

## **Cimarron Bridge invites public to become a girder gazer**

This Friday, February 22, 2008, the new Cimarron Street Bridge will be easier to envision when crews begin placing the 48 concrete girders that will support the bridge deck. This marks a major milestone in the project and is one of the most impressive parts of construction for public viewing. The public is invited to view the work in progress from the south end of America the Beautiful Park where bleachers will be set up through the duration of the girder placement. The work is expected to last at least 5 working days, starting at 7 a.m. each day, except Sunday, through at least Feb. 27.

### **QUICK FACTS**

- The 48 concrete girders will become the main support for the bridge deck.
- For the east and west spans of the Cimarron Bridge each girder is 85 feet long and 70,402 pounds (approximately 35 tons).
- The center span girders are each 109 feet long and 86,587 pounds (approximately 43 tons).
- The 300-ton capacity crane installing these girders weighs 158,353 pounds (approximately 79 tons) and is currently the largest crane in the state of Colorado.
- The same crane will be used to install the girders for the Austin Bluffs Interchange at Union in mid-March.

### **MEDIA OPPORTUNITIES:**

City of Colorado Springs Roadway Engineering Manager Robin Kidder will be available for two media interview opportunities at the south end of America the Beautiful Park:

Friday, Feb. 22, 2:30 p.m.

Monday, Feb. 22, 10:30 a.m.

Please let Carrie McCausland in Public Communications know if you plan to attend either media interview opportunity. (719) 385-5421

### **TRAFFIC IMPACTS**

Cranes that will place the girders will arrive on site the morning of the placement. In addition, trucks hauling the girders will use I-25 and the Cimarron and South Nevada/Tejon exits as access points to deliver the girders. These activities could potentially cause sporadic slowing of interstate and local traffic. Pedestrians should use alternate routes, such as Sierra Madre St. Flaggers will be on site to assist with any maneuvers necessary.

Please note: The duration of this construction activity is dependent on weather, resources and the railroad schedule.

The new Cimarron Street Bridge will open to traffic in two phases. On May 15, four lanes are scheduled to be open to traffic, while work will continue on the outside auxiliary lanes, bike lanes, sidewalks, and aesthetic features through August.

This \$8.5M project is funded by the Pikes Peak Rural Transportation Authority (PPRTA). The PPRTA was formed when voters in Colorado Springs, Manitou Springs, Green Mountain Falls and El Paso County approved a one percent sales tax in November of 2004 to address infrastructure and transit needs in the region. The tax revenue is divided into three categories: 55% capital improvements, 35% maintenance, and 10% transit. The capital portion of the tax will sunset in 10 years.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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