

Colorado Highway 119 Boulder Canyon Improvements Project

Construction Updates for the Week of Feb. 9, 2020

REMINDER: Rock blasting closures will continue Wednesday, Feb. 12 & Thursday, Feb. 13

Due to the winter weather conditions that hit Boulder Canyon this week, final rock blasting on Colorado Highway 119 has been rescheduled for Feb. 12 and Feb. 13 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. CO 119 will be closed between Mile Point 39 and MP 40, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. each day, while rock blasting operations occur, in order for the work to be completed as safely and efficiently as possible.

Snow and ice conditions made the rock face unstable for blasting operations and created an unsafe work environment for the crews and traveling public, so the work was rescheduled.

Rock blasting is weather-dependent, which impacts work duration and overall project completion. Please refer to the project contact information

below for the most up-to-date information. Should winter weather or other unexpected conditions occur, rock blasting activities will be rescheduled.

What's Next

Once rock blasting is completed, drivers can still expect to encounter travel delays with ongoing efforts to remove loose rocks and material from the slopes above the highway throughout February and March. Because this rock scaling work involves pushing large boulders onto the roadway below to prevent natural rockslides, traffic will be stopped in both directions for several minutes while this work is done and the roadway cleaned up. Traffic queues will then be cleared in both directions before vehicles are again stopped to continue scaling work. Drivers should plan for delays of about 20 minutes.

In addition, drivers can expect single-lane closures to resume in April for river armoring and roadway reconstruction work. These single lanes will be ongoing throughout the summer and fall.

There is also the possibility that four to five four-hour full closures will be required to complete the pedestrian path extension for Boulder County.

Construction is scheduled to be complete late 2020. However, weather could impact planned paving work. Paving operations require certain temperatures to ensure the quality of the asphalt. If weather affects the current schedule, paving will be done in spring 2021.

Drivers should continue to check the project website, email updates and hotline for the most up to date travel information. See contact info below.

TRAFFIC ADVISORY

Sunday, Feb. 9, through Saturday, Feb. 15, Colorado Highway 119 - Boulder Canyon will have single-lane closures. During working hours, there will be up to four areas impacted concurrently.

Traffic has shifted to newly built detour lanes in some areas of the work zone, causing slow downs. 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.

Full Highway Closures

There will be full closures of Colorado Highway 119, between Mile Point 39 and MP 40, on Feb. 12 and Feb. 13 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. CO 119 will be closed in this section from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. each day, while rock blasting operations occur, in order for the work to be completed as safely and efficiently as possible.

24/7 Ongoing Impacts

Intermittent 15 minute traffic holds will occur at MP 37.75 near the CO119 tunnel on Monday, Feb. 10 - Friday, Feb. 14 between 7 a.m. - 7 p.m. Motorists should plan for approximately 20 minutes of extra travel time.

Embankment work continues near MP 34 and 40. Guardrail installation will impact MP 31. Rock hauling and excavation will impact MP 39-40.

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

A traffic signal zone will remain in place between MP 39-40, 24-hours a day, 7 days a week, to preserve the work areas.

Please continue to 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 and Creek Closures

The FULL CLOSURE of the Boulder Canyon trail at MP 40 where it crosses under CO 119 will remain in place throughout 2020, preventing through access from Boulder to the Four Mile trailhead. Eastbound cyclists will need to merge with CO 119 traffic through this area. Westbound cycling will be closed through the work area, but open beyond the project limits.

The Boulder Falls Trailhead Parking lot (near MP 33) and Boulder Falls trail are now CLOSED. This area will reopen in May.

The Boulder Creek will be closed to all uses for rock excavation activities. Visit [this link](#) to learn more about creek activities.