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NEWS RELEASE

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WELD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS APPROVE PARKWAY ACCESS CONTROL PLAN

WELD COUNTY, CO – This month, the Weld County Board of Commissioners approved the Weld County Parkway Access Control Plan (ACP) from the Department of Public Works. The goal of the ACP is to safely and efficiently move people and goods along the roadway as well as to preserve the functional integrity of the parkway in terms of safety, capacity and mobility.

The parkway is classified as an arterial road, which means the road will be a high-speed, limited-access roadway that will carry large volumes of traffic. Therefore, it is critical to have limited access points to provide a safe roadway for the traveling public.

“The Access Control Plan is crucial for maintaining safety on the road by separating access points so that turning and crossing movements occur at fewer locations,” said Commissioner Sean Conway, coordinator for the Department of Public Works. “This allows drivers passing through an area to predict where other drivers will turn and cross, and also provides space to add turn lanes.”

The following policies were established for the development of the Weld County Parkway Access Control Plan:

1. Access onto the parkway shall be restricted to those access points installed on the parkway, which are identified in the ACP. No new accesses will be permitted.
2. Use of existing accesses shall be restricted to the current use category identified in the ACP. Change of use of property or access adjacent to the parkway will result in the existing access being closed and traffic re-routed to the secondary road network.
3. Future development shall obtain access from the secondary roadway network and not the parkway.
4. Regardless of jurisdiction, in order to preserve the functionality of the parkway as a truck route, there shall continue to be no load limits on the parkway.
5. The county and municipalities shall work to develop an intergovernmental agreement addressing annexations, floodplain development, road maintenance and any other issues along the parkway.

“Public Works is excited about the Parkway Access Control Plan, which was an extension of the same goals and policies established for the WCR 49 Access Control Plan,” said Elizabeth Relford, Weld County Transportation Manager. “We look forward to continuing these safety planning efforts with the development of the WCR 47 Access Control Plan in 2016.”

In order to maintain a safe roadway, Public Works met with landowners and the energy industry to determine 17 access points for agricultural or field access, oil and gas access, mixed-use access and allowed one pre-existing residential access on the Weld County Parkway.

For more information about the Parkway visit, www.weldgov.com.

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