



I-25: The New Pueblo Freeway



ILEX STREET TO CITY CENTER DRIVE

Colorado Department of Transportation

June 2019 eNewsletter

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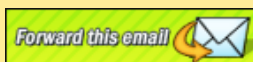
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Please forward/share this email with others who may have an interest in the Ilex Design-Build project.

[To view a PDF, click here.](#)

Project Schedule

Northbound I-25: Spring 2015 to Spring 2018

Southbound I-25: Fall 2017 to Winter 2018

Bridge Rehabilitations: Summer 2015 to Spring 2018

Final Configuration:
December 2018

Project Completion:
Summer 2019

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Ilex Project Improves Safety Through I-25 Corridor in Pueblo

The I-25/Ilex Design-Build Project is the first phase of the New Pueblo Freeway. The goal of the New Pueblo Freeway is to improve safety by repairing and replacing structurally deficient roadways and bridges, and improving the safety and mobility of Interstate-25 through Pueblo while meeting existing and future travel demands.

I-25 through Pueblo was completed in 1959 before the Interstate Highway System and its guidelines were created. As a result, along with age, much of it needed rehabilitative and reconstruction work to correct inconsistent lane widths, tight curves, improper lighting and signage, bridges that were structurally deficient and short, steep ramps - all of which created hazardous driving conditions.

The Ilex Project has made several safety improvements including:

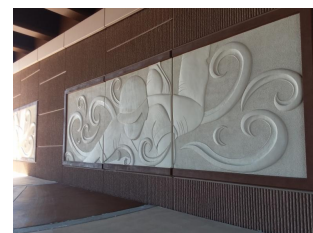
- Widening of shoulders to twelve feet so cars and emergency vehicles can pull off safely
- Longer acceleration and deceleration lanes for improved merging on and off the Interstate, as well as the opportunity for proper slowing down and speeding up
- Straightened alignment where there were previously tight curves to allow for consistent speeds through the corridor
- Standardized lane widths
- Improved lighting and signage for increased visibility

The Ilex Project has significantly increased safety on the I-25 corridor through Pueblo from Ilex Street (now D Street) to City Center Drive. Motorists experience much safer driving conditions, decreased accidents and enjoy a greatly improved driving experience.

Ilex Project Photos



D Street under I-25



D Street wall under I-25

Enewsletters

To receive future Ilex Design-Build project eNewsletters and construction notices, send an email to i25ilex@PublicInfoTeam.com

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)

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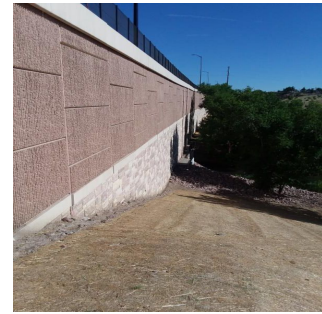
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Additional Project Information

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.



Thomas Phelps Creek Trail under new I-25 bridge



Close-up of wall design/aesthetic

FHWA Tours Ilex Project

The I-25/Ilex Design-Build project team prepared a presentation for the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) representatives and gave them a tour of the project last month.

FHWA is an agency within the U.S. Department of Transportation that supports State and local governments in the design, construction, and maintenance of the Nation's highway system (Federal Aid Highway Program) and various federally and tribal owned lands (Federal Lands Highway Program).

The FHWA team especially enjoyed looking at the newly rehabbed truss bridge and their Senior Engineer Melinda Urban said "Region 2's hospitality and willingness to showcase the region exceeded our expectations."



Pictured: Peter Osborn (Director of FHWA Field Services West), John Cater (FHWA Colorado Division Administrator) and Vershun Tolliver (FHWA Colorado Division Assistant Administrator).

New Camera Installed on I-25

A new pan-tilt-zoom camera has been installed on the I-25 corridor through Pueblo part of the Ilex project. The pan function will provide 360 degrees of continuous rotation, and a 220 degree tilt range allowing for a 20 degree view above the horizon.

This camera will connect to the Colorado Department of Transportation's (CDOT) CoTrip service. CoTrip provides

travelers information for Colorado Interstates and Highways with current road conditions, weather information, accurate travel times and speeds, live streaming video, road closures, construction alerts and accident information.

Video will also feed to the Pueblo Joint Operations Center that opened last November. CDOT and the Colorado State Patrol opened the Center to bring the people who respond to and manage incidents together in one place. Since then communication has been easier, and they have been able to respond sooner to incidents. This additional camera will provide real-time information about weather, accidents, cars stalled or any other hazard on the road to help them in their efforts.

CDOT Summer Driving Safety Tips

The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) wants you to be safe while enjoying your summer. Here are some summer driving safety tips:

1. **Watch for potholes.** Winter's freeze/thaw cycle weather can damage roadways, including the creation of potholes. Rain also can make them difficult to see. Keep a safe following distance in case the driver in front of you reacts unpredictably. Avoid swerving if you can to avoid a pothole.
2. **Slow down for summer showers.** Roads become slick when it first begins to rain because rainwater mixes with road contaminants, like oil and grease. Increase your following distance to allow for proper braking.
3. **Watch for pedestrians and bikes.** Warmer temperatures mean more people are outside walking or bicycling. Slow down and pay extra attention at crosswalks and along roadways.
4. **Share the road with motorcycles.** Motorcycles may quickly come in and out of your blind spots due to their speed and size. Always take a second look with more motorcycles out on the road.
5. **Animals are on the move.** Animal activity increases during the spring, either due to mating season or because they are waking up from winter hibernation. Deer are most active at dawn and dusk.
6. **Maintain proper tire air pressure.** Tires lose air due to the cold winter temperatures and now can be underinflated. Warmer temperatures can cause tires to be overinflated.
7. **Inspect your tires.** Adequate tire tread is important for safe driving in wet weather because the tread moves water away from the tire. Less tread means reduced traction.

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