



MEDIA Release

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DRCOG BOARD SELECTS TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS TO RECEIVE ECONOMIC RECOVERY FUNDS Board shows support for FasTracks

The Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) Board of Directors approved 13 projects in the Denver region to receive approximately \$60 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding. The Board took the action at a special March 4 meeting.

On the ARRA list are projects ranging from interchange reconstructions to Denver Union Station to bicycle and pedestrian projects. About 45 percent of the funds awarded are expected to be underway in as soon as 120 days.

(Please see attached project list)

The ARRA projects selected by the Board build on and enhance the region's multimodal transportation system and continue the Board's support for the buildout of FasTracks. Last summer, DRCOG doubled its funding commitment in principle to FasTracks corridors from \$60 million to \$120 million. Over the 2012-2019 time period, about 25 percent of the federal funds available to DRCOG will be directed to FasTracks.

"The DRCOG Board's consensus on the region's priority projects for American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding reflects its commitment to helping the economy and our region's transportation mobility," said Board Chair Ed Peterson, Lakewood council member. "Our transportation system is the backbone of our economy, moving people, goods and freight, while creating jobs

and attracting businesses to the region. This is a good investment in our region's future."

"Through their action on the recovery funds last night, the DRCOG Board had two great accomplishments," said DRCOG Executive Director Jennifer Schaufele. "The Board selected regional projects that will stimulate the economy and reaffirmed its support for FasTracks."

The recovery funds came to DRCOG to distribute as the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the greater Denver region. In that role, DRCOG works with local governments, the Colorado Department of Transportation and the Regional Transportation District (RTD) to cooperatively determine the region's funding priorities and to direct federal transportation funds to these priority projects. The region does this through its Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and, if ARRA-funded projects were not already in the TIP, the Board's action amended the TIP to include them.

DRCOG also approved regional projects that CDOT will implement with ARRA funds. Later this month, the Board will consider RTD's projects.

The Board held a series of special and regular meetings, and a public hearing, leading up to the selection of projects.

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Denver Region Projects Approved for American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Funding

Funds came to the Denver region from ARRA in two funding categories. This list shows the projects selected to receive funds in each category by the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) Board of Directors on March 4, 2009.

Surface Transportation Program (STP) Funding Category (Funds available = \$55.9 million)

STP is a federal funding category – funds may be used for a variety of purposes, including roadway construction, reconstruction, resurfacing, restoration and rehabilitation; roadway operational improvements; capital costs for transit projects; highway and transit safety improvement; bicycle and pedestrian facilities; scenic and historical transportation facilities and preservation of abandoned transportation corridors.

Pecos Grade Separation (grade-separate Pecos: 60th to Union Pacific Railroad) = **\$10 million**
Project sponsor: Adams County

New I-225 Interchange at 17th (construct Phase 2 of a new interchange at 17th) = **\$11.3 million**
Project sponsor: City of Aurora

US-36: 120th Avenue Connection (Phase 3 of project, connecting SH-128 over US-36) = **\$4 million**
Project sponsor: City and County of Broomfield

I-70: Central Park Boulevard Interchange Reconstruction (reconstruct Havana interchange, including new interstate access between Havana and Quebec at the new Central Park Boulevard) = **\$12 million**
Project sponsor: City and County of Denver

Denver Union Station (intermodal renovations) = **\$18.6 million**
Project sponsor: RTD

Enhancement Funding Category (Funds available = \$4.7 million)

Enhancement is a federal funding category for activities that increase the benefits of a transportation project. Examples include pedestrian or bicycle facilities, landscaping or other scenic beautification projects, historic preservation, control and removal of outdoor advertising, archaeological planning and research, and mitigation of water pollution due to highway runoff.

Dry Creek Bicycle / Pedestrian Bridge Extension (construct bicycle/pedestrian bridge crossing Inverness Drive West south of Dry Creek Road) = **\$1.4 million**
Project sponsor: Arapahoe County

Roadway reconstruction: Main Street, from 3rd to 5th – Highway 36/66 (streetscape enhancements and reconstruction, including paving, curbs and gutters, landscaping and pedestrian amenities) = **\$570,000**
Project sponsor: Town of Lyons

Highway 119/72: Eldora Road to 2nd Street (add sidewalks and connect to RTD parking) = **\$325,000**
Project sponsor: Town of Nederland

West 86th Parkway Bike Lanes (complete missing length of attached bicycle lane on south side of road from Queen Street to West 88th Avenue) = **\$300,000**

Project sponsor: City of Arvada

ADA Pedestrian Access Improvements (install pedestrian access ramps to meet ADA design guidelines within two zones in the city) = **\$825,000**

Project sponsor: City of Boulder

Bikeway Mobility Enhancements (install new signs and lane markings to complete existing bike routes on various street locations) = **\$250,000**

Project sponsor: City and County of Denver

US-36 Trail: Bradburn Boulevard from 73rd Avenue to Turnpike Drive (upgrade existing 4-foot sidewalk by replacing with 8-foot-wide detached concrete sidewalk) = **\$300,000**

Project sponsor: City of Westminster

Leon A. Wurl Parkway Bike Lanes (addition of paved bike lanes on north and south sides of Leon A. Wurl Parkway, from Bonanza Drive east to I-25 interchange) = **\$733,000**

Project sponsor: Town of Erie