



**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Dec. 18, 2006

**Austin Bluffs-Nevada project opens new lanes to the traveling public**

Between now and the end of the month, minor finishing work will continue at the Austin Bluffs Parkway and Nevada Avenue intersection with minimal impacts to the public. This includes placing median light poles and miscellaneous project close out work to ensure that the contractor, Kiewit Western Co., provides the City of Colorado Springs and the PPRTA a high quality product that meets contract specifications.

A daytime lane closure will be necessary to install the median lighting on Austin Bluffs; two lanes will remain open in each direction to complete this operation. This work is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, Dec. 19 and Wednesday, Dec. 20, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day.

The Austin Bluffs/Nevada Avenue Project opened all traffic lanes Tuesday, Nov. 28, 2006 and held a completion ceremony on Friday, Dec. 15.

## **OTHER CAPITAL PROJECT UPDATES**

### **Academy/Fountain Intersection Improvements**

Construction is underway at this intersection and will last through the spring. This project includes:

- widening of Academy Blvd. north and south of Fountain Blvd. to accommodate improvements associated with left-turn lanes for both northbound and southbound traffic
- minor widening of Fountain Blvd. west of Academy to provide an additional eastbound right-turn lane
- signal retiming, and
- pedestrian ramp/sidewalk improvements.

### **Union Boulevard Capital Project**

The Union Boulevard Reconstruction project includes PPRTA, federal, city and Colorado Springs Utilities funding. The project length runs from Pikes Peak Avenue on the south to Constitution Avenue on the north and includes:

- Replacing deteriorated and missing curb and gutter and sidewalk
- Constructing more than 70 pedestrian ramps
- Resurfacing the roadway
- Replacing a water main (Utilities)
- Adding side-by-side left turn lanes at Cache La Poudre and Uintah
- Adding a new southbound right turn lane at Palmer Park
- Making school zone and pedestrian crossing improvements
- Adding almost 40 trees

The majority of the work is expected to be completed by the end of this year, but the resurfacing phase will not be fully completed until next spring when the weather warms again. Concrete work will continue through the winter as weather permits.

### **Cimarron Bridge**

Due to failure in the concrete deck of the bridge in the eastbound lanes, the replacement of Cimarron Bridge has been moved up in the PPRTA schedule. Design work is already underway, and construction work is expected to start in January 2007. The bridge will be rebuilt in two phases, and the entire bridge project will be completed by the end of 2007. One lane will remain open in each direction for autos only (no trucks) through the first phase of construction, which will last until mid-summer of 2007. After that, traffic will be shifted onto the newly constructed south half of the bridge while the north half is demolished and rebuilt. When this

traffic shift occurs, the south half of the bridge will accommodate four lanes of traffic without weight limitations.

### **Bijou Bridge**

The entrance ramp to I-25 South is closed until Oct. 2007. This bridge will be completely reconstructed as part of COSMIX. The bridge will close Jan. 2, 2007 and be closed until October 2007. A demolition party will be held on Jan. 6 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Monument Valley Park.

### **Colorado Avenue COSMIX Impacts**

During the day, there will be one lane open in each direction until Jan. 2, 2007 when eastbound Colorado Ave. becomes the primary detour route into downtown and reopens to two lanes. There will be occasional nighttime closures, which will be advertised in advance with VMS boards at the location. Colorado Avenue Bridge is being impacted because COSMIX will be replacing the I-25 overpasses over Colorado Avenue and needs to construct the additional piers.

### **About the PPRTA**

The Pikes Peak Rural Transportation Authority 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. Scheduled work is subject to change due to factors such as weather conditions and material availability.

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### **PPRTA Citizen Hotline Numbers**

Alleyways _____	(719) 385-5934 <a href="mailto:streetdivision@springsgov.com">streetdivision@springsgov.com</a>
Bridges _____	(719) 385-5411 <a href="mailto:cityengineering@springsgov.com">cityengineering@springsgov.com</a>
Curb & Gutter _____	(719) 385-5411 <a href="mailto:cityengineering@springsgov.com">cityengineering@springsgov.com</a>
Pedestrian Ramps _____	(719) 385-5411 <a href="mailto:cityengineering@springsgov.com">cityengineering@springsgov.com</a>
Potholes _____	(719) 385-6808

Resurfacing \_\_\_\_\_ [streetdivision@springsgov.com](mailto:streetdivision@springsgov.com) (719) 385-5934  
Sidewalk \_\_\_\_\_ [streetdivision@springsgov.com](mailto:streetdivision@springsgov.com) (719) 385-5411  
Traffic Engineering and Operations \_\_\_\_\_ [cityengineering@springsgov.com](mailto:cityengineering@springsgov.com) (719) 385-5908  
Traffic Signal Operations \_\_\_\_\_ [trafficeng@springsgov.com](mailto:trafficeng@springsgov.com) (719) 385-5966  
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