



# I-25: The New Pueblo Freeway



ILEX STREET TO CITY CENTER DRIVE

Colorado Department of Transportation

August 2016 eNewsletter

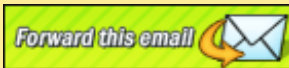
## In This Issue

[Work Continues on Ilex Project](#)

[Spotlight on Bridges](#)

[VIP Visits Bring State-Level Attention](#)

[Environmental Mitigation For More Information](#)



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

## Upcoming Construction

- Walls at Gruma St & fill operations including bridge abutments & girders at Gruma /CML RR Crossing
- D St walls, utilities, & bridge work will resume & lead to the permanent closure of Ilex St & shifting traffic to the new D St
- Storm drain install & tie-ins throughout the site including City Center, Gruma, CML and D St
- Indiana Bridge Widening & rehab work continues
- Mesa Ave Bridge rehab will continue with new sidewalk, pavement, deck repairs, & substructure repairs to piers & pier caps

## Have You Heard the Rumor About the Ilex Design-Build Project? Not True.

We heard it, maybe you did, too. A rumor that nothing has been happening this summer on the Interstate-25/Ilex Design-Build Project is just that, a rumor. But, it's simply not true! Often on projects the size of the Ilex Design-Build project, there are periods when work is taking place behind-the-scenes, but isn't always visible to the traveling public.

While on-site construction has continued on the rehabilitation of the I-25 bridges over Indiana Avenue, and Mesa Avenue over I-25, recent behind-the-scenes work between Ilex Street and City Center Drive had involved the design of a new bridge over the BNSF Railway. When the railroad decided it needed that portion of the property for an alternate use, the team had to go back and design a bridge instead of the box culvert that was originally planned over the railroad property. Construction work was temporarily halted to accommodate the new design work. Not seeing on-site construction crews probably explains the rumor. We assure you, over the next few weeks construction is resuming in this area, beginning with the night work on water and storm sewer utility installations that occurred this week.

Completion of the I-25/Ilex Design-Build project was originally planned for fall 2017, but the completion date has been modified to accommodate the required design changes and is now anticipated to be completed by mid-2018. Fortunately, with the way a majority of the project is being built off-line of the interstate and major roadways, the delay has virtually no impact on the traveling public.

So, while outward appearances can be deceiving, the I-25/Ilex project team is as busy as ever and moving full steam ahead.

## Spotlight on Bridges: 1924 Historic Bridge Structure Undergoes Rehabilitation

A few months ago we began spotlighting the bridges included in the I-25/Ilex Design-Build Project. This spotlight is on the US 50C over Arkansas River Truss Bridge and Roadway.

## Project Schedule

**Northbound I-25:** Spring 2015 to Fall 2016

**Southbound I-25:** Fall 2016 to Fall 2017

**Bridge Rehabilitations:** Summer 2015 to Summer 2017

**Anticipated Completion:** 2018

This bridge carries traffic over the Arkansas River on eastbound US 50 (Santa Fe Avenue). It was designed for the Colorado Department of Highways by H.S. Crocker and built by Pueblo Bridge & Construction Company in 1924. It was built following the great flood of 1921 that washed out most of the bridges at the time, and claimed more than 300 lives. Following the flood, the Pueblo Conservancy District undertook the first comprehensive flood control and bridge building project in the state, which included this bridge.



## Stay Connected

**Website:**  
[Colorado Info Project](#)

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**Hotline:**  
(719) 470-2270

## Quick Links

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

## Sign Up to Receive Enewsletters

To receive future Ilex Design-Build project eNewsletters and construction notices, send an email to [i25ilex@PublicInfoTeam.com](mailto:i25ilex@PublicInfoTeam.com)

## Prioritized Project Goals

The project goals, approved with the Request for Proposals in January 2014, were the basis for the Technical Proposal contents and evaluation of the shortlisted design-build teams. The Flatiron/HDR team was the proposer with the highest score and was determined to have the Best

This Pennsylvania truss bridge has a single span of 280 feet, and it is the oldest and longest of its type remaining in Colorado. It was registered to the National Register of Historic Places October 15, 2002.



*Aerial view of the US 50C Truss Bridge*

### **Work on this bridge includes:**

- Rehabilitation of the structure, including bridge deck replacement and replacement of corroded steel
- Roadway transition to the structure including new bridge railing, guardrail and concrete glare screen on the adjacent structure
- Construction of additional items such as, sidewalk, pedestrian railing, signing, striping, and utility relocations

### **VIP Visits Bring State Level Attention to the Project**

The I-25/Ilex Design-Build Project had some important visitors in July including our State's Transportation Legislation Review Committee and Lieutenant Governor.

The Transportation Legislation Review Committee (TLRC) visited the project July 15. This committee meets during the legislative interim to:



Value Proposal.

### ***Project Goals***

1. Build the Project with minimal impacts to the traveling public.
2. Exhibit technical competency/innovation, maximize the use of RAMP funding by providing additional requested elements, and develop aesthetically pleasing regional Project features.
3. Demonstrate a commitment to enhance the established Project Values of safety, quality, integrity, and communication/ teamwork.

### **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

- Provide guidance and direction to the Colorado Department of Transportation on the development of the state transportation system, direction to the Department of Revenue or any other state agency or political subdivision that regulates motor vehicles or traffic;
- Provide legislative oversight of and input into such development; and
- Review all transportation, traffic, and motor vehicle legislation, and make recommendations for additional legislation as necessary.



*Left to right: CDOT Project Manager Scott Dalton, Carla Meeker - Legislative Legal Services, Erin Reynolds - Legislative Council Staff, Senator Randy Baumgardner, Representative Daneya Esgar, Senator John Cooke, Pueblo County Commissioner Liane "Buffie" McFadyen, Cristina Beisel - Joint Budget Committee Staff, Jason Gelender - Legislative Legal Services, Senator Nancy Todd, Jery Payne - Legislative Legal Services, Region 2 Transportation Director Karen Rowe*

As such, the TLRC frequently travels the state of Colorado during the legislative interim to visit road construction projects like the I-25/Ilex Design-Build project.

The next visit to the project was from Colorado's Lieutenant Governor Donna Lynne, July 29. Part of a statewide summer tour, Lt. Gov. Lynne, focused her visit on the "customer experience" and how citizens engage with government across many different services and locations throughout the state.



*Left to right: CDOT Engineer Jennifer Billings, CDOT Region 2 Public Relations Manager Michelle Peulen, CDOT Project Manager Scott Dalton, Lt. Governor Lynne, CDOT Region Transportation Director Karen Rowe, CDOT*

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.

### **Quarterly Construction Update**

For our most current quarterly construction update, click [here](#).

### **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.

***Funding sources for the project:***

Bridge Enterprise

RAMP (Responsible Acceleration of Maintenance and Partnerships)

Chief Engineer Josh Laipply, CDOT Region 2 Resident Engineer Joe DeHeart, CDOT Director of Communications Amy Ford, CDOT South Program Engineer Ajin Hu

Supporting Lt. Gov. Lynne's efforts in her role as Chief Operating Officer to bring more efficiency and effectiveness to government, she visited the I-25/Ilex project to gain a better understanding of the project, and how it will affect the community.

"We're proud to have had both the TLRC and the Lieutenant Governor visit the Ilex project," said Scott Dalton, CDOT Project Manager. "It brings attention to the work we are doing, and the importance of the project on a state-wide level."

## **Environmental Mitigation**

The I-25/Ilex Design-Build project team takes great care to comply with environmental requirements and develop processes so work activities are protective of human health and also the environment.

This month we are highlighting our water quality measures, which is a common question for people on a project of this size. The Clean Water Act (CWA) was established in 1972 to provide protection of the nation's waters. The objective of the CWA is to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nation's waters by preventing pollution, providing assistance for improving wastewater treatment, and maintaining the integrity of wetlands.

As you drive by the I-25/Ilex Design-Build construction area, you will notice all of the prevention measures that have been added to protect Thomas Phelps Creek and the Arkansas River. These include items such as a straw wattles or rock socks that filter sediment out of stormwater prior to discharging to a storm drain which eventually discharges to the Arkansas River.

The project complies with previously identified environmental mitigation commitments that fall under the following general categories: air quality; energy; fish, wildlife and sensitive species; water quality; flood plains; hazardous materials; noise; noxious weeds; parks and recreation; right of way; social resources, economic conditions, and environmental justice; transportation; visual resources; wetlands and waters of the US; and historic, cultural, and paleontological resources.

## **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](mailto:i25ilex@PublicInfoTeam.com) requesting to be added to the email list.



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