenue/Tejon Street will be required mid-June. The left two lanes of southbound I-25 will split onto existing northbound pavement and the right lane of southbound I-25 will split on to the existing southbound pavement. Northbound I-25 will shift to the east, utilizing the shoulder.

This split lane configuration will be in place for several months to level out lane elevations and prepare for the final alignment of I-25.

Motorists traveling in the left lanes of southbound I-25 need to be cautious when exiting on to Nevada/Tejon as the distance to merge into the right lane has decreased. If possible, prepare to exit just north of the Cimarron/US 24 exit.

Overnight Interstate Full Closures Ahead: Prior to implementing this split lane configuration, a couple of overnight interstate full closures will take place in late May:

A full closure of northbound I-25 (Cimarron Street/US 24 to south Nevada Avenue/Tejon Street) to shift traffic, and a full closure of southbound I-25 (Cimarron Street/US 24 to south Nevada Avenue/Tejon Street) to install traffic control for the split, restripe and move barrier. Project eAlerts will be issued as reminders prior to these closures.



Paving Southbound I-25 On-Ramp



Southbound I-25 On-Ramp



Temporary Concrete Plant Operational



US 24/Cimarron Bridge over Fountain Creek

Be sure to watch for warning signs to direct you, adhere to posted speed limits and avoid distractions.

Phase 1 Look Ahead (More Details to Come in Weekly eAlerts):

Various overnight lane restrictions and traffic realignments on I-25 and Cimarron Street/US 24 will continue to allow for removals, restriping and paving activities; to set barrier; and for bridge construction. This phase is anticipated to continue through late winter 2016. Additional activities to expect in May/June 2016:

- Full overnight closures of southbound I-25 between Bijou and south Nevada/Tejon exits for the following activities:
 - New southbound I-25 off-ramp (closure of existing loop ramp)
 - New realignment of the southbound I-25 on-ramp from Cimarron Street/US 24 (to the west)
 - Temporary split lane reconfiguration on southbound I-25 between Cimarron Street/US 24 and south Nevada Avenue/Tejon Street (left two lanes split to existing northbound pavement, right lane split to existing southbound pavement)
- Shift westbound and eastbound US 24 traffic to the south, onto the new permanent US 24 bridge over Fountain Creek
- Full northbound I-25 closure between Cimarron/US 24 and south Nevada Avenue/Tejon Street exits to set temporary barrier and to shift traffic to the east.

You can also expect:

- Speed reduction to 55 mph on I-25 between Colorado Avenue and south Nevada Avenue/Tejon Street exits and speed reduction to 30 mph on US 24 between 8th Street and I-25
- Narrowed lanes and reduced shoulders
- Three lanes maintained northbound and southbound I-25 during the day

Additional Project Information

For more information about the project, visit the [CDOT website project page](#). To receive future I-25/Cimarron project e-

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