

# I-25 between US 36 and 120th Avenue (I-25 North Express Lanes)

## Capacity Improvement Project

April 2013

### Project Overview

In the fall of 2013, the Colorado Department of Transportation will begin a \$60 million capacity improvement project on I-25 between US 36 and 120th Avenue. The I-25 North Express Lanes project will utilize the existing infrastructure to expand the capacity of I-25 by adding a HOV/tolled Express Lane in each direction in the inside shoulder of the interstate. The new HOV/tolled Express Lane will connect to the existing I-25 Express Lanes between downtown Denver and US 36. In addition, six-miles of the existing lanes between US 36 and 120th Avenue, which will remain general purpose lanes will be resurfaced.

When the project is complete in late 2015, buses and carpools may use the new lanes free of charge while solo drivers will be required to pay a toll. The toll rates have not yet been set, but the rates will vary depending on travel demand.

### What is Taking Place Now?

Currently, the project is being designed and will be advertised to construction companies in June 2013. Once a contractor is selected, CDOT will communicate additional information about the project including project schedule and traffic impacts.

### Why this solution?

In an effort to get more out of the existing system and provide much needed transportation improvements, CDOT determined that the existing inside shoulder is sufficiently wide enough to accommodate the new managed lanes, eliminating the need for costly right-of-way acquisitions or additional pavement.

As a result of this innovation, the I-25 North Express Lanes can be constructed at less than one third of the original cost, \$145 million, and years ahead of schedule. If CDOT pursued the original improvements, I-25 between US 36 and 120th Avenue would have stayed in its existing configuration until 2035.

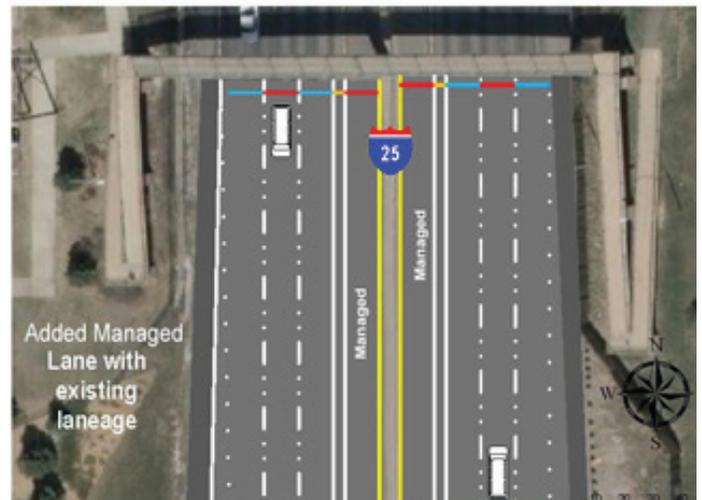
In addition, by constructing Express Lanes rather than general purpose lanes, motorists will have various travel options, including the congestion-free Express Lanes.

### Benefits

By adding an Express Lane in each direction of I-25, which will then connect to the existing Express Lanes into downtown Denver, safety and mobility will be improved by providing nearly a 20-minute travel time savings for vehicles in the Express Lanes and four-minute travel time savings for vehicles in the general purposes lanes.

The added capacity with the Express Lanes will also enhance existing travel for carpools, vanpools and buses as they will be able to bypass the congestion.

Some of the benefits we often overlook with transportation improvements include increased access to residential areas, businesses, health care services and recreation and improved mobility for freight carriers. At an even larger scale, the much needed improvements to I-25 will better support economic and job growth.



### Funding?

In June 2012, the U.S. Department of Transportation awarded CDOT a TIGER Grant to help complete the funding to construct the project. FASTER safety and FASTER transit funds are also being utilized to construct this project. Funding Advancements for Surface Treatment and Economic Recovery (FASTER) was passed by the General Assembly in 2009 and utilizes a small portion of vehicle registration fees to improve safety on Colorado highways.

### Project Updates

For additional information about the project and to sign up for email updates, please visit the project website at <http://www.coloradodot.info/projects/I25NorthExpressLanes>.

