

# CAÑON CITY US 50 ACCESS CONTROL PLAN

## ANSWERS TO FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **What is an Access?**

An access is a location where vehicles, bicycles, or pedestrians may enter and/or exit a roadway. Access may be public, such as a City street, or private, such as a driveway to a business or residence. Every property owner has the right of reasonable access to the general street system.

### **What is an Access Control Plan?**

An access plan provides a unified vision of the future access needs for a particular roadway corridor. Generally, access plans seek a balance between state and local transportation objectives. The goal is to define safe and effective access to support the economic viability of the corridor, while preserving the functionality of the highway as a through roadway.

An access plan defines existing and future access locations and configurations, with consideration for spacing, traffic movements, circulation, and alternative access opportunities. It is a long-range planning document that identifies access conditions that will be implemented as highway and land-use characteristics change.

Once an Access Control Plan is adopted, all action taken in regard to access must be in conformance with the Plan and State Highway Access Code design standards. Modifications to the plan must be approved by Cañon City and CDOT.

### **What is the US 50 Corridor Plan?**

Adopted by City Council in August 2015, the US 50 Corridor Plan defines a long-range vision for US 50 through Canon City. In the plan's East Cañon District, the Fremont Drive frontage road along the north side of US 50 is eliminated. This will provide the following benefits:

- convenient and direct access to businesses from the highway
- pedestrian/bike-friendly facilities
- elimination of safety risks on Fremont Drive
- safer and more efficient signalized intersections
- utilization of the frontage road right-of-way for public or private benefit
- improved corridor aesthetics

### **Why adopt this Access Control Plan?**

This Access Control Plan is required by CDOT in order to implement Cañon City's US 50 Corridor Plan. Access control will benefit Cañon City by improving safety and preserving traffic operations along US 50. Access control is also good for business, providing safe access for customers and retaining more of a community's original market area. As redevelopment occurs along the corridor, the Access Control Plan will provide clarity on future access.

### **With the raised median, how do I access a businesses on the opposite side of the highway?**

Drivers have two ways of accessing businesses on the opposite side of US 50. City streets can be used to circulate back to signalized intersections or drivers can safely make U-turns at various points along the corridor. Studies have shown that making U-turns is safer and more efficient than making direct left-turns onto the highway since drivers only have to find a gap in one direction of travel rather than in two.

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### How is the Access Control Plan implemented?

Prior to implementation of the Corridor Plan, Access Control will be implemented in the following cases:

1. Redevelopment of a property that increases traffic by 20% or more, as required by the City's Site Plan Development Process.
2. Publicly funded project by the City or CDOT
3. Development of safety or operational issues

If redevelopment occurs prior to the construction of the East Cañon Corridor Plan, access to the frontage road will be consistent with the Access Control Plan.

### Who is sponsoring the US 50 Access Control Plan?

Cañon City and CDOT are jointly sponsoring the US 50 Access Control Plan. Stolfus & Associates, Inc. is leading the development of the Plan.

### How long will it take to complete the Access Control Plan?

The Cañon City US 50 Access Control Plan project began in November 2017. Development of the Access Control Plan recommendations will take approximately one year. Once the Plan has been completed, City officials and CDOT will formally adopt the plan through an Intergovernmental Agreement. expected in October 2018.

### What happens after the Access Control Plan is adopted?

The Access Control Plan is just one step in the US 50 Corridor Plan implementation process. Adoption of the Access Control Plan by City Council does not mean that construction on the corridor will begin. Devolution, design, and right-of-way acquisition must be completed prior to construction. Each step in the implementation process is an individual entity. There is no obligation to move on after a step is completed; however, in order to move on, all previous steps must be completed. Funding has not yet been identified for the steps following the Access Control Plan.

### How can I get more information about the project?

Visit the City's website at <http://www.canoncity.org/> or contact one of the project team representatives:

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