



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**Grand Prairie Parkway Interchange and Roadway to
Open Tuesday, Dec. 1**

The Cities of Waukee and West Des Moines, along with the Iowa Department of Transportation, will jointly cut a ribbon the morning of Tuesday, Dec. 1 to signify the official opening of both the Grand Prairie Parkway Interchange and the roadway leading into Waukee. **The Iowa DOT will open the interchange to the public at 12 p.m. (noon).**

Planning for the Grand Prairie Parkway project began 15 years ago. Construction on the roadway kicked off in November 2013 and work began on the interchange portion in November 2014. The total cost of the project to date is \$50 million, with funding provided by a variety of federal, state and local revenue sources. The opening of the Grand Prairie Parkway Interchange will provide great relief to other major interchanges and arterial routes in the western metro area including Jordan Creek Parkway, University Avenue and Hickman Road. Officials predict that from day one, 12,000 drivers will utilize Grand Prairie Parkway.

“It’s a wonderful feeling when a huge project like this is completed,” said West Des Moines Mayor Steven Gaer. “This new gateway into our communities is a prime example of regional cooperation that will benefit the entire area.”

The most innovative aspect of the Grand Prairie Parkway Interchange is its diverging diamond design—the first of its kind in Iowa. The diverging diamond design is well-known in other parts of the country for improving the safety of traffic entering interstate systems and allowing for increased vehicle capacity and reductions in time delays.

“This new road will have an immense impact on traffic flow in the Waukee area and beyond. For years, western metro residents have needed a more direct route to I-80, and after much planning and hard work, it’s becoming a reality,” said Waukee Mayor Bill Peard. “Not only does it bring better access to drivers, but it will also open the door to residential, office and commercial development for Waukee’s new Kettlestone Development.”



The new Kettlestone Development, located along Grand Prairie Parkway, will include substantial public amenities including open space and an integrated trail system. Development of this 1,500 acre, multi-use area is expected to take off once Grand Prairie Parkway is opened.

West Des Moines is currently overseeing the next portion of the project which includes construction of the stretch of South Grand Prairie Parkway that will run north from Mills Civic Parkway to Wendover Road. The bid price for this project is \$5.1 million. Construction is currently underway and officials anticipate a completion date of late fall 2016.

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