

The Pueblo Chieftain

2015 in Review: Shootings top local news year

6. Ilex reconstruction finally begins

Crews from Flatiron Construction began rebuilding Interstate 25 between the accident-prone Ilex interchange and City Center Drive in the heart of Pueblo in July. That beginning was made after years of studies, meetings and proposals. As money becomes available, the project will widen the interstate to three lanes in each direction, straighten I-25 through Downtown, reconstruct interchanges to improve traffic flow and safety, widen or add shoulders to the highway and construct bridges and trails to enhance bicycle and pedestrian safety. It's going to take two years to refurbish the freeway between Ilex Street and City Center Drive, but when it's done, there will be three lanes of traffic in both directions and four new but smaller bridges holding up the roadway.



Karen Rowe, Colorado Department of Transportation regional transportation director, addresses a crowd as Interstate 25 traffic passes behind her at Ilex on July 1. The crowd gathered at the groundbreaking ceremony for a new interchange.