



Denver Public Works

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Officials Dedicate Central Park Boulevard Interchange at Interstate 70 *Interchange Connects Stapleton Development and Improves Mobility in Area*

DENVER, CO — October 24, 2011 — Denver Mayor Michael B. Hancock, Federal Highway Administrator Victor Mendez, Colorado State Representative Angela Williams, Colorado State Senator Michael Johnston, Manager of Public Works and Better Denver Bond Implementation Manager, George Delaney and others gathered today to unveil the new Central Park Boulevard (CPB) Interchange at Interstate 70.

“The Central Park Boulevard Interchange not only provides better access to Stapleton, but it will also become the gateway into Denver from the east,” said Mayor Hancock.

“The connectivity provided by the interchange will also spark a multiplier effect, encouraging additional development in the area.”

The CPB Interchange, a \$50 million project, includes a bridge for motorists to access both sides of Stapleton with a direct link to the north and south side of I-70. The six lane bridge features twelve foot sidewalks to accommodate all modes of transportation: pedestrian, bicycle and vehicular.

“Investments in Colorado’s infrastructure are critical to growing the state’s economy. Central Park Boulevard will ease access across Interstate 70, help nearby businesses create jobs and support overall economic development in the area,” said Governor John Hickenlooper.

The Interchange also connects CPB to Interstates 70 and 270. These connections will allow for less traffic on I-70 and provide better access to the Stapleton area. Additionally, the new ramps remove vehicles previously traveling to I-270 on I-70, reducing the volume of traffic on I-70 and creating better traffic flow.

“The jobs this project created helped put people to work and bolstered Denver’s economy,” said Federal Highway Administrator Victor Mendez. “In addition, by providing safer access for pedestrians and cyclists, this project will improve the quality of life and reduce fuel consumption for all those who use this interchange.”

The CPB Interchange is part of the Better Denver Bond Program approved by Denver voters in 2007, along with funding from American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and additional funding sources. A project of this magnitude requires a true public and private partnership. Through the collaboration of the Federal Highway Administration, Colorado Department of Transportation, City and County of Denver, SEMA Construction and the community, this new interchange is open weeks prior to the holiday shopping season.

“The success of this project is due to the strong relationship between the federal, state, local and private sectors,” said George Delaney. “Thanks to this partnership, not only will there be better access to Stapleton, but the entire area will thrive.”

Funding Breakdown:

Better Denver Bond Program	\$30 million
Federal Stimulus (ARRA)	\$12 million
Federal Highway Funds	\$8 million
Total	\$50 million

Pedestrian Improvements:

- Twelve foot sidewalks on both sides of Central Park Boulevard Interchange
- Well-lit walkways across the Central Park Boulevard bridge
- Tightly designed ramp intersections at each end of the bridge to best accommodate pedestrian movements through the intersection areas. The intersection design focuses on safety and access for pedestrians and bicyclists, as well as vehicular traffic

Bridge Architecture and Aesthetics:

The new CPB bridge over I-70 forms a gateway for those traveling on I-70 from the east and from Denver International Airport into the City and County of Denver. The bridge includes the following architectural and aesthetic enhancements:

- Bridge monuments and curved site walls which architecturally anchor the structure
- A theme of curved arcs and special pedestrian railings on both sides of the bridge
- Prominent raised metal lettering strongly identifying the bridge as “Central Park Boulevard”
- Nighttime lighting elements accenting the bridge monuments, its abutment site walls, and sweeping arc themes
- Landscaping that adds character and softens the architecture of Central Park Boulevard in the vicinity of the project
- Sustainable landscaping concepts including low maintenance buffalo grasses

Sustainable Aspects of the Project

The project also reflects Denver’s commitment to innovation and environmental leadership:

- The project used existing site soils to create the ramps and terrain, eliminating the need to import 2000 truckloads of material.
- More than 10% of the project materials were manufactured or extracted within 500 miles of the project site, avoiding the emissions of long-range shipping.
- Exterior light pollution is minimized through the use of lower-level lighting rather than high-mast lighting.
- Water efficiency is achieved by irrigation that uses less than 10 gallons per square foot, per season.
- The project used concrete consisting of a flyash cement which reuses waste material, reduces extraction and mining impacts, and has a lower carbon footprint and greater strength than Portland cement alone

The City & County of Denver's \$550M Better Denver Bond Program works to preserve, renovate and create amenities that touch resident's lives – including roads, libraries, parks, recreation centers, public safety, human services, city buildings and cultural facilities. Approved by voters in 2007, the bond program is generating millions of dollars for the economy, preserving and

creating jobs and making Denver a more attractive place to live, work, and invest in the future.
For more information about the Better Denver Bond Program, visit
www.denvergov.org/betterdenver

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MORE:

Separate from the CPB Interchange project are the Central Park Boulevard connections from the interchange north to Northfield Boulevard and south to the new 40th Avenue. Those connections were constructed by the Park Creek Metropolitan District and Forest City using \$20 million in funding provided by the two entities.

South of I-70: The redevelopment of Stapleton has transformed the former international airport into a nationally acclaimed new urban neighborhood complete with parks, schools, and commercial and retail centers, including the Quebec Square regional retail center and the East 29th Avenue Town Center.

North of I-70: The activity centers are developing rapidly as well. Already open are The Shops at Northfield Stapleton, Forest City's 1.2 million square foot "lifestyle retail center". Further to the north are Dick's Sporting Goods Park in Commerce City, the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge Visitors Center and the new Commerce City civic center building highlighting this development.