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Officials Take First Ride on 14th Street *14th Street, Denver's "Ambassador Street," is Now Open*

DENVER, CO — November 17, 2011 – Denver Mayor Michael B. Hancock, City Councilman Albus Brooks, George Delaney, Manager of Public Works and Better Denver Bond Implementation Manager, Tami Door, Downtown Denver Partnership President and CEO, and other officials gathered today to take the “first ride” on 14th Street in Downtown Denver.

“Today we celebrate the completion of the Ambassador Street, which anchors our downtown area,” said Mayor Hancock. “14th Street is a world-class roadway that not only promotes our City’s beauty, but also shows how important multi-modal transportation is to us.”

The improvements on 14th Street make it Denver’s “Ambassador Street”, welcoming visitors to the Downtown area with an enhanced pedestrian experience, improved livability, and opportunities for retail and business. The 14th Street sidewalk and streetscape improvements between Market Street and Colfax Avenue feature bicycle-friendly amenities including a dedicated bike lane and new bike racks.

The streetscape and sidewalk enhancements along 14th Street include the following:

- ◇ Expanded sidewalks with sandblasted accents
- ◇ Dedicated bicycle lane
- ◇ Bulb-outs, which extend the corner sidewalk area at intersections on the south side of the street
- ◇ Improved pedestrian lighting
- ◇ 12 Way-finding monuments
- ◇ 6 pedestrian kiosks
- ◇ 110 bike racks
- ◇ 33 benches, seat walls and custom cut seat elements
- ◇ 166 trees
- ◇ 45 raised granite planters with colorful plantings
- ◇ 6 planter pots, which will be planted with flowers in the spring

“This project has many important elements to it that will enhance bicycle and pedestrian movement in our City,” said George Delaney. “The completion of this project with support from Better Denver Bond funds marks a major achievement for our downtown. Visitors and residents can now enjoy this aesthetically pleasing street in our Mile High City.”

The \$14 million project is funded in part by the voter approved 2007 Better Denver Bond program, which earmarked \$10 million for the project. Property owners along 14th Street contributed the remaining \$4 million for the streetscape project through the creation of the 14th Street General Improvement District.

“We all know that great streetscapes create great places. And that is what we see along 14th Street in Downtown Denver – a great place,” said Tami Door. “A great place that, thanks to the leadership of the Downtown Denver Partnership and Business Improvement District, has undergone many positive changes in the past seven years, changes that inspired the street we see today and changes that will further deliver placed-based economic development. This street will transform the face of Downtown Denver as we continue to enhance the pedestrian experience – a fundamental goal of the Downtown Area Plan. The project we see today exemplifies the success of collaboration, vision and long-term dedication.”

With work beginning in November of 2010, the project took about a year to complete and is home to the Colorado Convention Center, the Denver Performing Arts Complex, and an abundance of hotels, restaurants and residences. Denver Public Works managed the project, with construction by Concrete Works of Colorado, Inc. The project was designed by Parsons Brinckerhoff and StudioINSITE with public outreach coordination during design done by CRL Associates. Additionally, the Downtown Denver Partnership has been a champion of the initiative to make these improvements a reality.

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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