

Major improvements expected at I-25/Crossroads interchange

It's not the final solution, but it's a strong start.

Construction bids will soon be accepted for a \$6.5 million project at the Crossroads Boulevard exit at I-25. The improvements will ease traffic backups, reduce accidents and provide employment.

The project falls under the "shovel-ready" category and is being launched with the help of \$3 million in federal stimulus money.

The project will help to alleviate a traffic flow squeeze under the I-25 bridges across Crossroads Boulevard. The road under the bridges is only two-lanes wide, while the road on either side is four lanes.



(continued on page 2)

[More about I-25/Crossroads interchange inside](#)

Spring watering helps sustain landscapes

It's been a very dry winter on the Front Range. Early March brought record-breaking warm temperatures and there have already been some wildfires in the high country.



According to Mark Crookston, water resources engineer with the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District, Loveland is well below average for precipitation. "We are at best, about three-fourths of where we would normally be this time of year. This is an arid climate, so we're always dry going into spring, but it's critical that we start getting some rain."

In addition to fire risk and having adequate water for farmers, residential landscapes are at risk due to low precipitation. "If we don't get more moisture and if homeowners don't

(continued on page 4)

Household hazardous waste door-to-door pick-up for seniors and disabled

Many household products contain hazardous materials that should not be thrown in the trash. Common household items such as adhesives, old batteries, cleaners containing ammonia or bleach, liquid drain openers, house paint, old nail polish and polish remover, lawn and garden pesticides, and herbicides and automotive products such as antifreeze and brake/transmission fluid should be disposed of in an environmentally responsible way.

The Stormwater Division of the City's Public Works department is sponsoring both a spring and fall door-to-door pick up of household hazardous waste products to help elderly and disabled



(continued on page 4)

INSIDE

Project benefits entire region

Page 3

Where's the money coming from

Page 3

Tee Off for Kids

Page 2

Storm Drainage Maintenance

Page 2

Adopt-A-Roadway

Page 3

Solid Waste large item disposal program

Page 3

Free sprinkler system permits

Page 4

May is Historic Preservation Month

Celebrate Loveland's heritage throughout the month of May with fun and informative activities scheduled each week. Look for the calendar of events which will be posted at www.cityofloveland.org towards the end of April. For more information call 962-2745.

"Money Talks"

Banking Basics

It's 3 a.m. Do you know where your money is? It's probably in the bank. But is it at the right institution in the right kind of account? And is it insured? Now more than ever, being familiar with your bank's products, practices and services will ease your mind and help you better weather these uncertain financial times.

The May 12 Money Talks program will provide tips on how to select a bank, plus accounts and services that best meet your needs. Differences and similarities between commercial banks, credit unions, and savings & loans will be discussed.

This program is part of Money Talks—a free, monthly series offered through the Loveland Public Library. Programs are co-presented by CSU Extension Director Laurel Kubin and Susan Linden, MBA. This program is presented at noon and again at 6:30 p.m. Beverages are provided and attendees are welcome to bring a bagged lunch or supper. For more information, call 962-2402.

Major improvements expected at I-25/Crossroads interchange

(continued from page 1)

A traffic backup can occur when a vehicle must wait to make a left turn. All the traffic behind that vehicle must wait too.

The ultimate solution will be replacing the I-25 bridges with wider-span bridges and a wider road beneath. The interim solution is the current project, which will include new I-25 entrance and exit ramps from Crossroads and a pair of roundabouts.

The ramps will be located further from the bridges and the two-lane squeeze, and the roundabouts will enable through-traffic to proceed while a left turn is being made.

There is currently no plan or money for the estimated \$19 bridge replacement by the Colorado Department of Transportation. But the current improvements will be incorporated with bridge replacements whenever that might occur.

It is anticipated that bids will be opened, contracts approved and work begun this summer with project completion expected next spring, weather permitting.

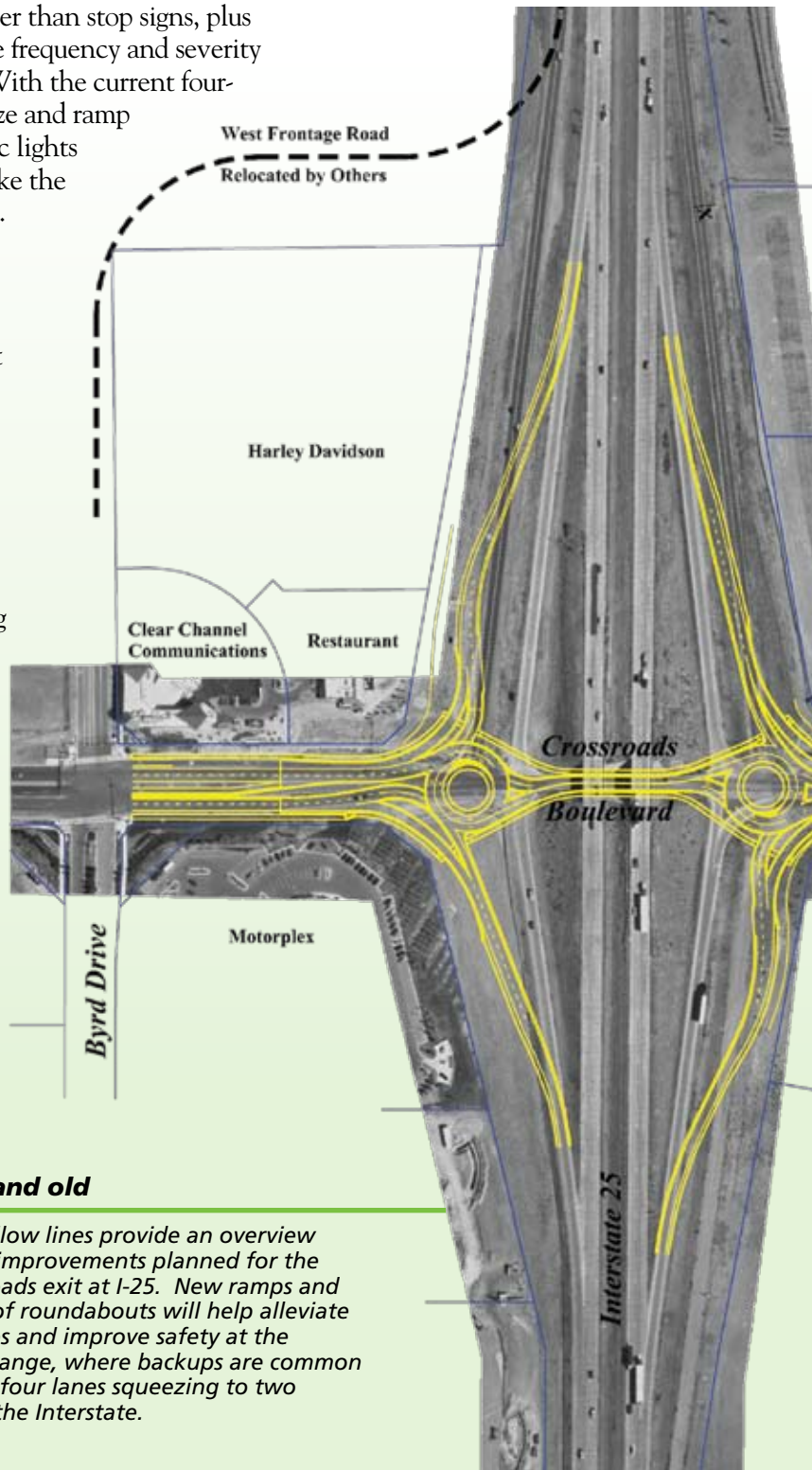
During the past few years, Crossroads Boulevard has been widened on both sides of I-25 to serve new developments--The Ranch, four new hotels, car and motorcycle dealerships, a restaurant and other buildings. But the under-bridge crunch remains.

At rush hour, backups occur. It's especially bad when there's a special event going on, such as a show at the Budweiser Events Center or the Clear Channel amphitheater.

Backups cause impatience, and impatient drivers sometimes take chances that result in accidents.

Roundabouts are proven to handle traffic flow better than stop signs, plus they reduce the frequency and severity of accidents. With the current four-into-two squeeze and ramp locations, traffic lights would only make the situation worse.

Relatively speaking, the construction project will not have a major impact on current traffic. The existing I-25 ramps will remain open while the new ramps are being built. In all, road closures are planned for just three weekends.



New and old

The yellow lines provide an overview of the improvements planned for the Crossroads exit at I-25. New ramps and a pair of roundabouts will help alleviate backups and improve safety at the interchange, where backups are common due to four lanes squeezing to two under the Interstate.

“Tee Off for Kids” golf tournament - June 12



The Loveland Parks and Recreation Foundation and its community sponsors will hold the annual “Loveland Tee Off for Kids” Golf Tournament, Fri., June 12 at 1 p.m. shotgun at Mariana Butte

Golf Course. This event raises funds for youth recreational scholarships, which enable children who cannot afford to participate in recreational activities offered through the City, to do so at no charge.

Organized in a two-person scramble format, the tournament will consist of friendly competition in three divisions of play: men's, women's and mixed. Teams from diverse organizations are encouraged to join in the fun and compete for this great cause.

Cost is \$180 per two-person team. The entry fee includes range balls, cart, 18-hole round of golf, awards and dinner. Hundreds of youth benefit from this program each year.

For more information, to sign up, or to make a donation, call 962-2443.

Storm Drainage Maintenance adds new sweeper to fleet

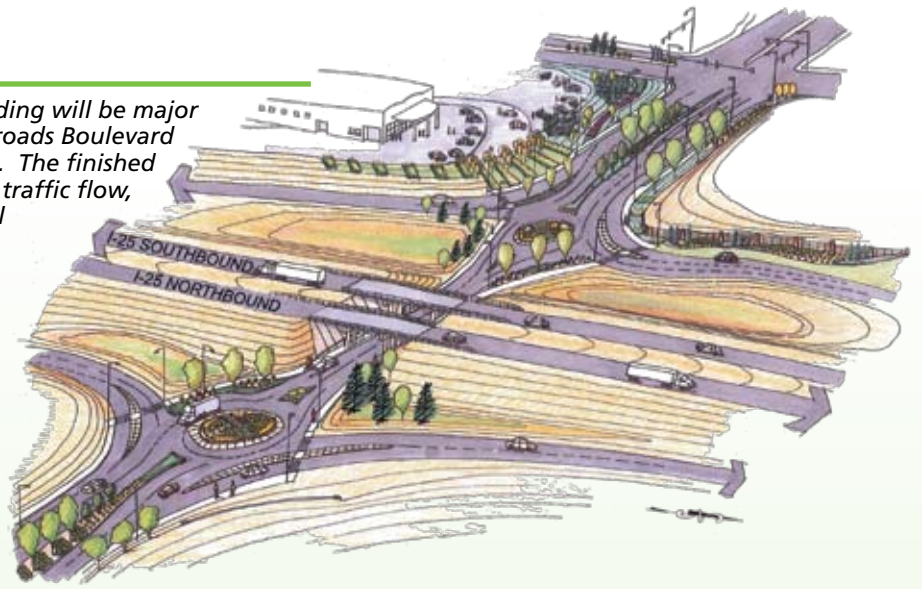
As winter snows subside the City's Storm Drainage Maintenance street sweepers get to work removing rocks, dirt and debris from downtown and residential streets. To aid in this effort, the City recently purchased a mini-sweeper exclusively for sweeping downtown streets and parking lots.



(continued on page 4)

Looking good

Landscaping and grading will be major features of the Crossroads Boulevard improvement project. The finished product will improve traffic flow, safety and the overall appearance of the interchange.



Project benefits the entire region

While the area nearest to the I-25/Crossroads exits will be the greatest beneficiary of the project, the improved interchange will actually have a regional effect. Crossroads Boulevard, which runs parallel to busy Hwy. 34, is becoming a regional artery, taking some of the load off Hwy. 34.

Crossroads has already been extended to the east side of Windsor connecting to Hwy. 257, the road that runs past the Kodak facility.

Crossroads will soon be extended even further, to Greeley's O Street.

A further benefit will be economic. The reality is that improved vehicle flow makes an area easier and more attractive to visit. Smoother traffic flow will encourage more visits to the businesses and facilities around the interchange.

Healthier businesses, less driver stress and safer intersections will be the result. In addition, a \$6.5 million project generates a lot of paychecks.

Where the money is coming from

The project will cost about \$6.5 million, with the funds coming from three major sources. Because the plans are already drawn—all 300+ pages—the project is ready to be bid and therefore qualifies as “shovel-ready.” The project will receive \$3 million in federal stimulus funding.

An additional \$1.2 million will come from other federal funding.

The rest, about \$2.3 million, comes from fees paid by Centerra development, money already collected and set aside for public transportation improvements. No funding from the regular City budget is required.

All the funding currently exists. No additional fees, taxes or bonds will be required.

Adopt-A-Roadway and see what a difference you can make!

Spring is here and the City of Loveland Public Works Streets Division needs volunteers to Adopt-a-Roadway! The City encourages local organizations, individuals, businesses and families to formally Adopt-a-Roadway to protect and improve the quality and safety of our roadways and environment.

Volunteers receive:

- A safety orientation
- Guidance and support for successful clean-ups...just three clean-ups a year
- Safety equipment including safety vests, trash bags

(continued on page 4)

Solid Waste large item disposal program

From July 31 to Aug. 30, Loveland residents will be able to take large, unwanted items to the Recycling Center, 400 N. Wilson, for disposal, with a special, one-time permit. Each permit allows a household a one-time drop off, of up to one pickup load of large items not easily collected at the curb. These items will be accepted Fridays through Sundays, only.

Large disposal items should be sorted so they can be recycled or composted to the greatest extent possible. Examples of materials accepted include old furniture, carpeting/padding, building materials, appliances and tires.

Unacceptable materials include household trash, small items collected with regular household trash and hazardous waste items. Residents are strongly encouraged to read the

permit instructions thoroughly. Loads containing unacceptable materials will not be accepted.

Permits are available at the Solid Waste Division office, 105 W. Fifth Street, or call 962-2529.

A brochure containing information on the large item disposal program, yard waste program and a comprehensive list of recyclables will be sent to Loveland residents soon.



Spring watering helps sustain landscapes (continued from page 1)

do their own watering, we could to start see trees and plants die back,” Crookston added.

Fortunately, despite the lack of moisture during the winter and early spring months, Loveland’s water supply is sufficient to provide for residential watering.

“While we always stress the importance of using water wisely, we do want residents to know that they can take care of their landscapes and preserve their investment,” said Greg Dewey, water resources engineer with the City of Loveland. “Doing some targeted watering now will help sustain residential landscapes as we move into warmer weather,” said Dewey.

Nancy Schmachtenberger, horticulture specialist with the City’s parks department, echoes that recommendation. Schmachtenberger said that even well-established landscapes need supplemental water in the early spring.

“In our city landscapes we’ve been watering trees, bulbs, shrubs and perennials. Lawns can use a good drink right now too,” Schmachtenberger said.

Schmachtenberger cautions to not water when it’s windy, however,

due to the high rate of evaporation. But on a calm day, she advises that residents water their trees, shrubs and plants, focusing on the whole, above-ground circumference of the plant. She also recommends drip systems, which can be used on the windiest days without water loss due to evaporation.

Using very low-water tolerant, xeriscape plants can also help preserve and sustain a home landscape. The city’s Garden-in-a-Box program is a great way for residents to reduce outdoor watering needs and still have an attractive yard.

For more information on early spring watering, Garden-in-a-Box or water conservation, call 962-3000.

Dry conditions watering tips:

- Water trees, shrubs, lawns, and perennials in the spring to prevent root damage
- Water only when air and soil temperatures are above 40 degrees °F with no snow cover
- For large trees, apply water to the edge of the tree’s dripline to cover the entire root zone

(<http://www.ext.colostate.edu/Pubs/garden/07211.html>)

Free permits required for new or modified sprinkler systems



One of the ways Loveland Water and Power (W&P) helps protect the city’s high water quality is by making sure that

newly installed sprinkler systems and systems that are upgraded or repaired all meet requirements for backflow prevention.

An effective backflow prevention assembly keeps water from returning to the city water distribution lines. This prevents harmful substances such as fertilizers, weed killers and other pesticides from contaminating the clean water system.

“This permit process is similar to the kind of thing homeowners do when they have plumbing work done” said Tony Lamirato, water metering supervisor. “After a sprinkler system is installed or repaired, a technician will certify that the backflow assembly meets City code. Once that process is completed, a W&P staff person will sign-off on the permit. After that’s all done, residents can use their sprinkler systems,” Lamirato said.

Property owners can perform normal maintenance on sprinkler systems including replacing sprinkler heads, repairing leaks or adding additional zones without a permit.

Permits are free and can be downloaded from the W&P web pages at www.cityofloveland.org, or obtained at the City’s Service Center, 200 N. Wilson Ave. Completed permits can be hand-carried, mailed or faxed (962-3400) to the City.

To schedule a final inspection or for questions on sprinkler permits, call 962-3721.

Household hazardous waste door-to-door pick-up for seniors and disabled

(continued from page 1)

residents dispose of these items properly.

Call Curbside Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collections, Inc. at 1-800-HHW-PKUP (449-7587) to sign up for one or both door-to-door pick-ups. Leave a message including your name, address, and telephone number. Items will be picked up on Mon., May 4 and Tues., May 5 for the spring pick-up and on Mon., Oct. 5 and Tues., Oct. 6 for the fall pick-up. Scheduled pick-ups in the spring and fall will each be limited to the first forty residents who call.

For more information call the Stormwater Division at 962-2772, visit the Stormwater Utility’s website at www.cityofloveland.org, call Curbside HHW Collections, Inc. at 1-800-HHW-PKUP (449-7587), or visit their website at www.curbsideinc.com.

Adopt-A-Roadway and see what a difference you can make!

(continued from page 3)

- Two Adopt-a-Roadway signs recognizing the volunteer group
- The opportunity to positively impact your community
- Recognition for a job well done

So get the family together or grab a couple friends and Adopt-a-Roadway today!

For more information, call 962-2529 or go to www.cityofloveland.org.

Storm Drainage Maintenance adds new sweeper to fleet

(continued from page 2)

This addition will allow the other four full-size sweepers to focus on other areas of the city including residential areas.

The entire City is mapped out into sweeping sectors and they are regularly cleaned. The City sweeps residential and collector streets about six times a year. Highways and arterials are swept at least twelve times a year. On any given weekday there is at least one sweeper on the arterial streets, while the other three sweepers work on residential neighborhoods.

In addition to daily sweeping duties, City sweepers clean up after parades and other special City events like Sculpture in the Park and the Corn Roast Festival.

For more information about the City’s sweeping procedures, call 962-2529 or go to www.cityofloveland.org.