



Colorado Department of Transportation

January 2018 eNewsletter

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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

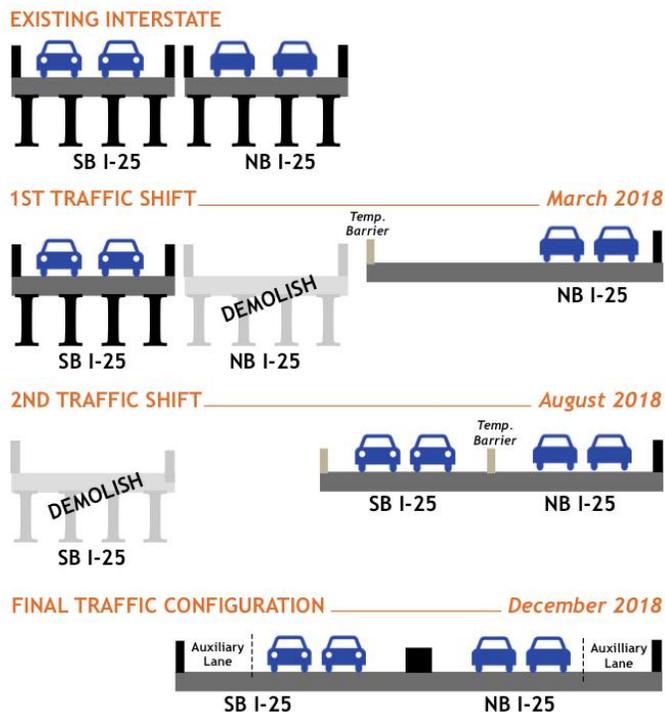
Current Construction

- All roadway and structural work is complete on the I-25 over Indiana segment. Concrete stain on the substructure will begin this fall for 100% completion
- Work is complete on the Mesa bridge structure, signing &

2018: Ilex Project Begins Final Year of Construction

Happy New Year! This year is even more special as it marks the home stretch for the I-25/Ilex Design-Build project. In December 2018, traffic will be in its final configuration. While there will still be additional work taking place, final configuration means motorists will be traveling on the newly constructed roadway, marking a major milestone of the project.

The first of three major traffic shifts on I-25 will occur this spring. The first major shift will be on Interstate-25, when northbound I-25 traffic shifts onto the newly constructed roadway. The second shift will occur in August when southbound I-25 traffic also shifts onto the newly constructed roadway. Finally, the last shift will involve both northbound and southbound traffic moving to the final traffic pattern by the end of December.



roadway. Concrete stain on the substructure will begin this fall for 100% completion

- Piers & pier caps for the CML bridge over the railroad, abutment construction, & girder set complete
- Embankment operations between the I-25 bridges over Gruma & UPRR (railroad) underway
- US 50C Truss Bridge over Arkansas River structural rehab complete, painting & deck pour this fall
- Northern Ave bridge is in Phase 3 construction on north side of bridge removing sidewalk & repairing deck with completion in fall
- Clark and D Street cul-de-sac drainage & roadway construction complete w/remaining sidewalk, grading & landscaping completing this fall
- Mechanically Stabilized Earth (MSE) walls from Gruma to City Center Drive nearing completion
- MSE walls from CML to Gruma nearing completion
- Storm drainage installation on the north and south approaches of the project
- Bridge Deck construction on I-25 over Gruma
- Bridge deck construction on I-25 over CML
- Center piers & crash wall construction on Bridge over Phelps Creek Trails & UPRR Easement complete

"Our team will be very busy this year as we head towards completion," said CDOT Project Manager Jennifer Billings. "We'll continue to communicate with residents, businesses and the traveling public, since major traffic shifts can be somewhat complicated involving many moving parts all working in sync."

Steps to executing a major traffic shift:

- Extensive planning is conducted prior to any traffic shift. The I-25/Ilex Design-Build team consisting of CDOT, Flatiron Construction, Atkins, Mountain Barricade and the City of Pueblo traffic department analyzes the traffic switch to be sure it allows room for the next phase of construction. It must also meet all safety criteria.
- From the meetings, a licensed engineer prepares the official Traffic Control Plan and submits it to CDOT management for approval.



Traffic control trucks preparing to set cone zone

- The project's traffic control company, Mountain Barricade, prepares a Method of Handling Traffic (MHT) for any lane closures or detours needed to implement the Traffic Control Plan.
- When the shift begins, crews first place signs indicating necessary lane closures starting from the location furthest from the point of the closure.
- After signs are in place, crews set construction safety cones and formally close the lane with the help of an electronic arrow directional board.
- They repeat this process for any additional lanes closing at later times.
- Crews proceed to close any turn lanes at intersections leading to ramps set to close.
- Barriers are shifted and reset in the new location.
- Most traffic changes are completed in a single overnight work shift, but major traffic shifts may require longer duration closures.

This year also brings the completion of the bridge rehabilitations for I-25 over Indiana Avenue, Northern Avenue bridge over I-25, and completion of the new I-25 bridge over Thomas Phelps Creek.

Northern Avenue Bridge Construction Enters Final Phase

- Northbound I-25 bridge over Santa Fe deck repairs

Upcoming Construction

- Northbound I-25 bridge over Santa Fe deck repairs
- Bridge over Phelps Creek Trail & UPRR easement
- D Street on/off ramp MSE walls & roadway construction
- Final Grading and Seeding from Gruma to City Center Drive

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: April 2019

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Website:
[Colorado Info Project](#)

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Quick Links

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The Northern Avenue bridge over Interstate-25 is entering its final phase of construction. Last week motorists were shifted to the north side of the bridge enabling the team to complete additional roadway and guardrail work.

Traffic is currently shifted to the north half of the bridge. Motorists should expect a change in traffic patterns from day-to-day while crews work to complete asphalt paving on the bridge. One lane will remain open in each direction for this traffic shift.

Although construction schedules always depend on weather and temperature conditions, estimated completion on the bridge is February.

The Northern Avenue bridge is one of six bridges undergoing rehabilitation as part of the I-25/Ilex Design-Build project. Mesa bridge over I-25 was completed last year, and nearing completion are the I-25 bridges over Indiana Avenue and Santa Fe Avenue, and the green truss bridge on Santa Fe Avenue (US 50C).

Aerial Video of the I-25/Ilex Project



[Take a tour of the Ilex Project from the sky!](#)

I-25 Northbound Off-Ramp at Exit 98A/D Street Reopens

The northbound Interstate-25 off-ramp at Exit 98A/D Street is reopening Thursday, January 25 after being closed for construction since August. The ramp is in a new alignment, so motorists are urged to use caution while traveling on the ramp.

The northbound I-25 on-ramp at Exit 98A/D Street remains closed for further construction.

Enewsletters

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

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.

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

Ilex Project: What You See vs. What We See

Although the traveling public often sees cone zones and construction crews around Pueblo working on the I-25/Ilex Design-Build project, they may not always be aware of how much work is taking place completely out-of-sight.

A perfect example is work on the new I-25 bridge over Thomas Phelps Creek. The work you may not have seen began with piling, the basis of any construction project.

Piling is a technique that inserts large amounts of steel or concrete into the soil, ensuring a sturdier base for the bridge project. The Ilex team used 2,185 linear feet of piling for phase one of the bridge work.

Other "unseen" bridge work:

- Bridge columns and center pier cap poured
- Crash wall poured along the bottom of the columns
- Mechanically Stabilized Earth (MSE), or reinforced soil, walls on the north abutment completed, ready to form abutment
- MSE walls on the south side are under construction

Motorist view from I-25:



The view motorists have traveling on I-25 over Thomas Phelps Creek.

Construction team view from underneath I-25:



over Santa Fe Avenue (widened to the median).

Noise abatement will also occur along some segments of I-25.



Construction occurring below I-25 for the new bridge over Thomas Phelps Creek.

Project Partners

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

The next time you drive on I-25 over Thomas Phelps Crrek, definitely pay attention to the cone zones and the work taking place that you're able to see, but also imagine all the work happening underneath!

Environmental Mitigation: Snowmelt and Water Quality

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:

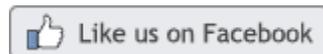
Bridge Enterprise

RAMP (Responsible Acceleration of Maintenance and Partnerships)

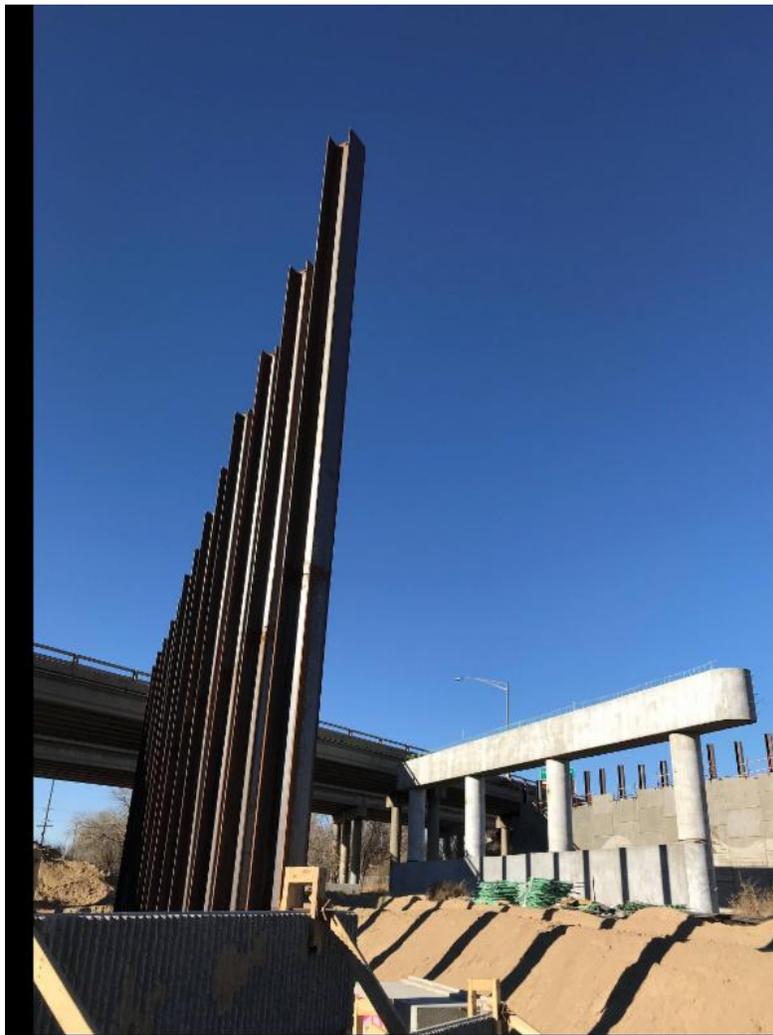
Falling snow conjures images of sparkling crystal white flakes, a day on the slopes, or possibly slippery roads. Water quality, however, is probably not something most people think about after a snowstorm.

Snow itself is not typically a concern regarding water quality, until it melts creating stormwater. Stormwater is water that doesn't soak into the ground or other porous surfaces, and can impact water quality, like a rain-storm. Stormwater flows across surfaces picking up pollutants (sediment, dripped oil, trash, etc.) from the roadway or construction sites. If left unchecked, snowmelt could carry these pollutants into the nearest river or stream.

Eliminating the transport of pollutants in stormwater from construction sites is required by the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program and associated construction stormwater permit issued by the State of Colorado. The I-25/Ilex project is serious about complying with its stormwater permit, and implements several Best-Management Practices (BMPs) to control the flow of snowmelt and stormwater runoff. These BMPs are designed to slow the flow of stormwater, thus allowing pollutants to settle out, and/or filter pollutants through fabric, straw or other material, prior to leaving the construction area. These BMPs, and strict adherence to the project construction stormwater permit, protects the Arkansas River from pollutants.



January Photo of the Month Award Winner



Brian Besson with Kleinfelder was the winner of the January photo contest with his photo of the piles at the abutment near Wall P1 for the I-25 bridge over Union Pacific Railroad. Congratulations, Brian!

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.