

Proposed Project

The City of Thornton and Adams County, along with the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), seek to improve safety, traffic flow, and multimodal access along one of the major east-west connections in the northern Denver metro area at East 104th Avenue (CO 44) between Colorado Boulevard and the South Platte River Bridge. This arterial highway serves regional and local transportation needs as a connection between Interstate 25 (I-25) and Toll Highway E-470. The project includes widening CO 44 from one lane to two lanes in both directions, constructing a detached multimodal path, and reconfiguring Riverdale Road and McKay Road to add auxiliary lanes and replace signal equipment. The project also includes replacing curb and gutters, rehabilitating the pavement surface to address deficiencies, improving lighting along the corridor at the signalized intersections, and water quality improvements to remove floodplain encroachments and overtopping of the state highway in the event of a flood.

Grandview Ponds Open Space and Prairie Dog Habitat

The project is anticipated to impact the Grandview Ponds Open Space and Prairie Dog Habitat in order to construct a new curb and gutter, drainage improvements, overhead electric relocation, and a detached multi-use trail along CO 44. A proposed trail at the northeast corner of the Grandview Ponds Open Space and Prairie Dog Habitat would improve trail connectivity between the open space and other regional and local trails. Any impacts to vegetation in the open space would be revegetated according to CDOT standards, including trees replaced at a 1:1 ratio. The open space and its trails are to remain open throughout construction, with project construction anticipated to occur Spring 2027 to Fall 2028.

Riverdale Open Space and Prairie Dog Habitat

The project is anticipated to impact the Riverdale Open Space and Prairie Dog Habitat to accommodate the widening of CO 44, a multimodal path and trail connections, overhead electric relocation, and water quality improvements. A retention pond is proposed (shown on Figure 2) to reduce flood risk at the open space. The proposed multimodal path would connect the trails in the Riverdale Open Space and Prairie Dog Habitat with other regional and local trails. Any impacts at the open space would be revegetated according to CDOT standards.

Riverdale Road Trail

During construction, a detour is required for the Riverdale Road Trail, which runs along the west side of Riverdale Road across CO 44 to the east side of Riverdale Road (shown on Figure 2). The detour of this trail involves the closure of the southeast and northwest corners of Riverdale Road and CO 44. During the closure of the southeast

City of Thornton Section 4(f) Public Notification

corner of the intersection, trail users heading south on the Riverdale Road Trail at the intersection of Grange Hall Creek Trail would be routed to cross 104th Avenue at the pedestrian crossing as usual, and then cross Riverdale Road approximately 250 feet south of the current crossing (see red line in Figure 1). A temporary 6-foot-wide path would be constructed along the west side of Riverdale Road from 104th Avenue to the new temporary crossing.

During the closure of the northwest corner of the intersection, trail users at the same trail intersection (Riverdale Road and Grange Hall Creek Trail) would be routed to follow the Grange Hall Creek Trail to the west side of Riverdale Road, north of 104th Avenue. Trail users would then cross Riverdale Road to the east side in order to cross 104th Avenue to the south and connect to the Riverdale Road Trail south of 104th Avenue (see blue line in Figure 1).

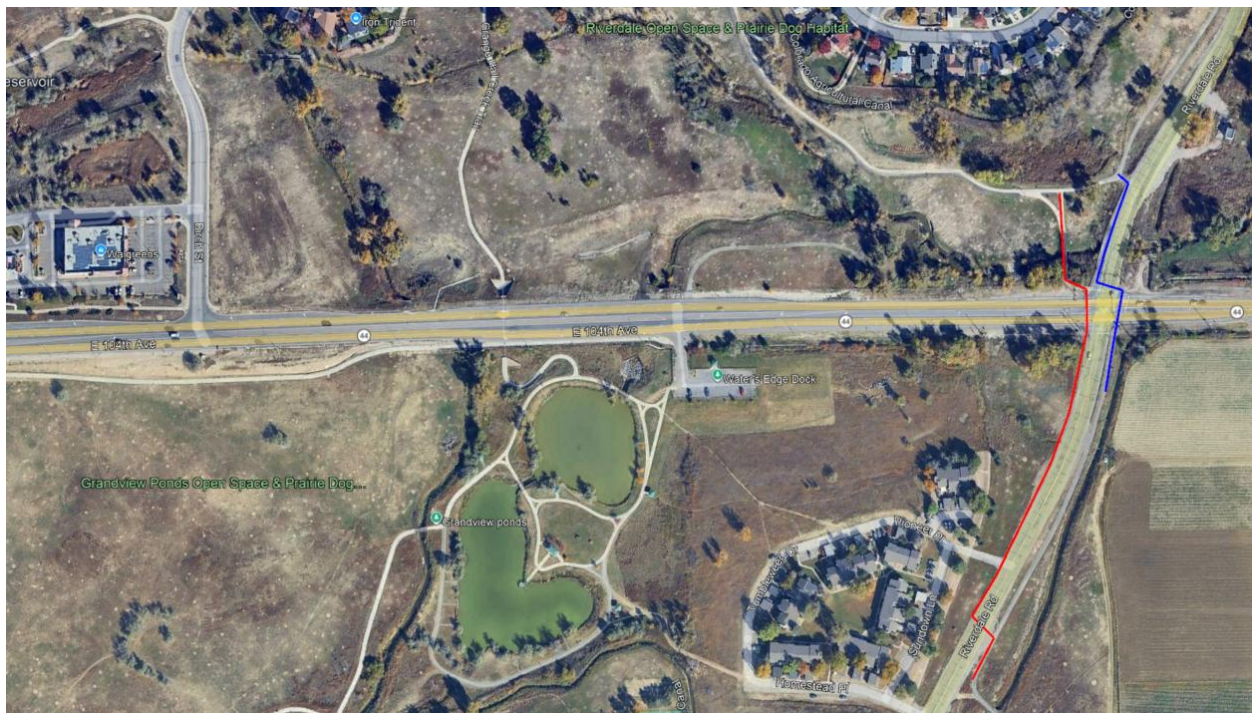


Figure 1. Riverdale Open Space and Prairie Dog Habitat to the north; Grandview Open Space and Prairie Dog Habitat to the south. Red line indicates Riverdale Road Trail detour route during closure of southeast corner of Riverdale Road and CO 44. Blue line indicates Riverdale Road Trail detour route during closure of northwest corner of Riverdale Road and CO 44.

Section 4(f) Consultation

Because the project is federally funded and the properties noted above are publicly owned, the properties are protected by Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act, which is administered by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). It is anticipated that FHWA will determine that the project will have a *de minimis* impact on each of the Grandview Ponds Open Space and Prairie Dog Habitat, the Riverdale Open Space and Prairie Dog Habitat, and the Riverdale Road Trail. A *de minimis* impact is defined as “one that, after taking into account any measures to minimize harm, results in a determination that the project would not adversely affect the activities, features, or attributes qualifying a park, recreation area, or refuge for protection under Section 4(f).”

Pursuant to Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act, we are providing opportunity for public review and comment on the project as it relates to the Grandview Ponds Open Space and Prairie Dog Habitat, the Riverdale Open Space and Prairie Dog Habitat, and the Riverdale Road Trail. Comments will be accepted via email at stolfusassociates@gmail.com through **May 31, 2026**.