



Woodmen Road Corridor Improvement Project – Phase 1

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**Contacts: Cheryl Everitt
(719) 332-2944 (c)
(719) 302-6740 (o)**

or

**Sue Skiffington-Blumberg
(719) 385-5254**

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Academy Boulevard Excavation Begins

Beginning at 8 p.m. on July 16, 2010, and continuing through July 30, 2010, construction of the final preparation and grading “fast-track” work will occur to install permanent asphalt on Academy Boulevard just north of York Road and the area just south of Shrider Road. Academy Boulevard is being repaved and lowered slightly in these areas to accommodate the transportation improvements being completed as part of the Woodmen Road Corridor Improvement Project. This is a very challenging task to accomplish while maintaining traffic in these narrow portions of Academy Boulevard. As a result, this effort will be “fast-tracked” and conducted at night to minimize the inconvenience to drivers during this construction work.

The work will start on the south section of Academy Boulevard, between York Road and the Woodmen Valley Shopping Center (King Soopers) access. Upon completion of this south section, work will move to the north end of the project on Academy Boulevard between the intersection with Woodmen Road and Shrider Road. All of this work is scheduled to be complete around July 30, 2010. Work in both sections will require **nighttime** (8 p.m. to 6 a.m.) lane shifts and closures for grading and asphalt application until the final alignment is complete. During this work, Academy Boulevard will be reduced to one lane of travel in each direction between about 9:00 in the evening and 6:00 in the morning. All through lanes will be reopened each morning by 6 a.m. to accommodate commuter traffic. The reopening time may be extended slightly during the weekend days. The challenges that drivers will face have been minimized to the degree possible for this work.

The City and contractor are in agreement that this plan is the best available for this difficult construction and traffic management effort.

Access to all the businesses will be maintained during the construction. There are a few changes to the accesses:

- The left turn lane from southbound Academy Boulevard to Brookwood Drive; and the northbound left turn lane into the Woodmen Valley Shopping Center (King Soopers) will be continuously closed until the fast-track work is completed.
- Access to both Brookwood Drive, from southbound Academy Boulevard, and to the Woodmen Valley Shopping Center from northbound Academy Boulevard will be from York Road and the new Earl Drive.
- The Academy Boulevard entrance to the Villages at Woodmen will be closed at night and residents must use Olga Willson Way. (See map attached).
- All other existing access points will continue to be open during this construction effort.
- Please note there will not be any through access from Brookwood Drive or York Road to Woodmen Road. For the safety of the residents please do not attempt to travel through these residential neighborhoods.

Dan Krueger, the city's project manager, explained, "The fast track work we've planned on Academy Boulevard has the goal of minimizing the inconvenience of the construction effort on travelling public by making it happen over a shorter overall time frame. Lowering Academy Boulevard is a major undertaking and we believe that doing it as quickly as possible and at night will alleviate the congestion caused by these needed lane closures."

This work is dependent upon weather and resource availability which may require changes to the planned schedule for this work effort. If significant changes become necessary, additional information will be released.

For the safety of everyone in the work zone, drivers are reminded to slow down, as the posted speed limit is 30 mph in this construction area.

The Phase 1 Construction Project (Campus Drive to Stinson Road) will widen Woodmen Road to six lanes and build a grade-separated interchange at Woodmen Road and Academy Boulevard. Construction of these improvements is the first step to reduce congestion along Woodmen Road. The project started in September 2009 and is anticipated to be completed by September 2011.

For the latest updates on Woodmen Road construction and to sign up for the latest news by e-mail, please log on to www.woodmenroad.com. For general questions regarding the City PPRTA projects, contact Sue Skiffington-Blumberg (719) 385-5254.

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