



# Woodmen Road Corridor Improvement Project

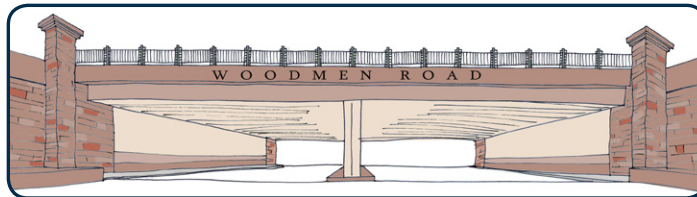


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## Woodmen Contractor Selected

Edward Kraemer and Sons, Inc. from Castle Rock, Colorado has been selected by the City of Colorado Springs following the City’s Best Value procurement process. They will be underway with construction following contract negotiations and concurrence from the Pikes Peak Rural Transportation Authority (PPRTA), The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT). The City anticipates that construction will begin mid-September.

of the work will inevitably shift to keep the project moving forward. For example, if material deliveries are delayed or weather interferes with scheduled work, Kraemer and Sons will adapt and continue their construction work where they can until these conditions change. This flexibility is critical to keeping the aggressive schedule.



Kraemer and Sons, founded in 1911, is a heavy civil general contractor with extensive experience in bridge and roadway construction. Colorado front range projects include the Powers Boulevard and Woodmen Road bridge in Colorado Springs as well as the I-25 & Broadway Viaduct, Speer Boulevard Viaduct, and Millennium Pedestrian Bridge projects in Denver.

Near-term upcoming construction activities will be posted on the web site as well as construction alerts regarding lane closures and other activities. The City is requiring the contractor to keep two lanes open in each direction on Woodmen and three lanes open in each direction on Academy Boulevard throughout the project with some short-term exceptions at night or during non-peak traffic times.

Kraemer and Sons’ proposal for Phase I demonstrated an aggressive and responsible schedule as well as a thorough understanding of the need to work closely with neighbors, commuters, and businesses during construction. The contractor has committed to maintaining the best possible local access to the retail establishments and residences affected by the project.

This first phase of the Woodmen Road Corridor Improvement Project has been a long time coming. The City continues to emphasize high quality, safety, and meeting the construction schedule. A Construction Launch – Public Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 23rd at Jenkins Middle School (see article on page 4). The City, URS, and the construction project team will have exhibits showing specific plans and schedules. There will also be a short presentation to explain construction details and answer questions. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend this public meeting.

The City is working with Kraemer to detail the construction process and phasing. Because construction is a complex and dynamic process, portions



**SIGN UP FOR CONSTRUCTION UPDATES**

Please sign up on the website if you wish to receive construction updates.

[www.woodmenroad.com](http://www.woodmenroad.com)

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**GOAL: TO MEET THE SCHEDULE WHILE ENSURING SAFETY AND QUALITY**

## Construction to Begin

Construction is slated to begin on the Woodmen Road Improvement Project, Phase I in mid-September. Although the construction timeline is two years, that includes utility relocation, landscaping, and other time periods when the work is off of the main road. Also, remember



*Sketch of pedestrian area in the Woodmen Academy Interchange, based on aesthetics committee input.*

that the roadway section for this phase is about one and one-half miles long, so construction, and its associated disruption, will occur along this length over time and will not be in one place for two years.

The City and the contractor are committed to working with the public, the neighbors, and the businesses to keep people informed of construction activity, access changes, and lane changes. The project web site, [www.woodmenroad.com](http://www.woodmenroad.com), will continue to be the source of the latest information as well as project overview information. Please remember that details of the anticipated schedule may change because of new information, delayed material deliveries, safety issues, or opportunities to keep or improve the schedule that may arise. These changes will also be reported on the web site.

Once construction is underway, we will publish an information telephone number for any questions that you may have. The information line will ask you to leave your question and contact number. The construction team will get back with you within 24 hours - and often sooner. We know that construction can cause inconvenience and the City's goal is to minimize that inconvenience. That is why there will be two lanes in each direction on Woodmen and three lanes on Academy open throughout the project. So, stay in touch and stay informed.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **What happens if the construction company does not keep to the schedule?**

Kraemer and Sons Construction has a strong history of completing projects on or before the projected date of completion. The City has significant financial penalties in place as part of its contract should the construction end deadline not be met. It will be to everyone's benefit to get it done on or before schedule and we anticipate that this will happen.

### **The local paper said that the plan is to keep two lanes of Woodmen Road and three lanes of Academy Boulevard open in each direction. Is that realistic?**

Construction occurs in predetermined steps that will make it realistic to have essentially the same number of lanes open as are out there today. The orange cones and construction activity is likely to cause traffic to go slower, but the roadway capacity will be the same. For limited times, during the building of the interchange, turning movements from southbound Academy to westbound Woodmen west may be closed. The contractor will minimize this inconvenience to the degree possible.

# Keeping You Informed

Throughout the Woodmen Road Improvement Project process, the City has had the privilege of working with dedicated citizens representing the interests of their neighborhoods and businesses. Hundreds of people have attended Workshops, the Public Hearings, and smaller group gatherings to discuss the issues and how to resolve them. During these meetings with both groups and individuals, valuable ideas and creative thinking has led to a better project. Although not everyone always agrees, together we have come a long way, and the design has changed to incorporate and reflect many of the ideas surfaced during these discussions. The City of Colorado Springs is a better place because of the dedication of these people to their neighborhoods.

The City is determined to continue this tradition and expand it as construction begins. New challenges will inevitably arise and we want to expand our efforts to keep people informed of changing conditions, roadway work, upcoming construction activities, and access changes so that surprises will be minimized. This will take additional effort and require more people – people directly involved with the construction.

**THE CITY WANTS YOU TO KNOW WHAT IS GOING ON WITH CONSTRUCTION**



Cheryl Everitt



Chad Dubbs

Cheryl Everitt and Chad Dubbs, both of the Kraemer Team, will take on this task. Cheryl, an expert in communications, public involvement, and strategic planning, has deep experience and has recently finished a similar task on El Paso County’s portion of the Woodmen Road improvements. Cheryl is keenly aware of the impacts of construction and will keep people informed through the web, newspapers, a hot line, newsletters, signage, and meeting with neighbors, businesses, and property owners.

Chad Dubbs, a Project Engineer, will be the conduit between the construction team and the public. He will have the responsibility of ensuring that information on upcoming construction activities is forthcoming and available to those who depend on accurate information. Cheryl and Chad will become familiar faces on the Woodmen Road corridor and are enthusiastic, practical, and experienced. They will join the ranks of those who have worked with you for the last several years to manage the information that you need. When you see them, introduce yourself and become part of making the construction run as smoothly as it can.

## SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESSES

The businesses along Woodmen Road and those at the Woodmen/Academy intersection are important assets to the neighborhoods that count on them. In fact, throughout both the environmental and design processes, the businesses and neighborhoods have been strong partners in working with the City and its consultants. The City will continue that strong partnership throughout construction.

There is no doubt that construction activity will cause disruption. It is not possible to widen the road and add an interchange without it. Once completed, the City believes the roadway and access improvements will significantly improve the traffic congestion and delay problems that occur now – a big benefit to the businesses.

In the meantime, during construction, we encourage the neighbors and others who depend on the convenience of these businesses to continue their patronage and support local businesses. Especially in these economic times, businesses, retail shops, restaurants, and neighborhood stores will appreciate your loyalty.



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## Construction Launch – Public Meeting

As construction for the Woodmen Road project begins, the City will host a public meeting. This Construction Launch will be held:

**Date:** September 23, 2009  
**Time:** 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. (Presentation at 6:00 p.m.)  
**Place:** Jenkins Middle School  
6410 Austin Bluffs Parkway, Colorado Springs

The primary focus of the meeting will be to introduce the contractor and their schedule. As with our past meetings, we will have a number of stations that focus on topics like construction steps, noise, and public communications. Each station will be staffed so that your questions can be answered. We will also have a video of the project, which is very informative about how the project will look all the way along its length from Campus to Stinson Drive.

At 6:00 there will be a brief presentation to explain the construction schedule, steps, and communication.

Please plan to attend this important meeting and make sure to sign up for construction information on [www.woodmenroad.com](http://www.woodmenroad.com).

### City of Colorado Springs

Dan Krueger  
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Colorado Springs, CO 80903

### Project Hotline:

(719) 268-7428

### Project Website:

[www.woodmenroad.com](http://www.woodmenroad.com)

### Project E-mail:

[ProjectTeam@woodmenroad.com](mailto:ProjectTeam@woodmenroad.com)

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