



May 17, 2009

## Mason Corridor evolution worthy of support

### Delegation should stand up for project that is more than transit

The Mason Corridor is one step closer to becoming a reality.

Last week, the White House announced that President Barack Obama's recommended \$3 trillion spending package includes \$54.5 million for the Mason Corridor Project, funded through the Federal Transit Administration. If approved by Congress, the funding will join an additional \$11 million that Obama approved as part of a spending bill in March. The remaining costs for the \$80 million project will be picked up by the city, the state of Colorado and the Downtown Development Authority.

The evolution of the Mason Corridor deserves to be commended. The Mason Corridor has evolved into somewhat of a life lesson for city officials and residents. Once a narrow, transit-only project created to promote the use of buses, the corridor has expanded to become a diverse and lively project with consideration for land use, transportation patterns and creative economic development. Today, the Mason Corridor has become a symbol of collaboration in which property owners are working with city officials to develop a vision in which transportation and commercial needs complement each other. The concept links major activity centers, including Colorado State University, Old Town and South College Avenue.

The corridor spans a five-mile area from Cherry Street to Harmony Road. It includes special lanes and stations for rapid-transit buses to encourage mass transportation options.

If the funding is approved, construction is expected to begin in 2010 and be completed by 2011. In advance of that work, portions of Mason and Howes streets will be converted this summer into two-way streets.

As the budget process unfolds, Colorado's congressional delegation is encouraged to show its support for the federal funding of the innovative Mason Corridor project.

## Additional Facts

### On the Internet

For information about the Mason Corridor, visit [www.fcgov.com/mason](http://www.fcgov.com/mason)

---