

Colorado Highway 119 Boulder Canyon Improvements Project

Construction Updates for the Week of
Sept. 1, 2019

Please drive safely this holiday weekend!

TRAFFIC ADVISORY

Sunday, September 1 through Saturday, September 7,
Colorado Highway 119 - Boulder Canyon will have single and full
lane closures. During working hours, there will be up to five areas
impacted concurrently.

Full Highway Closures

**There will not be a full closure of CO 119 from MP 39 - 40
on Monday, Sept. 2.**

Tuesday through Thursday (Sept. 3 - Sept. 5) rock blasting

activities will result in a full closure of Colorado Highway 119 from MP 39-40 between the hours of 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Motorists entering the canyon from Nederland will be stopped at 9:45 a.m.

In order to prevent extended closures this week, crews will implement 10 minute stops near the blasting zone ay MP 39-40 between the hours of 7 a.m. - 10a.m., and 2 p.m. - 6 p.m Tuesday, Sept. 3 - Thursday, Sept. 5.

24/7 Ongoing Impacts

Culvert installation will impact MP 36, and rock hauling will impact MP 40. Shouldering continues between MP 34 - 38, west of Magnolia and Sugarloaf roads.

Motorists will be guided around the single lane closures with traffic control flaggers.

Three traffic signal zones will remain in place near MP 32, MP 38 and near MP 39, 24-hours a day, 7 days a week, to preserve the work areas.

Up to **40-minute** delays are expected through the canyon during work hours. Speed limits are reduced to 25 miles per hour in the construction zones. The work is weather-dependent, and the schedule may change.

Please plan additional time to travel through the construction zones or to use the alternate routes of Colorado Highway 72 or Lefthand Canyon Drive during the full road closure.

Trail Closure

The Boulder Canyon Trail, from the canyon mouth in Boulder to the Fourmile Canyon trailhead, will be closed, Tuesday - Thursday, 7 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Beginning as soon as Sept. 9, the Boulder canyon trail will be closed at MP 40 where it crosses under CO 119, preventing through access from Boulder to the Four Mile trailhead, while crews install rock protection around the highway structure. This closure will be in place through the end of the year. Eastbound cyclists will need to use CO 119 during this time. Westbound cycling will be closed.

Creek Closure

The Boulder Canyon Creek will be closed for use from the canyon mouth in Boulder to the Fourmile Canyon trailhead, Tuesday - Thursday, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

FALL PROJECT UPDATE

When will the full closures for blasting end?

Although we know that the blasting will be completed this fall, we currently do not have an exact end date, due to significant design changes. The canyon rock has been reacting to the blasts in a way that was not anticipated by the project designers. In order to make sure the final product is secure but still achieves the ultimate goal of protecting the roadway from future floods, the designers are adjusting the plans. As soon as an end date is determined, a public announcement will be made.

What construction will take place following the blasting?

Following the blasting, work crews will begin the widening of the existing pedestrian underpass for the new Boulder trail, new guardrail and barrier throughout the canyon, retaining walls, six areas of rip-rap installation (rock used to protect the roadway from flooding), two bridge rehabilitations, and a new roadway through the blasting area at MP 39-40. Many of these operations, including the bridge rehabs and rip-rap installation, can only be performed during the winter when there is low flow in the creek.

How long will there be single lane closures with traffic signals in the canyon?

Single lane closures controlled by either flaggers or signals will be used until all work is completed in early spring 2021.

How will you maintain the road this winter?

CDOT Maintenance will plow CO 119 in Boulder Canyon this winter. Zak Dirt will maintain the construction work areas.

When will the bike path be completed?

The bike path extension will be completed late fall 2020.

How far does the new bike path extend?

The project, in partnership with Boulder County, will extend and reinforce sections of the Boulder Canyon Trail. The 10-foot-wide, multi-use trail will be extended from Four Mile Canyon to Chapman Drive, adding two new bike-friendly tunnels under the highway and approximately 3500 feet of length to the trail.

On Sept. 8th, the Colorado Buffalo Bicycle Classic will take place through and around the Boulder area. During the race CO 119 between Boulder and Nederland will be closed to westbound traffic from 7 a.m. to 10 a.m. Eastbound travel will remain open. For more information on the event please visit <https://www.buffalobicycleclassic.com>.