



# I-25: The New Pueblo Freeway



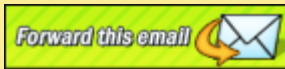
## ILEX STREET TO CITY CENTER DRIVE

Colorado Department of Transportation

January 2017 eNewsletter

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

[For a PDF version, click here.](#)

### Current Design Work

- Storm drainage nearing completion
- Bridge over Phelps Creek Trail & Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) continues
- Final lighting, signing & striping plans being finalized
- Landscaping & irrigation plans nearing completion

### Current Construction

- Embankment operations at the D Street segment have resumed & utility relocates are nearing completion
- Deck replacement on the southbound I-25 bridge over Indiana Ave. has started
- Work is nearing

### 2016: The Year in Review

The Interstate-25 Ilex Design-Build Project is the first of the New Pueblo Freeway reconstruction projects to get underway. When complete, it will greatly improve safety and mobility for the traveling public and positively contribute to the Pueblo economy. Construction kicked off in July 2015 with the goal of improving safety and mobility by replacing four bridges between Ilex and City Center Drive and rehabilitating six bridges that are on, over or adjacent to I-25.

The project team completed several construction milestones in 2016, and anticipates hitting the halfway mark in 2017. Most notably is the bridge work completed. Mesa Avenue Bridge over I-25 is nearing completion, it was rehabilitated with deck and substructure repairs, followed by new paving, approach sidewalks, and improved pedestrian access.

The I-25 bridge over Indiana Avenue was widened with bridge rehabilitation ongoing, as well as the completion of the widening of bridges on I-25 over City Center Drive and Santa Fe Avenue (US 50C). Bridge rehabilitation began on the 1920's era US 50C Green Truss Bridge over the Arkansas River.

Phase 1 construction of the new bridge being constructed on I-25 over D Street is nearly complete, and Phase 1 of the bridges over Gruma and the UPRR began. There was approximately 400,000 tons of earthen fill placed on the project through 2016.

Other work completed in 2016 includes:

- Retaining walls installed along D Street with baseball player-



*Pouring concrete on the southbound I-25 bridge over Indiana.*

- completion on the rehabilitation of Mesa Ave. over I-25
- Piers & footings for the CML bridge over the railroad underway
- Construction of the new D Street roadway underway
- Embankment operations between the I-25 bridges over Gruma & UPRR (railroad) underway
- US 50C Truss Bridge over Arkansas River rehabilitation

### Upcoming Construction

- Construction of the bridges over Gruma & the UPRR will resume
- Storm sewer & embankment from Gruma to City Center including retaining walls to resume
- Clark St cul-de-sac & D St improvements west of Santa Fe

### 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

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

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

**Hotline:**

themed panels

- Driven Piles installed at Gruma Drive bridge
- Driven Piles installed and concrete columns poured at CML Bridge
- Utilities relocated including water, gas and electrical
- Portions of drainage installed at D street, and water quality ponds adjacent to Gruma Drive and D Street

In addition, designs are nearly complete for the remainder of the project. Project completion is scheduled for Fall 2018.

### 2017: A Look Ahead

The I-25 Ilex project team is going to be busy this coming year! With construction in full swing in 2017 plenty of work will be visible to the community and traveling public, including:

- US 50C Green Truss Bridge: estimated completion early summer
- Northern Avenue bridge over I-25 rehabilitation: begins in February; estimated completion Fall 2017
- I-25 Northbound over Indiana Avenue bridge: estimated completion late spring /summer
- Embankment, walls and roadway for Phase1/East half I-25: estimated completion late 2017 and traffic will be shifted onto the new alignment to facilitate Phase 2/West half I-25 construction
- D Street traffic shift: spring 2017, along with construction of Clark Street cul-de-sac
- Completion of remaining storm sewer installation

The I-25 Ilex project team thanks the community and traveling public for continued patience and cooperation during construction. Please remember to slow down through cone zones for your safety, and for the safety of our workers.

### ILEX Project Team Works Together to Give Back



*Supporting the Pueblo community is an ongoing priority of the Ilex Project Team. In December, Flatiron Construction and CDOT held a clothing and nonperishable food drive to support the Pueblo Soup Kitchen during the holiday season.*

(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 [i25illex@PublicInfoTeam.com](mailto:i25illex@PublicInfoTeam.com)

### 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

## Ilex Project Team Exemplifies CDOT's "Project First" Initiative

The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) is working with the Colorado Contractor's Association (CCA) and the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) on a new era of partnering through a "Project First" initiative.

In December, the I-25 Ilex Project Team presented to CDOT's Mike Lewis and Karen Rowe showing how they demonstrate "Project First" principles.

"The success of a project is almost all centered on how a team works together," said CDOT Deputy Executive Director Mike Lewis. "Project First promotes understanding by all team members that success of the project is a success for all."

The "Project First" strategy consists of 3 principles:

1. **Partnering Training** - developing a mutual understanding to build trust and empathy
2. **Partnering on Projects** - both contractor and CDOT working together to solve problems at the project level, and escalating issues in a timely manner when needed
3. **Partnering Tools** - clearly defining roles and responsibilities of CDOT, prime and consultants, and promoting timely decision making

"If a challenge arises on the project, we consider it 'our' problem for both contractor and CDOT to solve," stated Scott Dalton, CDOT Project Manager. "All of the contractors and subcontractors come together immediately to determine the best solution to keep the project moving forward. This benefits the community by contributing to a quality product, and assuring the project stays on schedule and on budget," said Dalton.

By demonstrating the "Project First" principles, the I-25/Ilex Project Team has developed an atmosphere that fosters mutual trust extending past a work relationship. "The work of all of the teams has been exemplary, but what has been truly inspiring is how everyone has come together to add value to the community through school supply, food and clothing drives, and other ways to give back to Pueblo citizens," said Dalton.

The I-25/Ilex Project is a pilot to establish a benchmark for future CDOT construction projects statewide using the principles associated with the initiative.



*CDOT Project Manager, Scott Dalton, presents information on the Ilex project.*

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

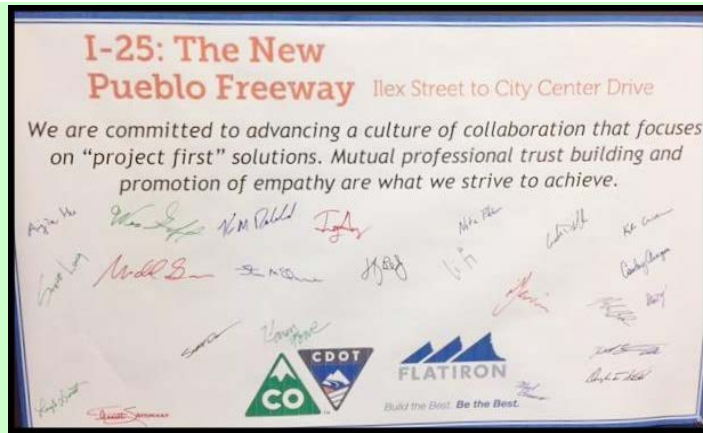
### Funding

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

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

Bridge Enterprise

RAMP (Responsible Acceleration of Maintenance and Partnerships)



## State and Federal Agencies Tour the Ilex Project

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) toured the I-25 Ilex project in November viewing firsthand the progress being made on southern Colorado highway reconstruction projects. FHWA is an agency within the U.S. Department of Transportation that supports state and local governments in design, construction, and maintenance of the nation's highway system. Through financial and technical assistance to state and local governments, FHWA is responsible for ensuring that America's roads and highways continue to be among the safest and most technologically sound in the world.


"It was a beneficial visit, as the FHWA members were impressed by the size and scope of the project and pleased by the progress so far," said Joe DeHeart, CDOT Resident Engineer.

This visit marks one of several from dignitaries, elected officials and agencies this past year, including Lieutenant Governor Donna Lynne's statewide summer tour, and the Colorado Transportation Legislation Review Committee's visit in July.

## "Refuse to Lose" Awards Program Challenges Project Team

Flatiron Construction, contractor for the I-25 Ilex Design-Build Project, introduced its "Refuse to Lose" awards program in November as part of its ongoing effort to establish a positive team environment and challenge everyone working on the project to go above-and-beyond in providing a quality project.

Anyone working on the I-25 Ilex project can nominate a team member they believe has demonstrated exceptional effort either in a specific circumstance or on an ongoing basis. Project team leaders review the nominations and every two weeks Flatiron chooses a winner, or winners, who will receive the recognition.

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*The inaugural "Refuse to Lose" award winners: Isaiah Sanchez, Inspector for Atkins, Chad Danielson, Superintendent for Flatiron Construction, and John Ibarra, Inspector for Kleinfelder.*

"Anyone can be nominated regardless of whether they work for Flatiron, CDOT, one of the consultant firms, or subcontractor companies," said Mike Blasi, Flatiron Project Manager. "We were really excited about the number of nominations we received for our first submittal as it demonstrates a highly collaborative project team. Seeing so many members of the team recognizing the efforts of others is inspiring."

### 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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