



I-25: The New Pueblo Freeway



ILEX STREET TO CITY CENTER DRIVE

Colorado Department of Transportation

April 2016 eNewsletter

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

Project Schedule

Northbound I-25: Spring 2015 to Fall 2016

Southbound I-25: Fall 2016 to Fall 2017

Bridge Rehabilitations: Summer 2015 to Summer 2017

Stay Connected

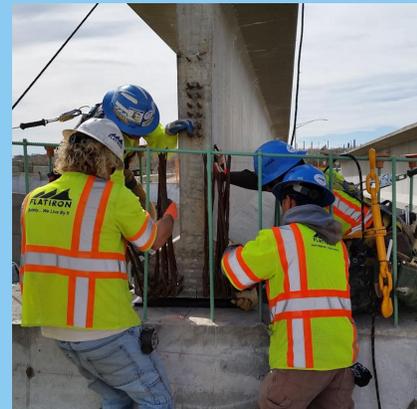
Website: [Colorado Info Project](#)
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 Hotline: (719) 470-2270
 To receive project updates and construction notices, send an email to: i25ilex@PublicInfoTeam.com

Quick Links

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

Ilex Project Boosts Local Economy

A project like ILEX positively affects a community in so many ways beyond improving traffic. One of the primary benefits is boosting the local economy by using local contractors, suppliers and hiring local staff. According to Forbes, for every \$1 spent at locally-owned businesses, \$0.68 stays in the community, and for every \$1 spent at a national chain, \$0.43 stays in the community.



The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) and contractor Flatiron Constructors, Inc. are expected to pour almost \$23 million over the next two years of the I-25/ILEX Design-Build project back into the local economy through utilization of local labor, equipment and materials.

The ILEX project employs at least 14 different local subcontracting companies to provide services related to construction that include traffic control, labor, concrete work, flatwork, paving, crane service, landscaping, signs, fuel, trucking and materials.

According to Scott Dalton, CDOT project manager, "By working to provide opportunities to the community surrounding the project, Flatiron Constructors is positively contributing to the local economy."

ILEX - What's In a Name?

The first segment of the New Pueblo Freeway construction project stretches from City Center Drive to Ilex Street, and is named the I-25 ILEX Design-Build project. But besides being named for one of the streets the project affects, what does Ilex actually mean?

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Prioritized Project Goals

The project goals, approved with the Request for Proposals in January 2014, were the basis for the Technical Proposal contents and evaluation of the shortlisted design-build teams. The Flatiron/HDR team was the proposer with the highest score and was determined to have the Best Value Proposal.

Project Goals

1. Build the Project with minimal impacts to the traveling public.
2. Exhibit technical competency / innovation, maximize the use of RAMP funding by providing additional requested elements, and develop aesthetically pleasing regional Project features.
3. Demonstrate a commitment to enhance the established Project Values of safety, quality, integrity, and communication / teamwork.

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

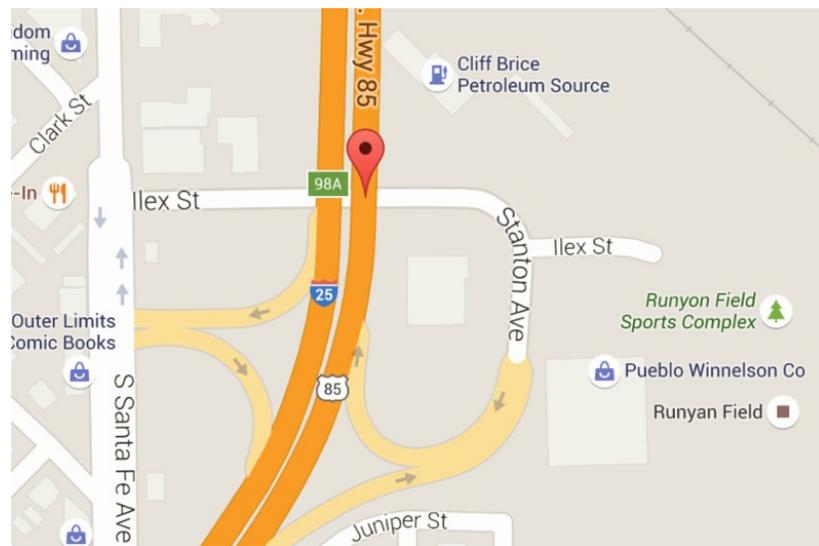
Quercus ilex, the evergreen oak, holly oak or holm oak, is a large evergreen oak native to the Mediterranean. It takes its name from holm, an ancient name for holly.



An Ilex, or Holm Oak tree.

According to Pueblo local Kisi Thompson, the streets in that part of the city were primarily named for trees such as Ash, Beech, and of course Ilex. "With "The Grove" across Santa Fe, the tree names there made a lot of sense," said Thompson. Although there aren't actually any Ilex trees in Pueblo, the name was most likely chosen due to lack of other trees beginning with the letter "I" when naming that batch of streets.

According to Scott Dalton, CDOT Project Manager, the name ILEX was initially chosen for the project because it was the street the original I-25 bridge went over. While the street itself will actually be demolished during the course of the project, the ILEX project name will remain. "Typically CDOT likes to give a project a name that identifies with the area in which it is being built, and the name ILEX is readily recognizable," said Dalton.



Quite a Sight!

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.



Pictured above: March 21, 2016 - Eight girders on their way to be set for the Phase 1 of the Interstate-25 bridge over D Street will be constructed as part of the I-25 Ilex to City Center Drive project. These girders when placed end to end on Santa Fe, measured approximately 776 feet, just greater than the length of two football fields!

Do You Know About National Work Zone Awareness Week?

National Work Zone Awareness Week began in 1999 when the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, the Federal Highway Administration, and the American Traffic Safety Services Association joined forces to increase public awareness at the start of the highway construction season.



This year's National Work Zone Awareness Week was April 11-15 and the theme was "Don't Be That Driver!" The goal of this campaign is to reinforce the message that motorists need to constantly be alert in and around work zones, and to slow down where required.

"Work Zone Awareness Week is an opportune time for Colorado Department of Transportation to remind motorists to slow down in work zones. You aren't just slowing for cones, you are slowing to protect the lives of those working to improve and maintain the roads you use everyday; you are slowing to protect yourself and fellow motorists," said Michelle Peulan, CDOT Communications Manager, Region 2. "Unfortunately, Colorado had 10 work zone fatalities in 2014 (*most recent available data*), the majority of those were motorists. Please, be aware of the cone zones, make sure everyone arrives safely to their destination and our workers go

Quarterly Construction Update

For our most current quarterly construction update, click [here](#).

A Look Ahead

- Water and gas utility relocations continue
- Widening of I-25 over Indiana Ave begins
- I-25 over the new D Street bridge

- construction continues
- Embankment construction continues

home to their families at the end of the day," she said.

Project Partners

- Colorado Department of Transportation
- Federal Highway Administration
- City of Pueblo
- Pueblo County
- The Community

Work zones are dynamic environments with many moving parts including trucks, flaggers, changing traffic patterns, and reduced speed limits which all create the need for motorists to be aware of their surroundings to prevent accidents. In 2014, distracted driving was a factor in 16 percent of fatal crashes in work zones, and 29 percent involved speeding.

"Please remember to be safe around construction sites for the sake of the project workers, as well as for yourself and your passengers," said Peulan.

Funding

State of Colorado revenues from a safety fee placed on vehicle registrations have helped fund the Ilex Design-Build project.

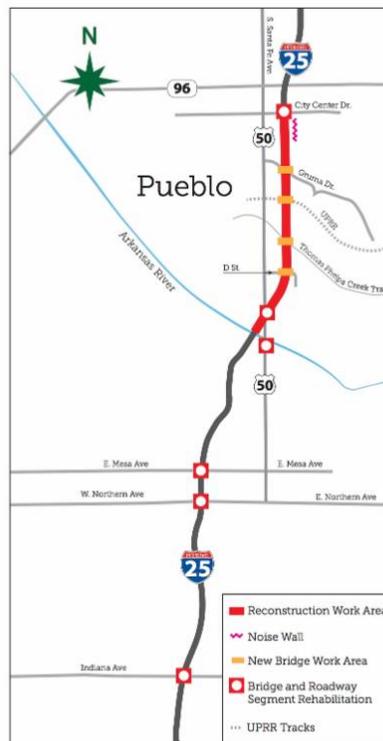
Funding sources for the project:

Bridge Enterprise

RAMP (Responsible Acceleration of Maintenance and Partnerships)

Project Map

Current map of the first segment of the New Pueblo Freeway construction project, City Center Drive to Ilex Street.



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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.

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