



**City and County of Denver
Department of Public Works
Cherry Creek Improvements Project Update**

March 27th, 2014

Denver Public Works has awarded a construction contract for a storm drainage improvement and street reconstruction project and work began in early January 2014 in the vicinity of Cherry Creek North Drive and University in Cherry Creek.

Construction of the project is planned to be complete in late 2014. The project includes:

- Storm drainage improvements on University Boulevard from Cherry Creek to East 2nd Avenue then east on 2nd Avenue towards Columbine Street.
- Street reconstruction of University Boulevard and Josephine Street from Cherry Creek Drive North to East 6th Avenue.

Storm Drainage Improvements:

The storm drainage improvements are designed to reduce the frequency and impacts of recurrent localized flooding in the Cherry Creek area by adding significant capacity to the system. The main components include a new outfall structure draining into Cherry Creek and a new storm drainage outfall pipe that will ultimately extend north and east into the Cherry Creek North neighborhood. The storm drainage improvements were identified as a critical need in both the City-wide Storm Drainage Master Plan and the Cherry Creek Neighborhood Drainage Study completed by the Denver Public Works Wastewater Management Division.

Street Reconstruction:

The reconstruction of University Boulevard and Josephine Street from Cherry Creek North Drive to 6th Avenue will replace the deteriorated street surface with new concrete pavement. The project also includes new ADA compliant handicapped ramps and new traffic signals at several intersections. All pedestrian walks, landscaping, pedestrian lighting, medians, signage and other amenities in the public rights-of-way will be maintained or restored if impacted temporarily by construction.

Summary of Activities:

Activity on the storm drainage improvements continues at a number of locations on the project and work has begun on the reconstruction of University Blvd. south of 6th Avenue.

Temporary lane closures remain in place on Cherry Creek North Drive and on northbound University Blvd. between 1st Avenue and Cherry Creek. Temporary lane restrictions are also in place on southbound University Blvd. from 6th to 4th Avenues.

Starting Monday March 17th northbound Josephine traffic was rerouted into the eastern 2 lanes of University Blvd. from 1st to 2nd Ave. Southbound University traffic is using the western 3 lanes. 2nd Avenue between University Blvd. and Josephine is now one-way going east. No left turn is allowed from southbound University at 2nd Avenue.

The detour is necessary to allow the construction of the storm drainage improvements in the Josephine corridor between 1st and 2nd Avenue. Eastbound traffic entering the Cherry Creek North business district from southbound University will be encouraged to use 3rd Avenue or 1st Avenue. The Josephine closure and detour will potentially be in place through July to allow for the completion of the storm drainage work, utility relocations by Xcel Energy, and street reconstruction.

The City and the contractors continue to evaluate ways to expedite the work in this area to shorten the Josephine closure and related detours. All businesses will remain open and accessible although alternative routes and points of access will be required at times to facilitate construction. Details and duration of this closure are subject to change and delays should be expected during construction.

The storm drainage pipe has been installed from the nearly completed outfall structure near Cherry Creek under Cherry Creek North Drive. Work is underway on the storm drainage pipe from the north side of Cherry Creek North Drive to 1st Avenue. The storm drainage pipe which was tunneled under 1st Avenue is nearly complete and work has begun to extend the pipe north to from 1st to 2nd Avenue in the closed Josephine corridor.

The Cherry Creek Bicycle Trail closure and detour will remain while the pipe and outfall structure are completed adjacent to Cherry Creek.

The reconstruction of southbound York-University has begun from 6th to 2nd Avenues. The west half of the street will be constructed first then shifted over to complete the east side. Southbound traffic will be reduced to one lane just north of 6th Avenue however limited full closures and or on-street parking restrictions may be required during construction.

Work in the University Blvd. corridor will include concrete curb and gutter, new handicap ramps at intersections, and additional concrete sidewalk near the bus stop near 6th Avenue. The street will be reconstructed with concrete pavement with an expected life of 30 years. The installation of new traffic signal poles has also begun in the University Blvd. Right of Way.

A full closure of University Blvd. from the York-University Blvd. transition just north of 5th Avenue south to 4th Avenue will be implemented from 7am Sunday March 30th to mid day Monday March 31st for the construction of the new concrete pavement.

Traffic controls, flagging, temporary detours and lane realignments will continue to impact traffic flows on Cherry Creek North Drive and on University and Josephine. Alternative access routes to the Cherry Creek Shopping Center area and to CCN BID businesses are available and include access off of Colorado Blvd., 6th Avenue, 3rd Avenue, 1st Avenue, and most of the named streets in the area. Delays should be expected during the street reconstruction.

Driveways for both business access and residences will be open except when concrete paving is being placed and while the new concrete is curing. The project team will communicate with property and business owners regarding needed closures.

A few trees in the University Blvd. Right of Way have been removed and will be replaced using City and County of Denver Forestry guidelines.

Near Term Construction Milestones

Work Zone: Northbound University from Cherry Creek North Drive to 1st. Avenue and southbound York-University from 6th to 2nd Avenues.***

Mar 21st Complete bore and 78” storm drain pipe under 1st Avenue

Feb 24th –April 4th Construct concrete outfall structure and concrete manholes south and north of Cherry Creek North Drive.

March 11th –April 28th Construct 90” storm drain pipe from CCN Drive to 1st Avenue

March 18th-April 15th Construct 78” storm drain pipe and manholes in Josephine; Detour of northbound traffic to eastern lanes of southbound University from 1st to 2nd Avenue then on 2nd Avenue to Josephine. Details and duration of this closure will continue to be evaluated.

March 3rd –April 18th Reconstruct west half of southbound University Blvd. from 6th to 2nd Avenues. **(Full Closure of University Blvd. will occur on March 30th and the morning of March 31st for concrete paving from north of 5th Avenue to 4th Avenue).**

April 18th-June Reconstruct east half of southbound University from 6th to 2nd Avenues.

*** Work plans and dates are subject to change due to conditions encountered and are weather dependent.

FAQs

1. Who is funding and completing the improvements?

The project is being funded and constructed by Denver Public Works through funds approved by voters as part of the Better Denver Bond program and by Wastewater Management’s Capital Improvement Program. The traffic signal mill levy will fund the reconstruction of the traffic signals.

2. Will streets remain open to traffic?

Through traffic will be maintained in all directions as much as possible, however some street and lane closures, detours and potential delays should be expected during construction.

3. Will Cherry Creek area businesses be accessible?

Yes. All businesses will be accessible and access will be preserved to all off-street parking facilities at all times although alternative access points and routes may be required temporarily to facilitate the improvements.

Public Information

Parsons Transportation Group (Parsons), the primary contractor on the project, has hired Dick Marshall to handle public information. Dick and Cindy Patton from Denver Public Works can help answer any questions you have as construction activity continues through the duration of the project. American Civil Constructors (ACC) will be completing a majority of the construction associated with the project as a subcontractor to Parsons and will also be assisting with public information.

A project website was launched (<http://cherrycreekimprovements.com>) to help provide information about the project and to provide real-time traffic information powered by Google Maps. A project Hotline at 303-730-4522 provides similar information as the website. Both the Hotline and the website will be updated with project schedule and traffic information as it becomes available and will allow for the public to leave comments and sign-up for email updates. Contact information for Dick Marshall is available below.

Richard (Dick) Marshall
rkmarshall4488@gmail.com
303-324-6961 phone

Thanks for your cooperation as we implement these important improvements.

Denver Public Works///Parsons Transportation Group///American Civil Constructors

Attachments include traffic routing diagrams and detour information.