

News Release

Pueblo County Board Of County Commissioners

Pueblo County Courthouse
215 W. 10th Street
Pueblo, CO 81003



Paris Carmichael
Community Information Manager
Office: 719-583-6534
Cell: 719-252-8550
carmichp@co.pueblo.co.us

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NEED TO TURN? THERE'S A LANE FOR THAT! **Pueblo County begins Purcell Boulevard widening project**

PUEBLO – Need to turn? There's a lane for that! Pueblo County is currently widening a section of North Purcell Boulevard, in Pueblo West.

Project scope

In general terms Purcell Boulevard from the north side of the roundabout at N. Platteville Boulevard north to Fairbanks Drive will be widened to include a continuous center lane for left turns into driveways and minor roads. There will also be dedicated left and right turn lanes at the major road intersections.

Why is the project necessary?

The additional lanes described are for safety improvement to prevent vehicles waiting to turn having to stop in the through lanes, reducing the potential for rear end accidents and people taking chances turning in front of on-coming traffic to avoid being rear ended. The finished road will have four foot shoulders for safety and to accommodate bicycles.

The project also eliminates 'Pueblo West half moons,' the illegal driving maneuver known to some Pueblo West citizens in which a driver traveling behind a turning vehicle attempts to pass the turning vehicle on the right by driving onto the dirt shoulder thus making a half-moon or half-circle path on the shoulder.

Project funding

The North Purcell Boulevard widening project is being funded with money paid to the county for reconstruction of haul route roads by Colorado Springs utilities as part of the conditions of the 1041 permit for the Southern Delivery System.

Project timeline

Existing asphalt will be milled and recycled as base course under the widened portions of the road with a new asphalt driving surface over the full width. It is anticipated approximately half of the four-mile length will be built by November 2016 and the other two miles completed starting in the spring of 2017.

Lane closures and project information

Traffic will be shifted from side to side during the project to allow two-way traffic through the construction zone. Speeds will be reduced during construction and there may be very short periods of time where traffic may be stopped by flaggers. Some delays will be unavoidable but access to properties will be kept open throughout.

The work will be phased in a manner to keep the road open to two-way traffic and to maintain access to properties along the road during construction. Efforts will be made to keep periods of one-lane traffic to a minimum and traffic will be controlled with flaggers as needed.

Pueblo County will be posting weekly updates on any expected delays, lane closures and the progress of the project on Pueblo County's website and social media platforms to help keep the public informed of any potential delays or inconveniences.

The posted speed limit on this section of Purcell Boulevard is 45 miles per hour and it is estimated this section of Purcell Boulevard undergoes approximately 4,500 vehicle trips a day.

For more information, or to schedule an interview, please contact Paris Carmichael, Pueblo BOCC Community Information Manager at carmichp@co.pueblo.co.us or at 719-252-8550.

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