



I-25: The New Pueblo Freeway



ILEX STREET TO CITY CENTER DRIVE

Colorado Department of Transportation

March 2016 eNewsletter

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

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

Stay Connected

Website:

[Colorado Info Project](#)

Email:

i25ilex@PublicInfoTeam.com

Hotline: (719) 470-2270

To receive project updates and construction notices, send an email to:

Construction Progresses on I-25 Over D Street

Up and coming bridge work on the Ilex Design-Build project includes building abutments, setting girders, and pouring the deck. Work will also be completed on the temporary alignment of D Street between the entrance to Runyon Field and Santa Fe Avenue.



No delays or impacts to traffic are expected during this phase of construction. Ilex Street will remain open, and the public will continue to have complete access to

Runyon Field during all phases of construction. The traveling public can expect minor delays during future phases of the bridge construction. Traffic advisories will be issued as needed to keep the public informed.

"When the Ilex project is complete in fall 2017, the public can expect to see a wider roadway leading to Runyon Field with sidewalks and landscaping," said Scott Dalton, Colorado Department of Transportation project manager for the project. "The D Street Bridge will have a special aesthetic treatment on the concrete wall panels featuring the image of a baseball player in action which will greet travellers when they're visiting the field," said Dalton. "The panel designs are just one of the aesthetic enhancements included in the project based on public feedback and the desires of the community."

Quick Links

[Project Website](#)

[CDOT Website](#)

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**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, maximize the use of RAMP funding by providing additional requested elements, and develop aesthetically pleasing regional Project features.

Engineers Come Together to Design, Build Ilex Project



Left to right: Wes Goff, design manager, and Doug Smith, engineer-in-responsible-charge of construction

It's almost like walking into an operational "war room" when you go into either Doug Smith or Wes Goff's work spaces at the I-25 Ilex Design-Build project office. Maps cover the walls and design plans are spread across multiple tables. Both are engineers with Atkins, under contract to CDOT for the Ilex project, and have responsibilities for the strategic and tactical operation of the project, providing quality assurance/construction inspection and design review.

Doug, engineer-in-responsible-charge of construction, and Wes, the design manager, work closely with each other and with Flatiron/HDR, the prime contractor, reviewing plans and possible changes to ensure safety and to ensure the design meets contractual requirements.

As a design-build construction project, the design-build team works under a single contract with the project owner, the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), providing design, engineering, and construction services for a unified flow of work from initial concept through completion. The Ilex Design-Build team includes: Flatiron, responsible for the construction work in the field; and HDR, responsible for the project design.

Doug's main consideration is whether structures can be

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,

constructed as designed. "I make sure what's being built is of good quality and that the public is going to be safe," said Doug, who has been involved in construction projects his whole life and an engineer since 1992. Doug and his team of inspectors work at the project site daily checking on the work being done on bridges, walls, drainage systems, storm sewers, and embankments.

A typical day for Wes includes reviewing designs from HDR to make sure they meet CDOT engineering safety and design requirements, working with the specialty engineers (roadway, hydraulics, etc.), and meeting with Doug to coordinate on the work being done. The biggest challenge is "coordination of all of the little pieces," said Wes, who has worked as a construction engineer for 53 years on projects across the state, including the 1966 Interstate project through Vail.

Both engineers say they love a challenge and find construction work very rewarding. "I like seeing things come together, and love to drive around with my son and point out the bridges I've helped build," said Doug, who has worked on projects from Trinidad to Denver during his career.

Working with a team that's "practical and deeply involved to ensure success" is the best part of the job, Wes said. "People keep asking me when I'm going to retire, and I tell them never because I'm still having fun. There's always a challenge and I'm continually learning, even after 53 years."

When he's not on the job, Doug is out fly fishing, playing hockey, and spending time with his son and daughter. Wes enjoys spending his free time with his six children and two grandchildren.

Aerial Photo of Work in Progress

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.



Pictured left to right: Work on the future D Street area near Runyon Field and on the future I-25 over Gruma Drive bridge site. Click [here](#) to see additional project progression photos.

Progress to Date

The Colorado Department of Transportation Ilex Design-Build project is steadily progressing. Major accomplishments since the start of the project in July 2015 include:

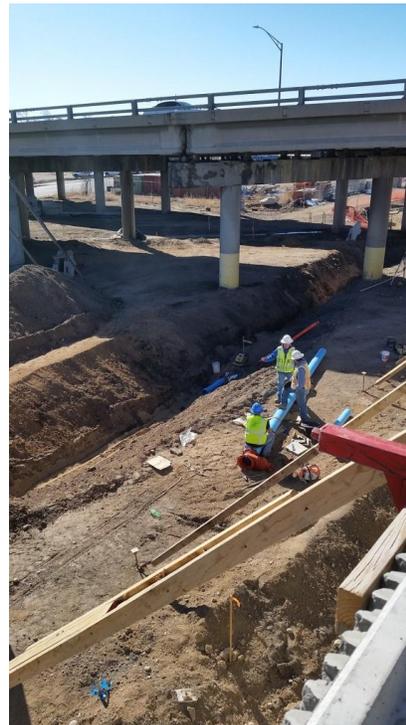
- More than 115,000 cubic yards of roadway embankment imported
- 400 cubic yards of concrete poured for widening of I-25 bridges over City Center Drive and over Santa Fe Avenue (US 50C)
- Retaining walls installed along future D Street
- Utilities relocated from Ilex Street to future D Street
- Widening of I-25 over City Center Drive nearing completion
- Widening of I-25 over Santa Fe Avenue nearing completion

A Look Ahead

Phase 1 of the I-25 bridge

Side-by-Side Working Relationships Contributing to Project Success

Planning and coordination between local utility companies and the I-25 Ilex Design-Build project team has played a crucial role in keeping the project on schedule. Since the July 2015 groundbreaking, the project team and the utility companies have been working side-by-side achieving significant milestones.



"The Ilex project has progressed smoothly as a result of the planning and communication between the project team and our utility partners in Pueblo," said Servando Zamarron, Flatiron field engineer for the Ilex project. "We value the close relationship we have with members of this community and appreciate their support and efforts to make the project a success."

"The working relationship between CDOT, Flatiron and the Ilex team has been seamless," said Jeff Bailey, City of Pueblo assistant city manager. "Good communication between the teams and a willingness to help one another out has helped make the work more productive and kept the project on track."

Community partners working with the Ilex team include Black

over D Street will be constructed in the coming months. Bridge work will include building abutments, setting girders, and pouring a deck. Work will also be completed on the temporary alignment of D Street between the entrance to Runyon Field and Santa Fe Avenue.

Hills Energy, the Board of Water Works of Pueblo, the City of Pueblo, and Xcel Energy. Significant accomplishments to date include:

- Black Hills Energy relocated overhead power lines between D Street and City Center Drive.
- CDOT, working in coordination with Pueblo Water Works, moved waterlines along Gruma Drive to mitigate any changes to surrounding neighborhoods near the construction area.

The Ilex project team worked in coordination with representatives from City Storm Water on project designs for water quality pond connections to the existing city storm water system. In the coming weeks, Xcel Energy will be relocating gas lines under the new D Street road alignment.

"It truly is so important for all entities involved in the I-25 Ilex Design-Build project to come together on all aspects of planning and coordinating," said Ashley Valdez, Xcel Energy area manager community and local government affairs. "Xcel Energy has had a long lasting, positive relationship with the Pueblo community and strives to nurture that relationship at every moment. We're excited about the great benefits this project will afford our city."

Project Partners

- Colorado Department of Transportation
- Flatiron Constructors/HDR
- Federal Highway Administration
- City of Pueblo
- Pueblo County
- The Community

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.

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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