

# **Creating Safer Connections for Our Community**

Littleton is investing in transportation improvements across the city. Many of these improvements focus on making Littleton an increasingly connected and accessible place to better support our active community. One project that supports this vision is the County Line Trail Connections project. This project is close to wrapping up design and will improve safety and connectivity for pedestrians and bicyclists along County Line Road and the High Line Canal Trail.

## **Project Facts**

**Lead Agency:** City of Littleton

Partner Agencies: Douglas County, the High Line Canal

Conservancy, South Suburban Parks and Recreation, the Highlands

Ranch Metro District, and Denver Water

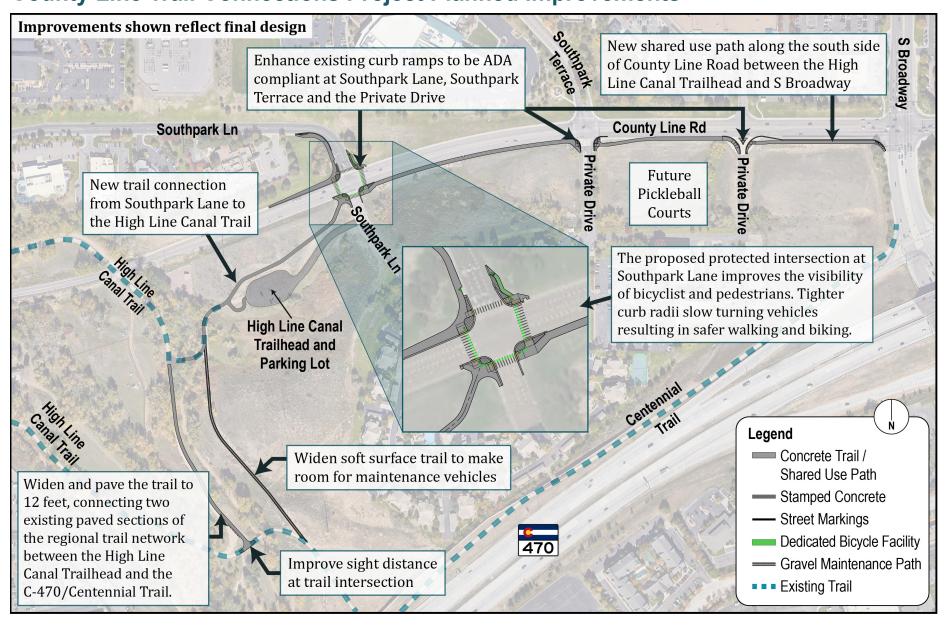
**Funding Source:** Denver Regional Council of Governments

Transportation Improvement Program **Design Completion:** Late Fall 2025 **Construction Timeline:** 2026

#### **Planned Trail and Path Improvements**

- Build a new shared-use path along the south side of County Line Road between the High Line Canal Trailhead and Broadway, improving travel options and connecting to nearby amenities like the new pickleball facility.
- Widen the unmaintained soft surface trail just east of the High Line Canal Trail to better accommodate maintenance vehicles.
- Realign the southern intersection of the High Line Canal Trail to improve sight distance.
- Upgrade and widen the High Line Canal Trail between the High Line Canal Trailhead (just south of County Line Road) and the C-470/Centennial Trail. This improvement will replace the existing unmaintained surface with concrete, connecting the already paved sections to the north and south.

# **County Line Trail Connections Project Planned Improvements**



### **Project Benefits**



Improved safety for bicyclists and pedestrians



Increased
accessibility
for people
with
disabilities



Improved connectivity between area trails and roadways



Enhanced recreational and multimodal travel opportunities in the area

#### **Intersection Enhancements**

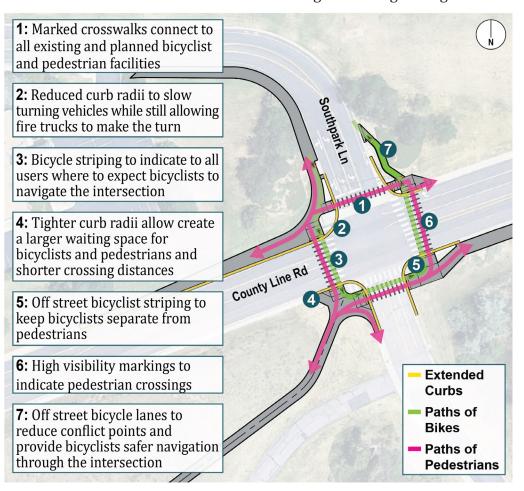
- Add features to make the County Line Road/ Southpark Lane intersection a "Protected Intersection" (see the reverse side/page 2 for details). This will make it easier for drivers to see bicyclists and pedestrians crossing the intersection and slow traffic to allow for safer walking and biking.
- Create a complete connection for bicyclists from Windemere Street to the north across County Line Road to the High Line Canal Trail and the Centennial (C-470) Trail to the south.
- To the east of the protected intersection, the existing curb ramps will be enhanced at the County Line Road/South Elati Street intersection and the private driveway on the south side of County Line Road to meet Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) guidelines.





### A Safer Intersection Coming to County Line Road/Southpark Lane

The City of Littleton is planning to upgrade the County Line Road/Southpark Lane intersection a protected intersection to make it safer for those walking and biking through.



# Prioritizing Safety Around Littleton!

The County Line Road/Southpark
Lane intersection will be one of
the first protected intersections in
Littleton. This is a proven, costeffective way to transform an
intersection to maximize safety
benefits. The city plans to roll out
this similar concept in the next
five years at several locations,
including three along Mineral
Avenue at Elati Court, Jackass Hill
Road, and Platte Canyon Road.

#### **Need for Safety Improvements**

Data strongly supports the need for addressing crashes when vehicles are turning.

2

25%

Of all **bicycle** crashes within the DRCOG region:

occur when a vehicle is turning

\* https://engage.drcog.org/active-transportation-plan, Appendix D, pages 28-29

Protected intersections function similar to standard intersections controlled by traffic signals, which means everyone is already familiar with the basic idea of how to navigate them. It's not a completely new and confusing design!

Ultimately, protected intersections are a smart and cost-effective way to make our streets safer and more comfortable for everyone, no matter how they choose to get around. They bring predictability to busy corners, benefiting all.

#### **Proven Effectiveness**

Protected intersection designs have been shown to improve safety when compared to traditional intersection layouts.\*

Drivers yield to bicyclists and pedestrians more often Right turning speeds are lower with tighter turns around corners

Nearly 40% more bicyclists use the bike lane through the intersection Fewer bicyclists ride on the sidewalk through the intersection 66% of bicyclists follow the marked path

\* FHWA, Safety Evaluations of Innovative Intersection Designs for Pedestrians and Bicyclists, 2023

#### **Protected Intersections Benefit All Travelers**

Do you ever feel a little uneasy navigating a busy intersection as a pedestrian or bicyclist? Protected intersections are a type of intersection design that makes those crossings much safer and clearer for everyone – drivers, pedestrians, and bicyclists.

Protected intersections create dedicated spaces for each type of user. Instead of everyone traveling through the intersection at the same time, a protected intersection uses simple yet effective strategies to provide separate paths and reduce potential crashes.

#### **County Line Road/Southpark Lane Protected Intersection Simulation**

View from the northeast corner of the intersection looking southwest:

Smarter traffic lights: Signal timing will be adjusted to better facilitate dedicated time and space for pedestrians and bicyclist to cross.

Prioritize Pedestrian & Bicyclist in stop condition:
Limiting some turn movements, like right on red, reduces conflicts between vehicles and potential bicyclist going straight



Roomier corners:
Expanded corners
provide a larger, more
comfortable spot to
wait as a pedestrian
or bicyclist before
crossing.

Bright green
pavement markings
for bikes: These
clearly mark where
bicyclists should be,
making them more
visible to drivers.





