



## NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Contacts

Sara Spaulding  
sspaulding@ci.wheatridge.co.us  
303.324.1711

### **On-Ramp to Westbound I-70 at Clear Creek Drive Opens in Wheat Ridge** *One of four projects funded by the Wheat Ridge 2016 voter-approved 2E Ballot Initiative*

**WHEAT RIDGE, Colo. May 29, 2020** – The City of Wheat Ridge, Longs Peak Metropolitan District (LPMD), along with Evergreen Development, and Mortenson are proud to announce the opening of the newly constructed I-70 westbound on-ramp at Clear Creek Drive. On Saturday, May 30, 2020, westbound I-70 traffic will enter the highway using the new on-ramp from Clear Creek Dr. The existing on-ramp for I-70 westbound at W. 32<sup>nd</sup> Ave. will close. With the opening of the new I-70 westbound on-ramp at Clear Creek Drive and the off-ramp from westbound I-70 that opened last month, construction of the ramp phase at Clear Creek Dr. is complete. The next and final phase of project construction is the fly-over bridge connecting the westbound I-70 on-ramps at Clear Creek Dr. over 32<sup>nd</sup> Ave.

Construction on this highway improvement project has continued as it has been deemed a critical government function under current public health orders. Funding for the on/off ramps was dedicated to the project prior to the start of the pandemic. This new access into and out of the Clear Creek Crossing development from I-70 is one of four projects funded by a ½ cent temporary sales tax increase approved by voters in 2016 for the 2E Ballot Initiative. The 2E funds designated for this project are adding an off-ramp and an on-ramp along westbound I-70, replacing the existing off-ramp at 32<sup>nd</sup> Ave. and improving the existing westbound on-ramp. Construction of infrastructure at Clear Creek Crossing is currently underway as well. Located at the intersection of I-70 and Highway 58, this 110-acre mixed-use development is owned and being developed by [Evergreen Devco](#), a leading national retail and multifamily development company and is anchored by SCL Health on a prominent 26-acre site just west of I-70 and north of 40<sup>th</sup> Ave. [Click here for more on Clear Creek Crossing!](#)

“Completing the access ramp system at Clear Creek Dr. is a huge step forward for Clear Creek Crossing and will also bring improved circulation locally to the Applewood neighborhood and to the City of Wheat Ridge,” said Tyler Carlson, managing principal at Evergreen Devco. “Opening the off-ramp last month allowed traffic to enter Clear Creek Crossing for the first time. With the ramp system fully open, Clear Creek is fully accessible to the public and our vision for developing this high-profile property is beginning to take shape.”

“We continue to be thankful for the support of the Wheat Ridge community who voted for the 2E ballot measure in 2016,” stated Patrick Goff Wheat Ridge city manager. “The ½ cent temporary increase to the City’s sales and use tax rate funded the ramps into Clear Creek Crossing as well as three other projects in Wheat Ridge. This project was made possible through effective partnerships like the one we have with Evergreen Devco which helps to build a thriving business community in our City. With the completion of this critical milestone in the public infrastructure for Clear Creek Crossing, Wheat Ridge and Jefferson County residents who shop, dine, and do business in the area have easier access to the new development as well as Applewood Shopping Center on Youngfield.”

***Investing 4 the Future Projects:***

Planned **improvements to Wadsworth Boulevard** are also scheduled to begin in 2020. The first step was the Environmental Assessment and with public input provided, the final designs are complete. Goals are to improve traffic operations, provide critical pedestrian and bicycle facilities, and help improve the overall look and feel of this major thoroughfare in Wheat Ridge. Plans include reconstruction of the street to a six-lane section with a simple version of a Continuous Flow Intersection (CFI) for the intersections of W. 38<sup>th</sup> and 44<sup>th</sup> Avenues. [For more on the Wadsworth project](#)

At **Wheat Ridge • Ward Station**, 2E funds will help address traffic growth and facilitate redevelopment and economic development opportunities near the new G Line commuter rail station at 52nd Ave. and Ward Rd. Planned improvements include reconstruction of the adjacent streets – 52<sup>nd</sup> Ave., Ridge Rd. and Tabor St.; upgrading a traffic signal at the 52<sup>nd</sup> Ave. and Ward Rd. intersection, a pedestrian bridge over the rail tracks, pedestrian access improvements and other public amenities, and a multi-use trail. [For more information](#) on the Ward Station project

**Improvements to Anderson Park** were completed in 2019 and focused on building a brand new stage/picnic pavilion, new construction for better access to Clear Creek, and upgrades to the Anderson building and outdoor pool which included renovated locker rooms and the lifeguard office, as well as the addition of two private changing rooms. New ballfield lighting, roof replacements, and sidewalks were also part of the plan, and were designed to help keep the park safe and accessible. A new original piece of art by Nancy Lovendahl, “Sweet Grass Dance” was installed in November. [For more project details](#)

For more details, visit <http://www.ci.wheatridge.co.us/1560/Investing-4-The-Future--Projects-Funded->

### **About The City of Wheat Ridge**

The City of Wheat Ridge, located west of Denver with a population of 31,000 residents, is home to a mix of retail/commercial businesses and unique residential neighborhoods. Wheat Ridge is a vibrant community in a prime location, providing easy access to the Denver metro area and to recreation west into the mountains. The City was recently ranked Top Smallest City by the Economic Development Council of Colorado. Info about Wheat Ridge [ci.wheatridge.co.us](http://ci.wheatridge.co.us)

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