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For release: Feb. 27, 2012

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Iliff Avenue Weekend Closure set for March 9 – 12, weather permitting *Weekend closure helps rush hour traffic for High Line Canal at Iliff Underpass*

Denver, CO --- Iliff Avenue between Parker Road and Quebec Street will be closed 7 p.m., March 9 through 4:30 a.m. March 12 to install the box culvert underpass at the High Line Canal. Only local traffic will be permitted onto Iliff Avenue between Parker and Quebec, and traffic will not be permitted over the High Line Canal during this time.

The weekend closure allows the County to keep two lanes of traffic flowing in each direction through much of the project's duration. The original box culvert installation plan required shrinking Iliff Avenue to a single lane in each direction for 40 days. This would have severely impacted rush hour commutes and so the County searched for a better alternative. Complete closure of Iliff for a weekend significantly reduces rush hour traffic delays and offers less overall impact to drivers over the course of the project.

The purpose of the underpass project is to address the safety concerns of trail users and vehicular traffic at this intersection. Currently, when trail-users on the High Line Canal Trail reach Iliff Avenue, they must compete with traffic to cross the roadway.

"The box culvert installation will signify a major portion towards completion of this project," said Arapahoe County Commissioner Nancy Jackson. "The new trail underpass will allow pedestrians and cyclists to travel under Iliff Avenue, instead of fighting traffic. Traffic flow will be smoother, as motorists will no longer need to stop to accommodate trail users."

This project began Dec. 2011 and is tentatively scheduled for completion early April, pending any weather or unforeseen delays. The project has impacted the neighbors and commuters and the County appreciates their patience as they work as efficiently and effectively as possible to create a transportation system that better serves the entire community.

Arapahoe County partnered with the Colorado Department of Transportation, Denver Water, and the City and County of Denver to hire Lawrence Construction to install the trail underpass that will allow users of the High Line Canal Trail to cross safely under Iliff Avenue in unincorporated Arapahoe County. As part of the project, sidewalks will be extended over the High Line Canal on the south side of Iliff.

Motorists should continue to expect traffic delays and congestion on Iliff Avenue before and after the closure due to additional temporary lane closures or restrictions; alternate routes or travel schedules are advised. The County would like to thank residents for their continued patience and understanding during this time.

For more information visit Arapahoe County's web site at <http://bit.ly/IliffProject>. Sign up to receive weekly e-mail updates by sending your name, address and e-mail address to Iliff.Highline@gmail.com, call 303-419-3301 with any questions and/or follow Arapahoe County on [Twitter](https://twitter.com) for project announcements.

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