



December 2014

Holiday spirit abound on US 6 Bridges Project

The US 6 Bridges Design Build Project is a fast-moving effort, planned to go from start to finish in about 19 months. As a result, 2014 is the only holiday season for us together on the project and we wanted to make it count by giving back to the community around the project corridor. Examples of the holiday spirit are prevalent all around the project.

Project canned food drive

Prior to Thanksgiving, the project team held an internal canned food drive to help the local community in the project corridor. We gathered donations in the days leading up to Thanksgiving, then filled up the back of a pickup truck and delivered a mix of canned goods, nonperishable foods and other necessities to the Deliverance Tabernacle church on 4th and Knox Court.



Support the Sam Sandos Christmas Baskets Program

In another display of the holiday spirit on the project, members of the project team are also gearing up to help support the Sam Sandos Christmas Baskets Program. This program is supported strongly by Hon. Paul D. Lopez, Denver City Councilman (Dist. 3), who benefitted from the program growing up.

In a letter to his constituents, Councilman Lopez states the following:

“This year, you can join us in helping fulfill the true spirit of giving. We humbly ask you to please review your budget and consider a tax-deductible donation towards the purchase of turkeys, fresh vegetables, canned goods and all of the fixings for a healthy holiday meal.

Each basket costs \$35 to complete and feeds a family of 4-6 people. Baskets will be assembled and delivered on Saturday, December 20th at Denver North High School by the countless volunteers who wholeheartedly commit to participate every year.

More than 25 years ago, my family received a Christmas Dinner basket and I never forgot how blessed I felt. To this day, I am grateful and take great pride in helping those in need. Thank you in advance for your support of a 31 year tradition in serving those who would otherwise not be served.”

Checks can be made out to the following:

***Sam Sandos Christmas Baskets
c/o Councilman Paul Lopez
4200 Morrison Road, Unit 7
Denver, CO 80219***



Construction update

November accomplishments

- Shifted traffic onto newly built Federal Boulevard bridges over US 6 and opened the new westbound US 6 off-ramp to Federal
- Reopened the westbound US 6 off-ramp to Lowell/Perry
- Continued ongoing work in the Barnum parks

December look ahead

- Shifting both I-25 off-ramps to westbound US 6 onto the new concrete pavement
- Demolition of the west half of the Federal Boulevard bridge over US 6
- Setting girders on the northbound I-25 to westbound US 6 off-ramp bridge over a segment of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad tracks, just east of I-25
- Setting girders on the Federal Boulevard bridge over the new westbound US 6 CD road
- Installing new, permanent sign structures on US 6 and I-25

2014 ends with major milestones, traffic impacts (see Figure 1)

As temperatures begin to plummet and 2014 draws to a close, work on the project is only heating up, with a few major milestones on the docket for December. Details will follow on the next two pages.

Shift of southbound I-25 off-ramp to westbound US 6

On Tuesday, Dec. 2, crews shifted the southbound I-25 off-ramp to westbound US 6 onto its new pavement.

Because the old ramp cut through the work zone of the new ramp connecting northbound I-25 with westbound US 6, shifting the southbound I-25 off-ramp to westbound US 6 into this alignment frees up space to finish the new northbound I-25 off-ramp to westbound US 6 this month.

While this ramp shift opened up additional work areas, it also created a challenge in maintaining access to Federal Boulevard for the multiple directions of traffic merging onto westbound US 6. Because this new ramp connects to US 6 at a point that is much closer to Federal Boulevard than the old ramp, there was the potential for merge conflicts between drivers trying to get onto westbound US 6 from southbound I-25 with drivers trying to exit onto Federal Boulevard from either northbound I-25 or westbound US 6.

To eliminate this merge conflict, northbound I-25 and westbound US 6 drivers are temporarily unable to access the westbound US 6 off-ramp to Federal Boulevard. Traffic can still access Federal Boulevard if exiting southbound I-25 onto westbound US 6. This configuration will last approximately two months.

Limiting access to the westbound US 6 off-ramp to Federal Boulevard to only traffic coming from southbound I-25 prevents this undesirable weave and will maintain the highest level of safety for the traveling public.

NOTE: Northbound I-25 exiting at westbound US 6 will once again be able to exit at Federal Boulevard when this ramp is shifted into its permanent alignment, currently scheduled for the weekend of Dec. 19-22.

Demolition of Federal Boulevard bridge over US 6

Crews are preparing to demolish the west half of the Federal Boulevard bridge over US 6, which will require a 31-hour closure of US 6. Demolition efforts will begin at about 10 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 13, and conclude by 5 a.m. Monday, Dec. 15.

Demolition of the west half of the Federal Boulevard bridge over US 6 will propel us into the second half of the project.

During this work, westbound US 6 will close at Federal Boulevard, while eastbound US 6 will close at Sheridan Boulevard. Also, the northbound and southbound I-25 off-ramps to westbound US 6 will close to prevent backups on westbound US 6.

Taking down the west portion of the Federal Boulevard Bridge over US 6 will enhance driver safety by eliminating the bridge pier that currently splits the lanes of westbound US 6. Removing this bridge pier will also make it easier for snowplow drivers to navigate US 6 as winter approaches.

Completing this work over an extended highway closure will eliminate the need to demolish the bridge in phases over the course of several nights.

TRAVEL IMPACTS:

- **Westbound US 6** through traffic coming out of downtown Denver will detour at the westbound US 6 off at Federal Boulevard, and continue to the Federal Boulevard on-ramp to westbound US 6.
- **The northbound and southbound I-25 off-ramps** to westbound US 6 will be closed during the entire 31-hour period. Motorists should take Alameda Avenue, 8th Avenue or Colfax Avenue west to access Federal Boulevard.
- **Eastbound US 6** will close at Sheridan Boulevard. Motorists should take Sheridan Boulevard south to Alameda Avenue or Colfax Avenue, then go east to access Federal Boulevard.

NOTE: Once US 6 reopens Monday morning, westbound traffic coming out of downtown Denver will once again be unable to exit at Federal Boulevard for safety purposes.

Shift of northbound I-25 off-ramp to westbound US 6

What

Crews are preparing to implement a weekend closure of the northbound and southbound I-25 off-ramps to westbound US 6 to accommodate a shift of the northbound I-25 off-ramp to westbound US 6 into its new, permanent location.

When

Beginning at 10 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19, and lasting until 5 a.m. Monday, Dec. 22.

Why

As shown on the next page, the existing

Figure 1: December Milestone Tracker

- Dec. 2:** Shifted southbound I-25 off-ramp to westbound US 6
- Dec. 13-15:** Demolition of Federal Boulevard bridge over US 6
- Dec. 19-22:** Shift of northbound I-25 off-ramp to westbound US 6
- Dec. 22:** Allow access to Federal Boulevard to traffic exiting northbound I-25 to westbound US 6

northbound I-25 to westbound US 6 loop ramp lies directly in the path of the new off-ramp. Also, the point at which the new ramp connects with westbound US 6 is a spot that is inaccessible to crews with the southbound I-25 to westbound US 6 off-ramp open. As a result, both ramps need to close over the weekend while crews complete the final paving operations to make this connection.

Details

- The new northbound I-25 off-ramp bridge to westbound US 6 will improve upon the current off-ramp, which involves a tight loop and leaves an undesirable merge configuration for motorists transitioning from northbound I-25 to westbound US 6. This new off-ramp bridge will feed into the new collector-distributor road designed to provide a safer, more efficient merge from I-25 to westbound US 6.
- Located several hundred feet south of the existing ramp, this will be a new exit location for the northbound I-25 off-ramps to eastbound and westbound US 6. Drivers will exit and then either go left to eastbound US 6 or right and stay on the ramp marked for westbound US 6, taking a wide curve to the east before turning back west to connect with westbound US 6. The ramp will join with the southbound I-25 off-ramp to westbound US 6 near the US 6 bridge over the South Platte River.
- This shift will allow traffic exiting northbound I-25 to westbound US 6 to once again exit at Federal Boulevard. The northbound and southbound I-25 off-ramps to westbound US 6 will be closed during the entire weekend. Motorists should take Alameda Avenue, 8th Avenue or Colfax Avenue west to access Federal Boulevard.
- After this shift, westbound US 6 traffic coming out of downtown will still be unable to exit at Federal Boulevard.
- In addition to this work, crews will also complete the following activities over the weekend:
 - **Beginning at 10 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 20**, crews will set girders on the northbound I-25 to westbound US 6 off-ramp bridge over a segment of the BNSF railroad tracks, just east of I-25. In order to accomplish this, commuters should watch for various lane closures on northbound I-25 between the hours of 8 p.m. and 5:30 a.m.
 - **Beginning at 10 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 21**, crews will set girders on the Federal Boulevard bridge over the new westbound US 6 collector-distributor road. To allow room for this work, Federal will be reduced to one lane of traffic in each direction overnight, between the hours of 7 p.m. and 5:30 a.m.

Job fair attracts hundreds

It comes as no surprise that a complex project with the scope of the US 6 Bridges Design Build Project requires nearly an army of workers to make it all happen. Planning ahead and anticipating the needs, primary contractor Edward Kraemer & Sons, Inc., along with major



subcontractors and unions, hosted a bilingual job fair at the onset of the project at St. Cajetan's Church. Several attendees who were hired in areas of general labor, operators and drivers continue to work on the project. Hiring is expected to continue as the project continues.

Note from the Project Director

While we certainly aren't taking it easy this holiday season, we do encourage everyone in the community to take time to appreciate all you have and to give back to those less fortunate, if you are able.

Some suggested ways to give back include participating in the Sam Sandos Christmas Basket Program, starting your own canned food drive or doing anything else you see fit to help this great community thrive.

We are very fortunate to be working in a project corridor with so many passionate, caring residents. It makes the job that much more rewarding.

Sincerely,

*Kevin Sullivan
Project Director, US 6 Bridges Design Build Project
Colorado Department of Transportation*

Explore commuting options

If you find it too stressful to drive through the US 6 corridor while it is under construction, you might want to explore alternative modes of transportation. This could include using the Regional Transportation District's West Rail Line or bus services. [Click here](#) for information on RTD's light rail service. For information on bus fares and schedules, [click here](#).

Exploring carpool or vanpool services is another option you might want to pursue. [Click here](#) to access an online trip planner where you can input your starting location and destination address into a database to check out existing carpool or vanpool services in your area.

If biking or walking are more your speed for short trips, [click here](#) for tips on getting to your destination by foot or bicycle.

Want more information?

Website: www.coloradodot.info/projects/US6Bridges

Hotline: 720-881-5540

Email: us6bridgesinfo@cig-pr.com

Click [here](#) to sign up to receive *The US 6th Sense* every month.