



**** FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE ****

EXCITING NEW HIKING NETWORK UNVEILED – THE ‘DENVER ORBITAL TRAIL (DOT)’ ENCIRCLES ENTIRE METRO!

(DENVER, CO) Locals and visitors to Denver alike now have a new way to explore the region. The ‘Denver Orbital Trail’ (AKA the ‘DOT’) is a 177-mile, 28-segment, walking, running, and wheeling route linking existing trails and public-access paths to completely encircle the Denver metro area.

The DOT’s designer is Golden resident Michael Tormey, a Civil Engineer currently working on transportation safety projects on public lands. He developed his love of walking the outdoors in the English countryside while in graduate school in London.

He says his goal in developing the DOT route was to create something that would get more people outside exploring more of the region. “A circular walk brings you right back where you started,” Tormey said, “but along the way, I hope you find yourself seeing all this incredible region has to offer, that you find yourself changed along the way.”

He wanted to make sure as much of it as possible is easy for walkers of all ages and abilities, close to amenities and facilities, and public transportation-accessible. It’s a long route, so it’s been divided into manageable parts. The 28 segments vary a lot. They range from 2 to 12 miles in length, all perfect for day hikes.

This was not just drawing a circle on a map! Tormey walked every inch of the DOT to confirm and document the trails, which enabled him to build a detailed website with plentiful information on every segment, including photos. While walking the route, he discovered some side-trail opportunities, which are also included on the website. He calls those, of course, ‘sub-orbitals’!

It took Tormey a few months to walk the entire orbital, but he says the beauty of it is that it’s ‘hop-on, hop-off’. “People can walk as many or as few segments as they like. They can take as long as they want to complete the whole circuit,” Tormey says, “Or maybe they never get all the way around. That’s OK too. That said, there’s something great to see on every single segment, so my hope would be that people aim for a complete orbit!”

The development of the DOT was generously supported by a micro-grant awarded by the Denver Community Active Living Coalition (CALC) in partnership with the Department of Transportation & Infrastructure (DOTI) and Denver Streets partnership (DSP).

The website is DenverOrbital.org. We’re on Instagram and Twitter @DenverOrbital.

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