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News Release

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E-470's Road Widening Project Wraps Up Monday; Adds Third Lane between Quincy Ave. and I-70 to Address Increased Traffic Demand

Speeds in Construction Areas Return to 75 MPH, Now Applies to Entire 47-mile Length of E-470

Aurora, CO – Construction crews are completing the final touches on E-470's Road Widening Project with the new lanes fully open Monday, February 1. The project construction areas stretched along eight miles of E-470 from Quincy Ave to I-70, adding a third lane, expanded bridge structures, new on-off ramps, upgraded signals, improved drainage, new asphalt paving, High Plains Trail work and more.

The \$99 million project was funded entirely by E-470, with no local, state or federal funds, and without increasing toll rates. The project video can be viewed [here](#).

Beginning Monday, travelers will also enjoy 75 mile-per-hour speed limits over the entire 47-mile length of E-470. Speeds had been temporarily reduced in some of the construction areas for safety.

E-470 Authority Board Chair and Adams County Commissioner Chaz Tedesco said, "Completion of this major project once again shows the Authority's commitment to making ongoing investments that maintain E-470's position as the premier tollway. It is no coincidence that just last year we won a Toll Excellence Award from the International Bridge, Tunnel and Turnpike Association (IBTTA) and Tim Stewart was named an IBTTA Honorary Member."

E-470 Executive Director Tim Stewart said, "Continuing to make improvements that directly benefit our partner jurisdictions to proactively address increased traffic demands and enhance safety for the traveling public has been, and remains, a primary goal. Through careful management of our finances and close collaboration with our partners, we have been able to deliver this crucial project in the midst of a global pandemic within budget and without raising tolls."

The primary focus of the project was to add a third lane in both directions of the eight-mile stretch of E-470 between Quincy Ave to just north of I-70. This required adding dozens of girders to expand the 14 bridges spanning that section of the roadway. The construction will allow for the potential addition of a fourth lane at a later date. Through partnership with Arapahoe County and the City of Aurora, northbound Quincy Ave. ramp was relocated to support the Quincy Ave./Gun Club Rd. intersection improvements. In addition, major drainage improvements, signal and signage upgrades, railing enhancements and many other advances were made.

- more -

A few construction highlights include:

- More than 7,200 cubic yards of structural concrete was poured.
- 180,000 tons of asphalt was placed.
- 15 miles of new or reset wildlife fencing was installed along the roadway.
- 800,000 cubic yards of earthwork was completed.

Construction began in the summer of 2019, and has involved the following partners:

- SEMA Construction and Kraemer North America
- Felsburg Holt & Ullevig
- Alfred Benesch & Company
- Arapahoe County
- Arapahoe Parks and Recreation District
- City of Aurora
- Colorado Department of Transportation
- East Metro Trails Working Group
- SARIA
- SEMSWA
- Union Pacific Railroad

As another key part of the project, construction work continues this year on the six-mile High Plains Trail extension, running from Quincy Avenue to Stephen D. Hogan Parkway. Four miles of the 10-foot-wide (plus two 2-foot wide shoulders) bicycle and walking trail extension have been finished, with completion of the remainder of the extension scheduled later this spring. The extension will continue the design of the first segment, which opened in late 2018. Additional tie-in and connectivity for the trail is being explored by local jurisdictions and stakeholders including the Town of Parker, Aurora and Arapahoe County, with the ultimate goal of connecting to the existing Cherry Creek Trail west of Parker Rd.

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About the E-470 Public Highway Authority: E-470 is the 75-mph toll road running along the eastern perimeter of the Denver metropolitan area. E-470 is a user-financed roadway, receiving no local, state or federal funds for financing, construction, operations or maintenance. E-470 is a political sub-division of the state governed by the E-470 Public Highway Authority Board composed of eight local governments including Adams, Arapahoe and Douglas counties, and the municipalities of Aurora, Brighton, Commerce City, Parker and Thornton. E-470 also operates ExpressToll, the all-electronic toll collection system available on E-470, Northwest Parkway and Colorado's Express Lanes.