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THE US 6th SENSE



**US 6 Bridges
Design Build**

Keeping you in tune with US 6 Bridges Design Build Project activities

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June 2014

Greetings!

Please enjoy the June 2014 edition of *The US 6th Sense*!

Knox bridge celebration to occur Saturday, June 14

When the new Knox Court bridge opened over Mother's Day weekend, there were still some final touches to complete. Now, as Father's Day weekend approaches, the bridge is nearing completion so it's time to celebrate!

Joining the local neighborhoods of Barnum, Villa Park, Westwood and Valverde, the City and County of Denver and the entire US 6 Bridges Design Build Project team invites community members to come celebrate the completion of the new Knox Court bridge on Saturday, June 14, at 10 a.m. The event will take place at Denver Fire Department Station 20, located directly south of the bridge at 501 Knox Court.

Light refreshments will be provided and festivities will include a parade of bicycles, scooters and pedestrians all joining together for a trip across the bridge. Kids will also have the chance to tour a fire truck.

Denver City Councilman Paul Lopez (District 3) will speak at the event, and US 6 Bridges Project team members will be present to answer questions and provide project information.

We can't wait to see everyone at the bridge!



Knox Court bridge

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

May accomplishments

- Opened the new Knox Court bridge after 85 days
- Closed the Federal Boulevard and 5th Avenue intersection for an entire weekend for complete intersection reconstruction
- Set girders on the US 6 bridge over the BNSF train tracks
- Switched traffic to a new alignment on the Federal Boulevard on-ramp to westbound US 6
- Removed the traffic signal at the intersection of Bryant Street and the eastbound US 6 frontage road to make room for bridge demolition and reconstruction activities

June look-ahead

- Setting girders on the US 6 bridges over I-25 and the South Platte River
- Pouring bridge decks on the US 6 bridges over the BNSF tracks, I-25 and South Platte River
- Continued demolition of the US 6 bridge over Bryant Street
- Reconstruction of 5th Avenue from Decatur to Federal
- Knox Court bridge completion and celebration on June 14
- New traffic alignment on US 6, moving all traffic to the south (eastbound) side of the highway
 - This will result in a temporary closure of the westbound US 6 off-ramp to Lowell/Perry, scheduled to last six months
 - See update below for information about Lowell on-ramp to eastbound US 6

UPDATE: Lowell Boulevard on-ramp to eastbound US 6

We have recently received questions regarding the reopening of the Lowell Boulevard on-ramp to eastbound US 6 (the ramp that takes drivers onto the highway toward downtown).

Originally, this on-ramp was scheduled to reopen with the new Knox Court bridge. In recent weeks, however, it has been determined that all US

6 traffic will need to shift to the south (toward the eastbound lanes) of the roadway to accommodate construction on the north side of the highway. This is the same traffic shift that will require a temporary closure of the westbound US 6 off-ramp to Lowell/Perry.

Putting six lanes of traffic on the south half of the highway creates space limitations that prohibits reopening the Lowell on-ramp to eastbound US 6 until traffic returns to its original configuration and there is again room to safely merge onto the highway.

The US 6 traffic shift is scheduled to take place this summer and vehicles will remain in this configuration through fall 2014. At that time, the Lowell on-ramp to eastbound US 6 will reopen.

Safety is and will continue to be the top priority of CDOT and the project team, and this is the only way to ensure the safe completion of work in this area. We apologize for any inconvenience the extended closure of this on-ramp might cause and appreciate the community's understanding and patience.

SAFETY UPDATE

CDOT promotes Red Thumb Reminder campaign

The Colorado Department of Transportation hopes to put an end to distracted driving by partnering with the Red Thumb Reminder campaign. This initiative, developed in Colorado, is quite simple. By painting your thumbnail red, you have a visual reminder to put your phone down when driving.

On June 4, CDOT asked state employees, the media and the public to stand united for everyone's safety by painting their thumbnails red, committing to drive distraction-free. CDOT displayed this commitment by posting pictures of people showcasing their red thumbs with [#redthumbreminder](#) [#SaveCDOTcrews](#) and [#moveover](#). Click [here](#) to watch a video about CDOT's efforts with the campaign.



#redthumbreminder

For more information about the campaign, click [here](#).

Cyclist and Pedestrian Safety

While it is critical for commuters to drive safely and distraction-free in work zones, it is also a growing concern among cyclists and pedestrians. During the spring and summer months, more people will be riding bicycles and walking throughout Denver and the surrounding areas. With this project, there is a specific interest in the area around the South Platte River trail.

CDOT and all US6 Bridges Design Build Project contractors and partners are dedicated to the safe passage of cyclists and pedestrians through our work zones; however, construction work zones are fast moving and constantly changing. While our crews are trained to work safely in these areas, we strongly encourage cyclists and pedestrians to use greater caution when navigating these areas at all times by being alert, following detour signs and heeding any warning, instructional or closure signs.

Click [here](#) for some tips on safe cyclist and pedestrian behavior.

NOTE FROM KEVIN SULLIVAN, PROJECT DIRECTOR

This project recently served as the host site for a press conference highlighting the successes of the FASTER initiative, formerly known as SB 09-108, in conjunction with its five-year anniversary. We were grateful to have Governor Hickenlooper and other distinguished speakers on our jobsite to see the FASTER (Funding Advancement for Surface Transportation and Economic Recovery) dollars in action.

This legislation was passed in 2009 and has made our project possible, along with many others throughout the state. Funding opportunities like FASTER are pivotal to the work we at CDOT need to accomplish. It's no secret that transportation funding is drying up statewide and nationally.

The hope is that more legislation like FASTER will come through the pipeline in the coming years and allow us to continue building these much needed projects to serve Colorado's growing transportation infrastructure needs.

Until then, we will continue to fund as many projects as we can to make our roads and bridges as safe and functional as possible - just as we are aiming to do with this project.

Sincerely,

*Kevin Sullivan
Project Director, US 6 Bridges Design Build Project
Colorado Department of Transportation*



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