

Program Details
Trails to Interstate
Lee Whiteley
Presented by The Larkspur Historical Society

Program Title:

Trails to Interstate: Transportation Systems Across the Arkansas/Platte Divide

Beginning with Native American footpaths along the base of the Rocky Mountains, the Monument Creek, Plum Creek, and Cherry Creek waterways have evolved into major north-south transportation corridors. The Trappers Trail, Smoky Hill Trail, and Cherokee Trail were used by mountain men, military expeditions, goldseekers, and homesteaders. The Denver & Rio Grande and the Denver & New Orleans railroads provided the transportation systems needed for Douglas County growth. Named "auto trails" such as the National Park-to-Park Highway, preceded U.S. Highway 85, also known as the "Ribbon of Death." Colorado Highway 83, with its "Bridge to Nowhere," was the original planned route for Interstate 25.

Lee Whiteley is a fourth-generation Coloradan now living in Centennial. He graduated from Englewood High School and the University of Denver. He took a very early retirement from the City and County of Denver, where he was a computer programmer-analyst. He and wife Jane are authors of five books on early transportation systems of the West. They are associate producers of the PBS documentary Paving the Way, the National Park-to-Park Highway.

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**Trails to Interstate:
Transportation Systems Across the Arkansas/Platte
Divide**

**Author and Producer
Lee Whiteley**

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9414 S. Spruce Mountain Road
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March 5, 2016
2:00 PM – 3:00 PM