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I-25: The New Pueblo Freeway



ILEX STREET TO CITY CENTER DRIVE

Colorado Department of Transportation

August 2017 eNewsletter

In This Issue

[Final Phase of Northern Bridge Underway](#)
[D Street Intersection](#)

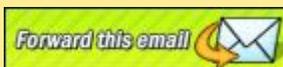
[Opens](#)

[Work Continues on Truss Bridge](#)

[Setting Girders No Easy Feat](#)

[Ilex Team Appreciates Local Businesses](#)

[Flatiron Photo Contest](#)
[For More Information](#)



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

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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

Final Phase of Northern Avenue Bridge Rehabilitation Underway

Crews have been busy on the Northern Avenue bridge over I-25 since February as the I-25/Ilex team prepares to head into the last phase of the rehabilitation process. Prior to this final phase of construction, the I-25/Ilex team will open all four lanes of traffic for the Colorado State Fair (August 25 through September 4) to help ease traffic congestion during the Fair.

Beginning early September, traffic on Northern Avenue will switch to the south portion of the bridge so the last phase of work can be completed. The rehab work will remove the existing sidewalk on the north side of the bridge, therefore pedestrians will not be able to access the Northern Avenue bridge during construction. All pedestrian traffic will be detoured to the Mesa Avenue bridge over I-25 until early November.



Bridge deck replacement on Northern bridge over I-25

Upon completion, Northern Avenue bridge over I-25 will feature:

- Rehabilitated bridge structure
- Four newly refurbished lanes of traffic with better roadway transition
- New bridge railing and guardrail
- Widened sidewalk for increased pedestrian safety and access
- Wider shoulders
- Pedestrian railing

- Improved lighting, signing, striping and landscaping

Improved D Street Intersection Complete and Open for Traffic

Clark Street reopened last week as a cul-de-sac to improve the previous five-way intersection with D Street. In addition, new drainage was installed, with new curb, gutter and sidewalks added and new asphalt pavement.

"Now D Street Intersection operates as a true four-way intersection instead of having a fifth street introduced," said Mike Blasi, project manager for Flatiron Constructors, Inc. "This will make the intersection much safer for both motorists and pedestrians."



Completed D Street intersection

Clark Street now also has improved pedestrian access with ADA accessible ramps and dedicated crossings.

The new intersection was designed to accommodate current and future traffic demands, and reduce the potential for accidents.

- construction underway
- Embankment operations between 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

Work Continues on Historic Truss Bridge



Steel repairs are complete on the historic green truss bridge on Santa Fe Avenue (US 50C), and work enters the final phase of construction.

Project Schedule

Setting Girders is No Easy Feat

Northbound I-25: Spring 2015 to Fall 2017

Southbound I-25: Fall 2017 to Fall 2018

Bridge Rehabilitations: Summer 2015 to Summer 2017

Final Configuration: December 2018

Project Completion: April 2019

Stay Connected

Website:

[Colorado Info Project](#)

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Quick Links

[Project Website](#)

[CDOT Website](#)

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What the Project Involves

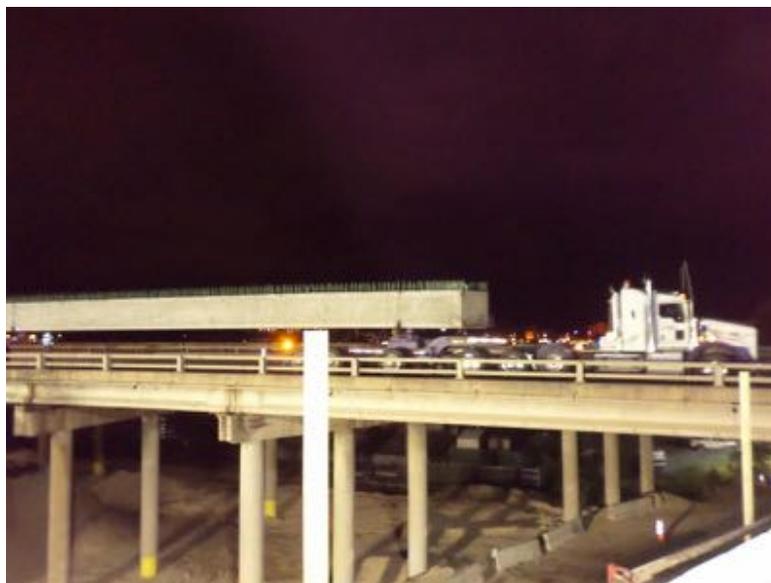
The Ilex interchange is the first segment to be constructed as part of the New Pueblo Freeway.

The project consists of replacing bridges on I-25 between Ilex Street and City Center Drive in Pueblo.

In many cases, bridge construction can shut down busy freeways. Minimizing road closure time is always a priority in bridge design and project planning. Using prestressed concrete girders helps reduce road closure time by offering ready-to-install materials upon delivery. But it is still far from a simple process.

The first challenge is transporting girders to the bridge site. Girders can be as long as 168' and weigh up to 194,000 lbs. Taking into account a typical semi-trailer truck is 53 feet long, transporting girders is a daunting task.

Using special steerable trailers, delivery trucks can make turns that would otherwise be impossible. Driving speeds of around 45mph, the trucks are also accompanied with two escort vehicles to ensure safe travel.



Girders arriving to be placed on I-25 over Gruma

Upon arrival, a girder is staged into place where cranes will best be able to lift them. Rigging is then placed around the girder, which is basically a tie-off line for worker safety. Once the rigging is complete, cranes are brought into position and cables are lowered down to connect to the girder.

At this point, once everyone is clear, the girder is unhooked from the trailer so the cranes can lift the girders and move them into place. Generally, crane operators can set the girders into place within less than half an inch of where they need to be!

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, 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



Cranes lifting girder into position

Once set in place, but before the crane's cables are removed, the team braces the girders so they do not shift or fall. The crane is unhooked from the girder, and moves to pick up the next one.

The entire process generally takes from 20 to 60 minutes per girder. Approximately one week later, the team does what is known as a closure pour, or what an average person might call "gluing" the girders together.

Most recently, girders were set at the location of Gruma and I-25 where two cranes lifted girders over Gruma and into place. At a safe distance, seeing girders being set is a fascinating process to watch!

Ilex Project Team Appreciates Local Businesses

The I-25/Ilex Design-Build team has always made it a priority to communicate with local businesses regarding upcoming construction and impacts. The team understands construction can be difficult, but knows the end product will not only improve the appearance of the road outside each business, but also the quality and safety of access.

"We know construction is never easy, especially when it's going to affect customer access," said Jennifer Billings, CDOT project manager. "Our team meets often with business owners to ensure the least amount of disruption possible."

Roxanne James, owner of Animal Kingdom, is happy with both the team's professionalism and the quality of the construction. "The workers have been

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)



extremely friendly and helpful through the entire process," said James. "Construction is stressful for business owners wondering how it will affect our customers and employees, but the willingness of the team to work with me and keep me informed has made the experience so much easier."



Owner of Animal Kingdom, Roxann James, speaking to an Ilex team member about the construction

As an example, a few weeks ago a large amount of rain fell and flooded behind Animal Kingdom so employees were walking on pallets to reach the dumpster. "An Ilex project construction worker came right over and said they'd take care of it, and within a short period of time they had the water drained," explained James.

Willingness to go above and beyond is what sets the I-25/ Ilex project team a step above.

August Photo Contest Winner



Mario Magdaleno of Kleinfelder was the winner of the August photo contest with this photo of the Northern Bridge deck and curb rebar installation. Congratulations Mario!

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.

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