



# I-25 South Gap Project Monument–Castle Rock

## MOVING FORWARD

August 2019

### Learn what's ahead for construction on the I-25 South Gap project

The I-25 South Gap project team is celebrating one year of construction. Work is underway along the entire 18-mile stretch. Three bridges are under construction, and most of the new fiber optic line has been placed.

Here is a look at what drivers can expect over the next several months:

#### Improvements near Castle Rock

- In the northern section of the project, motorists have started driving on new, permanent pavement on I-25 near Plum Creek Parkway. Traffic has been shifted to the new median pavement, while crews work on the outside of the roadway.
- Between Plum Creek Parkway and Sky View Lane (Tomah Road), crews will begin major drainage work, which will have some impacts to the East and West Frontage Roads. This work will require several blocks of closures of both frontage roads at various times throughout the next year. Extensive signage and communications will provide detour routes for traffic along these routes – local access will be maintained. Motorists can also expect a traffic shift of northbound I-25 near Sky View Lane and a closure of the Sky View Lane on-ramp to northbound I-25 for at least a week to accompany this drainage work.



#### Impacts near Larkspur

- Crews will build three new bridges and one new wildlife crossing in this area. As work increases, drivers can expect more ramp closures of Spruce Mountain Road and Upper Lake Gulch Road to accompany ramp demolition and reconstruction. Some closures will extend for several months.
- Additionally, there will be a set of overnight southbound I-25 closures from Spruce Mountain Road to Upper Lake Gulch Road so crews can safely demolish and reconstruct bridges in the area. The detour to accompany this closure will be heavily signed, and extensive communications will help motorists drive through this work seamlessly.

#### Impacts near Monument

- Drivers should slow down and pay attention to traffic shifts and crews in the work zone. Two travel lanes in each direction will be open during peak travel hours. Routine lane closures continue to be restricted to nighttime hours.

# Smart Work Zone Technology is the first of its kind in Colorado

The 18-mile I-25 South Gap corridor is no ordinary work zone. It's a Smart Work Zone.

Being the major thoroughfare between Colorado Springs and Denver and carrying an average of 80,000 motorists every day, safety is a No. 1 priority for the I-25 South Gap project team. The I-25 South Gap project is the first in Colorado to incorporate cutting-edge technology to keep motorists and crews safe and informed.

With a goal of getting everyone home safely, there are five elements of Smart Work Zone technology working to keep crews and drivers safe through the longest construction zone in Colorado:

**Truck Warning System:** With an average of three trucks delivering and/or picking up material every five minutes daily throughout the 18-mile work zone, the I-25 South Gap project team wants to warn drivers about trucks entering/exiting the highway. To do so, a sensor is attached to a portable sign in the work zone. When a construction truck passes the sensor, a variable message board (pictured to the right) farther back in the corridor is triggered and will light up a sign to warn motorists in time to slow down and yield to the truck.



**Onsite Project Operations Center:** This is the first-ever project in Colorado to have an onsite Project Operations Center to monitor current roadway conditions and possibly reduce congestion by providing information to drivers when incidents occur. Typically, construction projects feed into the larger CDOT traffic operations centers across the state.



**Queue Warning System:** As a vital transportation corridor for commuting and commerce, it's important to keep motorists apprised of delays so they know what to expect and can plan accordingly. With this technology, sensors detect speeds upstream, which update the variable message signs to let motorists know the estimated time it will take to get to locations along the project corridor.

**Portable Variable Speed Limit Signs:** Using new electronic speed limit signs, the project can change speed limits in real-time based on weather conditions, crashes, or construction-related impacts. These enforceable speed limits will be displayed on 22 variable speed limit signs installed along northbound and southbound I-25 from Monument to Castle Rock. The variable signs have replaced the static speed limit signs.



**Pan Tilt Zoom Cameras:** Additional portable cameras have been installed to capture areas along the corridor that CDOT cameras currently don't have access to. These cameras feed into the onsite Project Operations Center to help the team see traffic in real-time and coordinate responses to incidents with both the project Courtesy Patrol and emergency responders.

## Reevaluate your commute with I-25 MyWay

In August, many of us recall the sense of anticipation (and sometimes dread) that back-to-school time brings. Those with school-age children face bulging backpacks and the return to routine. As the seasons change, we hope you will take the opportunity to re-evaluate your routine and, with that, your commute. As families figure out how to get children to and from school, consider your commute to work, too.

The I-25 MyWay program is here to help! I-25 MyWay is a partnership between CDOT and the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG), providing incentives for people to try shared commuting options through the I-25 South Gap construction zone.

These shared commutes improve safety, reduce traffic congestion, and provide both cost-savings and stress-reduction compared to driving alone. Whether you can see yourself in a carpool, a vanpool, or on a Bustang bus, we have options and incentives to help you navigate the Gap.

Consider all the down time you'll gain when someone else is at the wheel. It's almost like recess, or study hall when you have no homework - but now you have Wi-Fi and a phone and Netflix and Candy Crush!

Complete your online application today at [i25myway.org](http://i25myway.org) or email us at [i25myway@drcog.org](mailto:i25myway@drcog.org).

## Drive safely this school year

As you sharpen pencils and prepare for a new school year, please recommit to driving safely in the school zone and the work zone:

**Mind Your Space:** The leading cause of crashes in Colorado is following too closely. Allow plenty of room between your vehicle and the one ahead of you.

**Mind Your Speed:** Drive the posted speed limit. In the work zone it is 60 mph throughout the entire 18 miles. On frontage roads, the speed limit is 45 mph.

**Mind the Unexpected:** Speeds, construction, weather, lighting and wildlife can change road conditions quickly.

**Mind the Latest Information:** Know before you go. Visit [cotrip.org](http://cotrip.org), or call 511 for the latest road conditions. Get project emails by emailing [i25gap@codot.us](mailto:i25gap@codot.us), or call the project hotline, 720-745-5434. Sign up for text alerts - when you're not driving, text I25GAP to 21000.

**Mind Construction:** Watch for various lane closures overnight and trucks entering and exiting the work zone during the day. Visit [i25gap.codot.us](http://i25gap.codot.us) and click "traffic impacts" for a look ahead at expected closures.

**DON'T Mind Your Phone:** Like driving in a school zone, driving in a construction zone requires extra attention. Avoid distracted driving.



**Gap commuters: Apply today**

**Free round-trip trial tickets**

- downtown Denver or DTC routes
- one-way fares \$9-\$12
- storage, Wi-Fi, restrooms, power
- stress less, dream more

**Vanpools rewarded \$200**

- credit on first month's bill
- existing and new groups
- support finding ride matches
- share the wheel, save thousands

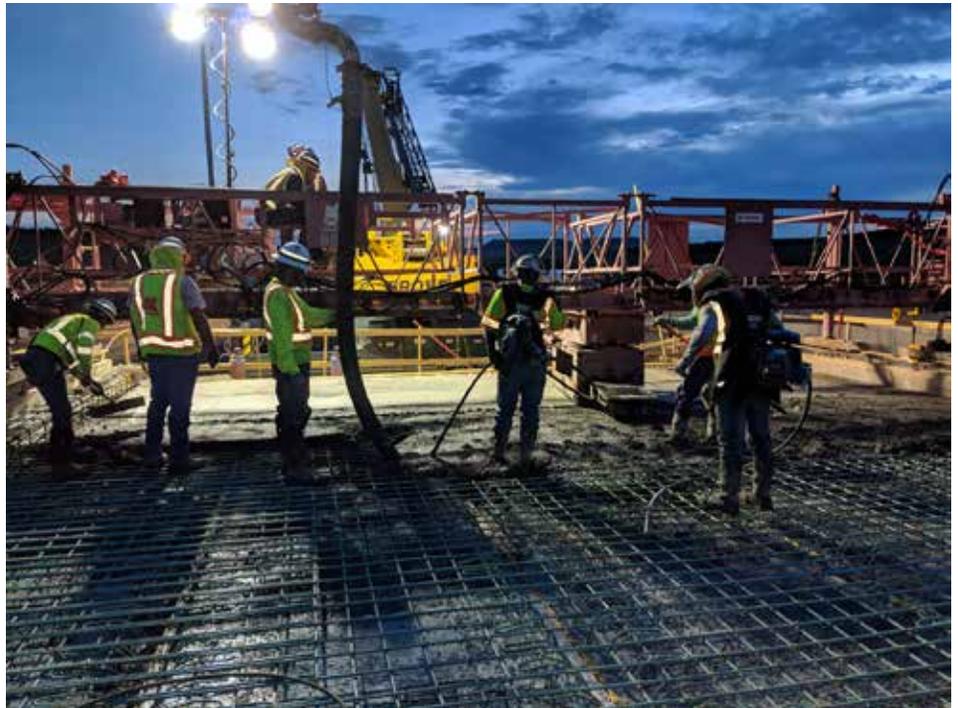
**Rewards for carpooling**

- raffle prizes for tracked carpools
- [mywaytogo.org](http://mywaytogo.org) links with Waze
- Waze Carpool: win \$10 at five rides
- save money, share miles

# I-25 South Gap in photos

*Clockwise from top right:*

*Pile driving as part of bridge construction for a new wildlife crossing near Monument. Crews work on a bridge deck for a new wildlife crossing. Crews pouring bridge curb to support a new rail. Concrete pour at the approach to a new bridge.*



Follow us on Facebook for more photos of the project in action, @I25SouthGapProject.