



## 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: 5/7/15

Contact: Jennifer Finch, 970-336-7203

### **\$9 MILLION GRANT RECEIVED FROM ENERGY AND MINERAL IMPACT FUNDS**

WELD COUNTY, CO – Weld County received a \$9 million grant from the Colorado Department of Local Affairs' Energy and Mineral Impact Assistance Fund for Weld County Road 49 safety improvements. The county was awarded the grant because the request, "directly relates to the energy industry, crosses multiple regional jurisdictions, creates a good environment opportunity by investing dollars upfront, creates potential costs savings and economies of scale and commits Weld County's match of 90% for this \$100 million project."

The grant funds will go toward the widening of lanes and intersections on WCR 49 from I-76 to US 34 to improve safety on the heavily-traveled corridor. Currently, WCR 49 traffic volumes range from 5,205-7,000 vehicles per day, with 30% truck traffic. WCR 49 is a major corridor through the Wattenberg Energy Field, the 7<sup>th</sup> largest energy field in the United States, and companies such as Suncor, Heartland Biogas, Anadarko, Noble Energy and DCP Midstream have facilities along the corridor.

"Weld County is the only county to receive a \$9 million grant from the Energy and Mineral Impact Assistance Fund," said Commissioner Chair Barbara Kirkmeyer. "Usually, counties only receive up to \$2 million at a time, but because of our ability to provide a 90% match, and because the corridor is such a heavily traveled area by the energy industry, we were able to receive more funding at one time."

WCR 49 is not only a straight connection between the Denver metro-area and Weld County but serves also as the only parallel county road to US 85. "With the high volume of truck traffic, as well as the general traveling public, it is a priority to make this road safe for all drivers," said Commissioner Sean Conway, coordinator for the Public Works Department.

To maintain a safe and long-lasting road, Public Works will use concrete to pave instead of asphalt. "Concrete requires less maintenance than asphalt," said Conway. "Concrete will be able to withstand the high volumes of traffic giving it a longer design life than asphalt."

For more information about Weld County Road 49 and to sign up for digital updates visit [www.weldgov.com](http://www.weldgov.com).

###