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# NEWS RELEASE

## City school zones to get upgraded signs, striping

**Durango, CO:** School zones in Durango will receive upgraded signs, pavement striping and flashing beacons under money awarded from the Colorado Department of Transportation.

The improvements will take place throughout the spring under a \$63,000 Safe Routes to School (SRTS) award to the city from CDOT. The project will improve safety and multimodal options for students at Park Elementary, Needham Elementary, Riverview Elementary and Miller Middle Schools.

“The need for this project was identified in the Multimodal Transportation Plan,” said Sarah Hill, assistant director of transportation. “The plan envisions a middle school age child being able to safely bike and walk independently throughout Durango. This project is an important step towards achieving this vision.”

Short Elliott Hendrickson Inc. completed the design of the project in 2020, in accordance with Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices standards and CDOT specifications.

The city's Streets Division will oversee the installation, the first of which is scheduled for the last week of February, weather permitting. A Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon will be installed on 8th Avenue and 3rd Street in front of the Horse Gulch Medical Campus, increasing safety for students walking and biking to Park Elementary School.

The project will also include the installation or upgrade of over 950 signs within the four school zones. An additional flashing beacon will be installed at W. 2nd Avenue and 25th Street, increasing visibility and safety for students of Miller Middle School and Needham Elementary School.

A federally funded reimbursement program, SRTS was established in 2004 to increase pedestrian safety awareness among motorists and schoolchildren. Administered by CDOT, SRTS supports whole communities through a comprehensive approach to make safe routes for children when walking or bicycling to school.

“CDOT is proud to assist local communities like Durango, to help achieve safety and mobility goals for neighborhoods surrounding our schools,” said CDOT Local Agency Engineer, Robert Shanks. “This upcoming spring project will provide enhanced opportunities for more kids to safely walk and bicycle to and from their schools.”

For more information on the project, email [Multimodal@DurangoGov.org](mailto:Multimodal@DurangoGov.org) or call (970) 375-4901.

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