



50 Lundgren Boulevard | PO Box 130 | Gypsum, CO | 81637

Contact: Matt Figgs
Phone: 970.524.1748
Email: mattf@townofgypsum.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Gypsum Awarded Federal Grant Through U.S. Department of Transportation's Rural and Tribal Assistance Program

Gypsum, Colorado, April 16, 2026 - The Town of Gypsum is proud to announce that it has been selected as a recipient of federal funding through the U.S. Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Rural and Tribal Assistance (RTA) Program for the I-70 Eagle Airport Interchange project. The award was included in USDOT's recent investment package totaling more than \$54 million for rural and Tribal communities across the country.

Earlier this month, Senator Michael Bennet's office released the official federal Notice of Award, confirming that Gypsum will receive \$1,500,829 in FY24 RTA funding to support preliminary engineering and environmental clearance work. *"I'm glad to have secured over \$1.5 million for Gypsum to plan and design the I-70 Eagle Airport Interchange,"* said Senator Bennet. *"This will better connect I-70, Eagle County Regional Airport, and nearby commercial areas, improving safety and integration in western Eagle County."*

The Rural and Tribal Assistance Pilot Program provides early-stage technical support to help rural communities like Gypsum overcome common barriers to federal transportation funding. By offering planning assistance for projects that improve safety, mobility, and critical infrastructure, the program enables small municipalities to prepare stronger applications for future federal investment. Gypsum's I-70 Eagle Airport Interchange project was selected in the RTA Round 2 Awardee List, highlighting the Town's commitment to advancing long-term transportation improvements. Through this support, USDOT aims to strengthen local infrastructure, enhance the movement of people and goods, and promote economic growth in underserved regions.

The I-70 Eagle Airport Interchange is a proposed new interstate connection at approximately milepost 143 on I-70, or about halfway between the existing Gypsum and Eagle Interchanges. The project proposes to provide a new interchange on I-70 and a connector road that will tie into Highway 6 and Cooley Mesa Road. This project is a critical, future-focused investment. It will create a much-needed alternative evacuation route, cut emissions by reducing idling and stop-and-go traffic, and significantly improve travel times for commuters, guests, and first responders. It will also strengthen local connectivity, support

multimodal transportation options and commercial freight operations, and substantially enhance safety across the corridor.

The funding will support planning and engineering design of the interchange project, helping to advance this vitally important project that will increase safety, provide better connectivity and travel time, and support economic growth in the community. *“The Town of Gypsum is thrilled to receive this grant. This interchange project is intended to do far more than move vehicles; it is a long-term investment in the future of our region.”* says Gypsum Town Engineer Matt Figgs. *“USDOT’s support demonstrates that the federal government recognizes the value of establishing this new connection. While several years of design and permitting remain ahead, we are excited to achieve another step along the way of bringing this interchange to completion.”* Gypsum joins a nationwide group of awardees whose projects represent meaningful investments in community safety, transportation access, and infrastructure resilience.

For more information about the Rural and Tribal Assistance Program and to view the full awardee list, visit www.transportation.gov.

About the Town of Gypsum - *Gypsum is a community that takes neighborly to a whole new level – it’s where the locals live, thrive, and have fun! We value our heritage and are committed to nurturing our small-town spirit that is built upon first names, handshakes, and being true to our word. Here, everybody is somebody and the only image we care about is keeping it real. www.townofgypsum.com.*

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