



# I-25: The New Pueblo Freeway



ILEX STREET TO CITY CENTER DRIVE

Colorado Department of Transportation

June 2016 eNewsletter

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

## A Look Ahead

- Widening of I-25 over Indiana Avenue continues.
- Rehabilitation of the the Mesa Avenue bridge over I-25 will start end of June.
- Utility relocations will resume on Ilex and D Street during the next few weeks.
- Majority of design is nearing completion.
- Project update presentations scheduled for PACOG, Pueblo City Council and Pueblo County Commissioners over the next few weeks.

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

Most people think of the Interstate-25/Ilex Design-Build Project as just the stretch of I-25 from Ilex to City Center Drive. However, many bridges around the area are also part of the project. Several bridges along this stretch of the interstate are being rehabilitated as part of the Ilex project for economy of scale. Designated as structurally deficient or functionally obsolete, there is an economic benefit to rehabilitating the bridges at the same time as reconstructing the interstate itself.

The bridges included in the project spotlight this month are the Indiana Bridge and Northern Avenue Bridge.

### Indiana Bridge and Roadway (currently under construction)

The 123-ft long parallel bridges, built in 1956, consist of three spans of steel girders, carrying I-25 traffic over Indiana Avenue.



Indiana Bridge under construction

### Northern Avenue Bridge over I-25 (beginning Fall 2016)

The 289.75-ft long bridge, built in 1957, consists of five spans with steel girders, carrying two lanes in each direction. The bridge spans over I-25 southbound/ northbound traffic and the BNFS railroad lines.

## 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



Northern Avenue Bridge

## Stay Connected

### **Website:**

[Colorado Info Project](#)

### **Email:**

[i25ilex@PublicInfoTeam.com](mailto:i25ilex@PublicInfoTeam.com)

### **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 Value Proposal.

### **Project Goals**

1. Build the Project with

*Work on the two bridges and adjacent roadways includes:*

- Rehabilitating the structures
- Permanent water quality improvements
- Painting the bridge
- Roadway transition to the structure with a new bridge railing and guardrail
- Improving sidewalk/pedestrian access, fencing, pedestrian railing, lighting, signing, striping, landscaping, utility relocations

Additional work on the Indiana Bridge includes a median barrier, widening the structures, replacing the deck and repairing the substructure to increase the longevity of the bridge and bring it up to current safety standards.

Additional work on the Northern Avenue Bridge also includes investigating the retaining wall.

Other bridges that will soon be rehabilitated as part of the project are the Mesa Bridge over I-25, I-25 northbound over US 50C Bridge and roadway, and US 50C over the Arkansas Bridge and roadway.

## **Upcoming Impacts from Ilex Project**

The I-25/Ilex Design-Build Project team has worked hard to minimize impacts from construction to the community. However, there will be some impacts with the upcoming work on Mesa and D Streets.

### **Mesa**

Construction on Mesa Street includes bridge deck, abutment and column repairs (daytime work) and an estimated five nights of work preparing for each day's construction activity. Noise during the nighttime construction work is not anticipated.

### **D Street Ramps**

Beginning June 27, an estimated three to five nights of work

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 motorists.

Local roadway improvements are included at D Street, Ilex Street,

for utility relocations is scheduled to take place on the I-25 northbound D Street Ramp on/off ramps. Ramp closures will be required.

## **Collaboration Contributes to Project Success**

### *Design Work Nears Completion*

The design work aspect of the I-25/Ilex Design-Build Project is nearing completion. HDR Inc. is the engineering firm executing the design. Their approach is to work efficiently to keep the design ahead of the contractor's construction schedule while meeting the project's technical requirements. The firm has been working hand-in-hand with CDOT and the contractor bringing this project to life.

"CDOT has worked closely with both the contractor and us throughout the design development phase relying on our expertise and knowledge of the design-build work flow to help make the project a success for the community and for the State," said Wes Kindt, HDR design manager. "We have tackled technically difficult aspects of the project to provide solutions that will work now, and as the New Pueblo Freeway expands in the future."

The success of a design-build project directly correlates to the quality of the relationships between members of the CDOT project team, the contractor and the design firm. The Ilex project has successfully moved forward because all have developed relationships that encourage teamwork, collaboration, and camaraderie. "Project issues are worked out quickly when you are dealing with people you respect and enjoy working with," said Mike Flick, HDR deputy design manager. "It's been personally and professionally rewarding being part of this team."

Scott Dalton, CDOT project manager overseeing Ilex, is excited the design is nearing completion and that Flatiron Construction will be ramping up construction activities over the next few months. "The thing I see is that it's all finally coming together and we're building it," said Dalton. "After all these years of planning for the New Pueblo Freeway, this is the first project to move forward its now fully under construction."



*The design/contractor/CDOT team works seamlessly at the Ilex project office to assure an integrated approach to design-build.*

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)

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## Citizens Weigh-In on Transportation Projects in Comfort of their Homes

*Telephone Town Hall Garners Input From More Than 2000*

Growing in popularity, telephone town halls have become an effective tool to gain public opinion from hundreds of citizens in one evening. Telephone town halls simultaneously connect thousands of people with their elected officials, or in this case CDOT, from the comfort of their own home.

According to Michelle Peulen, public communications manager for Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) Region 2, "Traditionally a town hall may be attended by a hundred or so citizens at a local meeting location. But, a telephone town hall conducted June 7 by CDOT resulted in more than 2000 people listening in by phone to CDOT senior leadership explain the organization's mission and goals."

The telephone town hall enabled the CDOT southeast region staff to talk to the local community and to gather their thoughts on various aspects of state transportation infrastructure construction projects. Participants logged their answers to several questions by pushing the key pad numbers on their phones when prompted to do so.

The following are a few of the questions asked by CDOT during the telephone town hall, along with the top two responses for each from the 2,337 participants.

**Q: What results do you hope to see most from CDOT's investments?**

- 47% chose traffic flow & safety improvements
- 25% chose smoother pavement

**Q: Would you rather face more impacts (such as full closure) for less time, or less impacts for a longer time?**

- 68% chose smaller impacts like a lane closure over a longer period of time
- 32% chose larger impacts for less time

**Q: How should CDOT prioritize spending?**

- 41% chose safer roads
- 26% chose reduced congestion

### 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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