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.

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

**Improvements:**

- **Roadway Improvements:** The road will be rebuilt and widened in the westbound direction from the intersection with Santa Fe Avenue to Gate 19. A roundabout will replace the four-way stop sign intersection with Santa Fe Avenue. Curbing and a sidewalk will be added. An inadequate curve radius will be addressed. Turn lanes will be added for enhancing access to businesses and Fort Carson.

- **Drainage Improvements:** This will entail 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 are planned.

- **Structural Improvements:** To accommodate the realignment and widening, retaining walls and associated embankments will be constructed.

**Safety Benefits:**

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

**Project Schedule:**

Completion summer: 2022