



NEWS RELEASE

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CITY OF WHEAT RIDGE D.I.R.T. TASK FORCE TO RECOMMEND TOP TEN PRIORITY PROJECTS TO CITY COUNCIL IN JULY

Wheat Ridge, Colorado—On June 20, 2007, the D.I.R.T. Task Force (**D**rainage, **I**nfrastructure, **R**oads and **T**rails) met to develop a Task Force recommendation which will be made to City Council at a Study Session on Monday, July 16, 2007. In February, Task Force members began meeting to comprehensively evaluate over \$143 million of potential public works and parks infrastructure projects within the community. The Task Force also evaluated approximately \$10 million of land banking and development/redevelopment projects within the community proposed by Wheat Ridge 2020. Over the course of several weeks a total of 26 projects were presented by City staff and evaluated by Task Force members. The projects had been identified through various methods of public input and address many community needs. However, the City does not have the financial resources to design and/or implement all of these projects.

“On behalf of City Council, I want to thank the members of the D.I.R.T. Task Force for all the time and energy that they committed to evaluating these projects, it was certainly not an easy task,” said Mayor Jerry DiTullio.

Task Force members were asked by City Council to rank the projects based on several criteria such as: “Contributes to a Safer Community” and “Enhances Accessibility.” The D.I.R.T. Task Force recommendation is a culmination of those projects that ranked as the highest priorities based on total number of points each project was given as a result of the ranking exercises the Task Force completed.

The Top Ten Priority Projects of the D.I.R.T. Task Force are as follows:

1. *Roadway and Streetscape Project #5: 38th Avenue Streetscape Harlan to Wadsworth, Estimated Cost: \$2,500,000*
2. *Parks, Trails and Recreation Project #1: School Site Upgrades, Estimated Cost: \$1,500,000*
3. *Parks, Trails and Recreation Project #7: Clear Creek Trail Connections and Trailheads, Estimated Cost: \$2,150,000*
4. *Parks, Trails and Recreation Project #8: Anderson, Prospect, Historical Parks; Baugh House; Recreation Center, Estimated Cost: \$31,000,000*
5. *Roadway and Streetscape Project #4: 38th Ave Reconstruction Kipling to Youngfield, Estimated Cost: \$11,500,000*
6. *Land Banking Project #2: 44th and Wadsworth, Estimated Cost: \$3,400,000*

7. *Storm Sewer/Drainage Improvement Project #3: 26th Avenue to 29th Avenue, Sheridan to Fenton, Estimated Cost: \$3,700,000*
8. *Parks, Trails and Recreation Project #2: Park Infrastructure Upgrades, Estimated Cost: \$2,800,000*
9. *Roadway and Streetscape Project #1: Wadsworth Reconstruction 36th Avenue to 46th Avenue, Estimated Cost: \$7,000,000*
10. *Roadway and Streetscape Project #7: 32nd Avenue Reconstruction Wadsworth to Kipling Street, Estimated Cost: \$10,300,000*

The Top Ten Priority Projects being recommended by the D.I.R.T. Task Force are estimated to cost \$75,850,000. Detailed information on the projects listed above, as well as all the projects evaluated, can be found on the City Web site at www.ci.wheatridge.co.us, click on “D.I.R.T. Task Force Information.”

City Council will review and discuss the D.I.R.T. Task Force recommendation and prioritization at the July 16, 2007 Study Session. Following this Study Session, Council will conduct additional review and discussion of all of the 26 prioritized projects. The final prioritization and funding options will be formally approved by City Council in the coming months.

For more information on the D.I.R.T. Task Force, please contact the Office of the Mayor at 303-235-2815 or visit the City Web site at www.ci.wheatridge.co.us

Mayor Jerry DiTullio formed the Task Force in January 2007 in order to get residents involved in planning for the future of Wheat Ridge. The Task Force was represented by City Councilmember Mike Stites, of District 3 who served as Chair of the Task Force. Councilmember Larry Schulz, of District 4 served as Vice-Chair. The Task Force was also represented by Councilmember Terry Womble, District 1 and Councilmember Dean Gokey, District 2. City Treasurer, Mary Cavarra and Rob Osborn, Executive Director of Wheat Ridge 2020 served as Task Force members in addition to 11 Wheat Ridge residents, one of which was a youth representative from Wheat Ridge High School.

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