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TOWN OF PARACHUTE SECURES \$3 MILLION IN FEDERAL FUNDING FOR 1ST STREET DOWNTOWN RECONSTRUCTION

Town of Parachute

February 24, 2026

The Town of Parachute is pleased to announce that the community will receive \$3 million in United States Department of Transportation Highway Infrastructure Projects Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) funding to support the long-planned revitalization and reconstruction of the Town's downtown 1st Street corridor. The funding was made possible through the efforts of U.S. Senators Michael Bennet and John Hickenlooper.

"Main Streets are the heartbeat of rural towns like Parachute. This investment will help modernize aging infrastructure, improve safety, and create new opportunities for our local businesses and families," said Hickenlooper.

The 1st Street project represents the culmination of years of community-driven planning and reflects a strategic priority established by the Parachute Town Council to revitalize the Town's historic downtown core. The 1st Street project began with Town Council identifying downtown reinvestment as a top long-term goal in 2022, followed by extensive public engagement, visioning, and technical planning.

In 2023, those efforts culminated in the adoption of the Town's Downtown Master Plan, which laid the foundation for subsequent design and engineering work. The project is currently at approximately 60 percent design, and the \$3 million CDS award marks a major milestone toward implementation for a community that has long struggled to catalyze meaningful reinvestment in its core area. Much of the existing infrastructure along 1st Street is aging, deteriorating, and in need of significant repair.

"Revitalizing downtown has been a shared vision for our community for a very long time, and this funding moves that vision much closer to reality," said Mayor Tom Rugaard. "It is a cornerstone of the Town's redevelopment strategy, and this work will benefit the community for generations to come."

While additional work and funding needs remain before construction can commence, Town officials emphasized that the award reflects strong momentum and broad collaboration among local, regional, state, and federal partners. Most of the costs for the design and engineering work have been covered with state funds from grants through the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) and the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA).

The Town of Parachute would like to express its sincere gratitude to the many partners who helped advance the project, including staff in CDOT's Region 3, DOLA, Senator Michael Bennet and his regional staff, including Delaney Deskin, and Senator John Hickenlooper and his regional staff, including Janeth Stancle.

"I was glad to secure \$3 million dollars for Parachute to revitalize their downtown," said Bennet. "This funding will improve the lives of Coloradans who live, work, and dine in Parachute."

With this funding secured, the Town will continue working in earnest to finalize the project design in close coordination with CDOT, while pursuing additional funding opportunities to bring the project fully to construction. Pending the outcome of these efforts, construction could begin in 2027 or 2028.

Community members can learn more about the 1st Street project on the Town's project website and are invited to view the latest design exhibits and provide feedback at the Town's upcoming Plan Jam open house on Tuesday, March 31st. Additional details will be posted on the Town's website at www.parachute.gov

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Find Us

TOWN OF PARACHUTE
222 GRAND VALLEY WAY
PARACHUTE, CO 81635

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Phone: (970) 285 - 7630

Fax: (970) 285-0292

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