



COLORADO

Department of Transportation

I-70 Bridges over Ward Road



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Project Overview

This important state-funded infrastructure upgrade project is part of CDOT's 10-Year Plan to improve bridge safety to support increased traffic on the I-70 corridor. The scope of work consists of filling in the median to shift I-70 traffic, removing and replacing the eastbound and westbound bridges, widening the shoulders, making safety improvements, and resurfacing a section of Ward Road (Colorado Highway 72).

The project is located on I-70 at Mile Point 266 (Exit 266) over Ward Road in the City of Wheat Ridge. The bridges support a high daily volume of traffic, including commercial vehicles from the nearby Travel Center. Both bridges were built in the mid-1960s and have undergone frequent maintenance and rehabilitation but have reached the end of their lifespans and will be replaced.

The sequence of work consists of filling in the median to shift traffic, removing and replacing the westbound bridge, removing and replacing the eastbound bridge, widening the shoulder areas, installing guardrail and making safety improvements, and resurfacing Ward Road from W. 44th Ave to the I-70 interchange.



Project Corridor



The bridge structures are located on Interstate 70 at Mile Point 266 (Exit 266 Ward Rd/CO 72). The project limits extend from MP 265 (Exit 265 - CO 58/Golden) to MP 266.5 (1/2 mile east of Exit 266) on I-70, and on Ward Road (CO 72) from MP 0.0 (W. 44th Avenue) to MP .25 at the I-70 interchange, in the City of Wheat Ridge, Jefferson County.



Purpose & Need

The purpose of the project is to improve infrastructure and bridge safety to support increased traffic on the I-70 corridor. Work includes:

- Filling in the median to shift I-70 traffic
- Removing and replacing both bridge structures
- Adding guardrail, wider shoulders and safety features
- Installing signs and pavement delineators
- Resurfacing Ward Road from 44th Avenue to the I-70 interchange





Project Benefits



When complete, this project will provide the following:

- Upgraded infrastructure
- Improved safety
- Enhanced accessibility for oversized loads
- Smoother driving surface and improved access to/from Ward Road from 44th Ave to the I-70 interchange



Public Information Management

CDOT and the public information team will adopt various strategies to shape, implement and manage outreach, including:

- Customize outreach to engage and build relationships with stakeholders and the public
- Convey the project's vision, economic impact and benefits
- Develop a mix of collateral materials for distribution across various platforms
- Distribute regular updates on the project's schedule, progress and traffic impacts
- Develop communication work plans for special information needs
- Provide coping information to minimize disruptions
- Review, assess and adjust community impact outreach



Traffic Impacts

The following impacts will be in place during the period of construction:

- Narrowed lanes, reduced speeds and traffic shifts
- Intermittent overnight lane closures on I-70 and Ward Road
- Full closures of Ward Road during safety critical work, with detour routes in place
- Width restriction of 11-feet through the work zone
- Three lanes will remain open on I-70 during daytime hours
- Nearby project impacts
 - I-70 over 32nd Ave bridge replacement
 - Ward Road resurfacing - I-70 to Indiana
 - Harlan St bridge replacement





Timeline & Schedule

February 2023
Construction Begins

Late 2024
Expected Completion



MEDIAN WORK & TRAFFIC SHIFT - 6 months

Work includes setting barrier, filling in the median, and shifting traffic.

WESTBOUND BRIDGE REMOVAL & REPLACEMENT - 6 months

CDOT will remove and replace the existing westbound bridge and add guardrail and other safety features.

EASTBOUND BRIDGE REMOVAL & REPLACEMENT - 6 months

Crews will demolish the old bridge, build its replacement, and add safety features.

RESURFACE WARD ROAD - 1 month

This final stage of the project will conclude civil construction, resurface Ward Road, and add signage and other safety features.



Coping Techniques

While CDOT is committed to minimizing traffic impacts during the bridge replacement process, the public will inevitably encounter short delays and unfamiliar detour pavement. Here are some coping techniques:

Project Team	Drivers
Detour Pavement - new pavement will be constructed so traffic can be shifted during various phase of construction.	Slow Down - speeds will be reduced during construction - be aware of changes in speeds, signs, and conditions
Lane Closures - will be in place on mainline I-70. Traffic shifts will be in place. Overnight impacts are expected.	Stay Alert - lane and road conditions will change over the course of construction.
Full Closures of Ward Road - Ward Road will be closed during safety critical work with detour routes in place.	Leave Early - give yourself more time when closures or work present short detours and delays
Business, I-70 Interchange & Ward Road Access -access will be maintained, except during demolition & critical work.	Detour routes - use of detour routes is to maintain safety for the traveling public, crews and surrounding communities.
Signage and Message Boards - designed to inform drivers and minimize accidents in changing conditions.	Stay Connected - Sign up for email updates and text alerts, refer to cotrip.org for conditions or connect on social media
Safety First - for crews and the public. Crews wear safety gear for protection and visibility in all weather conditions	Share the Road - please be courteous while we make Exit 266 better for everyone.

- **Cody Daigneault, Resident Engineer - CDOT Region 1**
- **Hiep Pham, Project Engineer - CDOT Region 1**
- **Presley Fowler, Deputy Communications Manager - CDOT Region 1**
- **Tom Walsh, Lobato Construction**
- **Jen Van Rensburg, Public Information Manager - Estate Media**



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Meet the Project Team



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Stay Informed

- Call the project hotline 24/7 at **720.600.4794**
- Sign up for project updates and travel advisories at publicinformation@comcast.net
- Text **wardbridges** to **8882199094** to sign up for text alerts
- Email Jen Van Rensburg, Public Information Manager at estatemedia@comcast.net
- Visit the project website at <https://www.codot.gov/projects/i70-ward-road-bridges>
- Get statewide travel conditions at cotrip.org