



Fillmore Street Bridge Improvements and Trail Connections- I-25 to Monument Creek Project (Fillmore Bridge Project)

Fall 2024 Open House Summary

Introduction

The City of Colorado Springs held an in-person open house for the Fillmore Bridge Project on Tuesday, November 19, 2024, at the Best Western Plus Executive Residency Fillmore Inn, a central ADA accessible location in the project area.

The Fillmore Bridge Project seeks to evaluate the deteriorating bridges on Fillmore Street over Monument Creek, the Pikes Peak Greenway Trail, and the Union Pacific Railroad, and seeks to improve bicycle and pedestrian safety along Fillmore and provide trail connection(s) to the Pikes Peak Greenway Trail.

The open house kicked off the outreach process, inviting the public to learn more about the project's process, the draft purpose and need for the project, and proposed alternatives being evaluated for the replacement of the bridges.

The public open house was promoted through various channels resulting in close to 50 attendees dropping by during a two-hour window. Advertising included posting information on the project's webpage, social media channels, city-wide e-blasts, and through the project's stakeholder working group. In addition, 250 flyers were distributed to community gathering locations along the Fillmore Street corridor. A complete summary of the promotional materials can be found in [Appendix A](#).

Background

Fillmore Street is a heavily traveled east-west corridor in central Colorado Springs. The Fillmore Bridges are immediately east of I-25, approximately three miles north of downtown Colorado Springs. The two bridges span Monument Creek, the Pikes Peak Greenway Trail, and the Union Pacific Railroad. The bridges are over sixty years old and have reached the end of their service lives.

Local and regional agencies have identified deficiencies in the bridges, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, connectivity to the Pikes Peak Greenway Trail, and traffic operations. Preservation of public safety makes the replacement of these bridges a top priority for the City, and the Fillmore Bridge Project has been identified as a Pikes Peak Rural Transportation Authority (PPRTA) A-list project.

The City is currently in Phase I: Planning and Environmental Linkage (PEL) Study, the initial planning phase. This phase will identify potential environmental, community, and transportation impacts, as well as the benefits of replacing the two bridges. The Project will work to develop various solutions that improve bridge infrastructure, multimodal safety, and connectivity. Recommended alternative(s) resulting from the PEL Study will then be carried into future phases of the project.

The current phase will proactively engage the community to develop alternatives informed by local needs. All plans produced during the process may be adopted during a subsequent environmental review.

Open House Overview

The open house featured a series of interactive stations arranged around the room. Members of the project team were available at each station to answer questions and discuss the procedural and substantive information that was presented on the boards. The stations included: **Welcome, History and Background, Phase 1: Planning and Environmental Linkage (PEL) Study, Purpose & Need, Existing Conditions, Alternatives, Next Steps and Comment/Survey.**

Attendees were asked to sign in upon arrival and were given bilingual handouts, including a project fact sheet and comment card. At the final station, participants were encouraged to submit their feedback at the Comment/Survey station (both digital and paper options were available).

The same day the in-person meeting was held, a virtual open house was launched on the project website for members of the public who could not attend. The self-guided open house featured the same materials as the in-person event. The physical comment card was recreated as a [digital comment card](#), which remained accessible on the project website until December 3, 2024.

Public Feedback Overview

Throughout the open house, community members shared feedback with the project team. Below is a high-level summary of what was shared in conversations with staff:

Access

- It's important to maintain access to the Pikes Peak Greenway Trail throughout construction or provide a reasonable detour route for cyclists and pedestrians.
- Questions about access to the interstate and businesses/residential areas on the east side of the bridges during construction came up with people expressing concerns about impacts to day-to-day convenience.
- First responders emphasized the need for a coordinated effort during construction.

Open House Photos



Figure 1. Pictures from the in-person open house on Tuesday, November 19, 2024.



Congestion

- The current maintenance work on the bridge has created a lot of traffic causing delays in commute times.

Multimodal

- Enhanced connections to the Pikes Peak Greenway Trail and 12' multi-use paths on both sides of the bridge will be beneficial.
- There is some concern that multimodal connections will be reduced for cost-saving reasons throughout project development.

Economic Impact

- There is general concern about the impact of construction on small businesses in the area.
- Some attendees had questions about why there is current maintenance work going on if the bridges are about to be replaced, and project staff explained that this is a maintenance project to repair existing decking for the travelling public until they are replaced.

Connectivity

- There is a desire for the sidewalks to continue further east along Fillmore Street, but an understanding that this is a bridge project and there are limits to additional improvements that can be made.

Safety

- There was some concern about the tilted rocker bearings underneath the bridge, and staff explained that the bridge is being monitored and these bearings were designed to rock back and forth.
- Colorado Springs Police Department in attendance expressed that full retaining abutments with no slope paving and additional under bridge lighting will help to deter camping near the bridges.

Communication

- There was general appreciation that the City is engaging the public early in the planning process.
- Similarly, attendees asked that ongoing and proactive communication continue throughout the project and into construction.

Public input through comment cards was submitted both in writing and digitally. The project team collected 6 physical comments cards and received 9 digital comment cards.

Key comment card feedback is provided below:

- Maintain safe access for pedestrians and cyclists and minimize closure of the Pikes Peak Greenway Trail throughout construction
- Maintain access for first responders to respond to calls in the project area



- Consider construction impacts on traffic congestion and the need for detours while construction is taking place
- There should be trail connections on both sides of Fillmore Street
- Sidewalks and a protected bike lane are needed on the north and south sides of Fillmore Street
- Consider giving the bridge the same historic touches given to the Uintah Street bridge
- Wider sidewalks are generally preferred, though there is some concern that this will encourage camping

Next Steps

The project team will review and consider public feedback as part of the PEL Study process and alternative refinement going forward. The team will continue to develop and evaluate alternatives, finalize recommendations, conduct additional public involvement, and produce the final PEL report in 2025. Please stay engaged and visit the [project website](#) regularly for updates.



Appendix A: Open House Promotional Materials

Promotional Toolkit

Public E-Blast

Subject: Mark Your Calendars and Don't Miss the Fillmore Bridge Project Public Open House!

Dear Resident,

You are invited to attend the Fillmore Street Bridge Improvements and Trail Connections – I-25 to Monument Creek Project (Fillmore Bridge Project) Open House on Tuesday, November 19, 2024. This is a unique opportunity to learn more about the project's process, purpose, and proposed alternatives for the bridges. You can also hold one-on-one conversations with the project team.

Meeting Details:

Date: Tuesday, November 19, 2024

Time: 4:30 - 6:30 pm

Location: The Best Western Plus Executive Residency Fillmore Inn 3150 N. Chestnut St

Colorado Springs, CO 80907

What to Expect:

- Stop by anytime from 4:30 – 6:30 p.m. to view materials and ask questions of the City and project team.
- Provide your feedback on the project's purpose and alternatives being evaluated for the replacement of these bridges. Sign up to stay engaged to receive project updates and upcoming meeting notifications.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, the City of Colorado Springs will not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities. In addition, the City offers translation services for materials and meetings. Citizens may submit requests for translation and accommodation by emailing Shelly Oren at soren@kearnswest.com by Tuesday, November 12, 2024.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Best,

The Fillmore Bridge Project Team

Email: Info@fillmorebridge.com

Hotline: 719-513-3115

Website: <https://bit.ly/FillmoreBridgeProject>

In addition to the in-person event, all materials will be available online starting Tuesday, November 19, 2024. You will have the opportunity to read through the information from the Open House and fill out a short comment form to ask questions and provide your feedback.



About the Project

The Fillmore Bridge Project will evaluate the deteriorating bridges on Fillmore Street over Monument Creek, the Pikes Peak Greenway Trail, and the Union Pacific Railroad. The project seeks to improve vehicular congestion and multimodal safety along Fillmore Street. It also needs to provide trail connection(s) to the Pikes Peak Greenway Trail.



Reminder

Subject: Reminder- Don't Miss the Fillmore Bridge Project Public Open House!

Dear Resident,

We hope to see you at the Fillmore Street Bridge Improvements and Trail Connections – I-25 to Monument Creek Project (Fillmore Bridge Project) Open House on Tuesday, November 19, 2024. This is a unique opportunity to learn more about the project's process, purpose, and proposed alternatives for the bridges. You can also hold one-on-one conversations with the project team.

Meeting Details:

Date: Tuesday, November 19, 2024

Time: 4:30 - 6:30 pm

Location: The Best Western Plus Executive Residency Fillmore Inn 3150 N. Chestnut St, Colorado Springs, CO 80907

What to Expect:

- Stop by anytime from 4:30 – 6:30 p.m. to view materials and ask questions of the City and project team.
- We'll have activities for kids, so please feel welcome to bring your little ones.
- Provide your feedback on the project's purpose and alternatives being evaluated for the replacement of these bridges. Sign up to stay engaged to receive project updates and upcoming meeting notifications.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Best,

The Fillmore Bridge Project Team

Email: Info@fillmorebridge.com

Hotline: 719-513-3115


Website: <https://bit.ly/FillmoreBridgeProject>



Newsletter & Social Media Posts

Short:


English

 Open House Notice: You are invited to an Open House on Tuesday, November 19, 2024, from 4:30 – 6:30 p.m. at the Best Western Plus Executive Residency Fillmore Inn (3150 N Chestnut Street). Stop by to learn more about the importance of the [Fillmore Bridge Project](#). You can provide your input on the project's process, purpose, and proposed alternatives being evaluated for the replacement of these bridges. You can also hold one-on-one conversations with the project team.

Citizens may submit requests for translation and accommodation by emailing Shelly Oren at soren@kearnswest.com by Tuesday, November 12, 2024.

#publicmeeting #FillmoreBridgeProject

Spanish


 Aviso de la reunión informativa: Lo invitamos a una reunión informativa el martes 19 de noviembre de 2024, de 4:30 a 6:30 p.m. en el Best Western Plus Executive Residency Fillmore Inn (3150 N Chestnut Street). Pase para aprender más sobre la importancia del [Proyecto del Puente de Fillmore](#). Puede proporcionar su opinión sobre el proceso del proyecto, el propósito y las alternativas propuestas que se están evaluando para el reemplazo de estos puentes. También puede tener unas conversaciones individuales con el equipo del proyecto.

Los ciudadanos pueden enviar solicitudes de traducción y alojamiento enviando un correo electrónico a Shelly Oren a soren@kearnswest.com antes del martes 12 de noviembre, 2024.

#reuniónpública #ProyectedelPuenteFillmore

Long:

English

 Join the City of Colorado Springs on Tuesday, November 19 from 4:30 – 6:30 p.m. at the Best Western Plus Executive Residency Fillmore Inn (3150 N Chestnut Street) to learn more about the [Fillmore Bridge Project](#).

This is your chance to:

- Learn about the project schedule and current phase
- Provide input on the project's process, purpose, and proposed alternatives being evaluated for the replacement of these bridges.
- Ask questions and provide comments directly to the project team

Save the Date: Tuesday, November 19, 4:30 – 6:30 p.m., Best Western Plus Executive Residency Fillmore Inn (3150 N Chestnut Street). Stop by at your convenience.

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Citizens may submit requests for translation and accommodation by emailing Shelly Oren at soren@kearnswest.com by Tuesday, November 12, 2024.

#publicmeeting #FillmoreBridgeProject

Spanish

Acompañe a la ciudad de Colorado Springs el martes 19 de noviembre, de 4:30 a 6:30 p.m. en el Best Western Plus Executive Residency Fillmore Inn (3150 N Chestnut Street) para obtener más información sobre [el Proyecto del Puente Fillmore](#).

Esta es su oportunidad para:

- Aprender sobre el calendario del proyecto y la fase actual.
- Proporcionar información sobre el proceso del proyecto, el propósito y las alternativas propuestas que se están evaluando para el reemplazo de estos puentes.
- Haga preguntas y envíe comentarios directamente al equipo del proyecto.

Guarde la fecha: martes 19 de noviembre, de 4:30 a 6:30 p.m., Best Western Plus Executive Residency Fillmore Inn (3150 N Chestnut Street). Visítenos cuando le convenga.

Los ciudadanos pueden enviar solicitudes de traducción y alojamiento enviando un correo electrónico a Shelly Oren a soren@kearnswest.com antes del martes 12 de noviembre, 2024.

reunión pública #ProyectedelPuenteFillmore

 **SAVE THE DATE!**

**FILLMORE STREET BRIDGE IMPROVEMENTS
AND TRAIL CONNECTIONS - I-25 TO
MONUMENT CREEK PROJECT**



Join the City of Colorado Springs for the Fillmore Street Bridge Improvements and Trail Connections - I-25 to Monument Creek Project (Fillmore Bridge Project) Open House!

Stop by to learn more about the importance of the Fillmore Bridge Project's process, purpose, and proposed alternatives being evaluated for the replacement of these bridges.



Tuesday, November 19, 2024

4:30 - 6:30 p.m.



**The Best Western Plus
Executive Residency
Fillmore Inn**

3150 N. Chestnut St
Colorado Springs, CO 80907



 **LEARN MORE**

 719-513-3115

 info@fillmorebridge.com

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 ¡GUARDE LA FECHA!

MEJORAS EN EL PUENTE DE LA CALLE FILLMORE Y CONEXIONES DE SENDEROS – DEL I-25 AL MONUMENT CREEK

¡Acompañe a la ciudad de Colorado Springs para las mejoras del Puente de la calle Fillmore y las conexiones de senderos – Proyecto del I-25 al Monument Creek (Proyecto del Puente Fillmore) Reunión Informativa!

Visítenos para obtener más información sobre la importancia del Proyecto del Puente Fillmore, el proceso, propósito y las alternativas propuestas siendo evaluadas para el reemplazo de estos puentes.



Martes, 19 de noviembre de 2024
4:30 - 6:30 p.m.



**The Best Western Plus
Executive Residency
Fillmore Inn**
3150 N. Chestnut St
Colorado Springs, CO 80907



APRENDA MÁS

 719-513-3115

 info@fillmorebridge.com

 <https://bit.ly/FillmoreBridgeProject>



De acuerdo con la Ley de Estadounidenses con Discapacidades (ADA, por sus siglas en inglés) de 1990, la ciudad de Colorado Springs no discriminará a las personas calificadas con discapacidades. Además, la Ciudad ofrece servicios de traducción para materiales y reuniones. Los ciudadanos pueden enviar solicitudes de traducción y alojamiento enviando un correo electrónico a Shelly Oren a soren@kearnswest.com antes del martes 12 de noviembre, 2024.