



PROJECT ANNOUNCEMENT

Work Begins on the Bear Creek Bridge on US 550 South of Ouray

American Civil Constructors, Inc. (ACC), contractor for the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), is pleased to announce that work will begin to construct a new Bear Creek Bridge on July 26, 2010.

The Bear Creek Bridge in Ouray County, two miles south of Ouray on US 550, was given a poor rating in 2009. The new design results in a wider bridge, improved parking area to the north and a cantilevered walkway to allow visitors a better view over the canyon edge onto the falls below. This project was made possible through Colorado FASTER – 09-SB-108 funding.

The **project is scheduled to start** on July 26, 2010 (traffic impacts will begin in August). There will be a winter suspension of work starting in late October. Crews will return in April of 2011 with a scheduled project completion date of November 2011.

TRAFFIC IMPACTS:

Flagger Managed Closures: Beginning August 2010, there will be a single lane of traffic from approximately 7 A.M. – 7 P.M. Monday – Friday. Flaggers will manage the traffic flow, alternating traffic to assure commuters experience reasonable delays. Once work commences in 2011, the single lane of traffic will be managed by automated signal. For everyone's safety, motorists are urged to stay in their vehicles during traffic stop periods.

Weekend Travel on 550: There will be no impacts to traffic flow on US 550 over the weekends in 2010. In 2011, the alternating traffic using the single available lane will be managed with a signal and enforce 24 hours per day, 7 days per week.

Future Nighttime Closures: There will be some full nighttime closures of the highway to enable rock anchoring activities. Closures are likely to occur in mid- to late August and will occur during Sunday through Thursday nights only, from 8 PM to 6 AM. Notice of these closures will be sent at least five days in advance.

PROJECT TEAM:

On-Site Public Information: Curtis Gemaehlich 970-325-9892

Public Information Manager: Jody Randall 720-244-7312

On-site Superintendent: Ed Dillon 303-591-0316

BEAR CREEK BRIDGE HISTORY: The Bear Creek Bridge, which is two miles south of Ouray on US 550, was first constructed in 1883, as part of the Otto Mears toll-road. The private toll road was transferred to Ouray County around the early 1890s, though historical accounts differ on just how this took place. When the state's division of highways (now CDOT) took ownership, a new bridge was constructed in 1922, and later improved in 1962.

ABOUT THE CONTRACTOR:

American Civil Constructors, Inc. (ACC) was founded in Colorado in 1975. The company's resume includes road/bridge/heavy civil projects throughout the state with particular expertise in high Rocky Mountains including Guanella Pass, Straight Creek rock stabilization & drainage, and the Avon/Traer Creek Interchange on I-70. Learn more about ACC at <http://www.accbuilt.com>.

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You may receive regular updates by enrolling at [BearCreekBridge@accbuilt.com](mailto: BearCreekBridge@accbuilt.com) or calling our information Hotline at **970-325-9892**. You may also visit the CDOT website at <http://www.Coloradodot.info/projects/550bearcreekbridge>