



For Immediate Release

Contact: Dave Rose
Chief Public Information Officer
Phone: 520-6540 Cell: 337-9239
DaveRose@elpasoco.com

Preconstruction Activities Start Along West Colorado Avenue
Work on the Avenue Action Plan Starts with Utilities Relocation

El Paso County, CO, December 28, 2016 – Preconstruction activities have started for the Westside Avenue Action Plan (WAAP) construction project. Preliminary investigation to confirm utility locations in anticipation of upcoming utility and waterline relocations is now occurring along Colorado Avenue from Ridge Road to the Garden of the Gods RV Resort. Tree removal is scheduled to begin January 9 and flaggers will be on site to direct traffic.

“El Paso County, working with the cities of Colorado Springs and Manitou Springs, Colorado Springs Utilities and Wildcat Construction Company is excited to get the multi-jurisdictional Westside Avenue Action Plan project underway,” said Dennis Barron, El Paso County Project Manager. “Early preconstruction work involves locating and identifying multiple utilities lines that must be moved as well as removal of trees and vegetation to clear the right-of-way for the new road alignment. Most of the trees to be removed are an invasive species along the creek that have pushed out native species,” said Barron.

The \$30 million multi-jurisdictional revitalization and safety enhancement project is funded through the voter-approved Pikes Peak Rural Transportation Authority (PPRTA) and El Paso County. The improvements along a 1.5-mile segment of Manitou Avenue and West Colorado Avenue from 31st Street to the US 24 Interchange will be built by Wildcat Construction, with a completion date of December 2018.

The new three-lane roadway will transform the US 24 business route into a "safe and social" link between the two historic districts of Old Colorado City and Manitou Springs. It will feature a dedicated center turn lane, bicycle lanes, sidewalks, curbs and gutters, storm sewers and attractive street lighting. The Midland Trail will be extended through the corridor and a pedestrian bridge will be built near the Manitou arch. Old water and sanitary sewer lines will be upgrade and electric and communications lines will be moved underground.

About 1,000 feet of Fountain Creek will be rerouted along the north side of West Colorado Avenue/Manitou Avenue to better manage water flows during big rain storms. Two main road intersections, at Ridge Road and at the Columbia Road Bridge/Adams Crossing, will undergo full reconstruction.

For more information, you can contact the project team by email: msprings@PublicInfoTeam.com
Call the project hotline at 719-301-3801, or visit the website: www.westsideplan.com

