CDOT has developed a Variable Speed Limits (VSL) protocol and State of Practice document to ensure that variable speed limits are considered for deployment on roadways that can demonstrate improvements in safety, travel time reliability, congestion, and harmonization of speeds.

Within Colorado, VSLs have been implemented for uses such as congestion (I-70 and US 36), queue warnings (I-25) and inclement weather (I-70, pictured at right).

**Highlighted Implementation – Using VSL to Address Inclement Weather**

**I-70 Glenwood Canyon**  
*(Completion Date: October 2019)*

**Project Work & Benefits**
Strategically placed technology to monitor weather and traffic conditions, and control speed limits where needed.

This includes:

1) Weather stations for live monitoring and reporting, standard static signs, dual variable speed limit signs, closed-circuit cameras for live monitoring.

2) Dual variable speed limits will allow the Department to post different standard speeds for passenger vehicles and heavy vehicles during good conditions and will also allow the Department to lower the speed limit to assist with incident management, conditions created by inclement weather, and maintenance and construction.

**Next Steps**
Utilizing corridor characteristics, monitored benefits of existing implementations, and best practice research, CDOT will be conducting a system-wide evaluation to prioritize other locations within the State for VSL implementation. The system-wide evaluation will consider several factors in the selection criteria, such as technology infrastructure, percentage of heavy vehicles, crash history and regional input. The Department has also developed a plan to replace all non-compliant Amber VSLs signs to the FHWA standards for Electronic-Display Changeable Message Signs.

**WHY IS THIS WORK NECESSARY?**

Colorado highways experience a range of weather conditions throughout the year, causing unsafe conditions for drivers who don’t take proper precautions.

Statistics show that mountainous areas see a high number of crashes involving fixed objects, especially during inclement weather.