Description of Field Work Activities

Survey (Ongoing - February)
The Survey team will need access to private property to collect the location parking lots, vaults, drainage structures, building foundations, loading docks, utility lines, and other manmade structures. Access to the interior finished floor(s) is needed briefly to obtain an elevation measurement. Equipment used will include Global Positioning Systems (GPS), automatic levels and elevation rods, and other surveyor related equipment. The use of metal locators, shovels and other hand digging tools may be used on site to uncover property markers. Very minimal disturbance to the exterior of the property may be needed to uncover these markers but will be restored to reasonable conditions after the search. All personnel will be wearing appropriate PPE for the site and will arrive in a vehicle marked with company logos (Merrick & Company or Wilson & Company) and orange safety lights.

Geotech/Environmental Sampling (February - March)
During design of the project, geotechnical and environmental soil samples will be collected using either a truck-or tracked carrier-mounted drilling rig. The rig is usually operated by two people, and oversight will be done by a geologist/engineer and an environmental professional. All personnel will be wearing safety vests, hard hats and other required safety gear.

For context, drilling rigs will be about as large as a milk delivery truck and will be accompanied by one or more pickup trucks. The borings will be drilled with 8-inch outside diameter augers to depths of up to 60 feet. A hammer device will be used periodically during sampling – this will likely be the most noticeable sound. Most borings will be completed over the course of about 2 to 6 hours depending on depth.

Borings along the South Platte River trail will be drilled with a track or truck rig. Borings will generally be located off the edge of the trail pavement pending underground utilities and other access constraints. The drilling crews will mark the limits of the work area with orange cones or other devices. If needed, temporary detours may be used to ensure public trail users maintain a safe distance from the rig. Borings drilled along Ringsby Court will be drilled with a truck rig in the northbound lanes. This will require a temporary lane closure and flagging operation. After the drilling is complete, the holes will be backfilled and the surface restored.

Utility Designating (February - March)
Our utility locating team will be marking underground facilities using radio frequency equipment, paint, and flags. The radiofrequency equipment must be connected to the utility directly, in some cases, this will require access to private property to connect the equipment to meters located on the exterior of the building. This operation is done on foot and our personnel will be wearing hard hats, vests, and safety glasses. Our team will arrive in vehicles marked with company logos and flashing lights for safety.

Utility Potholing (March - April) & (October - December)
Utility potholing is also known as hydro-excavation. This operation is performed by spraying water into the ground to loosen the soil and a trailer-mounted vacuum to dig through that loosened soil to safely locate the utility below. The holes will be filled back in with sand and the surface will be restored. The crew will arrive on-site with a truck and trailer marked with company logos, flashing lights and the crew will be wearing safety vests, safety glasses, and hard hats. If any potholes are required in the street a temporary lane closure and flagging operation will accompany the team. If any potholes are required on or near the South Platte River trail temporary detours will be utilized to ensure public safety.

General Site Investigations (February - December)

Various members of the design team will be in the corridor investigating various existing features from time to time. These team members will usually use neighboring streets for parking passenger vehicles (cars or trucks) and will wear orange or yellow safety vests with company logos. They will travel the corridor by foot or passenger vehicle via the trail or public roads. They will be taking pictures and using small hand tools to investigate drainage structures, floodwalls, and other features related to the levee system. There may be times when private property access may be required in order to investigate utility lines or other manmade features that are relevant to the levee system.