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The I-70 Scout

# The I-70 Scout

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Searching for news in Watkins, Bennett, Strasburg, Byers, Deer Trail and Agate

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PHOTOS BY STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

Representatives of contractors and municipal and county representatives from Front Range and northeastern Colorado jurisdictions get up-close looks at the new 144th Avenue bridge replacement made up of a prefabricated, modular system.

## AdCo builds unique bridge near Bennett

by **Steven Vetter**  
Managing Editor

**BENNETT** — When the 144th Avenue bridge over Sand Creek north of Bennett is reopened later this fall, it will be the first of its kind in the western United States and one of only a handful of similar structures throughout the country.

The new 60-foot span utilizes state-of-the-art prefabricated modular technology that originated in Australia. The InQuik Bridge system, which has been used in Pennsylvania and Wisconsin, also heavily utilizes a patented steel component called Galvabar, which mimics rebar but is exponentially larger.

According to Steven Noble, Area Manager for InQuik USA, which was purchased by Commercial Metals Company (CMC), the 144th Avenue project entails seven pre-made panels made at a plant in Atlanta that were interwoven together



STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

The 144th Avenue bridge over Sand Creek is ready for concrete in this south-facing image.

er by contracted crews on-site. “Abutments on both sides and five panels adjacent to each other spliced together,” he said during a Sept. 17 on-site demonstration of the technology with officials from Adams County and other jurisdic-

tions across the Front Range and northeastern Colorado. “First time for something like this in Colorado and anywhere west of the Mississippi.”

Installation of the modular sections could have taken 2½ to three

hours total but, in the case of the 144th Bridge, delivery of pieces occurred separately, requiring staging days between putting them together.

The installation of the entire system occurred over a span of six days, minus the weekend.

“About 20 minutes for the west abutment (Sept. 12) to be installed, the first panel took about 40 minutes (Sept. 13), then the two outside panels and, today, the two inside panels,” Noble said, noting that specialized or heavy equipment isn’t required when installing any of the pieces.

Logan Mullaney, InQuik USA President and son of the technology’s inventor, said that the technology has at least a 75-year lifespan and few maintenance requirements, making it a feasible option for areas hit by flooding or other natural disasters, particularly rural regions.

**SEE 144TH AVE BRIDGE  
PAGE 14**

## 'Burg FPD seeks new chief

by **Steven Vetter**  
Managing Editor

**STRASBURG** — While the search for a new Strasburg fire chief has been formally opened, the current man in command is not

leaving the district when he concludes those duties.

“I am not leaving the department,” said Pat Conroy in a Sept. 26 statement, a week after the Stras-

**SEE STRASBURG FPD  
PAGE 14**



STEVEN VETTER/The I-70 Scout

Recent progress on the Strasburg Fire Rescue quarters includes completion of underground plumbing and electrical and construction of a firewall.



ISAAC MANAUGH/The I-70 Scout

Diane Fahey cleans off dust from a lid at the Comanche Crossing Museum in Strasburg Sept. 21. The Aurora Colorado Stake of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, which covers Strasburg and surrounding communities, organized youth for a service project helping the museum prepare for winter.