



I-25: The New Pueblo Freeway



ILEX STREET TO CITY CENTER DRIVE

Colorado Department of Transportation

July 2016 eNewsletter

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

Upcoming Construction

- Rehab work continues on Mesa Ave bridge over I-25
- Construction widening the I-25 bridge over Indiana Ave continues
- Construction activities on the embankment and bridges between Ilex and City Center Drive continues

Project Schedule

Northbound I-25: Spring 2015 to Fall 2016

Southbound I-25: Fall 2016 to Fall 2017

Spotlight on Bridges: Several Structures Undergo Rehabilitation as Part of Ilex Design-Build Project

Last month we began spotlighting the bridges included in the Interstate-25/Ilex Design-Build Project. This month's spotlight is on the rehabilitation of Mesa Bridge and I-25 Northbound over US 50C Bridge.

Mesa Bridge and Roadway

The 255.25-ft long bridge carries two lanes of traffic in each direction, spanning over I-25 southbound/northbound and the Union Pacific Railroad. It was built in 1957.



Work on this bridge includes:

- Rehabilitation of the structure includes repairs to the deck, piers, and abutments
- Construction/rehab of additional items such as sidewalks, fencing, pedestrian railing, lighting, signing, striping, landscaping, and utility relocations

I-25 Northbound over US 50C Bridge and Roadway

The 232-ft long parallel bridges, built in 1958, carry I-25 traffic over US 50 Business (Santa Fe Avenue). Work on these bridges include:

- Rehabilitation and widening of the structure includes repairs to the deck, piers, and abutments
- Roadway transition to the structure including new bridge railing, guardrail and median
- Construction of additional items such as lighting, signing, striping, landscaping, and utility relocations

Bridge Rehabilitations:
Summer 2015 to Summer
2017

Anticipated Completion:
2018

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Website:
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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

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 Value Proposal.

Project Goals

1. Build the Project with minimal impacts to the traveling public.
2. Exhibit technical competency/innovation,

Next month's spotlight will feature the US 50C over the Arkansas Bridge and Roadway.

No Impacts to Colorado State Fair and Chile & Frijoles Festival

The Interstate-25/Ilex Design-Build Project team has worked hard to minimize impacts from construction to the community. In doing so, the project team has scheduled its work around two important community events, making sure there will be no noticeable impacts during the Colorado State Fair August 26 through September 5 or the Pueblo Chile & Frijoles Festival September 23 - 25.

There will be construction impacts at the Mesa Bridge over I-25.

Mesa

The Mesa Avenue Bridge remains closed for its two-month rehabilitation. An alternate route over Northern Avenue remains in effect. Daytime lane closures on northbound and southbound I-25 will continue during weekdays through August 25, with slight traffic delays anticipated. To minimize delays, travelers are encouraged to use both lanes of traffic until the merge point. Those traveling within the city are encouraged to use local roads and not I-25. "Through" travelers are encouraged to remain on I-25 as there are no designated alternate routes.

We will continue to keep residents, businesses and the traveling public updated regularly on potential and upcoming impacts during the course of the I-25/Ilex Design-Build Project. Sign up to receive the notifications by sending an email to i25ilex@PublicInfoTeam.com.

Cone Zones Signify Progress

Visitors and locals alike are probably noticing an increase in the number of cone zones throughout the Pueblo area. Although it can mean an inconvenience, it also means progress resulting in easier commutes ahead. In the meantime, Pueblo area tourist attractions are fully open and as exciting as ever. Periodic traffic impacts will continue throughout the summer season as our transportation projects progress. But, don't be deterred -- access is open into downtown Pueblo and to the tourist attractions throughout the area. Plan ahead and allow additional time to reach your intended destination.

Enjoy Your Drive by Slowing Down and Paying Attention.

Some speed reductions are in place in and around the construction projects. Slow down, observe speed limits, avoid distractions, and allow extra time to arrive at your destination on time.

For more information, maps and alerts on all Colorado transportation projects underway by the State: visit www.Cotrip.org.

Updates are also available via Twitter @coloradodot and be sure to "Like" our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/coloradodot.

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 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

CDOT Reminder: Construction Zone Safety

As the weather heats up and we all spend more time outside, the Colorado Department of Transportation is reminding pedestrians and bicyclists to stay out of construction work areas. This is for the overall safety of the public and the workers.

Construction will continue from Ilex to City Center Drive, and at other bridges in the area, until early 2018.

"Construction vehicles and workers often move suddenly while performing their tasks, so it's up to the pedestrian/ bicyclists to be alert and stay on the safe path around work zones. It's always safest to simply avoid the area," said Scott Dalton, CDOT Project Manager. "No Trespassing" signs and fencing are in place to indicate project boundaries/work zones and to discourage pedestrian/bicycle traffic through the project site.



"Our team does its best to be vigilant, but people also need to be aware and pay attention to construction signage so you don't inadvertently enter active work areas," Dalton said.

Across the state, CDOT has more than 201 active work zones this summer. Work zone signs and pavement markings are in place to guide pedestrians/bicyclists away from construction areas, but everyone should always be alert for moving construction vehicles and other unexpected hazards; and remember if you're driving through a highway work zone, give yourself and the workers a break and slow down.

Project Team Commits to a Smooth Summer for Runyon Field Visitors

One of the most important summer attractions in Pueblo is Runyon Field. Hundreds of visitors flock to the popular baseball complex each year, so a priority of the project is to keep the area as accessible as possible.

"The Ilex team has been in communication with the management of Runyon Field regarding their league and tournament schedules," said Scott Dalton, CDOT Project Manager. "Construction that impacts the Ilex Street entrance to the complex has been scheduled to avoid anticipated ball park activities."

Entrances and exits to the Runyon Field complex will not be closed until games are completed and the parking lots have been cleared.

Environmental Mitigation

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

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.

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.

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)

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I-25/Ilex Design-Build Team Minimizing Construction Impacts

The I-25/Ilex Design-Build team is making sure the project doesn't impact accessibility and keeps noise impacts from construction to a minimum. Benedict Park is located next to St. Mary's Genealogy Center and the Gornick Slovenian Library on East Mesa Avenue. Additional effort is being made to minimize construction impacts in this and other noise-sensitive areas, in compliance with project environmental commitments.

"When construction occurs in residential areas, or other noise-sensitive areas such as parks or hospitals, temporary noise impacts from construction are minimized by restricting construction to daylight hours whenever possible and requiring contractors to use well-maintained equipment," said Jennifer Billings, CDOT Project Engineer. "Night construction will be limited in residential areas, whenever and wherever feasible."



Construction work will occur only between 7 a.m. and 9 p.m., in compliance with City of Pueblo noise ordinances and regulations.

Access to the park has not been restricted and construction equipment and vehicles are not parked in the spaces available for the park, genealogy center, or library.

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.

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