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## 1st phase of Tejon makeover nears finish



CHRISTIAN MURDOCK, THE GAZETTE  
Cyclists ride north along Tejon Street between Colorado and Pikes Peak Avenue on Saturday as pedestrians use the new 10-foot-wide sidewalk on the eastside of the street in downtown Colorado Springs. Phase one of the multimillion-dollar project is expected to be finished this month.

**BY BREEANNA JENT**  
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The block of Tejon Street in downtown Colorado Springs between Colorado and Pikes Peak avenues is expected to reopen fully later this month as crews complete the first phase of a multimillion-dollar road widening and improvement project.

The city reopened the east

side of the block in early July and will complete mill and overlay work, paving and striping on the block this week, project manager Ryan Hershberger said.

Crews will also install new road signage and, later, parking kiosks and permanent wrought iron patio railings.

The block will fully close to vehicle traffic as the work

happens. Sidewalks will be open to pedestrians.

The entire section of Tejon between Colorado and Pikes Peak is scheduled to reopen to two-way vehicle traffic and on-street diagonal parking on Aug. 25.

There could be a lane shift on northbound Tejon Street north of Pikes Peak Avenue, according to a Friday news re-

lease from the city. Colorado Springs Utilities will conduct electric system work; crews may begin removing and replacing concrete on the southeast corner of the block.

Work on a second block of Tejon Street, between Pikes Peak Avenue and Kiowa Street, is expected to begin Sept. 2, after the Labor Day holiday.

The block will close fully to vehicle traffic and street parking when construction starts, but pedestrian access will be maintained. Workers will conduct pre-construction activities along the block the weekend prior, Aug. 30-31.

Colorado Springs began in March the \$8.6 million project officials said will boost business activity, public safety

and accessibility along these two blocks of Tejon Street. The project is reconfiguring pedestrian and vehicle traffic through the corridor by eliminating the center lane and expanding both sidewalks.

Wider 10-foot sidewalks and flex zones that businesses can use as extended patio space

SEE TEJON • PAGE 4

## D-2 Promise scholarship is the first publicly funded program of its kind

**BY ERIC YOUNG**  
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When Pikes Peak State College welcomed its latest cohort of graduates from Harrison School District 2 last Wednesday, it also marked the beginning of a new era of higher education.

While the D-2 Promise Program has covered tuition costs for all graduates from the local school district since 2020 with funding from The Dakota Foundation and

the Legacy Institute — two Colorado Springs-based nonprofits — it is now permanently funded through local tax dollars.

Thanks to the passage of a ballot measure last November, D-2 now annually contributes district funding to sustain the scholarship program.

Throughout the day, incoming students toured the campus while they participated in breakout sessions on academic assistance, additional resources and the require-

ments to fulfill the promise.

Following their orientation, Pikes Peak State College President Lance Bolton addressed the new students and informed them that they were the first beneficiaries of the only publicly funded first-dollar scholarship program in the nation.

That distinction, he said, marked the first day of what started as “a dream.”

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## What to know about DIA’s quest for nuclear power

**BY SCOTT WEISER**  
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Will Denver International Airport be the site of Colorado’s first nuclear power station in the 36 years since the shutdown of the Ft. Saint Vrain reactor in 1989?

That’s what airport officials want to find out.

The airport has announced the start of a \$1.25 million study into the possibility of building a small modular nuclear reactor power station on its 34,000-acre campus

to meet its expected future power needs independently, as authorities anticipate the airport serving its anticipated 120 million passengers by 2045.

The airport currently uses about 45 megawatts of energy and has “nearly 50 megawatts” of solar energy available from its more than 200 acres of solar panels. The airport thinks it might need up to 400 megawatts in the future.

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