



April 2015 – CONSTRUCTION ALERT EDITION

Construction Progress

Recent accomplishments

- Set girders on the Federal Boulevard bridge over US 6, new westbound US 6 collector-distributor (CD) road
- Poured bridge deck for Federal Boulevard bridge over US 6, new westbound US 6 CD road.
- Set girders on the US 6 bridge over Bryant Street
 - **Significance: This represented the final girder placement on the project**



The photo to the left shows the 225th and final girder placed on this project.

- Relocated storm sewer line across Federal Boulevard
- Installed new fence around Barnum East baseball field, as well as grading for the new multi-purpose field
- Poured bridge deck for US 6 bridge over the South Platte River
 - **Significance: This represented the 16th and final precast concrete girder bridge deck pour on the project.**

Upcoming work

- Completing reconstruction and improvements to a 1-mile stretch of the S. Platte River trail and reopening the trail
- Continued construction of new restroom building in Barnum Park East
- Shifting westbound US 6 traffic to the north onto the new collector-distributor road
 - **Significance: See update below**
- Shifting eastbound US 6 traffic to the north to clear room on the south half of the highway for additional construction
- Construction of the last remaining highway bridge – the “Braided Ramp Bridge” just east of Federal, which will take traffic from Federal to eastbound US 6 and the I-25 interchange

- Accelerating work to complete the new northbound I-25 off-ramp bridge to the US 6 interchange
 - **Significance: When the new bridge opens in June, this will mean completion of a through lane from the Santa Fe Drive on-ramp to northbound I-25 all the way to the off-ramps to US 6.**

Shift of westbound US 6 traffic brings noticeable changes

The morning of Friday, May 1st, crews will complete a shift of westbound US 6 traffic onto the new collector-distributor road, designed to collect all I-25 traffic and feed it onto westbound US 6 in a manner that will improve safety and efficiency for drivers.

To complete this shift of westbound US 6 traffic to the north, crews will implement overnight closures of the westbound US 6 off-ramp to Federal Boulevard and the Federal Boulevard on-ramp to westbound US 6, as well as intermittent lane closures on westbound US 6 as needed. This will begin at 10 p.m. on Thursday, April 30, with the shift complete by 5 a.m. Friday.

Following the shift, drivers looking to exit westbound US 6 at Federal Boulevard will do so from the left lane - a substantial change, as currently traffic exits at Federal from the right lane. Drivers on westbound US 6 who need to exit at Federal Boulevard should prepare by getting in the left lane leading up to Federal and following posted signage to exit at the correct location.

Also, beginning Friday morning, drivers using the Federal Boulevard on-ramp to westbound US 6 will merge onto US 6 to the right. This is also different from the past, as to this point, this has been a left merge. Westbound US 6 drivers should be aware that drivers will be merging from the left lane instead of the right lane.

This traffic shift marks a major milestone for the project and clears substantial room for additional work as crews move into the final months of this project. Another shift – this time of eastbound US 6 traffic to the north – will take place in the coming weeks.

CDOT calls drivers to “Drop the Distraction” in April

Distracted driving is an incredibly common and dangerous driving behavior, rendered even more concerning in active construction zones like we have on US 6. So, what is distracted driving? Distracted driving is any activity that could divert a person’s attention away from the primary task of driving. All distractions endanger driver, passenger, and bystander safety. We decided to take a closer look at the issue, as April is National Distracted Driving Awareness Month.

Types of distractions include:

- Texting
- Using a Cell or Smart Phone
- Talking To Passengers
- Grooming
- Reading, Including Maps
- Using a Navigation System
- Watching a Video
- Adjusting a Radio, CD or MP3 Player



Because text messaging requires visual, manual, and cognitive attention from the driver, it is by far the most alarming distraction.

Here are a few facts about distracted driving:

- In 2013, 61 people died, while another 1,490 sustained injuries, in distraction-related crashes in Colorado.
- Five seconds is the average time your eyes are off the road while texting. When traveling at 55 mph, that's the equivalent of driving the entire length of a football field blindfolded.
- Teen drivers pose an especially heightened risk for the behavior, and a recent report from the AAA Foundation tells us that distracted driving contributes to 58 percent of teen driver vehicle crashes and shows that distracted driving is about more than just texting

In addition to supporting NSC's National Distracted Driving Awareness Month, CDOT is targeting Colorado teen drivers this summer in a new campaign encouraging them to "Drop the Distraction."

CDOT is planning to distribute a series of brochures, posters and window clings throughout the year for public consumption. For more information about the campaign, including additional facts and the recent AAA Foundation report, visit www.codot.gov/programs/distracteddriving.

The National Safety Council (NSC) recommends drivers taking action to combat distracted driving:

- Stop using cell phones while driving
- Recognize that hands-free devices offer little safety benefit
- Understand the dangers of the cognitive distraction to the brain
- Tell others about the dangers of distracted driving

Meet the project team

Kenda Schmeiser, Kraemer North America

What is your role on the US 6 Bridges Design Build Project?

Traffic Operation Manager - my primary role is to work with RoadSafe Traffic Systems to implement our traffic plans and execute the closures needed to keep everyone safe.

How long have you been with Kraemer?

I've been with Kraemer for almost 2 years and have been in Traffic Control for 32 years.

What is the most rewarding part of what you do?

Working with a great team that puts safety at the top of the priority list. This allows the driving public to get home safely every night.



Where did you attend school?

Limon, Colorado

If you could have dinner with someone, dead or alive, who would it be and why?

I would love to have one more dinner with my dad. But, if he wasn't available, it would be John Wayne.

Where is your favorite place you've traveled?

Eaton's Ranch in Wolf, Wyoming or Maui (opposite ends of the spectrum).

What are your hobbies?

Horseback riding, hiking with my dogs and spending time with my family.

What was your first concert?

Molly Hatchet

What was your first car?

'76 Camaro

Do you prefer dogs or cats and why?

Absolutely dogs. I have a Pembroke Corgi, and a Border Collie/ Corgi mix. They are both 6 years old. We are best buddies and they're always so happy when I get home. Also, I've found that cats are really hard to take on long hikes.



Note from the Project Director

With the upcoming shift of westbound US 6 traffic onto the new collector-distributor road, drivers will notice a significant change in the way they exit US 6 onto Federal. This is our first major shift in a few months and we encourage the driving public to pay especially close attention and when navigating the new traffic pattern.

This is another significant milestone for the project.

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.codot.gov/projects/US6Bridges

Hotline: 720-881-5540

Email: us6bridgesinfo@cig-pr.com

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