Girders in place on Southeast Rail Extension’s longest bridge for E, F and R Lines

Crews set pre-cast concrete girders and pour concrete box tubs girders on the I-25 light rail bridge.

The longest of three bridges on RTD’s Southeast Rail Extension project is taking shape, now that 10 spans of the 11-span, 1,397-foot-long I-25 light rail bridge are in place. The final span has been kept open to allow crews to complete post-tensioning of the structure.

The bridge will carry trains across I-25 from the future Sky Ridge light rail station on the west side of I-25 to the Lone Tree City Center station on the east side of the highway.

Seven spans on the I-25 light rail bridge utilize pre-cast concrete girders. With four girders per span, the bridge will have a total of 28 girders. The remaining four spans are cast-in-place concrete box tub girders.

Crews used two cranes to raise each of the pre-cast concrete girders and set them into place. The girders range in length from 120 to 130 feet, and in weight from 120,000 to 130,000 pounds.
From the Project Manager: Signs of progress evident all along RTD’s Southeast Rail Extension

The landscape around Lone Tree has changed dramatically in recent months, especially as construction of the FasTracks Southeast Rail Extension project continues to gain momentum.

Our team has made significant progress since we broke ground in May 2016. Motorists can see crews pouring concrete on bridges, at the future light rail stations and at the 1,300-space Park-n-Ride at RidgeGate Parkway.

Construction is well underway on all three light rail bridges. The structures will provide grade-separated crossings across Lincoln Avenue, I-25 and RidgeGate Parkway, making travel safer for drivers and train passengers.

However, much of the accomplishments of our first year are harder to see from the road. Did you know that we have moved nearly 300,000 cubic yards of dirt, or drilled holes as deep as 62 feet for bridge caissons?

Crews are busy building support walls in several places throughout the alignment, setting foundations for light poles and installing the Overhead Catenary System (OCS) poles that will power the trains. Workers are also welding rail, laying water and sewer lines and preparing the alignment for electrical conduit.

As we move into summer, RTD and Balfour Beatty Infrastructure, Inc., the project’s contractor, will be working in every area of the corridor, expanding regional connectivity for one of metro Denver’s fastest growing suburbs.

During this time, we ask that you take extra caution and be patient as RTD continues to build one of the premier transit systems in the country.

Thank you for your continued support.

Andy Mutz
RTD Project Manager, Southeast Rail Extension

Fun Facts about the Southeast Rail Extension Project

- Precast concrete girders installed on the I-25 light rail bridge, weigh around 130,000 pounds, which equals to approximately 32 average cars.
- Since May 2016, crews have moved nearly 300,000 cubic yards of dirt on the project, enough to fill 47 football fields with dirt.
- Crews have installed over 37,000 square feet of Mechanically Stabilized Earth wall panels, equal to square footage of approximately 14 average U.S. homes.
Construction Update

Upcoming activities (spring 2017)

- Light rail bridge piers on the south side of Lincoln Avenue, between AMLI RidgeGate and Hampton Inn, have been completed. Lincoln bridge abutment and pier construction on the north side of Lincoln Avenue has begun. Commuters can expect overnight closure of Lincoln Avenue for the Lincoln light rail bridge girder installation in July. We coordinate road closures with the City of Lone Tree to minimize impacts to the traveling public.

- Lone Tree City Center Station construction has commenced. This will be the first platform that is constructed. Overhead Catenary System (OCS) poles, which supply electricity to the trains, are being set.


- The RidgeGate parking garage is scheduled to be completed by early fall. However, it will not be open to the public until the line is completed. The parking garage is being built before the light rail line because the site is designed to serve as a retaining wall for the work behind it. Construction on the Southeast Rail Extension light rail tracks and the RidgeGate Parkway end-of-line station will take place until the line is open in 2019.

- In preparation of the installation of a 81-foot tall structural leaf on Lincoln Avenue Pedestrian Bridge, the City of Lone Tree will be closing Lincoln Avenue in both directions on Friday, July 21 at 8 p.m. and reopening on Monday, July 24 at 5 a.m. Detour routes will be posted at www.cityoflonetree.com.

I-25 Girder Set (continued from page 1)

The I-25 light rail bridge, which rises to a height of more than 50 feet above the ground, required two overnight full closures of I-25 to erect the girders spanning over I-25. Additional daytime girder set operations were required but did not impact traffic.

The girder sets required a significant amount of planning and coordination. But according to Chris Hinton, deputy project manager for construction of the Southeast Rail Extension project, “Now that the girders are in place, the light rail bridge is a visible sign of progress along the line.”

The new Southeast Rail Extension will add 2.3 miles and three new stations to the already popular E, F and R lines. The project extends the line from Lincoln station south to RidgeGate Parkway end-of-line.
Tell Us What You Think

We welcome your comments and suggestions. Please click the following link, or paste it into your browser to take a brief survey (3 questions) regarding your level of satisfaction with the communications you receive from our project. We welcome your suggestions on how we can serve you better.

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SLT29FW

Thank you,
Southeast Rail Extension Public Relations Team

Did you know?

Crews poured around 1,100 cubic yards of concrete to form the deck on the RidgeGate light rail bridge. That is enough to fill 440 full-size pickup trucks.

Photo (left): Crews pour the deck for the RidgeGate light rail bridge

Get Connected with the Project!

♦ Visit the Southeast Rail Extension website at www.rtd-fastracks.com/se_1
♦ Join our email list for traffic alerts and digital copies of our newsletter delivered to your email at www.fastracks-comments.com/public/comment.aspx?project=se
♦ Call the Southeast Rail Extension Project Hotline at 720-643-2300
♦ Request a presentation on the project for your office or group
♦ Follow RTD Denver on Facebook and Twitter
♦ For more information, contact the RTD Southeast Rail Extension Public Information Office at 303-299-2653 or Pauline.Haberman@rtd-denver.com