

Denver Business Journal - March 4, 2010
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DENVER BUSINESS JOURNAL

Thursday, March 4, 2010

Pedestrian Union Gateway Bridge in Denver's Central Platte Valley opens Friday

Denver Business Journal

Another piece of the Central Platte Valley puzzle is now in place.

The Union Gateway Bridge, a pedestrian bridge at 18th Street, has been completed and opens Friday.

The 170-foot-long bridge connects the Riverfront Park residential/commercial development along 18th Street with the Union Station area, which is being redeveloped as a transportation hub for all of metro Denver.

Financing for the bridge's construction came from the **Central Platte Valley Metropolitan District** (CPVMD) through mill levies on valley property owners east of the Consolidated Main Line railroad tracks.

"The bridge is another important piece of ongoing success and visionary development in the valley," Amy Cara, president of the CPBMD, said in a statement. "It signifies the continuing efforts (by the district) to support development with the necessary infrastructure."

The Union Gateway Bridge goes over the Consolidated Main Line, which serves the Union Pacific and Burlington Northern railroads. Before the new bridge, the only bridge spanning the line was the Millennium Bridge that connects the 16th Street Mall pedestrian mall with the Central Platte Valley.

The new bridge's construction team includes Denver-based 68West Engineering Inc., which coordinated the design team and managed construction; Edward Kraemer & Sons Inc. of Castle Rock as general contractor; designer **OZ Architecture** of Denver and Boulder; and Denver's **S.A. Miro Inc.** as structural engineer.

— Paula Moore

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