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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
**PHASE 5 CONSTRUCTION STARTS ON MANITOU AVENUE**

**Manitou Springs, Colorado (November 6, 2008)** The burial of overhead power lines and streetscape improvements for Manitou Avenue will continue as **Phase 5A** of the downtown revitalization project resumes in the 900 block of Manitou Avenue the first week of January, 2009. Crews from Colorado Springs Utilities will lead the way by trenching on the eastern edge of the project area to prepare for the removal of unsightly poles and overhead wires. Overhead utilities will be removed for to 1007 Manitou Avenue and around the corner to 22 Ruxton Avenue. Qwest and Comcast will start pulling down their associated overhead lines through the month of December. Trenching and burial of power lines will take approximately 16 weeks as the first section of the final phase travels west up Manitou Avenue.

The City of Manitou Springs has assured merchants that construction will be sensitive to downtown merchant hours and parking needs. Access to all downtown businesses will be maintained at all times. All Phase 5A work including demolition and replacement of sidewalks, storm sewers, curb and gutter work will be completed in May before the summer visitor season kicks into full swing.

Manitou Avenue has been undergoing a facelift since 2004 when residents overwhelmingly approved a 3/10<sup>th</sup> of a cent sales tax to fund the project. The improved pedestrian environment is credited for increasing overall retail activity in the central business district. Publicly funded streetscape improvements have also spurred more than \$30 million in new private sector investments and redevelopment activity in the Historic shopping and dining district.

Phase 5 add 1-1-1

**Phase 5A** is the most difficult and technical phase in the downtown plan. It includes a round-about at the intersection of Ruxton and Manitou Avenue. The round-about feature will eliminate congestion associated with the ebb and flow traffic patterns of the Pikes Peak Cog Train passengers accessing the area. The Stratton Spring (near the Loop restaurant) will be relocated, closer to its original location.

Due to the technical nature of construction and associated funding, the final phase was broken into 5A and 5B. Final construction schedules are required from all contractors to minimize obstruction of on-street parking in the central business district.

The City has scheduled an **Open House at 606 Manitou Avenue, on Monday, November 17<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM.** Building and shop owners are strongly encouraged to attend the open house and view the plans. Construction updates are posted on [www.manitouspringsahead.com](http://www.manitouspringsahead.com) as they become available.

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*Manitou Springs Ahead is a citizen driven volunteer effort to help the City of Manitou Springs implement the Manitou Avenue Master Plan. Citizens from numerous community groups formed **Manitou Springs Ahead** to submit charitable grant requests, solicit individual legacy gifts and work with government agencies on final design and construction in historic downtown. Progress updates can be found at [www.manitouspringsahead.com](http://www.manitouspringsahead.com).*