This week, the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) began an 11-mile surface treatment project on eastbound I-76 between approximately Ovid and the Nebraska State Line (mileposts 173 to 184) that will repair deteriorating concrete. The $15.8 million project is being funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

“This is great news for Northeast Colorado,” said U.S. Representative Betsy Markey. “I-76 is a critical highway for agriculture, business and tourism in our corner of Colorado, and making maintenance and safety repairs along this stretch of road will play a key role in the economic recovery of the region. This project will put Coloradans back to work, bring local jobs to Northeast Colorado and make much-needed improvements in our infrastructure.”

As a result of this project, Interstate Highway Construction, the contractor for this project, will put 13 private-sector employees to work this year and about 35 next year, ultimately preventing layoffs. This does not include the number of private-sector jobs created by subcontractors of this project.

During the first phase of construction, crews will patch sections of deteriorating concrete and then place a thin layer of asphalt over the existing concrete. In addition, the crossovers that will be used to temporarily realign traffic during concrete paving next summer will be constructed. Once this work is complete later this year, the project will shut down for the winter until April 2010.

Once work resumes in April 2010, eastbound I-76 traffic will be realigned into the westbound lanes while the crews resurface the lanes in concrete. In this temporary alignment, both eastbound and westbound I-76 will be down to only one lane.

In addition to the concrete resurfacing, this project will reconstruct the Julesburg interchange (exit #180) to make the acceleration and deceleration lanes longer and replace the right of way fence along I-76 between Sedgwick and the Nebraska State Line.

For the remainder of this year until the project shuts down for the winter, motorists can expect single lane closures on eastbound I-76 from Ovid to the Nebraska State Line. Lane closures will

take place from 6 a.m.-6 p.m., Monday through Friday. Delays are expected and alternate routes are strongly advised.

For weekly lane closure information please visit www.dot.state.co.us/TravelInfo/CurrentCond/index.cfm and click on “North/northeastern Colorado.”

Throughout the project, the speed limit will be reduced to 45 mph during work hours and there will be a 14-foot width restriction. CDOT would like to remind motorists to obey all traffic signs and flaggers and to “Slow for the Cone Zone.” Most fines that occur in the work zone will be doubled.

This project is scheduled to be complete in the summer of 2010.

In all, Colorado will receive more than $400 million from ARRA for transportation projects and $103 million for transit projects. For more information about how Colorado is putting the Recovery Act to work, visit www.colorado.gov/recovery. For a list of CDOT’s Recovery Act projects, visit www.dot.state.co.us/arra.