



# MEDIA RELEASE

**To:** All Media Contacts

**From:** **John Trylch, Community Engagement Manager**  
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**Date:** **March 29, 2019**

**RE:** **Venetucci Blvd Extension Groundbreaking Event**

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## **Fountain, Colorado -**

A groundbreaking ceremony will take place on April 3, 2019 within the South Academy Highlands development area of the City of Fountain at 7:00am. The groundbreaking will signify the beginning of a \$3.5M transportation improvement project to extend Venetucci Boulevard north to B-Street to improve commuter accessibility between S. Academy Boulevard and US 85/87.

In the interest of enhancing public safety and a commitment of support to retail services for the community-at-large, the Fountain Urban Renewal Authority and UTW Academy Development, LLC have partnered to fund and construct the northern extension of Venetucci Blvd via the B-Street connection access located within El Paso County. The construction timeframe of this transportation improvement project is anticipated to occur between April 2019- November 2019.

Due to the cross jurisdictional nature of the roadway easement for Venetucci Blvd, this project has been made possible thanks in part to the collaborative regional efforts of the following agencies: El Paso County, Colorado Springs Utilities, Colorado Department of Transportation, Stratmoor Hills Fire Department, Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments, and Pikes Peak Rural Transportation Authority.

This infrastructure project has significant grade changes, storm water collection and will include a 135-FT span Bridge over the Clover ditch. Wilson & Company Inc. was hired as the project's engineer and management firm supporting the City of Fountain through the Design-Build process. On January, 8, 2019 the City of Fountain City Council awarded the final design and construction of the project to Wildcat Construction Co., Inc. and their designer Matrix Design Group.

The South Academy Highlands development was designated an urban renewal area in June 2014 through a City of Fountain annexation with UTW Academy Development, LLC. Today, the development area includes the following retailers: Walmart, Sam's Club, Qdoba, Starbucks, Jersey Mike's Subs, US Patriot Tactical, Cheyenne Mtn. Modern Dentist, Sally Beauty, GO Wireless, Sports Clips, MOD Pizza, Freddy's Steakburger's; with a Holiday Inn Express and Hot Wash Car Wash under construction.

Starbucks located within South Academy Highlands will be providing complimentary coffee service onsite for attendees of the groundbreaking ceremony.

**Ceremony Access Instructions:** Please enter the South Academy Highlands development area via the southern entry of S. Academy Blvd and continue ahead on Venetucci Blvd until you reach the northern most dead-end roundabout for the ground breaking ceremony. The City of Fountain Police will be onsite to help guide attendees to designated parking and staging areas.

It is of utmost importance for attendees to wear appropriate outdoor footwear as the ceremony will take place down within a staging pad area of the actual construction site. Alternative vehicle access will be provided to provide escort service to those with limited mobility or a disability.

**Inclement Weather Notice:** If there is inclement weather the morning of April 3, 2019 the groundbreaking ceremony will be cancelled and not be rescheduled due to the project's completion timeline.

For more information please contact:

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