The Future of the US 6 & 19th St. Interchange

An in-depth look at how it will transform starting this year
The Golden Informer is produced and published monthly by the Golden City Manager’s Office and mailed as a source of news and information to all residences and businesses inside the City limits. Comments on The Informer are welcome.

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The Golden Informer

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NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING
How do you envision the future of the North Clear Creek Neighborhood including 8th, 9th, and 10th Streets as well as Goosetown? City planning staff will launch a neighborhood planning process in January to develop a North Clear Creek Neighborhood Plan through a public engagement process. The goal of the plan is to establish a framework for building and site design, address concerns of the neighborhood and establish future priorities for the plan area.

The open houses will be held at the Golden Community Center on the following Wednesdays: Jan. 13, March 9 and April 13. Visit www.cityofgolden.net/links/NClearCreekPlan for more information and to take a short survey.

NEW COUNCIL MEMBER SWEARING-IN
The City of Golden welcomes the newest member of City Council, and welcomes back two incumbent members with a swearing-in ceremony at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 7. The ceremony will take place at the beginning of the City Council meeting in Council Chambers, 911 10th St.

The election in November included the positions of Mayor, District 1 Councilor and District 2 Councilor. Mayor Marjorie Sloan was re-elected for another four years, and so was District 1 Councilor Saoirse Charis-Graves. District 2 will now be represented by newcomer Casey Brown. He is replacing Marcie Miller, who served on Council several times over the years and continues to contribute to Golden in many ways including the Golden Civic Foundation. She will be honored at the meeting.

You are invited to come to the meeting, but if you cannot make it, you can watch it live-streamed or recorded on the City website, www.cityofgolden.net. It will also be broadcast live and then re-broadcast on GCO.tv Cable Channels 8 or 880.

PULL OUT YOUR RECYCLING POSTCARD!
City of Golden PAYT Customers: Your new 2016 Trash and Recycling Calendar is here. Please remove the postcard from the middle of this Informer and keep it as a handy reference for the City of Golden PAYT Trash and Recycling program collection schedule.

JOIN A BOARD OR COMMISSION
Golden City Council is recruiting applicants to fill vacancies for a variety of boards, commissions and committees. The City relies heavily on citizen volunteers to study special community issues, provide staff direction, obtain public comment on key projects and take action or offer recommendations to City Council on any number of matters. These groups are the community’s voice that influences public policy and decisions that impact the entire City.

To find out more about the board and commission application process, visit www.cityofgolden.net/government/boards-commissions. The application is on the main Boards and Commissions page, as well as each specific board taking applications.

If you are interested in applying, you will need to complete the application form. You may be considered for up to three different boards on one application; be sure to rank your preference on the application.

After completing the application, save and email it to: clerks@cityofgolden.net. The deadline is 5 p.m. on Friday, March 11. Be sure to SAVE THE DATE for interviews which are scheduled to be held by City Council in the evening on Thursday, April 7. If you have questions contact the City Clerk’s Office at 303-384-8014, 303-384-8015 or clerks@cityofgolden.net.

HEADS UP: Important Upcoming Items
Below is Golden City Council’s monthly calendar. Meetings are held on Thursdays and begin at 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers at City Hall, 911 10th St., unless otherwise noted.

January 7
Regular business meeting

January 14
Study Session

January 21
Rescheduled business meeting

January 28
No meeting

Feb. 4
No meeting

Feb. 11
Regular business meeting

Feb. 18
No meeting

Feb. 25
Regular business meeting

Council’s upcoming agendas, packets and meeting minutes are available online under the City Council link at www.CityofGolden.net.

Public comment is welcome on the agenda at all regular business meetings.
For all of us, New Year 2016 brings fresh beginnings and new possibilities. For Golden city government, it means evolution: city council’s re-commitment to community service, the departure of one councilor, and the investiture of one new and two returning elected officials.

At the January 7 City Council meeting, Golden will say a heartfelt thank you to outgoing Councilor Marcie Miller for her extraordinary, cheerful dedication to the residents of district two and the entire city. Her distinguished leadership, professional demeanor and tireless service are worthy of recognition.

Next, the meeting will proceed to the installation of recently elected councilors. Casey Brown will be sworn in as Marcie’s successor and Saoirse Charis-Graves and I will take an oath of office for district-one councilor and mayor—the second time. In Golden, the transition from an outgoing to incoming council is a celebratory, but quiet occasion.

The ceremony is deserving of notice, however. It is a hallmark of American democracy. To millions around the world, the ability to transfer authority as the result of a fair election is an unfulfilled dream. But in the United States, the tradition dates back to 1797. That year, George Washington stepped aside as president of the United States and witnessed the inauguration of John Adams. For the first time in political history, authority was transferred between two common citizens without the death or violent overthrow of the outgoing leader.

Following the pattern set by our first president, every level of American government now conducts a peaceful transition, symbolic of both stability and change. Under the democratic process, those sworn in after an election understand they cannot change the basic concepts of governance. All others know that they can compete another day. The rules of the game remain the same, but at regular intervals, the playing field is re-set with new team members with new skills and ideas.

The transition period can also serve as a reminder that democracy requires more than the thoughtful election of representatives. It also needs citizens willing to be informed and active participants in governmental affairs. One suggestion for a New Year’s Resolution is to make it a priority to learn about issues facing Golden and communicate your viewpoint to councilors, volunteer board members, or staff. Golden’s recently revamped and enriched website, www.cityofgolden.net, could be a good starting place for this effort. Among other things, the site provides topics of interest, video and audio recordings of council and board meetings, materials about city services, notice of events, and contact information.

For specific infrastructure problems, another way to communicate is through an internet application adopted by the Golden Public Works Department. YourGOV.com allows residents to use their smartphones or computers to submit common issues to Public Works. They can identify problems such as potholes, vandalism, street light outages and more--complete with location, details and photos. YourGOV delivers the requests to be reviewed and routed for proper and prompt handling. Submissions are not complaints; they are helpful contributions to Golden’s day-to-day operations.

I look forward to working with our engaged residents, our new council, and our talented staff in 2016. Best wishes to all for a safe, healthy, and happy New Year.

Wishes for a Peaceful Transition into the New Year
By Mayor Marjorie Sloan
Construction will begin on the long awaited intersection of US 6 and 19th Street in late January, or early February. The City of Golden is partnered with the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) to make the project come to fruition.

We know there will be a lot of questions, concerns and frustrations in the weeks, months and years to come as this project takes shape. This is our opportunity to tell you we will work hard to make sure you have the very latest information going into the project and as it progresses.

The entire edition of this Informer is dedicated to the US 6 and 19th Street project, nicknamed Linking Lookout. On the pages in this edition you will find a detailed explanation of what will be happening, the true expected impacts to traffic, and what we’re doing to make it as smooth as possible for our residents, visitors, and passers-through. Thank you in advance for your patience through this process. We believe the end result will make everyone’s commute a little easier.

Ready or Not,
The Big Road Construction Project is Here

If you can remember the words Linking Lookout, you’ll have all you need to know to stay on top of the latest information regarding the US 6 & 19th Street project. The name was chosen to represent what the project will ultimately bring to our community... a beautiful and user-friendly path between downtown Golden and the communities at the base of Lookout Mountain. In essence, we are “linking” Golden to Lookout to help bikers, pedestrians and cars cross over US 6 in a safe way without hindering the flow of traffic.

You’re likely aware that there are a ton of different ways to get information these days; everything from traditional newspapers to TV to the internet and social media. While the City plans to utilize many forms of communication tools, you will always find the very latest information at www.LinkingLookout.com. For sudden changes or updates, you can find us on Twitter @ LinkingLookout. And if you prefer the phone, we have a hotline set up: 303-277-8777. Any notifications that need to be made will be on a recorded message on the hotline, but you can also leave a message if you have a question and someone will get back to you within 24 hours.

Do you want the information to come to you? Sign up for a weekly e-newsletter blast. Sign up is on the website www.LinkingLookout.com. Want a birds-eye view of the roadwork? Once the project is underway, we will have live webcams available as well. And wherever you see the Linking Lookout orange logo, you will find information.
The Long Road to the US 6 and 19th Street Interchange

This project comes after a very long and often contentious history of highway planning along the US 6 and SH 93 corridor. Planning for a regional beltway dates back as far as the 1960’s, but Golden didn’t get seriously involved about the corridor until the 1980’s, with the planning and construction on C-470 beginning at I-70, traveling south and east to I-25. This is a highway that had been stopped by former Governor Dick Lamm in the 1970’s. Golden had unsuccessfully asked that that highway start slightly to the north at US 6 to alleviate traffic that was using Heritage Road.

The next attempt to complete a high speed highway through Golden occurred in the late 1980’s with the W-470 toll road project. This road was to “complete the beltway” from C-470 north and east to I-25. The project needed some minimal support: a $10 annual vehicle registration fee in the corridor. This fee was part of an election in 1989 which lost 5 to 1.

After the defeat of W-470 there was a short lived effort led through Jefferson County to build a parkway, but it died when there was no consensus formed to include the highway in the mid 1998 update of the Jefferson County Transportation Plan. This led to the County, and the cities of Arvada, Lakewood, Wheat Ridge, Golden and Westminster launching the Northwest Corridor transportation study. This study was conducted by transportation engineering consultant CH2MHill. After two years of public meetings, alternatives study and traffic modeling, the final report was released in 2000 and recommended significant improvements along two corridors, US 6/SH 93 and Indiana/McIntyre.

Golden had been looking at the impacts to the community from a major regional highway, and the major concerns were from noise and the division that a major highway makes between parts of the community. The community used the recommendations from the CH2MHill to develop a highway plan through Golden that was sufficient for traffic, but able to fully mitigate the highway’s impacts. This resulted in the Golden Plan, first published in 2003. This plan has slower speeds, 45 mph to mitigate noise, four lanes instead of six, (which the CH2MHill study said would be sufficient) and covered sections and interchanges to keep a highway from becoming a barrier in our community.

While Golden was working on developing the Golden Plan, the region still believed that the completion of the beltway was critical. An eleven mile section from I-25 to almost US 36 was built as a public toll road,
the Northwest Parkway which opened in 2003. This highway was later privatized when toll revenue failed to meet expectations through a 99 year lease to a private operator.

In 2002, Arvada and Jefferson County created the Jefferson Parkway Authority to build the beltway segment from SH 128 to SH 93. The authority put its efforts on hold in 2003 when the Colorado Tolling Enterprise funded a study to complete the beltway from the Northwest Parkway to C-470. Golden participated in that effort, and was opposed to the recommended findings, a six-lane 70 mph highway through Golden along the US 6 and SH 93 corridor. This effort was shelved in 2008 by the state when environmental approvals could not be obtained because there was no highway funding.

When the state effort ended, the Jefferson Parkway Authority picked up its effort to complete the section from 128 to 93, and the state continued to look at developing a private-public partnership that could complete the highway. In 2012, Golden began discussions with the state concerning bringing a highway through the community. This time the state spent time with Golden to understand our highway concerns. A compromise was found that limited the highway to existing speeds, 45 and 55 mph through Golden and limited the number of lanes to four unless traffic volumes rose to certain levels. It also guaranteed the expanded intersections and covered sections, to prevent the highway from becoming a barrier. In addition, the agreement stipulated that existing free highway lanes remain free, while any new lanes could be tolled under a managed lane program.

The City held a series of public meetings around the proposed compromise which lead to an update of the Golden plan in 2013 and a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) that defined regional highway improvement designs through Golden.

In late 2013, the State announced a grant program to fund highway improvements and Golden applied for and received a $20 million grant to complete an interchange at US 6 and 19th street. The grant required a 20 percent match, so Golden pledged $4 million to the project, and the Colorado School of Mines added the additional $1 million. In May of 2014, Golden signed an agreement with CDOT for the grant, and began project design, and environmental clearances.

This brings us to January 2016, a long journey to the beginning of the first project included in the Golden Plan, a project that we expect will make a significant improvement to one part of Golden along this regional highway corridor.
Specifics About The Interchange

Based on input received during four public meetings and analysis of traffic flow and pedestrian safety, Golden plans to create a grade-separated, unsignalized interchange at US 6 and 19th Street.

- US6 will be lowered approximately 22 feet on its current alignment, under 19th Street, allowing 19th street to remain at its existing grade. Ramps will be constructed to allow traffic to access 19th Street from US 6.
- US 6 will have two travel lanes in each direction plus a raised, landscaped median both north and south of the intersection.
- The extended lid will have retaining walls that can accommodate a third travel lane in both directions. These lands will only be constructed if necessary in the future and specific traffic volumes would have to be met first.

- An extended lid (bridge structure) will be constructed over US 6 that will separate pedestrian and bicycle traffic from vehicle traffic on US 6. New at-grade crossings will be on the north side of 19th Street where ramp volume is lower, improving safety at the intersection for pedestrians, bicycles and motor vehicles.
• The existing pedestrian crossing east of Elm Street on 19th will be modified, but will remain in essentially the same location.

• 19th Street will be reconfigured to provide unimpeded travel for westbound traffic to the southbound US 6 lanes. The intersection will be controlled with a stop sign rather than a traffic signal. East of US 6, a roundabout will be added at Elm Street to improve access from Elm Street to 19th Street and to allow a u-turn for eastbound motorists that want to turn onto northbound US 6.

• The extended lid will also include landscaping, trails and park amenities like picnic benches. These features will help connect the neighborhoods west of US 6 with the rest of the city east of US 6. The 6th Avenue Trail, which runs parallel to and north of US 6, will be realigned both vertically and horizontally to integrate with the proposed grade separation.
CONSTRUCTION PHASING AND TRAFFIC

**PHASE I:**
February 2016 through May 2016. Construction of ramps between US 6 and 19th Street. All construction will occur outside current roadways and there will be no traffic pattern changes or detours.

**PHASE II (A):**
May 2016 through August 2016. Excavation of US 6, bridge construction, roundabout construction at 19th Street and Elm. Mainline US 6 traffic will be detoured onto the ramps with two lanes of traffic in each direction. A short surface lane shift will occur on 19th Street. Stoplights will be added at 19th Street for both northbound and southbound traffic. Lane closures and traffic flaggers should be expected on 19th Street May through September, but 19th Street will be open.

**PHASE II (B):**
PHASE III:
January 2017 through August 2017. Excavation of US 6 and mainline paving. 19th Street will be routed onto the bridge structure. Mainline US 6 traffic will remain detoured onto the ramps with signals at 19th Street.

PHASE IV:
September 2017. Traffic will be moved to final configuration. Construction will be limited to landscaping and installation of park elements.
The completion of the US 6 and 19th Street interchange will be a big improvement at that location, but congestion, noise and delays will remain in the rest of the corridor. What are the remaining parts of the Golden Plan?

The complete Golden Plan can be seen at getthefactsgolden.org. The plan includes interchanges at Washington at SH 93 and Heritage Road at US 6 that are similar to the one being constructed at 19th. It also widens SH 93 to 4 lanes, and moves the northern portion to the west away from housing. It includes an overpass at Iowa at SH 93, Golden Gate Canyon at SH 93 and a covered section of SH 93 south of Iowa. It also has an interchange at SH 58.

When will these other elements of the Golden Plan be completed? The short answer is we don’t know. There are currently no additional projects that have funding, and we don’t see any short term change. Longer term there are possibilities which are being pursued through a regional partnership called WestConnect. This is a working committee that includes regional communities including Golden, Jefferson County, Arvada, Lakewood, Westminster, Bromfield, Superior, Boulder and Boulder County. The coalition also includes the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT). The charter of this group is to improve mobility within the west corridor starting at C-470 and Kipling heading north along C-470, US 6, SH 93, along the Jefferson Parkway route (this is outside Golden City limits) to SH 128 and then through the Flatirons area to the Northwest Parkway.

The WestConnect Charter specifically requires adherence to existing local plans and agreements for the corridor within those jurisdictions that have adopted plans and agreements. This is an important thing for Golden, because the Golden Plan has been adopted by City Council, and a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been signed with CDOT agreeing that
The possibility of traffic using other city roads to avoid the construction on US 6 is something that the City considered when planning the project. The primary concern is that traffic will use North Washington and North Ford through town and out South Golden to Johnson to miss the construction.

During design and planning we have looked at this possibility, and we believe that this option would be slower because of the amount of signals and lower speeds than staying on 93 and US 6. This is particularly true because the amount of through lanes on US 6 through the construction will remain the same as we have today.

While we don’t expect diverted traffic to become a major problem, we have taken some precautionary measures so we can be aware if it becomes a problem. We have completed detailed traffic counts on North Ford and Washington, South Golden Road and Johnson which provide a base line to compare traffic volumes during construction to see if there is a significant increase. If traffic starts to become a problem, particularly in residential areas we will add temporary measures, like humps, circles and weight limits and a strong police presence to discourage traffic from cutting through neighborhoods.

**WILL TRAFFIC TRYING TO AVOID THE US 6 AND 19TH STREET INTERSECTION IMPACT MY ROAD?**

The possibility of traffic using other city roads to avoid the construction on US 6 is something that the City considered when planning the project. The primary concern is that traffic will use North Washington and North Ford through town and out South Golden to Johnson to miss the construction.

During design and planning we have looked at this possibility, and we believe that this option would be slower because of the amount of signals and lower speeds than staying on 93 and US 6. This is particularly true because

**Q:** What is the best alternate route?

**A:** If you are trying to get through Golden going north/south, it may be easier to take I-70 to SH 58 to SH 93. Access into Golden from US 6 on Ulysses, Johnson Road, SH 58 and Washington Ave may be alternatives depending on your final destination.
In order to prepare for the upcoming US 6 and 19th construction interruption, City and RTD staff members have been working together on a plan to temporarily reroute the green circulator bus to minimize the impact on transit passengers.

The current route consists of a loop between the light rail station and downtown Golden, which utilizes both US 6 and 19th Street to access the Colorado School of Mines campus and downtown Golden [www.cityofgolden.net/media/Call-n-RideMap.pdf](http://www.cityofgolden.net/media/Call-n-RideMap.pdf).

However, beginning on **April 22, 2016**, the circulator bus will be rerouted for approximately 18 months to avoid this intersection and any associated delays due to construction work. This temporary route has not yet been finalized, but this information will be provided in the months and weeks leading up to the April 22nd route change, so please stay tuned for details.

Pedestrians and bicycles will need to be aware of some changes to access as a result of the construction project. Access for bicycles and pedestrians across 19th Street at US 6 will be open at all times. Students that live in Mines Park will be able to walk to class, residents of the neighborhood will be able to walk or bike into town, and recreational cyclists will be able to ride up Lookout Mountain. However, cycling events that include an ascent up Lookout Mountain will not be possible during construction and pedestrians and bicycles will need to stay in designated pedestrian crossings so that they are safe.

The regional trail along US 6 will be closed during construction between Illinois Street to the south and the CSM athletic fields to the north. Trail users will be detoured to Illinois Street and the Clear Creek Trail. The CSM Geologic Trail will be open with access from the CSM campus. The Triceratops Trail will also be open with access from the CSM parking lot in the SE corner of the US 6 and 19th Street intersection.

The Golden Police and Fire Departments are familiar with the project and the potential traffic impacts during each phase of construction. First responders may take alternate routes to avoid the intersection, but they will be able to respond to all emergency calls and will have access to all neighborhoods in the City at all times.

**Q:** Will emergency vehicles still be able to get to my house?

**A:** Yes. Golden PD and Fire are familiar with the project and may take alternate routes to avoid the intersection, but they will be able to respond to all emergency calls.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Q:</th>
<th>When will construction start?</th>
<th>A:</th>
<th>Construction is scheduled to begin in Feb. 2016.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Q:</td>
<td>How long will construction last?</td>
<td>A:</td>
<td>Approximately 18 months. Construction should be complete by September 2017.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q:</td>
<td>How can we get information about the project?</td>
<td>A:</td>
<td>The most up to date information can be found at <a href="http://www.LinkingLookout.com">www.LinkingLookout.com</a>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q:</td>
<td>Who can we call if there are problems?</td>
<td>A:</td>
<td>A hotline has been set up for the project: 303-277-8777.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q:</td>
<td>Will we be able to get through the intersection or will we have to detour around it?</td>
<td>A:</td>
<td>You will be able to drive through the intersection during the project. You should expect delays on both US 6 and 19th Street.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q:</td>
<td>Will we be able to get across US 6 to the Beverly Heights neighborhood?</td>
<td>A:</td>
<td>Yes. There will always be access into and out of the Beverly Heights neighborhood across US 6. You should expect some delays.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q:</td>
<td>Why are we building a park and not just a bridge?</td>
<td>A:</td>
<td>It is a goal of the project not just to improve traffic and pedestrian safety, but to also make sure that the Beverly Heights neighborhood remains connected to Golden east of US 6.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q:</td>
<td>Will construction on Washington Avenue north of Hwy 58 happen at the same time?</td>
<td>A:</td>
<td>No. Construction on the complete streets project on Washington Avenue is scheduled for 2017 and is expected to start after this project is complete.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q:</td>
<td>How much will the project cost and who is paying for it?</td>
<td>A:</td>
<td>The intersection will cost $25 million. CDOT is contributing 80 percent up to $20 million, CSM is contributing land plus $1 million, and the City is contributing $4 million.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q:</td>
<td>Will the bike path along US 6 stay open?</td>
<td>A:</td>
<td>No. Trail users will be detoured onto Illinois Street and around the project.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q:</td>
<td>Will I be able to walk across US 6 at 19th Street?</td>
<td>A:</td>
<td>Yes. The contractor will be required to maintain pedestrian access along 19th Street across US 6. Cycling events that include an ascent up Lookout Mountain will not be possible during construction.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q:</td>
<td>Will there be any night work?</td>
<td>A:</td>
<td>Night work will be avoided. There will be night work when the storm sewer is installed across US 6. Notice of this work will occur at least one week before it occurs and should only take one or two nights.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q:</td>
<td>Will there be any road closures?</td>
<td>A:</td>
<td>There is only one anticipated closure at this time. US 6 between Hwy 58 and Heritage Road will be closed overnight when the storm sewer is installed across US 6. Notice of this work will occur at least one week before it occurs and should only take one or two nights. Lane closures may occur during the project.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q:</td>
<td>What will the contractor do about noise and dust?</td>
<td>A:</td>
<td>The contractor will use best practices including water trucks to cut dust. Night work will be avoided so that there will not be noise disturbing the nearby residences at night.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q:</td>
<td>How will the project impact public transportation?</td>
<td>A:</td>
<td>The 16, 16L and GS bus lines do not go through the US 6 and 19th intersection on their routes through Golden, and service will not be directly impacted. Light rail service will also not be directly impacted.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Why US 6 and 19th Street First?

With all the possible projects in the Golden Plan why did the City pursue the US 6 and 19th Street interchange as the first project to be completed in the plan? The city considered many of the possible projects within the Golden Plan when we applied for the CDOT - Responsible Acceleration of Maintenance and Partnerships (RAMP) grant. The intersection at US 6 and 19th Street was chosen for four main reasons.

1. First it is a congested intersection with significant traffic delays. This is true throughout the corridor, with significant peak hour delays along SH 93 and at US 6 & 19th and at Heritage Road. In fact the delay at US 6 and Heritage Road is slightly greater, but only slightly. The US 6 and 19th Street intersection does have a greater number of accidents. If we had to make a selection solely on congestion, any of the sections would qualify with little to differentiate a particular location to start.

2. The US 6 and 19th Street interchange has a significantly higher amount of both pedestrian and bike crossings than any other location in the corridor. With the Beverly Heights neighborhood and much of the Colorado School of Mines housing on the west side of 6th Avenue, and the campus and downtown on the east, the amount of pedestrians that cross the highway gave the intersection special consideration. There is also a large contingent of bike riders that cross US 6 at 19th daily. In addition to students and residents, the ride up Lookout Mountain is one of the most popular rides in the entire state. When we were doing traffic studies we found that there were about 300 daily bike crossings, with over 1,000 on weekends. This high volume of pedestrians and bikes significantly added to the priority of this Golden Plan project.

3. The intersection was creating emergency response problems, because of the significant backups down 19th street with minimal options for ambulance and fire vehicles to pull around backed up traffic. Depending on the time of day, emergency vehicles sometimes choose to go to SH 58 then to US 6 because of fear of congestion on 19th. The completion of the intersection will remove this problem.

4. Finally this particular intersection was affordable (relatively speaking). When deciding which project to apply for, we had to consider the 20 percent matching funds requirement. The costs of the interchanges at either Heritage or 19th Street were about $25 million, which meant a $5 million match. In this project, $1 million of this was contributed by CSM leaving $4 million for the City. The cost to do a reasonable phased project on SH 93 would be about $90 million. This would require a match of nearly $18 million, well beyond Golden’s ability to fund.
Golden is Open For Business

The construction may make it a little more difficult for some people to get to downtown Golden, but it’s still well worth the effort! Whether you’re looking for gifts, souvenirs, household items, groceries, fashion or shoes, Golden’s friendly and unique shopping experience is sure to provide what you need close to home. Before you venture out of town, think Golden first.

Golden’s interior neighborhoods and historic downtown feature over 100 independent businesses, three grocery stores, a hardware store, several gas stations and award-winning restaurants. In Golden, you’ll find superior outdoor gear, the most precious of gems and everything in between.

Shopping locally will be especially important in the upcoming months, when many may choose to circumvent Golden due to construction along 6th Avenue. Access to downtown Golden will continue to be available via trails, bus service, and three different driving routes, including South on Washington Avenue from Hwy 58, North on Ford Street from South Golden Road and Johnson Road, and West on 44th Avenue.

So remember this spring that Golden businesses are open and ready for your business! They’re looking forward to providing you exceptional customer service and providing a one-of-a-kind shopping and dining experience. For additional information about shopping and dining in Golden, go online to visitgolden.com.

Q: How will the project impact special events?
A: Most special events, particularly those downtown, will be unaffected. Cycling events that include an ascent up Lookout Mountain will not be possible during construction.
The sales tax refund is limited to senior, low-income or disabled individuals who have lived within the city limits of Golden for at least 90 consecutive days in 2015 and cannot be claimed as a dependent on any other person’s tax return. The refund amount for 2015 is $50. This will be adjusted for partial year residency in Golden and partial year at age 65.

Please check one box only:

- **Senior Refund** (must be 65 years or older)
- **Low Income Refund**
  - *Proof required.* Attach a photocopy of one of the following:
    - State of Colorado Property Tax/Rent/Heat Rebate approval notification
    - Proof of Medicaid benefits
    - Proof of LEAP eligibility
    - Proof of eligibility for food stamps
- **Disabled Refund**
  - *Proof required.* Attach a photocopy of one of the following:
    - State of Colorado Property Tax/Rent/Heat Rebate approval notification
    - Proof of full benefits from Social Security Disability Income, SSI or the Department of Human Services
    - Proof of total disability from a public or private insurance plan

Please print or type:

Name: Mr(s). ____________________________
Age: ________________ Date of Birth: ________________
Name: Mr(s). ____________________________
Age: ________________ Date of Birth: ________________
Address: ____________________________ Golden, CO ZIP: __________
Phone: ________________________________

How many months did you reside in the city limits of Golden during 2015? _____ months
Were you claimed as a dependent on any other person’s income tax form?  □ yes □ no

Signature: ____________________________ Signature: ____________________________

This form must be submitted by no later than April 15, 2016.

Refund Donation Option:
You have the option to donate your refund to a City of Golden program or department by checking one of the boxes below:

- Golden Volunteer Fire Department
- Golden Cemetery
- Golden Senior Front Porch
- Other City program or department (please identify): ____________________________

Office Use Only:
Account #013031-6190 STR Vendor # _________ Received _________ Payable _________
On Jan. 21, ranchers are invited to bring their branding irons to the forge at the Clear Creek History Park. There they can leave their brand on the weathered barn wood that will become part of the permanent covering for monitors on the stages of the Colorado Cowboy Poetry Gathering.

This year, the Gathering is proud to welcome eighteen of the top performers in the genre. Of particular interest are Dick Warwick and Kristyn Harris. Dick Warwick is the winner of the Best Cowboy Poetry CD by the Western Music Association. His travels took him to Australia and he is singlehandedly responsible for introducing the Aussie bush poets to cowboy gatherings across the country. Kristyn is the youngest recipient of the Top Woman Performer award from the WMA – and she won it two years running. These two and others will keep your toes tapping and hands clapping as cowboys and cowgirls give voice to the spirit of the West.

Morning and afternoon sessions on Friday and Saturday run from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and evening shows start at 7 p.m. You’ll be treated to the best of the West – the finest in cowboy poetry, music and storytelling at the American Mountaineering Center. On Sunday morning, return to the AMC for Sunday Songs to quiet your heart and celebrate the work and wonder of life on the ranch. For tickets and information, visit www.ColoradoCowboyGathering.com.
WELCOME TO GOLDEN

OUR EARLIEST VISITORS CAME LOOKING FOR GOLD AND ADVENTURE. THEY STILL DO.