



# I-25: The New Pueblo Freeway



ILEX STREET TO CITY CENTER DRIVE

Colorado Department of Transportation

July 2017 eNewsletter

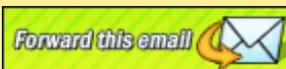
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Please forward/share this email with others who may have an interest in the Ilex Design-Build project.

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

## Ilex Project Team Announces New Dates for Final Traffic Configuration and Project Completion

The Interstate-25/Ilex Design-Build project team announces a new project completion date of Spring 2019. Originally scheduled to be complete by August 2017, the project is now planned for traffic to be in its final configuration by December 2018 with final project completion by Spring 2019.

The delay resulted from the Ilex project team having to revise design plans and add a fourth bridge for the crossing for the Thomas Phelps Creek Trail. The original design was for a simple box culvert pedestrian tunnel under I-25. The culvert could be accomplished by purchasing the railroad easement of a currently unused rail line. However, the landowner, UPRR, decided to maintain ownership of the easement for its possible future use. With the Interstate-25 design already complete and construction underway, the contractor had to suspend work in the area until a new bridge over the rail line could be designed and added to the project.

## Current Design Work

- Landscaping & irrigation plans nearing completion

## Current Construction

- Deck replacement on the northbound I-25 bridge over Indiana Ave completed
- Work is nearing completion on the rehabilitation of Mesa Ave. over I-25
- Piers & pier caps for the CML bridge over the railroad complete & abutment construction underway
- Embankment operations between the I-25 bridges over



[Click here for an enlarged version of the final timeline](#)

While the new bridge was being designed, the contractor was able to continue working on several of the bridge rehabilitation projects; however, the process of adding design and construction of a new bridge to the project resulted in an extended completion date.

"We wanted to ensure the project continued moving forward, so Flatiron Constructors, Inc. began the bridge rehabilitation work earlier than planned," said Jennifer Billings, CDOT

- Gruma & UPRR (railroad) underway
- US 50C Truss Bridge over Arkansas River rehabilitation
- Northern Ave bridge rehabilitation
- Clark and D Street cul-de-sac drainage & roadway construction
- Mechanically Stabilized Earth (MSE) walls from Gruma to City Center Drive
- MSE walls from CML to Gruma
- Storm drainage installation on the north portion of the project
- Bridge Deck construction on I-25 over Gruma
- Center piers & crash wall construction on Bridge over Phelps Creek Trails & UPRR Easement

### Upcoming Construction

- Construction of the bridges over the UPRR resumes
- Northbound I-25 over Indiana roadway work
- Northern Phase 3 construction including sidewalk removal & deck repairs on the north side
- Northbound I-25 bridge over Santa Fe deck repairs
- Bridge over Phelps Creek Trail & UPRR easement
- MSE walls adjacent to I-25 from Phelps Creek Trail north to UPRR

### Project Schedule

**Northbound I-25:** Spring 2015 to Fall 2017

**Southbound I-25:** Fall 2017

Project Manager. "Final touches are taking place on the Mesa Avenue bridge, and bridge work on Northern Avenue, I-25 over Indiana Avenue, and the truss bridge on Santa Fe will be near completion in the next few months."

As for the new I-25 bridge in the Thomas Phelps Creek Trail area, it will be a two-span box girder bridge extending over the trail and the UPRR easement. The design is now complete and construction is underway.



*Original design:  
pedestrian tunnel*



*New design: box girder bridge over  
railroad tracks*

CDOT wants the public to be aware that to complete the project by spring 2019, there is potential for greater impacts to the traveling public.

"We've worked to keep impacts as minimal as possible," said Billings. "But to meet this new schedule, there will be some longer-term ramp closures and intermittent daytime lane closures, as needed. We sincerely thank the community for its ongoing patience."

The I-25/Ilex project team will continue to keep the public informed of upcoming construction through traffic advisories, news releases and these e-newsletters.

### How Do You Fix a Truss Bridge?

When you can't use standard methods for fixing a bridge, what do you do? Well, the I-25/Ilex Design-Build team got creative and made their Bidwell bridge deck paver into a gantry crane specifically for this project.

Typically, large steel beams can be lowered into place using a standard crane. However, the trusses enclose a portion of the bridge impeding access. The challenge was how to get the 54 17'6" steel beams (each weighing over 850 pounds) into place.

As the saying goes, "How do you eat an elephant? One piece at a time."

Since the steel beams couldn't be lowered down into place, they had to be pulled through the ends of the bridge instead, one piece at a time. The team specially engineered their Bidwell bridge deck paver into a gantry crane to pull the

to Fall 2018

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

**Final Configuration:**  
December 2018

**Project Completion:**  
April 2019

beams into place. Pretty amazing!



*Standard Bidwell bridge deck paver*



*Engineered Bidwell working as a gantry crane*

## Stay Connected

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

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

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

Work on the truss bridge also includes repainting the bridge as close to its original trademark green color as possible. Without any available color photographs from the time of its original erection in 1905, the team has worked diligently to match the color from the existing paint, even accounting for fading and weathering.

It will be quite a sight to see the Santa Fe/US 50C historic truss bridge in all its original glory from more than 100 years ago!

## Quick Links

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

## Summer Construction - Not All Part of the Ilex Project

### 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)

Summer means construction season is full speed ahead, but not all current construction is related to the I-25/Ilex Design-Build project.

For instance, construction on 4th Street and on US 50B, while they are Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) projects, the work is not part of Ilex.

### CO96 Project

### 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

#### **4th Street**

This project begins at the Midtown Shopping Center and continues to the US50B/CO96/CO47 interchange, and involves repairing and repaving the roadway. In addition to roadway work, all pedestrian ramps will be reconfigured to meet current Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) standards. A total of almost 120 ramps!

The project replaced two traffic signals at the intersection of Chester and Bradford, and rehabilitated multiple bridges along the CO96 corridor.

#### **US 50B Bridge over I-25**

Although this bridge is quite a distance away from the CO 96 corridor, it needed repair so it was added to the CO 96 project instead of waiting for a closer project to happen. Work on this bridge includes abutment, pier, and girder

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 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.

concrete repair work. Construction is underway and estimated for completion in September 2017.

### ***Faster Safety Project - Erie to Hudson CO 96 Corridor***

This project is a joint venture with the City of Pueblo. It involved constructing curb extensions, or "bump-outs" to resolve pedestrian crossing accidents in that area. Bump-outs are primarily used to extend the sidewalk, reducing the crossing distance and allowing pedestrians and approaching vehicles to see each other when vehicles parked in a parking lane would otherwise block visibility. Besides safety, another benefit of creating bump-outs is creating an opportunity for better landscaping, which results in a cleaner looking corridor that carries the downtown's aesthetic theme. This project will be complete in August 2017.

For this project, the City of Pueblo was responsible for design, and CDOT for construction. Each bump-out required extensive storm sewer relocation work and expansion of existing traffic signals with new pedestrian crossing features. The primary challenge on this project was digging in an area that is more than 100 years old unearthed many unforeseen utility conflicts that created the need for redesigns to accommodate. All work on the 4th St project will be complete by November 2017.

Pueblo is extremely busy with construction this summer! But, no matter which construction zone you find yourself in, be sure to slow down and proceed with extreme caution.

### **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

### **Flatiron Employee Wins Photo Contest and "Refuse to Lose" Award**

In June the contractor for the I-25/Ilex Design-Build Project, Flatiron Constructors, Inc., began a monthly photo contest where team members can submit as many photos as they wish from their work on the project. An independent panel of judges views the submissions anonymously and appoints a monthly winner.

July's winning submission was a photo of a standard Bidwell being used to pave the northbound deck on the I-25 Bridge over Indiana Avenue ([see article from April 2017](#)). The photo was taken by Flatiron employee Chris Mari.

And for the first time - the same employee also won Flatiron's other monthly award, the "Refuse to Lose" Award!

"Chris Mari was nominated for this award by his co-workers because of his impressive project knowledge, and consistently showing a genuine commitment to the job, and to the team," said

RAMP (Responsible Acceleration of Maintenance and Partnerships)

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Mike Blasi, Flatiron construction manager.

Mari is described as always willing to take time to teach others, and is a great problem-solver. He has been with Flatiron Construction for more than 10 years.



*Chris Mari holding his winning photo submission*

Congratulations Chris, and keep up the great work!

### 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.