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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Federal Funding to Jump Start Mason Corridor

The Mason Corridor Bus Rapid Transit project took a big step forward yesterday (3/11/09) when federal funding was secured through President Obama's FY 2009 Appropriations Bill. The \$11.18 million will cover Project Development costs such as acquisitions of rights-of-way, design/engineering, utility clearances, and other technical work along the corridor.

The overall budget for the Mason Corridor is approximately \$80 million. Funding sources include federal funding through the Federal Transit Authority, state money through Colorado Department of Transportation, and local funding and matches.

City Manager Darin Atteberry states, "This is very exciting opportunity for the Fort Collins community. Mason Corridor is a lot more than a transportation route; it will provide the framework for future economic development, continue community partnerships, encourage private investment and allow active, urban lifestyles in the heart of the city."

Mason Corridor is recognized as a top, innovative "Small Starts" project by the Federal Transit Authority (FTA). "Mason Corridor has received continual support from the Federal Transit Authority. The City would like to thank the FTA's involvement and assistance through the application process and funding process," says Kathleen Bracke, City Transportation Planner.

City Transportation Planners are particularly appreciative of the support the project has received from Congresswoman Markey, Senator Bennett, former Senator, current Secretary of the Interior Salazar, and former Senator Allard. Their enthusiasm and ability to see the vision of the project were instrumental in receiving FTA attention and funding.

Community partners involved with Mason Corridor include the City, the Downtown Development Authority, Colorado State University, FTA, Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) and many community stakeholders and business owners along the route.

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Next Steps, Conversion of Traffic on Howes and Mason

At an open house on Tuesday, March 31, 4 - 7 p.m. at the City's office building, 215 N.Mason Street, Community Room, City staff will discuss the conversion of Mason Street and Howes Street to two-way traffic in preparation for construction along the Mason Corridor. The public is invited to attend.

Mason Corridor Overview

The Mason Corridor is a five mile north-south byway with Bus Rapid Transit within the city of Fort Collins which extends from Cherry Street on the north to south of Harmony Road. The corridor is centered along the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway property, located a few hundred feet west of College Avenue (US 287). The Mason Corridor is a fundamental connection between the City, Colorado State University, and local business and neighborhoods.

Mason Corridor construction is scheduled to begin in 2010 and be completed by the end of 2011. The Bus Rapid Transit service is scheduled to begin by the end of 2011. For more information about the Mason Corridor visit fcgov.com/mason.