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**For release: April 3, 2018**

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## **Arapahoe County Public Works and Development becomes first County in Colorado to earn national accreditation**

LITTLETON, CO --- Arapahoe County's Public Works and Development Department is the first county and the eighth agency in Colorado to receive the prestigious American Public Works Association Accreditation designation. The APWA Accreditation program recognizes public works agencies that go beyond the requirements of the management practices established nationally in the public works industry.

"The awarding of the APWA Accreditation shows we have dedicated ourselves to continuous improvement and excellence," said Public Works and Development Director Dave Schmit. "We are extremely proud to be the first county in Colorado to receive this honor. The heroes of this prestigious APWA award are the public works and development staff whose mission is to provide services and programs that contribute to making Arapahoe County a great place to live and work."

Schmit, with support of the Board of County Commissioners and Public Works staff, voluntarily took on the immense task of earning accreditation, a process that began in 2016. Agencies that achieve this status, and there are only 137 public works agencies throughout the nation that have done so, are committed to improving public works professionalism, performance and services to citizens and customers.

Not only is the department accredited and compliant with 315 practices identified by APWA, it is a leader in the industry with 23 practices considered to be "model" worthy. These exemplary areas of operation are standards recognized to be modeled by other organizations as they strive for excellence and accreditation.

"It is the relentless pursuit of excellence that makes Arapahoe County one of the best in the U.S.," said Commissioner Nancy Jackson, District 4. "I'm beaming with pride, knowing that no matter where you walk or drive in Arapahoe County, our Public Works department has left a positive footprint. We are so proud of all the dedicated staff who provide excellent service and quality of life to our citizens."

The Arapahoe County Public Works and Development department champions innovation and engagement. Learn more about Public Works and Development at <http://www.arapahoegov.com/PublicWorks> or call 720-874-6500.

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