

I-25 North: Mead to Fort Collins

Overview

Communities along the I-25 North corridor are expanding rapidly, contributing to major economic growth in northern Colorado. The Colorado Department of Transportation is supporting this growth by delivering the expansion of I-25 North. Improvements are currently underway along I-25 between Berthoud and Fort Collins (with more to come from Mead to Berthoud once funding becomes available), including:

- Construction of northbound and southbound Express Lanes with HOV option from US 56 to just past Prospect Road
- New interchange construction with lengthened bridges to accommodate additional I-25 lanes at Prospect Road, US 34, CO 402, CO 60, CO 56, and Weld County Road 34
- Reconstruction of the Great Western Railroad bridges, bridges over the Cache la Poudre river, Hillsboro Frontage Road bridge, Little Thompson River bridges, Big Thompson River bridges, and Larimer County Road 20
- Reconstruction of the Port of Entry 2,000 feet south of current location for improved interstate operations
- Operational improvements of on- and off-ramps at Harmony Road
- Replacement of the Kechter Road bridge and elevation of the I-25 crossing at Kechter to rebuild to city standards
- New mobility hub with center lane bus slip ramps for Bustang, expanded Park-n-Ride lot, and creation of a new pedestrian and bicycle access under I-25 at Kendall Parkway
- Frontage Road improvements at CO 402 and CO 56, addition of roundabouts, and relocation and widening of the current Park-n-Rides



Recent reconstruction of the CO 402 interchange with added roundabouts and Park-n-Ride improvements

Benefits

This project brings economic, environmental and quality of life benefits for northern Coloradans and Interstate 25 users by:

- Making safety improvements to reduce the number of crashes and fatalities
- Decreasing travel time and increasing trip reliability
- Reducing emissions and improving freight efficiency
- Improving congestion and safety
- Rebuilding aging and obsolete infrastructure
- Improving transit, bicycle and pedestrian connectivity



Funding

For Berthoud to Johnstown, the North Front Range Metropolitan Planning Organization, with support from CDOT, was awarded a \$20 million Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development grant by the U.S. Department of Transportation. This money will supplement the \$223 million in state funds and \$2 million in local contributions. The project has currently secured \$250 million, a large portion needed for the design and construction of Segment 6.

The improvements between Mead to Berthoud are currently awaiting funding.

For the improvements between Johnstown and Fort Collins, the U.S. Department of Transportation awarded CDOT and local partners a \$15 million TIGER grant, assisting them in funding this \$302 million expansion of North I-25. The project is supported by all of the communities and counties served by this corridor who have contributed significant funds for the original project scope, totaling more than \$25 million, and as much as \$28 million in other additional project scope improvements.

In 2019, the Colorado Transportation Commission allocated \$250 million in additional funds from SB267, allowing CDOT to achieve phase one of the preferred solution. Without these additional funds, this stretch would not have happened until 2035. With local support, direction from state officials and federal representatives, and the TIGER grant, the project will be complete in late 2023. By delivering the project to the community earlier than outlined in the CDOT 2040 Long-Range Transportation Plan, the benefits will be implemented at least 14 years earlier at a fraction of the cost.

Timeline

Construction for the I-25 North Express Lanes began in September 2018. Work between Johnstown and Fort Collins will continue through 2023. Construction between CO 56 to CO 402 began in the fall of 2019 and will be complete in 2023. Once more funding is identified and secured, construction will begin between CO 66 and CO 56.

What are Express Lanes?

Express Lanes provide travelers with more reliable, predictable travel times. Anyone can use Express Lanes. A solo driver in a passenger vehicle can use an Express Lane by paying a toll. A traveler can choose to travel for free on a motorcycle or as a driver with two or more passengers. The addition of an Express Lane on the I-25 corridor does not mean that existing general purpose lanes will be tolled. The existing general purpose lanes are currently free to use and will continue to be free to use. The benefits of Express Lanes include:

- Reducing delay on Colorado's most seriously congested corridors
- Using toll pricing to manage congestion
- Maintaining reliable travel times now and in the future
- Promoting transit and carpooling

Toll Pricing

Express Lanes help manage traffic congestion, and toll rates will vary by time of day to provide reliable travel times. Toll rates have not yet been set. The toll rates and any rate changes will be approved by CDOT's High Performance Transportation Enterprise.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION To learn more about the reconstruction of I-25 from Berthoud to Johnstown, visit www.codot.gov/projects/north-i-25.

To learn more about Express Lanes, visit www.codot.gov/programs/expresslanes.

To get an Express Lanes pass, visit www.expresstoll.com.

