



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
September 18, 2009**

**Contacts: Sue Skiffington-Blumberg
(719) 385-5254
Sara Jane MacLennan
(719) 268-7421**

Woodmen Road Corridor Improvement Project Phase 1 Construction Groundbreaking

Phase I of the Woodmen Road Improvement Project, from Campus Drive to Stinson Road, broke ground on Friday, September 18 at the northeast corner of Woodmen Road and Academy Boulevard with Mayor Rivera directing the equipment operator by saying “shovel ready – break ground!”

The groundbreaking ceremony was attended by State, County, and City officials who talked about the importance of this corridor to the overall regional transportation network and east/west mobility in this rapidly growing area of the City.

The City of Colorado Springs has received \$35 million in funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The Pikes Peak Rural Transportation Authority (PPRTA) was able to secure federal assistance for the Woodmen Road project because it was “shovel ready.” The balance of the funding will come from PPRTA.

The project will add a traffic lane in each direction to Woodmen Road, bicycle lanes and sidewalks, and create an interchange at Woodmen Road and Academy Boulevard. The City’s Phase II portion from Stinson Road to Powers Boulevard is expected to begin design in the next several months. El Paso County has already completed its portion of Woodmen Road improvements from the Powers Boulevard interchange east to US 24.

“The Woodmen Road project’s construction represents a significant shot in the arm for our local economy and puts many people to work,” said Mayor Rivera. Construction is expected to last approximately two years. However, many of the construction activities, such as some utility work and landscaping, will not interfere with traffic.”

Mayor Rivera thanked the citizens who worked long and hard on this project with the City. “We worked closely with neighborhood and business representatives who served on an aesthetics committee that developed an attractive and practical plan for landscaping, retaining and sound wall design, and bridge aesthetics. We look forward to implementing this long awaited project.”

During construction there will be two lanes open in each direction on Woodmen Road, and three lanes open in each direction on Academy Boulevard. One of the construction goals is to keep the traffic flowing and maintain access to the businesses.

Cam McNair, Colorado Springs City Engineer said, “We know that there is nervousness about this project from nearby residents and businesses, so we have carefully selected a contractor, Edward Kraemer & Sons, who is sensitive to their needs. Quiet compressors and mufflers will be used on pneumatic tools to reduce noise. Other well-known construction techniques used to lessen disruption, such as lowering equipment buckets before dumping to reduce dust and noise, are an important part of their plan of action.”

To keep up with the progress on Woodmen Road construction, please sign up for e-mail information blasts on the project web site: www.woodmenroad.com



Public officials – El Paso County Commissioner Wayne Williams, Colorado Springs Mayor Lionel Rivera, Vice Mayor and PPRTA Chair Larry Small, El Paso County Commissioner Sallie Clark, CDOT Region 2 Director Tim Harris – attended the Woodmen Road Corridor Improvement Project Groundbreaking on Friday morning.

###