



I-25/Cimarron Interchange Design-Build Project



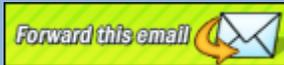
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Colorado Department of Transportation

April 2016

In This Issue

- [I-25 Southbound Off-Ramp Loop](#)
- [Replacement of US 24 Bridge over Fountain Creek](#)
- [Trail Impact Updates](#)
- [Coordination with Construction Projects](#)
- [Phase 1 Look Ahead](#)
- [Project Team Spotlight](#)



Please forward/share this email with others who may have an interest in the I-25/Cimarron Interchange project.

Project Schedule

- Phase 0 Construction (offline): complete
- Phase 1 Construction (mainline work) begins: underway
- Fully Operational: Winter 2017

Stay Connected

Website:
[Colorado Info Project](#)
Email:
dot_i25Cimarron@state.co.us
Hotline: (719) 302-6781
To receive project updates and construction notices, send an email to:
dot_i25Cimarron@state.co.us

Quick Links

I-25 Southbound Off-Ramp Loop Phased Out



Illustration of New I-25 Southbound Off-Ramp

In early May the traveling public will no longer utilize the existing southbound I-25 loop ramp to exit on to Cimarron Street/US 24. Instead, motorists will exit to the north of Cimarron Street/US 24, about a quarter mile south of the Bijou exit. The existing loop ramp has been in place for the past 56 years, so this will be an adjustment for everyone who frequents this area.

The new exit ramp configuration will enhance operations, correct existing safety and design deficiencies, and serve the existing and anticipated short-term and long-term travel demand in this area. The partial cloverleaf loop ramp design is outdated and does not adequately support the 9,500 vehicles per hour that travel through the I-25/Cimarron corridor during peak times each day. Over the past few decades, road authorities have been implementing new interchange designs with less-curved exit ramps to reduce congestion and improve safety. "In addition to the age of the existing southbound off-ramp, the loop configuration does not have the storage capacity to accommodate current traffic volumes," said Deputy Project Manager Don Garcia. "That's why motorists see traffic backing up on I-25 during peak hours."

Since the project first broke ground last summer 2015, crews completed embankment work off-line, which is allowing for full settlement to occur before they place pavement for the new ramp in May. A portion of the realigned off-ramp will be temporary to allow for crews to work on critical activities

[Project Website](#)
[CDOT Website](#)

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Prioritized Project Goals

Project goals were established and approved by the Executive Oversight Committee. The goals provide direction to the project team and to the design-build contractor team.

Project Goals

1. Maximize overall safety, capacity and operation of the interchange and the surrounding transportation network within the Project budget;
2. Complete Project construction to be fully operational before winter 2017;
3. Minimize impacts and inconvenience to the community, motorists, businesses, downtown and the public during construction; and
4. Achieve an aesthetically pleasing design compatible with current and future amenities and enhancements in and around the interchange.

What the Project Involves

Planned improvements include reconstructing I-25 between Colorado Avenue (to the north) and the Nevada Avenue/Tejon Street interchange (to the south), and include a continuous northbound travel lane between

adjacent to the ramp. A future traffic realignment onto the permanent ramp will be required in late 2016.

Crews continue to work on utility relocations and paving activities to prepare for the switch to the new off-ramp early next month. Watch for weekly e-alerts for the most up-to-date information regarding traffic realignments and impacts.

The I-25/Cimarron Interchange Design-Build team reminds motorists to watch for signage to direct you to the new ramp, drive slowly and avoid distractions.

Replacement of US 24 Bridge over Fountain Creek



The US 24 bridge over Fountain Creek is being replaced to provide additional auxiliary lane lengths for both eastbound and westbound from US 24 to 8th Street, and to provide additional eastbound left turn storage at the I-25 ramp intersections.

Girders were placed the end of February with the first deck pour in mid-March. Approximately 360 cubic yards of concrete was poured on the first bridge deck. The old bridge has been partially removed and traffic will be using the new bridge in late spring.



As part of this work, the public will see stream improvements to Fountain Creek under the new bridge. Complete renewal of the Fountain Creek infrastructure enhances operational, safety, and aesthetics while reducing long-term maintenance costs.

Trail Impact Updates

the S. Nevada/ Tejon interchange and the Cimarron interchange. Project boundaries on Cimarron are between 8th Street to the west and the Cimarron bridge over Fountain Creek to the east. Once construction is complete in 2017, the project will provide:

- Improved interstate and interchange operations and safety;
- Improved highway alignment and improved ramps, acceleration/deceleration lanes for increased vehicle storage and safety;
- New I-25 bridge structures;
- New connection between 8th Street and Cimarron Street;
- Improved trail connectivity and aesthetic treatments.
- Reconstruction of approximately 2,100 feet of Upper Fountain Creek, enhancing stream habitat.

Project Partners

- Colorado Department of Transportation
- Federal Highway Administration
- City of Colorado Springs
- El Paso County
- The Community

Fun Fact



Cranes are used to lift bridge girders, rebar cages and the large Variable Message Signs over I-25. HOW MUCH: The largest crane on the project can lift about 500 tons

As part of the I-25/ Cimarron Interchange Project, there will be various trail closures to allow for utility relocations, wall and bridge construction and trail improvements. All detours are implemented as a safety precaution for pedestrians and bikers.



[CLICK HERE](#) for the latest updates on trail impacts and detours. Keep in mind that all work is weather dependent and subject to change.

- The Midland Trail within the project boundaries remains closed through summer 2017. Once the final alignment of the interchange is complete, the Midland trail will no longer cross under I-25, west of America the Beautiful Park. Trail access into the park will instead be at the south end of the park and the trail will run adjacent to Fountain Creek.
- The paved section of the Pikes Peak Greenway Trail (east of Fountain Creek) closed early April for approximately one month as crews demo and reconstruct the Cimarron over Fountain Creek bridge. The gravel section of the Pikes Peak Greenway Trail (west of Fountain Creek) is open. Expect intermittent closures of the trail through late 2017 to allow for wall, bridge and trail improvement work. At least one side of the trail (either paved or gravel) is planned to remain open throughout construction, unless critical safety activities require a temporary detour.

Coordination with Other Construction Projects

The Cimarron Interchange Project Team coordinates schedules with other projects to minimize impacts to the traveling public as much as possible during the busy summer construction season.

- I-25/Fillmore - Project is on schedule for completion summer 2016.
- Northbound and southbound I-25 overlay south of the I-25 Cimarron Interchange Project - night work South Circle Drive to South Tejon Street /Nevada Avenue resulting in lane restrictions. Work anticipated to be complete by fall 2016.
- Westside Avenue Action Plan - West Colorado Avenue utility relocation begins end of 2016.
- CDOT paving on West Colorado Avenue and work on a storm drain begins summer 2016.
- CDOT resurfacing of US 24 east to Serpentine Dr. near Manitou Springs - Starts late summer; completion, 2016 year end
- CDOT resurfacing of Manitou Avenue, from City Hall to westbound US 24 ramps; Garden of the Gods Place, El Paso Blvd. to eastbound US 24 ramps; Intersection of

of weight.
FUN FACT: This is similar to lifting 100 Kimbas - Cheyenne Mountain Zoo's heaviest elephant.

Progress Photos



March 2016 Aerial Project Photo



[CLICK HERE](#) to view additional aerial photos.

US 24 bridge over Fountain Creek Deck Pour



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Manitou Avenue and Garden of the Gods Place; and Bridge deck rehabilitation over Fountain Creek - starts late summer; completion, 2016 year end

- CDOT Rainbow Falls Bridge Rehabilitation Project; west of the City of Manitou Springs - Now through Summer 2016

Phase 1 Look Ahead (More Details to Come in Weekly eAlerts):

April

- Cimarron Street reduced to one lane eastbound and two lanes westbound between I-25 and Sierra Madre Street for several months
- Removal of existing southbound I-25 loop off-ramp and open new ramp to Cimarron Street/US 24 located to the north, approximately a quarter mile south of the Bijou exist
- Open new realignment of southbound I-25 on-ramp from Cimarron Street/US 24
- Began operation of the onsite concrete batch plant near the US 24 & 8th Street intersection

May

- Shift US 24 traffic to the south, onto the new permanent US 24 bridge over Fountain Creek
- Motorists will encounter a temporary split lane reconfiguration on southbound I-25 between Cimarron Street/US 24 and south Nevada/Tejon Street (left two lanes split to existing northbound pavement, right lane splits to existing southbound pavement)

You can also expect:

- Speed reduction to 55 mph on I-25 between Colorado Avenue and south Nevada/Tejon Street and speed reduction to 30 mph on US 24 between 8th Street and I-25
- Narrowed lanes and reduced shoulders
- Three lanes maintained northbound and southbound I-25 during the day

Project Team Spotlight

Don Garcia, Deputy Project Manager

Born and raised in Pueblo, Don Garcia has never lived in another state. He holds degrees from the University of Colorado Denver and University of Southern Colorado.



This native Coloradan has focused more than 30 years of his career

improving the roads in the southern part of the state. Now his attention is on I-25/Cimarron, one of the region's busiest interstate highway interchanges. One of the project goals is to maximize overall safety, capacity and operation of the interchange and the surrounding transportation network, and do so within the \$113 million project budget. Don takes this goal very seriously. "I'm determined to keep the project on schedule and within budget while minimizing inconvenience to the community and the traveling public," said Don.

The favorite part of his job is interacting with the project team from the CDOT staff, the contractor's staff, City of Colorado Springs and other stakeholders. "I consider our team the CDOT/Kraemer Team. This team is comprised of experienced and talented professionals with great passion for their jobs. They are dedicated, focused and have fun while giving 110 percent," said Don.

When Don is not working he is spending time with family and friends. He enjoys traveling with his wife, fishing, golf, and even yard work. You generally will find Don outside when the weather is warm.

Additional Project Information

For more information about the project, visit the [CDOT website project page](#). To receive future I-25/Cimarron project e-newsletters and construction notices, send an email to dot_i25Cimarron@state.co.us.

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