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## **Public Names New Regional Trail Along E-470**

*Plans for the new High Plains Trail include neighborhood connector trails; future expansion*

**Aurora, Colo.** – Nearly 2,000 people weighed in and chose *High Plains Trail* as the name for the new trail along the west side of E-470 from Quincy Avenue south to Ireland Way. The High Plains Trail is the first part of a multi-year phased approach to build an east metro regional trail network.

The E-470 Public Highway Authority funded the construction of the 5.5 mile High Plains Trail that opened on December 1, 2017 as part of the \$90 Million Road Widening that added a third lane in each direction between Parker Road and Quincy Avenue. The new trail network will also include five neighborhood trail connections and future expansion of the trail south to the Cherry Creek Trail and north to the Triple Creek Trail.

“We recognize our customers expand beyond the roadway and felt it was important to construct and include a bike and pedestrian trail along the project area,” shares E-470 Executive Director Tim Stewart. “We look forward to additional expansions of this trail system with future road widening and trail system construction in the years ahead.”

Arapahoe County Open Spaces Acquisition and Development funding will pay for the five trail connections that extend beyond the multi-use easement and signage/wayfinding for the new connector trails for a total of \$830,000. The five connector trails include the Copperleaf, Saddle Rock, Ponderosa, Piney Creek, and Liberty Middle School connector trails. The trail connections are expected to be completed by early 2019.

“The High Plains Trail is a tremendous asset to our community and is an important part of the multi-use trail network in the Denver Metropolitan area,” said Commissioner Jeff Baker, District 3. “This is another great project funded by the \$5M pledge Arapahoe County committed from the Open Space Sales and Use Tax to the East Metro Working Group.”

The naming contest was hosted by the East Metro Working Group. The East Metro Working Group consists of elected officials and staff members from Arapahoe County and local jurisdictions as well as special districts and partner agencies. The focus of the group is developing open space, parks, and trail projects in eastern metro communities. Nine name options were presented to the public to vote on. The “Name This Trail” campaign garnered over 440,000 impressions and media coverage.

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E-470 is the 75-mph toll road running along the eastern perimeter of the Denver metropolitan area. The road is financed, constructed, operated and governed by the E-470 Public Highway Authority. E-470 is composed of eight local member governments: Adams, Arapahoe and Douglas Counties, and the municipalities of Aurora, Brighton, Commerce City, Parker and Thornton. For more information, visit <https://www.e-470.com/>.

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