



# SOUTHEASTconnections



## Gov. Ritter Signs Faster Transportation Legislation

March 2, 2009 - Gov. Bill Ritter signed into law the FASTER transportation bill, legislation that will save and create thousands of jobs, strengthen Colorado's economy and allow the state to repair unsafe bridges and roadways.

"At its core, the FASTER bill is about two fundamental things: jobs and safety," Gov. Ritter said at a signing ceremony attended by business leaders, local officials and transportation advocates. The ceremony was held near a bridge at Interstate 25 and 84th Avenue that will be repaired thanks to the Funding Advancements for Surface Transportation and Economic Recovery bill.

"With this bill, we'll be able to begin work on the many unsafe bridges and roads all across this state -- work that has been neglected for far too long," Gov. Ritter said. "And at a time when the entire country is suffering from a recession, this legislation will let us save jobs, create jobs and help us get our economy moving again."

The legislation, Senate Bill 09-108, was sponsored by Sen. Dan Gibbs and Rep. Joe Rice. It is expected to generate about \$252 million annually for transportation projects, including improvements to more than 100 structurally deficient and functionally obsolete bridges.

"Today is the day that Colorado's economy gets some gas," said Joe Blake, president of the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce. "Today is the day we begin creating jobs. Today is the day we begin to address the safety of our bridges and roadways. Today is the day we begin to establish a reliable, predictable source of funding, and that is real progress."

The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) says the state has 115 bridges that are 75 years old, highway sections that are 75 to 100 years old and interstate sections that are up to 50 years old.

There are 125 structurally deficient bridges in poor condition. Forty percent of Colorado's roads are in poor condition and one in five needs to be completely reconstructed.

"FASTER will create a framework that will allow us to build for the future," Gov. Ritter said. "Today marks the first step toward a responsible, 21st century funding formula for a modern 21st century transportation system."

For more information visit [www.coloradofaster.com](http://www.coloradofaster.com).  
-Provided by the Office of Gov. Bill Ritter

March 2009

## Access Closures on Arapahoe Rd. Between Colorado Blvd. & Holly St.

As part of the Arapahoe Rd. reconstruction project from Colorado Blvd. to Holly St., access to the Christian Living Communities/Centura Health at Home and the rear entrance to King Soopers from Arapahoe Rd. will be closed starting March 4, 2009.

This closure is expected for two and a half weeks. These closures are necessary to allow crews to replace the roadway surface in this area. During the closures, Christian Living Communities and Centura Health can be accessed from Arapahoe Rd. by using Glencoe St. to Costilla Ave. The detour route will be signed to direct drives.

Trucks should access King Soopers by the main entrance to the Arapahoe Village Shopping Center. The shopping center's main entrance will remain open to all traffic.

Please note the dates of these closure may change due to inclement weather.

For more information about the reconstruction project on Arapahoe Rd. between Colorado Blvd. and Holly St. call 720-475-7122.

*-Provided by the City of Centennial*

## Work Starting Up Again on County Line Rd. Between Colorado Blvd. and University Blvd.

Starting Monday, March 2, activity will resume on County Line Rd. between Colorado Blvd. and University Blvd. and University Blvd. between C-470 and Otero Avenue. Initially work will begin on median and sidewalk construction. This will be followed with landscaping and final asphalt paving. Lane closures on County Line and on University Blvd. will occur daily between 8:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Work will continue through June 2009.

Call the project hotline at 303-562-2018 ext. 357 for more information.

*-Provided by the City of Centennial*



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## May Proposed Service Changes Ok'd by RTD Board

The Regional Transportation District (RTD) faces a \$23 million budget deficit for 2009. In its attempt to combat the growing deficit, RTD Directors voted on February 17, 2009, in favor of the proposed May bus and rail service changes. The approved changes will yield \$4.3 million in savings, which still leaves a \$3.5 million shortfall.

The RTD Directors voted on more than 50 proposed changes. Including:

During peak hours in both the morning and afternoon, RTD will provide a limited number of Route 410 bus trips between the Parker park-n-Ride. The preservation of this service will ensure access-a-Ride service in Parker.

If Douglas County and the City of Parker enter into a cost-sharing agreement with RTD, the city will keep its call-n-Ride service.

Cancelling the 465 bus and modifying the 65 bus service from Ulster and Tufts to the Village at Arapahoe Station.

All proposed service changes passed unanimously, while last minute bids to save both the G Line light rail service and the Route U bus between Pine Junction and the Denver Tech Center were rejected. However, the 285 Coalition presented a strong showing at the meeting with nearly 10 people in attendance.

If the Route U were cancelled, its riders would have to ride a bus to downtown and then take the light rail to the Southeast Corridor. The 285 Coalition offered the RTD Directors a proposal outlining alternatives to the complete discontinuance of the Route U. Cal Marsella, RTD's General Manager asked the Board for latitude while he examined the proposal. The Directors agreed to listen to Cal as long as the bottom dollar does not change.

All service changes will go into effect May 3, 2009.

For more information call RTD at 303-299-6000.

*-Provided by 360 Media*

## Quebec/C-470 Interchange Improvements Awarded

Douglas County competed against nine other projects to receive the Engineering/Construction Management Award from the Colorado Chapter of the American Public Works Association (APWA) for the Quebec Street at C-470 improvements Project. Douglas County, the City of Lone Tree, and the Park Meadows Metropolitan District contributed a total of \$5 million to reduce vehicle delays and congestion at the C-470 and Quebec Street interchange as well as improve pedestrian access and safety.

The project consisted of adding a third northbound lane between Park Meadows Drive and County Line Road, a separated pedestrian bridge on the east side of Quebec, and a continuous auxiliary lane between the C-470 westbound exit ramp and Business Center Drive. Quebec Street was also reconstructed from the C-470 bridge north to County Line Road and minor improvements were made to both C-470 exit ramps.

The Douglas County Public Works Department managed the project in partnership with the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT). The portion of Quebec Street between C-470 and County Line Road was previously maintained by CDOT, but with the completion of this project Douglas County accepted roadway maintenance responsibilities and ownership of the intersection signals. Accepting ownership and maintenance of the traffic signals helped Douglas County optimize the signal timing and flow of traffic along the Quebec Street corridor.

Project construction took place from March through December 2008. As a separate project, the City of Lone Tree will landscape the raised medians and bridge abutments this spring.

*-Provided by Douglas County*

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