



I-25: The New Pueblo Freeway



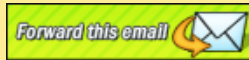
ILEX STREET TO CITY CENTER DRIVE

Colorado Department of Transportation

April 2019 eNewsletter

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Please forward/share this email with others who may have an interest in the Ilex Design-Build project.

[To view a PDF, click here.](#)

Project Schedule

Northbound I-25: Spring 2015 to Spring 2018

Southbound I-25: Fall 2017 to Winter 2018

Bridge Rehabilitations: Summer 2015 to Spring 2018

Final Configuration:
December 2018

Project Completion:
Summer 2019

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Website:
[Colorado Info Project](#)

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(719) 470-2270

Quick Links

[Project Website](#)
[CDOT Website](#)

Final Paving Begins on Ilex Project in May

The I-25/Ilex Design-Build team will work on bridge work and final paving beginning May 4 through June. This work includes membrane placement on bridges, milling, final paving and temporary striping. More than 10,000 tons of asphalt is needed to complete the top mat/final paving on I-25, and permanent striping will take place in mid-June, requiring additional nighttime lane closures.

CDOT's focus on Asset Management has been demonstrated on this job. The project widened the Interstate in each direction, straightened I-25 through downtown, reconstructed interchanges to improve traffic flow and safety, widened and added shoulders to the highway and constructed bridges and trails to enhance bike and pedestrian safety. "This project has been designed to provide improved operations, safety and so much more," said CDOT Executive Director Shoshana Lew. "The work also improves local and regional mobility within and through the City of Pueblo to meet existing and future travel demands."

There will be alternating lane and ramp closures on northbound and southbound I-25 between Abriendo Avenue and City Center Drive to complete the work. Traffic will be reduced to a single lane in both directions, and speeds reduced to 45 mph. Traffic delays are expected, and all construction is dependent on weather conditions.

"We are not done quite yet with construction and I would like to remind travelers that we have extensive lane closures which require the traveling public to pay attention, slow down and be patient," said Karen Rowe, Region 2 Transportation Director.

CDOT and the entire Ilex team thank motorists and the surrounding businesses for their continued cooperation through the final phase of construction.

CDOT Honors Fallen Employees on Remembrance Day

The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) held its annual Remembrance Day ceremony on April 9 to honor the employees who have lost their lives in the line of duty in southeastern Colorado. The ceremony was held in conjunction with National Work Zone Awareness Week, April 8-12.

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What the Project Involves

The Ilex interchange is the first segment to be constructed as part of the New Pueblo Freeway.

The project consists of replacing bridges on I-25 between Ilex Street and City Center Drive in Pueblo. Work includes rehabilitation of bridges on northbound I-25 over Santa Fe Avenue (US 50C), I-25 over Indiana Avenue, on the Santa Fe Avenue (US 50C) bridge over the Arkansas River, and on Northern Avenue and Mesa Avenue over I-25.

Structurally deficient bridges on I-25 over Gruma Drive, the Union Pacific Railroad, and Ilex Street will also be removed and replaced.

Interchange ramps will be lengthened to provide safer transitions onto and off of the Interstate, especially the 1st Street ramp to southbound I-25. Roadway curves will be softened to improve visibility and provide a smoother ride for motorists.

Local roadway improvements are included at D Street, Ilex Street, Bennett Street cul-de-sac, Clark Street cul-de-sac, and along Santa Fe Avenue.

Bridges will be widened at City Center Drive and I-25 over Santa Fe Avenue (widened to the median).

Noise abatement will also occur along some segments of I-25.

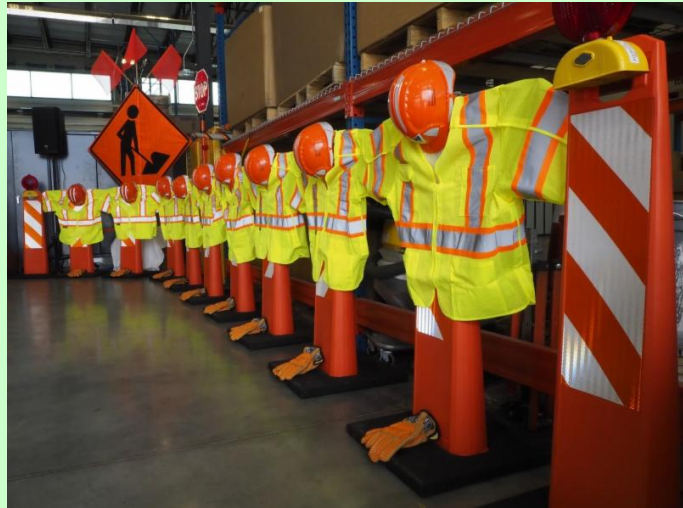
Project Partners

- Colorado Department of Transportation
- Federal Highway Administration
- City of Pueblo
- Pueblo County
- The Community

Funding

State of Colorado revenues from a safety fee placed on vehicle registrations have helped fund the Ilex Design-Build project.

Remembrance Day included reading of the nine names on the CDOT Region 2 Memorial Monument. The event was also used as a safety reminder for those working and traveling through work zones.



A somber reminder of the CDOT employees that have been lost in the line of duty.

The first CDOT Remembrance Day was observed following a Colorado Transportation Commission meeting in Denver in 1995. Twenty-four years later there are now 61 names displayed on the Memorial Monument at CDOT Headquarters in Denver. It is based on the CDOT ideal that every employee "goes home safely to their family and loved ones."

As recently as last month, CDOT lost Eric Hill, a member of their transportation maintenance team in a tragic incident. In 2015 and 2018, we grieved the loss of David Morris and Nolan Olson who were killed in work zone crashes with motorists.

With an average of almost 2 deaths on state roadways every day, driving is the most dangerous thing we do. In a sobering statistic, the average driver has a 1 in 33 chance of being in a crash this year. And in 2018, there were 628 traffic fatalities in Colorado...which is 628 too many.

Most accidents occur due to human factors like speeding, distracted driving, impaired driving, inexperienced drivers, and lack of seat belt use.

The memory of these three dedicated public servants serves as a painful reminder -- and a call to action -- to do everything possible to protect those who work so hard to keep others safe.


Stay Safe This Summer in Construction Zones

Summer brings sunshine and warm weather, but that also means increased construction activity. On any given day, there can potentially be hundreds of construction and maintenance projects on Colorado roads - many in areas where traffic is traveling nearby like the I-25/Ilex Design-Build Project.

Funding sources for the project:

Bridge Enterprise

RAMP (Responsible Acceleration of Maintenance and Partnerships)

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Additional Project Information

For more information about the I-25 Ilex Design-Build project, visit the [CDOT website project page](#). To receive future Ilex Design-Build project e-newsletters and construction notices, send an email to i25ilex@PublicInfoTeam.com requesting to be added to the email list.

To improve road safety, the Ilex team has made several safety improvements over the past few years. "The I-25 widening from City Center Drive to Abriendo has been great improvement for the safety of the traveling public as it now allows for acceleration lanes for on-ramps that were previously non-existent," said Karen Rowe, CDOT Regional Transportation Director.



Rowe went on to explain how the wider shoulders and continuous acceleration lanes will allow for better flow and areas for broken-down vehicles to go, and that the curves on I-25 have been improved to provide for a safer experience. "I am very excited that CDOT was able to deliver this great safety improvement for the Interstate travelers, as well as for the citizens of Pueblo," said Rowe.

Traffic congestion due to construction can be a source of stress, anger and anxiety and it's important to remember that any inconveniences during construction are temporary.

To help, here are 5 ways to reduce stress in traffic:

- Inhale, exhale, repeat. When you start gripping the steering wheel like a vise, take some deep breaths.
- Redefine the situation. Rather than thinking of the traffic snarl as an obstacle to getting where you want to be, tell yourself it's a welcome respite from work or a good time to listen to your favorite podcast.
- Stop angry reactions. Don't expect to eliminate every negative feeling. If you feel a flash of annoyance when a driver cuts you off, that's okay. Take time to notice and accept what you're feeling - and then move on. This helps stop yourself from fuming over the other driver's behavior, so a split-second of irritation doesn't turn into full-blown road rage.
- Quiet anxious thoughts. Notice and accept the feeling, and then let it go. Turn your awareness to what's happening in the present moment: the sight of vehicles moving (or not) around you, the sound of sirens in the distance, the feel of your foot on the pedals.
- Turn on your favorite tunes. Listening to your favorite music can ease tension and greatly reduce stress.

The Ilex project team appreciates motorists' continued patience during the last phase of construction. "We are not done quite yet with construction and I would like to remind travelers that we still need to do some lane closures which require the traveling public to pay attention, slow down and be patient," Rowe concluded.

CDOT Focuses on Safety with New Statewide Initiative

Earlier this month Governor Jared Polis joined the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) in a new statewide safety program called Whole System, Whole Safety. The goal of the initiative is to combine the benefits of CDOT's programs that address human factors, physical assets and organizational culture to better support real-time operations.

"The goal is to improve the safety of Colorado's transportation network by reducing the rate and severity of crashes, and improving safety conditions for those traveling by all transportation modes," said CDOT Executive Director Shoshana Lew. "The program has one simple mission: to get everyone home safely."

Whole System Whole Safety sets real goals and achievable results using actual activities that can be done now. This includes additional rumble strips and six-inch striping on roadways-both highly effective, low-cost ways of

keeping vehicles on the road. It also includes helping drivers understand the rules of the road, from the Move Over Law to designated passing lanes. Organizationally, CDOT plans to integrate its maintenance and operations divisions to streamline incident command to speed up incident response.

Today, more people than ever are choosing to walk or bike instead of driving, which makes also makes pedestrians and bicyclists vulnerable, so CDOT is committed to developing new projects to protect them. In the coming year, CDOT will also encourage more people to use mass transit-one of the safest modes of transportation, and one that helps reduce pollution and emissions.

One of the top priorities of the program is to decrease car accident fatalities. The top three factors in fatalities each year are impaired driving, excessive speed and not wearing a seat belt. With funding from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, CDOT's awareness campaigns and law enforcement efforts help address these issues and others, including distracted driving, child passenger safety and pedestrian safety.



Governor Polis with CDOT Executive Director Shoshana Lew

**WHOLE SYSTEM
WHOLE SAFETY**