



# I-25: The New Pueblo Freeway



ILEX STREET TO CITY CENTER DRIVE

Colorado Department of Transportation

June 2017 eNewsletter

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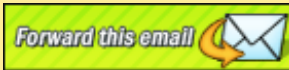
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*Please forward/share this email with others who may have an interest in the Ilex Design-Build project.*

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

## Current Design Work

- 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

## So Many Bridges, Just One Project

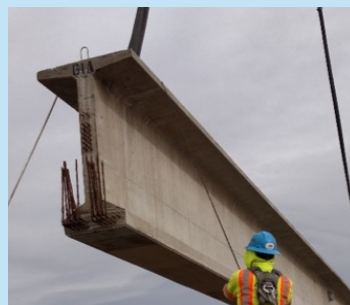
One thing that makes the I-25/Ilex Design-Build Project unique is how many bridges are included in the project - a total of eleven! Aside from the historic green truss bridge, they're all different forms of the most common type of bridge - the beam bridge, also known as a girder bridge.

Why beam bridges? Because it is the simplest type of bridge. All you need is a rigid horizontal structure (a beam) and two supports, one at each end, to rest it on. These components directly support the downward weight of the bridge and any traffic traveling over it. A crude example would be to take a two-by-four and lay it across two empty milk crates and voila, a beam bridge.

One type of beam bridge is the side-by-side box girder bridge. The bridges at City Center Drive and I-25 over Gruma Drive are side-by-side box girder bridges. A box girder or "tub girder" is, as the name suggests, a box shape. A box girder is particularly resistant to torsion (twisting) and are utilized in situations where a standard girder might succumb to torsion or toppling effects. Box girder bridges are commonly used for highway flyovers and for modern elevated structures of light rail transport.



Box girders at I-25 over Gruma Drive



Another form of beam bridge is the Bulb-T Girder bridge which is composed of precast, prestressed concrete beams with a reinforced concrete slab. A pretty standard beam type, and the most cost-effective form

- the I-25 bridges over 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

*Bulb-T girders at D Street bridge*

of beam. The I-25 bridge over D Street is a Bulb-T bridge, as will as the new I-25 bridge over Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) and I-25 bridge over Thomas Phelps Creek/UPRR.

The Steel I-Girder bridge is exactly what it sounds like - the girders are shaped like an "I". Steel I-beams provide for a longer span than beams made with concrete. The I-25 bridge over Santa Fe Avenue/US 50C and the I-25 bridge over Indiana Avenue are examples of steel I-girder bridges.



*Steel I-girders at I-25 bridge over Indiana Avenue*



Historic green truss bridge at Santa Fe Avenue

Beam bridges are only good for limited distances. In order to add extra support, a truss, or structure of connected elements usually forming triangular units, is added. Truss bridges

are one of the oldest types of modern bridges. One of Pueblo's most recognizable bridges is the 1924 historic green truss bridge at Santa Fe Avenue over the Arkansas River.

"What I think is special about the I-25/Ilex Project is that we are working on nine bridges simultaneously," said CDOT Project Manager Jennifer Billings. "If you look around while driving around Pueblo, you'll see bridges in almost every phase of construction."

### Setting Speed Reduction Zones Is No Accident

One of the first things you notice about a construction zone is a reduction of speed. It can be frustrating, and seem like a nuisance, but have you ever thought about how it's determined?

Reduced speed limits are necessary due to significant changes in the roadway, such as lane reductions, traffic shifts, reducing shoulder width, or other modifications that might constrain traffic flow. The need can also be dictated by lane shifts, such as unexpected curves or difference in traveling pattern - a slower speed must be maintained for extra caution.

Reducing speed is most

**Southbound I-25:** Fall 2017 to Fall 2018

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

**Anticipated Completion:** Fall 2018

critical through a work zone where workers are on foot, and vehicles are entering and exiting the roadway to allow for safety of both motorists, but also for the workers on site.



*Rehabilitation work on Northern Avenue bridge over I-25*

### Stay Connected

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

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

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

"Our top priority on any construction project is the safety of our workers, and of the traveling public," said CDOT Project Manager Jennifer Billings. "We are very methodical in our process to set appropriate speed reduction zones."

Generally, the speed limit is lowered by no more than 10 mph unless conditions such as reducing two lanes down to one lane make it necessary to do so. For instance, when two lanes are reduced to one, a 65 mph speed limit would be lowered to 45 mph.

### Quick Links

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

Advanced warning of a speed reduction area through a work zone is typically up to two miles in advance to notify traveling public of changes.



*Traffic reduced to one lane on I-25*

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In circumstances where there is a need to temporarily stop traffic all together, a flagger is needed in addition to a speed reduction. A flagger controls traffic for construction vehicles to enter or exit the site, and also if there is a need to go down to one lane of traffic to allow one direction of traveling motorists at a time.

### 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.

It's never ideal to have to slow down during our busy lives, but ensuring everyone's safety is priority one, and it helps to understand the reasons behind it.

## **Pueblo Celebrates Bike to Work Day**

Colorado is a premier bicycling state, and to celebrate bicycling for transportation, fun and health, Colorado has designated each June as Bike Month. Colorado joins a nationwide effort to encourage cycling novices and enthusiasts to experience the fun and freedom of safely riding a bike to work, school, errands and recreation with a variety of events, culminating with Bike to Work Day June 28.

Bike to Work Day encourages employees to leave their cars at home and enjoy bicycling to work. The number of Bike to



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.

### 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.

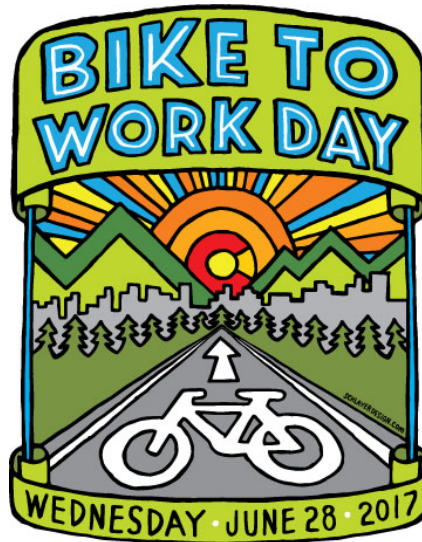
#### ***Funding sources for the project:***

Bridge Enterprise  
RAMP (Responsible

Work Day participants has risen steadily since 1995, and that trend is expected to continue this year.

For this year's Bike to Work Day, there are free breakfast stops in Pueblo 6:00 - 9:00 a.m. at the following locations:

- Parkview Medical Center - Main Parkview Campus
- St. Mary Corwin front patio west entrance
- Pueblo City-County Health Department (101 W. 9th Street)
- Rawlings Library in courtyard along Union Boulevard



Nervous to ride alone the first time? Check out the five options for riding with volunteers to some of the breakfast stops!

- Pueblo West group ride at 6:00 a.m. Meet at Cattail Crossing to ride through Lake Pueblo to avoid construction traffic on Hwy 50 at Pueblo Blvd.
- City Park pool parking lot at 6:15 a.m. to ride to South High School
- South High School at 6:30 a.m. to ride to St. Mary Corwin.
- University Park at 6:30 a.m. to ride to Fountain Creek
- Mesa area at 6:00 a.m. on the corner of Roselawn and Aspen to ride on Fountain Creek trail into town.


Now, we can all find excuses about why we can't bike to work. The primary excuse is that it takes too long. Did you know that trips less than three miles are quicker by bike, and trips of five to seven miles take the same time? No more excuses!

To see the many benefits of bicycling to work, the Colorado Department of Transportation offers the Bicycle and Pedestrian Program to provide [free materials](#) to explain the benefits of bicycling to work, school and errands.

We look forward to seeing you on that bike this month!

### **Flatiron Introduces Ilex Project Photo Contest**

Flatiron Constructors, Inc., contractor for the I-25/Ilex Design-Build Project, announced a new photo contest last month. Flatiron strives to find ways to promote teamwork and enthusiasm amongst project team members, and announced

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the photo contest to allow for some creativity to shine through.

"There are so many exciting parts of this project," said Flatiron Project Manager Mike Blasi. "We want to encourage our team to take a minute and record what is happening to share those moments with others."



*A sample photo submission*

A new winner will be announced each month, with a prize and a print made of the winning photograph to hang in the I-25/Ilex Project office located on Santa Fe Avenue.

Stay tuned for our first winner next month!

### CDOT Offers Summer Road Construction Safety Tips

Every summer roads and highways across America begin buzzing with construction projects. That's because summer is the height of the road construction season due to favorable weather conditions for activities such as paving. If you're going to traveling this summer, be sure to keep these tips in mind next time you find yourself flanked by orange cones and flashing lights.



*Work at I-25 bridge over Indiana Avenue*

**First, go slow.** There's a reason for those flashing lights, high visibility vests and hand-held stop signs. Workers want to get your attention to get you to slow down. The likelihood of an accident drops significantly when the proper speed is maintained in work zones.

**Remember to stay alert.** Construction zones are notoriously tight. Cars don't have much wiggle room, meaning neither do workers. Often workers or equipment are within inches of passing cars. Always pay careful attention when traveling through work zones, which means

above all - no texting. Put your phone down and watch all workers and machines ahead of you to be alerted to potential dangers. Being aware of your surroundings at all times in a work zone ensures everyone remains safe.

**Most important is patience.** Slowing down can be a hassle, but you must be patient if you want to prevent an accident. Frustrated drivers who speed in work zones are typically at fault for work zone accidents. Don't lose your cool out there. It only takes a few minutes to slow down through a construction zone.

The Colorado Department of Transportation wants everyone to remain safe in construction zones this summer.

### 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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