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Unwrapped Inverness Drive West Light Rail Pedestrian Bridge opens

More than 400 celebrate the final connection for commuters using Dry Creek/I-25 station

CENTENNIAL, CO --- Surrounded by a sea of orange, the Arapahoe County Board of County Commissioners, along with representatives from Inverness Metropolitan Improvement District, Vallagio, Southeast Business Partnership and more than 400 guests, celebrated the grand opening of the Inverness Drive West Light Rail Pedestrian Bridge Thursday.

The Dixieland band-led inaugural march across the bridge, followed by a ribbon-cutting ceremony, capped off the completion of the final connection for pedestrians and bicyclists accessing the Dry Creek and I-25 light rail station from Vallagio and the South Metro Denver area.

“Bridges are about connections, and certainly this bridge and the two sections that were completed before it, would not be possible without the collaboration of Arapahoe County, local governments and the community,” said Arapahoe County Commissioner Susan Beckman. “Many dedicated and determined people made this bridge possible and it’s our citizens who benefit from that cooperation.”

The \$2.5 million project is jointly funded by Inverness Metropolitan Improvement District, Arapahoe County and the Federal Highway Administration American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds distributed by the Denver Regional Council of Governments.

“This bridge extension is the culmination of a six-year persistent public and private partnership between Arapahoe County, the Inverness Metropolitan Improvement District, RTD, CDOT, the Federal Highway Administration, Vallagio, Amlis and Ballantyne,” said Pat Mulhern, General Manager of Inverness Metropolitan Improvement District. “What it shows you is that together we can build bridges.”

Felsburg, Holt and Ullevig and White Construction Group designed and built the bridge, which spans 171 feet and is 12 feet wide to accommodate both bicyclists and pedestrians. It also includes 12 bicycle racks and its elevator makes the bridge Americans with Disabilities Act accessible.

The bridge links the Dry Creek Light Rail Station to Vallagio at Inverness, a popular, successful and forward-thinking Transit Oriented Development. Its location provides an ideal link to major employment centers and encourages pedestrian, bicycle and light rail use.

“The opening of the new pedestrian bridge is going to give more people a chance to experience Vallagio and pinpoint it as a place where they can go and discover a unique energy and vibe that will get their juices flowing,” said Peter Kudla, the visionary force and developer of Vallagio. “We’re the metro area’s Mid-Town, and we’ve achieved that moniker by being more creative and reaching for ideas that go beyond the norm. People will like what they find here.”

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Media note: photos of the ceremony and the bridge are available on our FTP server by visiting <http://bit.ly/InvernessWestbridge>.

Photo Cutlines:

IDWbridge_grandopening_Oct212010 and IDWbridge_ribboncutting_Oct212010

Surrounded by a sea of orange scarves, Arapahoe County Commissioners and representatives from Vallagio at Inverness and the Inverness Metropolitan Improvement District were joined by more than 400 guests to celebrate the grand opening of the Inverness Drive West Pedestrian Bridge Oct. 21.

Pictured: Arapahoe County Commissioner and Board Chairman Rod Bockenfeld; John Woodward, President of Inverness Metropolitan Improvement District; Arapahoe County Commissioner Frank Weddig, Peter Kudla, CEO of Metropolitan Homes and developer of Vallagio at Inverness; Pat Mulhern, General Manager of Inverness Metropolitan Improvement District; and Arapahoe County Commissioner Susan Beckman.

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The Inverness West Drive Pedestrian Bridge, swathed in orange fabric as part of the Oct. 21 grand opening festivities, links the Dry Creek Light Rail Station to Vallagio at Inverness, a popular, successful and forward-thinking Transit Oriented Development. Its location provides an ideal link to major employment centers and encourages pedestrian, bicycle and light rail use.

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