



Military Access, Mobility & Safety Improvement Project

South I-25 / CO 94 / S. Academy Boulevard / Charter Oak Ranch Road

South Academy Boulevard Efficiency and Resiliency Improvements Overview:

MAMSIP is comprised of four discrete road projects in the Pikes Peak region, all of which are strategically important in the movement of personnel and equipment between nationally significant military facilities. One of the four projects is the South Academy Boulevard Efficiency and Resiliency Improvements.



Map of I-25 and South Academy Boulevard, showing impact area on South Academy Boulevard.

Improvements:

- Widening South Academy Boulevard along this mile and a half stretch;
- Widening and scour protection to improve the resilience of bridges crossing Fountain Creek;
- Noise abatement treatments,
- Drainage and lighting improvements, and;
- Various other infrastructure work resulting in three dedicated lanes of traffic in each direction along this section of the corridor.

Road Widening and Overlay:

South Academy Boulevard will be widened from its current configuration of two lanes in each direction to three lanes in each direction. The widening will be from just west of South Academy Boulevard's interchange with I-25 to just south of the Milton E. Proby Parkway. A 2 inch mill and 5 inch asphalt overlay will be applied on the roadway and 2 inch depth on the bridges. Sound walls along South Academy Boulevard are anticipated between the Hartford Street overpass and the approach to the bridges crossing Fountain Creek.

Bridge Work:

Repairs to two bridges along South Academy Boulevard, which cross Fountain Creek CO 85, will improve the bridges' scour rating and improve resiliency, ensuring there will be no movement or settlement of the bridge during major storm events, thereby mitigating the need to close the bridge for inspection and avoiding delays associated with an unplanned closure.

Lead Agency:
El Paso County

Support Agency:
Colorado Department of Transportation – Region 2

Project Background:

A key corridor for commuters and interregional travel as well as critical defense access and haul route for military personnel and equipment traveling between Peterson (SFB) and Fort Carson, South Academy Boulevard has an annual average daily traffic of approximately 57,500 and is characterized by recurring congestion during peak hours. More than 50 percent of all westbound traffic on S. Academy during peak hours is accessing or leaving Fort Carson. South Academy, part of the National Highway System, is on the PPACG Congestion Mitigation Plan as both a Strategic Corridor and a Regional Corridor.

Academy Boulevard is a key arterial road running north to south for approximately 15 miles through the entirety of Colorado Springs. The project area of South Academy Boulevard comprises the southern mile and a half of this arterial road from the I-25 interchange, crossing CO 85/ 87, and continuing to the road's approach to Milton Proby Parkway (which connects to Colorado Highway 21).

Project Schedule:

Construction start summer 2023
Completion early 2026

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