



OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Phone: 970-336-7204 Fax: 970-352-0242
1150 O St., P.O. Box 758, Greeley, CO 80632

NEWS RELEASE

Date: 1/7/15

Contact: Jennifer Finch, 970-336-7203

WELD COUNTY RECEIVES \$2 MILLION FROM ENERGY AND MINERAL IMPACT GRANT FUNDS

WELD COUNTY, CO - The Board of Weld County Commissioners received a letter announcing that the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) awarded the county a \$2 million grant to be used to help fund the county's Haul Route Program (HARP).

HARP is designed to improve roads impacted by the oil and gas industry's heavy hauling on county roads. Employees with the county's Public Works department work closely with the energy industry to identify roads the industry is needing for oil exploration and use. Together, they designate appropriate routes for the haul trucks, identify roads in need of repairs due to heavy use by haul trucks and address safety issues along those roads.

Earlier this year, the county applied for an Energy and Mineral Impact Assistance Grant from the state; the funds of which come from state severance tax proceeds. Commissioner Barbara Kirkmeyer made the presentation to the Energy and Mineral Impact Advisory Committee in Sterling last November. She presented Weld's application to the committee specifically addressing needed reconstruction of nine miles of roads including four miles of WCR 32 and five miles of WCR 39 in order to support heavy truck traffic from the oil and gas industry.

According to the letter from DOLA, "Your project was reviewed based on a variety of factors such as its connection to energy impact, degree of need, measurable outcomes, amount of request, relationship to community goals, level of local match and community support, management capacity and readiness to go."

"We are very happy to receive these funds," said Commissioner Chair Barbara Kirkmeyer. "As the number one producer of oil and gas in the state, it is good for these funds to come back to Weld County and help us mitigate the wear on our roads due to oil and gas activity."

Each year, the county sets aside funds specifically for HARP in order to maintain upkeep on county roads. With energy exploration in both the north and south ends of the county and approximately 3,000 miles of county roads to maintain, the Board of Commissioners has put a priority on ensuring all available funding for road maintenance is captured and used for road upkeep and maintenance.

"It is important for the public to know that much of the funding for the HARP program actually comes from the energy industry itself in the form of the property tax revenue they pay to the county," said Commissioner Sean Conway, department coordinator for Public Works. "That's good news for county residents."

###