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PRESS RELEASE

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COUNTY ASKS FOR COUNTY ROAD 49 RENAMING SUGGESTIONS

WELD COUNTY, CO – It is a road known by several names among those who drive it – the Keenesburg cut-off, Kersey Road – it is a truck route and a bypass to U.S. 85. No matter what you call it, Weld County Road 49 is a vital transportation corridor between north and south Weld County.

It is a corridor slated for major improvements throughout the next several years, and it is a corridor in need of an official name. That is why Weld County and the communities along WCR 49 are asking for the public's ideas and suggestions regarding renaming the road.

The communities located along the corridor, Kersey, Keenesburg, Hudson and Weld County, have recognized the traffic increase on WCR 49 over the past decade and have initiated discussions through the WCR 49 Access Control Plan Technical Advisory Committee. The group meets monthly to discuss not only the present-day safety concerns regarding the road but also the future use and look of the road as it will continue to serve as a major corridor in Weld County.

The Weld County Transportation Plan identifies WCR 49 as becoming a four-lane road in the next 20 years, and future alignment studies show the road extending both south of I-76 and north of US 34 to Highway 14.

In addition to the 2035 Transportation Plan, Weld County's five-year Capital Improvement Program identifies three construction projects along the corridor: first, currently under construction is the realignment of the WCR 54 intersection which is anticipated to be completed this summer; second, Weld County received Hazard Elimination grant funds to improve the off-set intersection of WCR 44 in 2013; and third, to be designed in 2013 and constructed in 2014, will be the intersection improvement of WCR 22. All of these intersection improvements include the addition of turn lanes on WCR 49.

These scheduled improvements will greatly impact Weld County and the surrounding communities along the WCR 49 corridor. Naming the road will not only identify the corridor but also unite the communities located along the corridor. Energy Parkway? Dairy Lane? Let us know what name you think best reflects the future of WCR 49. Share your thoughts on a new corridor name and what the corridor means to you and your community by sending your ideas via email to jfinch@co.weld.co.us. (please put WCR49 in the subject line) or mail your suggestion to: Jennifer Finch, 1150 O Street, PO Box 758, Greeley, CO, 80632-0758. Deadline for suggestions is August 31, 2012.

The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) is made of staff from all four communities. The Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) consists of the following elected officials: Barbara Kirkmeyer, Weld County Commissioner; Neal Pontius, Hudson Mayor; Danny Kipp, Keenesburg Mayor; Jay Pier, Kersey Trustee; Coralie Slusher, Kersey Trustee. The groups meet monthly to work on developing the plan. The first set of open houses was held on March 28th and April 4th to introduce the access management concept for community input and feedback. Future dates of open houses will be posted on Weld County's website. The 49 Access Control Plan Committee hopes to have a draft document by the end of 2012.

If you would like more information on current Public Works projects, please contact Elizabeth Relford at 304-6496 ext. 3748 or Janet Carter at 304-6496 ext. 3729.

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