



## Project Fact Sheet

# Military Access, Mobility & Safety Improvement Project

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

### Charter Oak Ranch Road 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 Charter Oak Ranch Road Improvement project. El Paso County estimates that improving Charter Oak Ranch Road will remove approximately one-fourth of the trips to Fort Carson Gate 20, improving safety along the Interstate 25 corridor and generating time savings for the post's personnel.

#### Lead Agency:

Colorado Department of Transportation - Region 2

#### Support Agency:

El Paso County



### Project Background

Reconstruction of Charter Oak Ranch Road and its intersection with Santa Fe Avenue provides required access to Fort Carson Military Training Reservation at Gate 19, which is necessary to accommodate soldiers and the associated creation of approximately 16,000 jobs. It has been estimated by El Paso County that improving Charter Oak Ranch Road will remove approximately a quarter of the trips to Gate 20 of Fort Carson, improving safety along the I-25 corridor and generating time savings for the base's employees. Fort Carson Army Post (Fort Carson) is an institute of strategic and economic importance to the nation and to Colorado. In addition, it provides needed access to Butts Army Airfield, a recently renovated helicopter facility, and where most of these job opportunities are located.

### Charter Oak Ranch Road

Charter Oak Ranch Road is accessible off Interstate 25 via Santa Fe Avenue (Colorado Highway 85) and is the only access to Gate 19 of Fort Carson, the region's largest employer.

In 2009, Charter Oak Ranch Road was designated by the U.S. Department of the Army as important to national defense. More than 40 percent of the traffic along Charter Oak Ranch Road is heavy vehicles, and the road is characterized by crumbling pavement, poor drainage, steep grade, narrow lanes, and no facilities for cyclists or pedestrians.





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Due to the poor quality of Charter Oak Ranch Road, it was not used heavily by personnel entering Fort Carson; rather, they were using Gate 20 (approximately 4 miles to the north). In turn, the disproportional use of Gate 20 by personnel avoiding Charter Oak Ranch Road led to backups at the former, some of which regularly extended to the I-25 off-ramps.

### Improvements

- **Roadway Improvements:** The road was rebuilt and widened westbound from the intersection of Santa Fe Avenue to Gate 19. A roundabout replaced the four-way stop sign intersection at Santa Fe Avenue. Curbing and a sidewalk was added. An inadequate curve radius was addressed. Turn lanes were added for enhancing access to businesses and Fort Carson.
- **Drainage Improvements:** This entailed the replacement of existing features with new pipe, inlets, outlets, and water quality/detention features along various locations of the Charter Oak Ranch Road segment where roadway improvements were planned.
- **Structural Improvements:** To accommodate the realignment and widening, retaining walls and associated embankments were constructed.

### Safety Benefits

- Improved infrastructure
- Enhanced connectivity and efficiency for Charter Oak Ranch Road, from the entry point at Fort Carson's Gate 19 to the I-25 corridor.

### Project Schedule

- Work completed Spring 2023

### Contact Information

If you have questions or concerns or if you would like to be added to our public outreach contact list to receive construction updates, please contact us!

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**Project Webpage:** [codot.gov/projects/militaryaccesssafetyimprovements/academy-blvd-widening-component](https://codot.gov/projects/militaryaccesssafetyimprovements/academy-blvd-widening-component)

