



CITY OF THORNTON TRANSPORTATION PLAN 2009



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GLOSSARY

| | |
|-------------|--|
| CIP | Capital Improvement Program |
| CDOT | Colorado Department of Transportation |
| DRCOG | Denver Regional Council of Governments |
| EIS | Environmental Impact Statement |
| HOV | High Occupancy Vehicle |
| LOS | Level of Service |
| Mode | A means of travel (e.g. by bicycle, walking, transit or car) |
| Multi-Modal | A variety of travel choices |
| ROW | Right-of-Way |
| RTD | Regional Transportation District |
| SOV | Single Occupant Vehicle |

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PLAN UPDATES

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CHAPTER 1: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The City of Thornton initiated the development of the *Thornton Transportation Plan* to replace the existing *Thornton Thoroughfare Plan* adopted in August 2000 and as a supplement to the City of Thornton Comprehensive Plan. The *Thornton Transportation Plan* is a multi-modal transportation plan covering the City limits and future growth areas to the north and east of the City. Its focus is the future horizon year of 2035, although it also includes a conceptual roadway vision for the Buildout of the City in order to preserve adequate right-of-way to accommodate long-term transportation needs.

The City of Thornton plans for and implements transportation services, facilities, and demand management programs for several different travel modes along with other transportation providers such as CDOT, RTD, adjacent cities, and Adams County. The current transportation-related plan, the *Thornton Thoroughfare Plan*, only addresses roadway needs however. The effort to develop the *Thornton Transportation Plan* included consideration of all modes, hence the wording change in the title from "Thoroughfare" to "Transportation" Plan.



Since the last thoroughfare plan was adopted, the areas in and around the City have grown and several transportation improvements have been made, including the opening of the northeast section of E-470 through Thornton, new arterial street widenings and connections constructed, and new interchanges along I-25 at 136th Avenue and 144th Avenue, among other improvements. In addition, the City has developed a new Parks and Open Space Master Plan that includes plans for the trail system; the City's Comprehensive Plan has recently been revised; and future rail transit service through Thornton

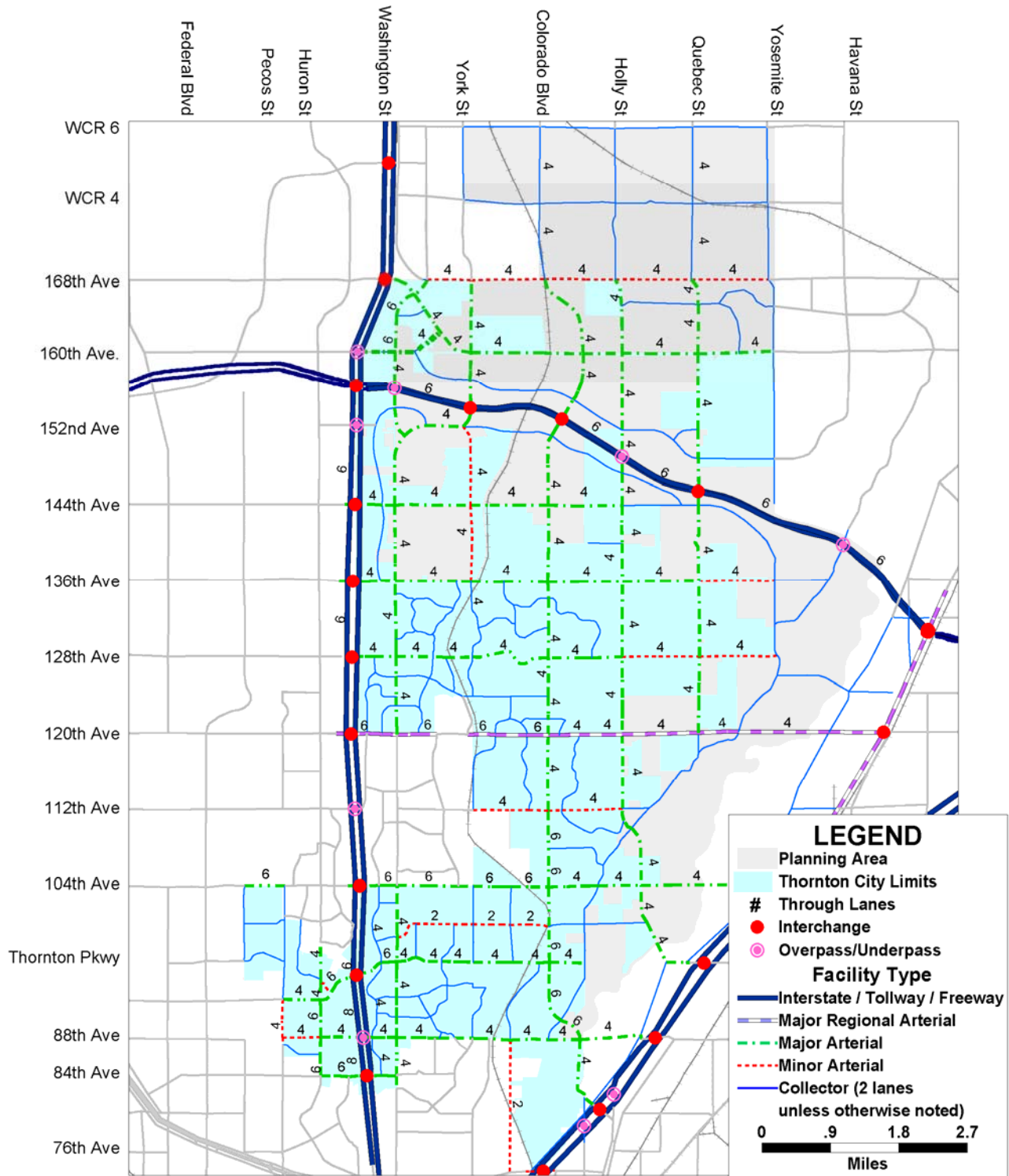
has been planned by the Regional Transportation District (RTD) and approved by the voters as part of the FasTracks rail program. These significant changes underscore the need to update the transportation plan.

The development of the *Thornton Transportation Plan* was coordinated, where appropriate, with neighboring jurisdictions (e.g., Broomfield, Northglenn, Westminster, Adams County, Weld County & DRCOG) and transportation provider agencies such as the E-470 Public Highway Authority, Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), and RTD. In addition, multi-modal travel was fully considered in the Plan's development. For example, the City's traffic model takes into consideration the transit trip forecasts from RTD's FasTracks and FasConnects systems. Also, bicycle and pedestrian trips were separated from the roadway analysis; and the Plan includes the

effect of carpooling due to regional travel demand management (TDM) programs and high-occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes on I-25. These multi-modal considerations provide the alternative modals of travel that reduce vehicle traffic demand on the roadway system and reduces the air pollutions generated by the vehicular traffic.

Figures 1 and 2 show the lane designations and functional classifications defined for the 2035 Roadway Plan and the Conceptual Roadway Vision Plan for Buildout of the transportation system, respectively, in the City of Thornton. Figures 1 and 2 do not show all future collector streets, which will be determined at the time of development but are anticipated to be located near the half section line (or on the half mile interval).

**Figure 1
City of Thornton 2035 Roadway Plan**



Note: See City of Thornton Buildout Roadway Plan (Figures 2 and 15) for ultimate roadway configuration and designations.

**Figure 2
City of Thornton Buildout Roadway Plan**

