

CHOOSE YOUR MOVE



US 36
EXPRESS LANES PROJECT

XPRESS

JANUARY 2016

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From left to right: Director Chuck Sisk (RTD), Johnny Olson (CDOT), Mayor Bob Muckle (City of Louisville), Shailen Bhatt (CDOT), Dale Bonner (Plenary Roads Denver), Mayor Clint Folsom (Town of Superior) and John Cater (FHWA)

IT'S OFFICIAL! DIVERGING DIAMOND INTERCHANGE IS OPEN

The official grand opening of Colorado's second Diverging Diamond Interchange (DDI) took place on Thursday, Jan. 7, on top of the McCaslin Boulevard bridge. The Colorado Department of Transportation, (CDOT) and its partners – the Regional Transportation District (RTD), the High Performance Transportation Enterprise (HPTE) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) – celebrated the event with elected officials from Louisville, Superior, as well as other key stakeholders. Under the newly installed archway, the official ribbon cutting kicked off this commemorative day in history for the region.

The DDI helps move traffic more efficiently across the bridge by crossing traffic to the opposite side of the road so vehicles have unimpeded movement onto the highway ramps. In addition, DDI's increase left-turn capacity, accommodate more traffic with fewer lanes and reduce delays by using a two-phase signal as opposed to traditional traffic signals.

Construction crews will still have some temperature-sensitive work to complete on the bridge over the next few months to finish sidewalks, landscaping and striping, but drivers are already enjoying the benefits of this innovative interchange. This major project milestone will be followed by the Phase 2 bikeway opening later this spring.

FROM ONE CELEBRATION TO THE NEXT, RTD OPENS FLATIRON FLYER

Just a few hours after CDOT's DDI celebration, RTD hosted five ribbon-cutting ceremonies throughout the corridor commemorating the Flatiron Flyer service at each of the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) stations. Ribbon-cutting ceremonies were hosted at US 36 & Broomfield, east and westbound US 36 & McCaslin, US 36 & Table Mesa, and US 36 & Sheridan. The ceremonies took place simultaneously and then guests were transported on dedicated Flatiron Flyer buses to the VIP Reception at the Westin Westminster.

The Flatiron Flyer is part of the 2004 voter-approved FasTracks plan and is the first BRT system introduced to the Denver-metro region. It is also the first of five new services to open in 2016. The service carries passengers along 18 miles of US 36 between Denver and Boulder. Currently daily ridership is 10,600 but it is expected to rise to 20,400 in 2035.



Left to right: Director Kent Bagley (RTD), Audrey DeBarros (36 Commuting Solutions), Mayor Bob Muckle (City of Louisville), Commissioner Cindy Domenico (Boulder County) and Director Chuck Sisk (RTD).

Service began on Sunday, Jan. 3, during regular service changes. RTD employees participating in the agency's Ambassadors Program, an idea that arose out of the RTD Leadership Academy, staffed stations up and down the corridor to answer the public's questions about the new service, fares and other issues. On Monday, Jan. 4, riders were able to try out the Flatiron Flyer service for free all day. For more information about RTD's newest service, please visit the [Flatiron Flyer webpage](#).

WITH NEW FLATIRON FLYER, US 36 COMMUTERS HAVE MORE CHOICES

Along with its new BRT service, RTD introduced new fares this year for the first time in five years.

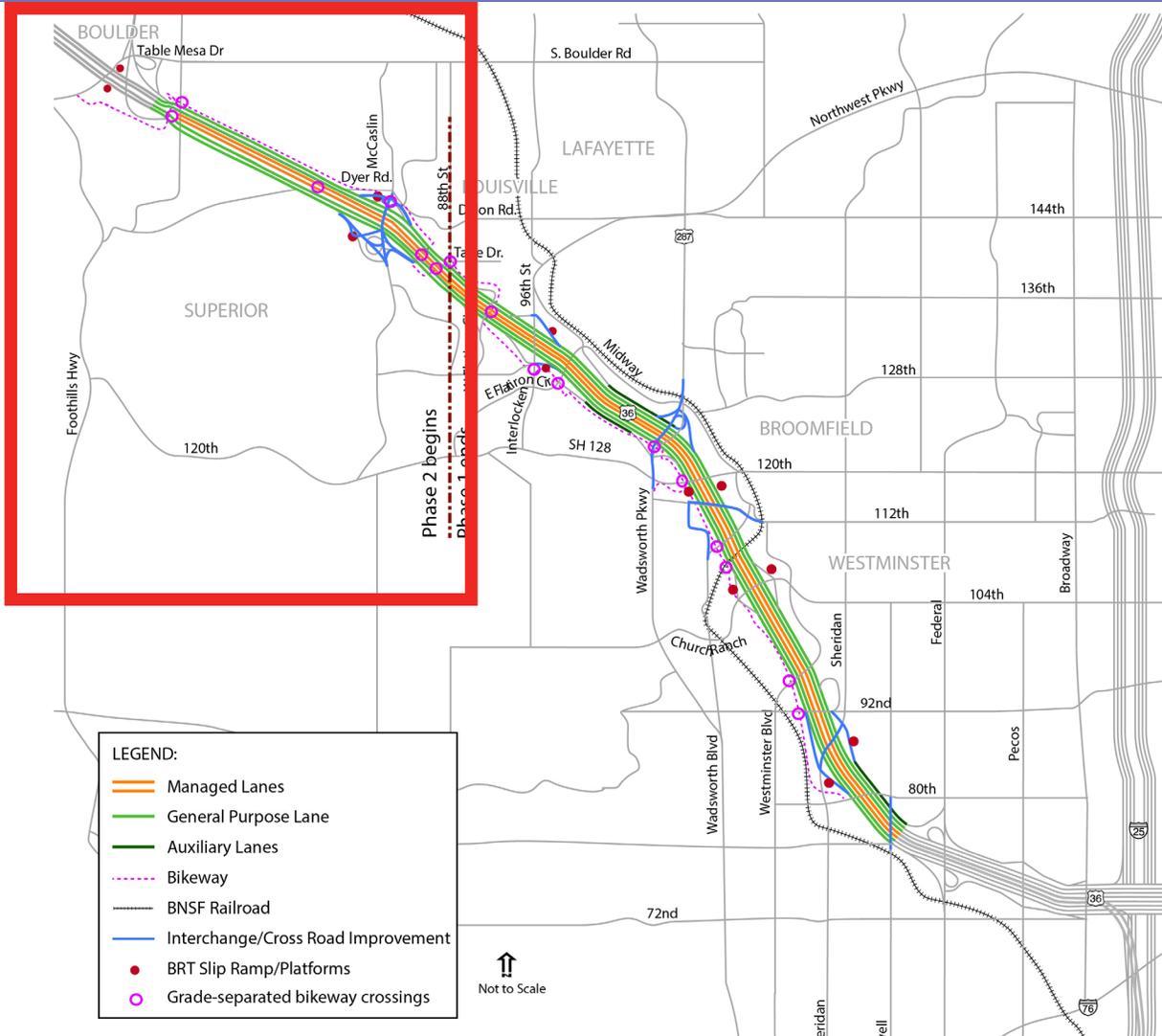
A one-way local trip now costs \$2.60 and a one-way regional trip costs \$4.50. All trips to and from Denver International Airport (DIA) cost \$9, regardless of where travelers' trips begin. In addition, RTD introduced day passes, which provide unlimited trips through the end of the service day for the cost of a round trip. The Regional/Airport day pass, for instance, provides riders with unlimited local, regional and airport trips.

Half-fare discounts are available for qualifying passengers: students aged 6-19, riders 65 years of age and up, passengers with disabilities and Medicare recipients. Active military personnel ride all RTD services for free.

The Flatiron Flyer travels between downtown Denver and downtown Boulder, with bus service every 4 to 15 minutes, depending on the route and service. One of the line's routes also transports passengers to the Anschutz Medical Campus in Aurora.

Other RTD bus services traveling along US 36 is SkyRide passenger service to DIA and, on a more limited basis, Route L, which travels between Longmont and Denver, stopping at the Broomfield and Sheridan stations.

For complete information about RTD fares and services, please visit www.rtd-denver.com or call RTD Customer Care at 303-299-6000.



PHASE 2 BIKEWAY OPENING IN SPRING

The much-awaited opening of the Phase 2 commuter bikeway is right around the corner. Starting this spring, you will be able to travel from the end of the Phase 1 bikeway, at 88th Street, to Table Mesa Drive. The final activities to complete the bikeway include final concrete placement, shoulder construction, fencing and signage installation. Much like on Phase 1, the Phase 2 bikeway includes 12-foot wide lanes with 2-foot wide shoulders with 6-inch thick concrete to ensure the path's longevity.

The Phase 2 bikeway picks up near 88th Street in Louisville/Superior, running on the north side of US 36 until crossing to the south side of the highway by way of the pedestrian bridge over US 36, as shown in the map. Traveling westbound you will remain on the south side of the highway before approaching Louisville and Superior. At this location, you will have access to both sides of the intersection. If continuing on to Louisville and Boulder you will cross under the Diverging Diamond Interchange via a tunnel to the north side of the roadway near the US 36 & McCaslin Louisville RTD stop. You will remain on the north side of the highway until you approach the Coal Creek bridge, where another tunnel will switch you back to the south side of the highway where the bikeway will end at Table Mesa. More details will be shared as construction wraps up and the official opening date is released.

AND THE WINNER IS...

As part of RTD's Flatiron Flyer celebration, an ice sculpture contest took place at each of the US 36 RTD stations. Riders were able to vote for the winning sculpture until 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 5. The winning sculpture, the Snowflakes at the US 36 & Broomfield station, designed by Dazzling Ice Sculptures and Laurie Petty. Other sculptures were a Buffalo at Table Mesa also by Dazzling Ice Sculptures. Mike Bickelhaupt of Colorado Ice Sculptures designed the Flying Bus at US 36 & McCaslin and the Snowboarder On the Bus at the downtown Boulder station.



Winning ice sculpture, Snowflakes by Dazzling Ice Sculptures and Laurie Petty

Jess Parrish of Cool Hand Ice Carving designed the Mountain Lion at US 36 & Sheridan and the Hawk at US 36 & McCaslin. The winning sculpture was displayed later that evening at the Flatiron Flyer VIP reception at the Westin Hotel in Westminster.



PHASE 2 EXPRESS LANES TOLL TESTING BEGINS

Express Lanes toll testing is scheduled to continue through early spring on Phase 2 of the US 36 Express Lanes project. Once the last of the tolling equipment is installed this month the lanes will undergo a testing period to ensure the tolling equipment and technology is working properly for all vehicles. Toll collection is currently being waived on eastbound and westbound US 36 between Table Mesa and 88th Street during testing. However, tolling remains in place in the Express Lanes between 88th Street and Federal Boulevard where tolls began in July. Drivers are encouraged to get a pass by visiting www.expresstoll.com. There, drivers can choose the pass that is right for them and their Express Lane usage. For more information on tolling rates click [here](#). Bus riders can get information on passes at www.rtd-denver.com.