



Woodmen Road Corridor Improvement Project – Phase 1

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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TURNING MOVEMENTS REOPEN: Woodmen & Academy Interchange

The Woodmen Road Corridor Improvement Project-Phase One will complete the 14-day turning closures on schedule. Beginning on Thursday, April 7th, 2011, at 8 p.m., the process of re-opening the closed turning movements will start. By early Friday morning, April 8th, this work will be completed and access from southbound Academy Blvd. to both directions of Woodmen Road; and both directions of Woodmen Road to northbound Academy Blvd. will open. The opening of these turning movements is the culmination of the planned 14-day turning- movement closure that began March 25, which was initially schedule to be completed April 8. With this work complete, all turning movements will re-open and all permanent business access locations are open in their final locations.

- Traffic signals on the bridge will control turning movements to/from Woodmen Road and Academy Blvd.
- Access to the Woodmen Commons Shopping Center near Mimi's opens ONLY from the new ramp from Woodmen Road to northbound Academy Blvd . Northbound Academy Blvd. traffic will need to use Shrider Rd. or eastbound Woodmen Rd. to access Woodmen Commons Shopping Center.
- Construction will continue towards project completion. For the next few weeks Academy Blvd. will remain reduced to two lanes in each direction from Shrider Road to York Road to complete work on retaining walls, barrier and medians.

Drivers are reminded to slow down (posted speed limit is 30 mph in this construction area), watch for signs along the new alignment, and exercise caution.

Dan Krueger, the City's project manager, explained "this 14-day closure period is the last major hurdle for the project to accomplish. The entire project team worked tirelessly from the start of this 24/7 operation to push it to completion. It was very impressive to see the amount of work that was accomplished in such a short period of time. The City appreciates the contractor's, Edward Kraemer and Sons, Inc., commitment to minimizing the impacts to the local businesses, residents, and the traveling public. We appreciate everyone's patience and understanding to date and are looking forward as this project begins to take final shape."

With the final turning movements opened, the bulk of the remaining construction activities include installation of curb/gutter and medians, landscaping, and final asphalt paving. Minor traffic shifts will occur to accommodate this work.

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 of Woodmen Road construction and to sign up for the latest news by e-mail, please log on to www.woodmenroad.com. The web site also has an FAQ on suggested detour routes to popular North Academy Boulevard destinations. For general questions regarding the City PPRTA projects, contact Mary Scott (719) 385-5248.

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MEDIA OPPORTUNITIES

Dan Krueger, the City Project Manager, will be available for interviews on Friday, April 8th, at the project office: 6755 Earl Drive, Suite 202, Colorado Springs from 12:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. Please schedule a meeting time in advance with Chad Dubs (303-356-3372) and check in at the project office prior to visiting the construction site. Photo opportunities will be made available, but we need to ensure your safety in the construction zone.