

Paseo Del Norte/I-25 Interchange RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT

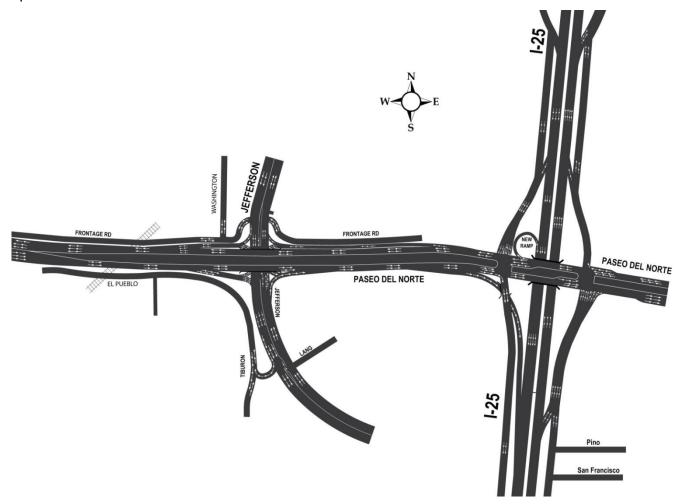
Paseo Del Norte/I-25 Interchange Reconstruction Project Announces Major Traffic Shift for Westbound Commuters on Paseo Del Norte As of Nov. 17, 2014

Eastbound and Westbound Paseo Del Norte to Be Closed from Second Street to I-25 This Weekend to Prepare for Change

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ALBUQUERQUE – Drivers headed westbound on Paseo Del Norte from I-25 will notice a major shift as of 6 a.m. Monday, Nov. 17, when the Paseo Del Norte/I-25 Interchange Reconstruction Project places them on the permanent new alignment that is north of the current configuration. As of Monday, Jefferson will also become a functional single-point urban interchange, with one lane open in each direction (north and south) as well as full access to eastbound and westbound Paseo Del Norte via on and off ramps. Additional lanes will open on Jefferson at a later date.



In addition, commuters heading westbound on Paseo Del Norte will be able to exit at Jefferson, which had been prohibited for about two months while crews worked on an off-ramp.

"These are major milestones as we move toward completion of the Project, and should make it much easier for local traffic on Jefferson and commuter traffic on Paseo Del Norte to safely and efficiently travel through the interchange," said Sally Reeves, Project Engineer with the New Mexico Department of Transportation.

Reeves cautioned motorists on both roadways to follow posted speed limits, be alert for signs and to give themselves extra time to reach their destinations during the first few days of the new permanent traffic configuration.

In order to prepare for the shift, the Project announced a number of closures from <u>7 p.m. Friday</u> evening, Nov. 14, through 6 a.m. Monday morning, Nov. 17, including:

- Westbound Paseo Del Norte will be closed from the northbound I-25 frontage road to Second Street
- Eastbound Paseo Del Norte will be closed from Second Street to the northbound I-25 frontage road
- Jefferson will be closed in both directions at Paseo Del Norte

Motorists traveling through the construction zone over the weekend are encouraged to seek alternate routes if possible or give themselves extra time to reach their destinations.

The Paseo Del Norte/I-25 Interchange Reconstruction Project was 85 percent complete as of Oct. 31, 2014, and is now entering the final phase of construction. The Project is expected to be substantially complete by December 20, 2014, although the contractor may need to return in the spring to perform minor functions that are temperature sensitive, such as applying coatings to bridges and final paving.

The Paseo Del Norte/I-25 Interchange Reconstruction Project is a project of the New Mexico Department of Transportation in partnership with the Federal Highway Administration, City of Albuquerque and Bernalillo County and in cooperation with the Mid-Region Council of Governments. Construction on the Project is expected to be completed in December 2014. Individuals can sign up for text/email updates by visiting www.paseoi25.com. All construction for the Project is subject to change without notice and weather permitting.

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