For release: May 8, 2013

Contact:  
ANDREA RASIZER  
Communication Services Director  
Direct: 303-795-4284  
Mobile: 303-882-1909  
E-mail: arasizer@arapahoegov.com

Construction begins May 15 on Arapahoe County Justice Center improvements and delays are expected  
Project will connect Courthouse I and II lobbies and include a centralized entrance

LITTLETON, CO --- On May 15, construction will begin to connect the lobbies of Courthouses I and II at the Arapahoe County Justice Center, 7325 S. Potomac St, Centennial, which will include two security screening stations with a centralized entrance in the middle of the campus.

The grass courtyard between Courthouse I and Courthouse II will be closed during construction and is expected to be closed until January 2014 when construction is completed on the $5.4 million project. The construction will slow down entrance into both courthouses and visitors, jurors and staff are strongly encouraged to allow for extra time to pass through security.

Arapahoe County is connecting the lobbies of both Courthouse I and Courthouse II and expanding the security screening stations at each Courthouse, with a centralized entry to better accommodate jurors, staff and visitors to the Justice Center.

The project also will include adding a four-stop elevator and sally port on the east side of Courthouse II. In addition to the lobby and security screening improvements, work will begin later this spring to improve the employee and visitor parking lots.

The lobbies of both courthouses will be connected with interior space for security wait lines. Once completed, the project will better accommodate the multitude of jurors, visitors, attorneys and staff who visit both courthouses daily. Often, visitors must wait in line outside both buildings to pass through security.

A temporary entrance will be located on the west side of Courthouse I and on the southwest front double door entrance to Courthouse II. Signage will direct visitors to the entrances of both courthouses.

The expansion of the courthouse lobbies and centralized security system was identified as part of a multi-phase project to address the growing needs of the court system. Arapahoe County, like most counties in Colorado and across the nation, is grappling with a shortage of court and jail space. The Justice Center was built in the late 1980s, early 1990s.

Since 2005, Arapahoe County has been working to determine how best to meet the space needs of the courts and jails. In 2009, Arapahoe County completed a $13.8 million expansion that provided 10 additional
courtrooms, one expanded courtroom, a new jury room and improved court efficiency by consolidating most court functions within the Justice Center. The improvements to the Justice Center have been completed without raising taxes.

* * *