

# Engineering / Construction Management

## College / Willox Roadway Improvements

Nominating Agency: City of Fort Collins

**Accomplishment:** The College/Wilcox Improvements Project was originally initiated as roadway improvements along the frontage of a significant development project located in North Fort Collins, but the City of Fort Collins Engineering Department saw an opportunity to expand the project to improve a greater section of the roadway. The City took over management of the project at approximately 50 percent design. From this point, the City completed a design to improve North College Avenue beginning at Wilcox Lane extending to the northern City limits. Improvements focused on meeting the City's four-lane arterial standards, reconstructing the North College/Wilcox intersection out of concrete pavement, and enhancing Wilcox east of the intersection to meet minor arterial standards, including the installation of a modern roundabout at the entrance to the development. The overall project budget



was \$4,629,000 and was comprised of development fees, local dollars, and funds from the North College Urban Renewal Authority.

With North College Avenue designated as a State Highway as well as a regionally-significant truck route,



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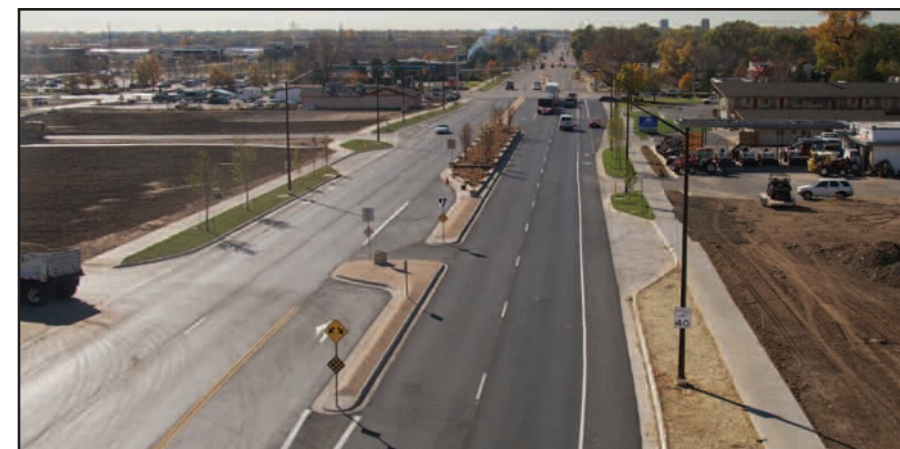
the team was very cognizant of designing a project which could utilize as much of the existing infrastructure as feasible and be constructed with minimal impact to the traveling public. The project team developed a design utilizing existing concrete pavement, along with new concrete pavement, to widen North College. An innovative asphalt riding surface designed to delay reflective cracking was incorporated into the project to reduce long term maintenance.

The project began construction in May 2010 with Connell Resources Inc., serving as general contractor. An aggressive project schedule was established to have the project substantially complete by mid-October to assure the opening of the commercial development that needed these improvements. The project team proved up to the task, completing the project on time and within budget.

Based on the success of the

project, the City will incorporate similar design features, including the use of the reflective crack asphalt interlayer, into future improvements along North College Avenue. The City will also be using this project as a model for coordination with property owners, utility companies, and Colorado Department of Transportation when the next section of North College is to be constructed.

**Summary:** Initiated as a development project, the College/Wilcox Improvements Project was expanded to address a greater need for roadway improvements within north Fort Collins. An innovative and sustainable design, the use of reflective crack asphalt interlayer, facilitated an expeditious construction schedule while minimizing the impact to the travelling public. The lessons learned from this project will be used throughout design and implementation of future roadway improvement projects along the North College corridor. ●



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celebrated by locating them at either ends of the bridge and enhancing their presentation with ornamental light columns arranged in military fashion along the sides of the bridge that increase in height as they proceed toward the flags at the end points.

**Transferable:** If other communities find themselves lucky enough to receive these funds, it is important to quickly establish a committed and skilled team. This project can be an inspiration to other communities to press forward when people tell you that it can't be done (in this case due to a tight schedule with multiple complex design goals). Greatness can be achieved with the right people dedicated to a successful outcome.

**Cooperation:** The HARP Veteran's Bridge project has endured several challenges along the path to be-

coming reality. Early on, budgetary restraints actually eliminated the planned pedestrian connection from the Phase III HARP expansion at Gateway. Thanks to the attentive teamwork of Jack Johnston, Executive Director HARP Authority; Jerry Pacheco, City Manager, City of Pueblo; Greg Severance, Public Works Director, Pueblo County; Gus Sandstrom, HARP Authority and the Veteran's Council; and Ken White, President, HARP Foundation, funding was secured through several avenues.

One of the most notable of the project funding vehicles includes the many contributors to the Veteran's Memorial plaques. More than half a million dollars of the project's \$1.6M budget comes directly from veterans, family members and the local community wishing to honor those who have served our country. Additional funding included approximately \$600,000 of American Reinvestment and Recovery Act support. The

ARRA funds were secured through the hard work and interaction between Mr. Severance and Colorado Department of Transportation on behalf of City of Pueblo. Pueblo County's ultimate cooperation allowed for the City to move forward on another great amenity to the Historic Arkansas Riverwalk of Pueblo.

Without the absolute cooperation of the many valued team members, the Veteran's Bridge project may have been delayed indefinitely.

**Summary:** The Historic Arkansas Riverwalk of Pueblo is a popular urban waterfront tourist destination and an integral part of downtown Pueblo. The project team and the local community wanted to honor Pueblo's proud claim as the "the Home of Heroes." The Veteran's Pedestrian Bridge became a proud monument honoring all military service men and women and a picturesque destination for the community. ●