



TRAFFIC? I'LL PASS. *Express Lanes offer choice and reduced congestion.*

I-70 Mountain Express Lane Tolling Fact Sheet

As Express Lanes open throughout the state - on US 36, I-25 and I-70 - there's a lot to learn about how to appropriately use the lanes. It's important to know that travelers are never forced to pay a toll and can always choose to travel in the adjacent free general purpose lanes. If motorists choose to jump in the Express Lane to get there faster, here are the tolling basics:

How are tolls collected?

- All tolls are collected electronically through an ExpressToll account and pass, or through License Plate Toll (LPT).
- ExpressToll account and passes save money every trip.
- Drivers who choose to pay through LPT will pay the toll plus a surcharge to process the license plate. A bill will be sent to the registered vehicle owner and it will be higher than if you have an ExpressToll account.
- There's no need to stop at a tollbooth, as overhead readers track tolling.

Get a Pass to use all Colorado Express Lanes

All motorists traveling on the I-70 Mountain Express Lane - including motorcycles, carpoolers and hybrids - will pay a toll in the Express Lane. Drivers who want to pay the toll without additional surcharges need a pass and an ExpressToll account. Visit www.expresstoll.com, or call 303-537-3470 to get yours today!

How will tolls work on the I-70 Mountain Express Lane?

- A switchable HOV transponder -in toll mode- or a sticker tag can be used on the I-70 Mountain Express Lane.
- High-Occupancy Vehicles (HOV), motorcycles and hybrids will not travel for free.
- An ExpressToll customer service representative can help you decide which pass is best for you, based on your particular needs and where you travel on Colorado's Express Lanes.

How are toll prices determined?

- The Express Lane will use a responsive pricing system in which tolls can change in price depending on the number of vehicles traveling in the corridor.
- As traffic increases, the toll price will increase to help keep travelers moving on the Express Lane.
- Overhead Variable Message Signs are updated on the highway in real-time and show exactly what the toll rate is at that time, so the driver can know exactly how much they'll be charged.

About the I-70 Mountain Express Lane:

- Runs 13 miles along eastbound from Empire through the Veterans Memorial Tunnels in Idaho Springs, only during periods of peak travel such as weekends and holidays.

Visit expresslanes.codot.gov for more information.



COLORADO
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Transportation



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- Enter the Express Lane at Empire Junction or before the Veterans Memorial Twin Tunnels. Express Lane users who want to exit at Idaho Springs may use the signed Express Lane exit for Idaho Springs, prior to Exit 239.
- Limited to operate 73 days a year to address heavy traffic in the corridor. Heavy traffic is usually Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, but the Mountain Express Lane is not precluded from opening on other days when there is heavy traffic.
- Has no HOV component to the I-70 Mountain Express Lane, meaning any vehicle traveling in the lane will be subject to a toll regardless of the number of occupants in the vehicle.
- Will always have the two existing general purpose lanes free and open to all travelers at all times.
- Is for vehicles with two axles. Vehicles with more than two axles, or longer than 25 feet, as well as trailers will not be permitted to use the Express Lane at any point.
- Travelers exiting I-70 eastbound to US 6 at Floyd Hill (Exit 244) will be able to enter the far left lane to exit onto US 6 without incurring a charge.

What are the toll rates on the I-70 Mountain Express Lane?

Below are examples of tolls for I-70 Mountain Express Lane. The toll pricing is designed to balance traffic volume in the Express Lane and provide more reliable travel times.

Typical Volume Example

	ExpressToll Rate	License Plate Toll
Morning and early afternoon	\$3 (base rate)	\$6.75
Afternoon	\$8	\$14.67
Mid-Afternoon	\$9	\$16.25
Late-Afternoon	\$10	\$17.83
Evening	\$5	\$9.92

Higher Volume Example

	ExpressToll Rate	License Plate Toll
Morning	\$3 (base rate)	\$6.75
Afternoon	\$10	\$17.83
Mid-afternoon	\$15	\$25.00
Late-afternoon	\$5	\$9.92
Evening	\$4	\$8.33

I-70 Mountain Express Lane Toll and License Plate Toll Rates

ExpressToll Rate	License Plate Toll = Toll + Fee to process the billing
\$3	\$6.75
\$4	\$8.33
\$5	\$9.92
\$6	\$11.50
\$7	\$13.08
\$8	\$14.67
\$9	\$16.25
\$10	\$17.83
\$11	\$19.42
\$12	\$21
\$13	\$22.58
\$14	\$24
\$15	\$25
\$20	\$30
\$25	\$35
\$30	\$40

Visit expresslanes.codot.gov for more information.



I-70 Mountain Express Lane FAQs

If you are driving through the Express Lanes and the tolls change, what happens? What notification will there be of the toll price change?

Drivers will be charged the toll price posted when they entered the Express Lane. If the price should increase or decrease while they are in the lane, drivers will pay the price posted upon entry, not pay the difference.

Who can use the lane? Is there free carpooling?

All drivers choosing to use the I-70 Mountain Express Lane will need to pay a toll. Drivers can save money every time with an ExpressToll account and pass. There will be no free HOV carpooling or motorcycle option, no trailers or trucks. The two free general purpose lanes will always be open and available when the Express Lanes is open, providing drivers a choice.

How will drivers be prevented from using the Express Lane on days it is not in operation?

In addition to the overhead electronic signs that will inform drivers the Express Lane is closed, CDOT is working with law enforcement agencies to encourage their support in monitoring conditions and issuing citations when necessary to discourage drivers from using the lane on days it is closed. The website, cotrip.org, will have updates, also notifications can be sent to people who sign up, letting them know the open/closed status of the I-70 Mountain Express Lane at codot.gov.

If there is an accident on I-70, will drivers be permitted to use the Express Lane to maneuver around it?

If an incident occurs in the Express Lane, no tolls will be collected during the time it takes to clear traffic through the area.

How will incidents in the Express Lane itself be managed?

If an accident or some other type of incident occurs in the Express Lane itself, an Incident Management Plan, working with local agencies to clear it as quickly as possible. This could include using one of two emergency pull-off areas; one near Dumont and the other just west of Fall River Road.

Will emergency service vehicles be charged for using the Express Lane?

Emergency vehicles will be exempt from tolls if they are responding to an incident or transporting a patient.

Will drivers be able to stop for food or gas and get back into the Express Lane without being charged twice?

There will be a grace period of four hours during which time drivers may leave the Express Lane to stop in the mountain communities for services without being charged a second time.

Do drivers need to have a switchable transponder to drive through this corridor?

While having a switchable HOV transponder will be more convenient for drivers who might travel other Express Lane corridors in the state, because the I-70 Mountain Express Lane does not have an HOV component, a sticker tag is sufficient for this corridor. ExpressToll accounts and passes can be ordered at www.expresstoll.com or (303) 537-3470. If you do not have a pass of any kind, you will be charged a higher fee for a License Plate Toll.

Will drivers still be able to use three lanes through the Veterans Memorial Tunnel without charge?

The last toll collection point will be located just west of the Veterans Memorial Tunnels.

When will the Express Lane be in operation?

Express Lane operations are limited to 73 days a year during peak travel periods. The initial plan is to open the lane on Saturdays and Sundays during the peak travel months of December through March and June through August. The lane will also be open on holidays when traffic volumes are typically higher in the mountains. We will continually monitor traffic volumes, however, and we are not precluded from opening the Express Lane on other days when there is heavy traffic.

What will the toll rates be?

The base rate for drivers with an ExpressToll account will be \$3 (the rate for license plate tolls will be higher). Because this lane uses a responsive pricing system, toll prices will change depending on the number of vehicles in the lane. As traffic volume in the Express Lane increases so will the toll prices and overhead message boards throughout the corridor will display current pricing. These price fluctuations are designed to balance traffic volume in the express lane to provide more reliable travel times.

What outreach is being done to explain to the general public how this Express Lane operates?

In addition to an extensive paid media campaign that will launch just prior to the opening of the Express Lane in December 2015, CDOT is reaching out to the ski industry and resorts and lodges to share this information with their customers. We are also targeting the rental car agencies at Denver International Airport to keep visitors informed. Lastly, we are working with communication professionals from the various counties, towns and local organizations along the I-70 corridor to help share this information with their stakeholders.

I-70 Mountain Express Lane

FAQ

TOLL RANGE PRICING:

1. If you are driving through the Express Lane and the tolls change, what happens? What notification will there be of the toll price change?

- Drivers will be charged the toll price posted when they entered the Express Lane. If the price should increase or decrease while they are in the lane, drivers will pay the price posted upon entry, not pay the difference.
- Drivers will be notified of the toll price by overhead highway signage.
- The website, cotrip.org, will post a notice if the express lane is open or closed.
- Drivers can sign up to receive updates for when the I-70 Mountain Express Lane is open and closed to be sent by email or text to them. Sign up for alerts:

https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/CODOT/subscriber/new?topic_id=CODOT_118

2. How much are the toll prices and what is the toll range?

- The toll is a range between \$3-30 for ExpressToll pass holders and higher for those without a pass who are billed through their license plate (as much as \$10 higher).

I-70 Mountain Express Lane Toll and License Plate Toll Rates

ExpressToll Rate	License Plate Toll = Toll + Fee to process the billing
\$3	\$6.75
\$4	\$8.33
\$5	\$9.92
\$6	\$11.50
\$7	\$13.08
\$8	\$14.67
\$9	\$16.25
\$10	\$17.83
\$11	\$19.42
\$12	\$21
\$13	\$22.58
\$14	\$24

\$15	\$25
\$20	\$30
\$25	\$35
\$30	\$40

3. Who can use the lane? Is there free carpooling?
 - All drivers choosing to use the I-70 Mountain Express Lane will need to pay a toll. Drivers can save money every time with an ExpressToll account and pass.
 - There will be no free HOV carpooling or free motorcycle option, no trailers or trucks.
 - The two free general purpose lanes will always be open and available when the Express Lanes is open, providing drivers a choice.
4. Who approves the toll prices?
 - CDOT’s High Performance Transportation Enterprise (HPTE) Board takes staff recommendations and the public outreach conducted for the I-70 Mountain Express Lane into consideration for setting toll prices to take action to approve the proposed toll rate range.

ACCIDENT/EMERGENCY VEHICLES:

5. What happens to the toll and traffic if there is an accident? If there is an accident in the toll lane and traffic backs up - will everyone still be charged?
 - Drivers will not be charged a toll if there is an accident that affects the Express Lane.
 - If drivers are moved into the Express Lane due to an accident in the general purpose lanes, they will not be charged a toll.
 - The I-70 Mountain Express Lane uses the inside shoulder, and therefore, there is no shoulder during its operation. When this lane is not in operation, it is used for emergency use only.
 - Overhead signage will alert drivers if the Express Lane is closed.
6. In the event a driver has a mechanical failure, where do you go?
 - If a driver in an accident is able to exit the highway that is preferred. If a lane is blocked and without a shoulder, traffic will be diverted to use the other two lanes.

PROJECT COST:

7. How much this program cost and what is the term of the loan?

- The project costs \$72 million which includes a loan of \$24.6 million to be paid back in 7 years.
8. Will all toll revenue go to the State of Colorado or are there any private enterprises involved?
 - CDOT's High Performance Transportation Enterprise (HPTE) will collect the toll revenues and will use that money to repay the loan. Additional toll revenues will be used for operations and maintenance costs.
 9. Where will the additional revenue go after the loan is paid off?
 - Additional toll revenue will be used for operations and maintenance costs.
 10. Once the \$25 million loan has been paid, would that lane become free or remain a toll lane?
 - The lane will remain an Express Lane in order to provide a reliable travel time for drivers and to reduce congestion.
 11. There is surplus money from the lottery or marijuana funds. Can that money be used?
 - Lottery funds can't be used for this project. Colorado statute directs the funding for the lottery funds. Likewise marijuana funds are directed to funding priorities other than transportation.

WHY EXPRESS LANES?

12. How did you decide to make a toll road in the first place? Can you explain how you set priorities? Why is there a toll? This favors the wealthy; is there a fairer alternative for all Colorado residents?
 - CDOT knows that we are not able to build our way out of congestion and is offering drivers choice for mobility such as Express Lanes for corridors.
 - The I-70 Mountain Express Lane can divert 750-900 cars from the general purpose lanes, which should allow them and even the frontage roads to be less congested.
 - The I-70 Mountain Express Lane is part of several improvements made to the I-70 corridor to improve congestion. To learn more about the statewide planning and the I-70 Mountain Corridor planning, visit <https://www.codot.gov/projects/i-70mountaincorridor>.
 - On I-70 during the weekends, many are choosing to make an investment in their recreation. The I-70 Mountain Express Lane provides the opportunity for people to make an investment in their travel times and

there is always the option of traveling in the free general purpose lanes

EXPRESSTOLL ACCOUNTS AND PASS/LICENSE PLATE TOLLING:

13. Explain more about the transponders and passes.

- ExpressToll accounts and passes can be ordered at www.expresstoll.com or (303) 537-3470.
- The ExpressToll sticker tags or switchable HOV transponder, in TOLL mode, will work on this Express Lane, all of Colorado's Express Lanes and the toll roads such as E-470 and the Northwest Parkway.

14. How would temporary tags work? What about people that use your car?

- All drivers choosing to use Colorado's Express Lanes or toll roads such as E-470 or Northwest Parkway will save money every time by having an ExpressToll account and pass.
- Drivers will either pay the toll using an ExpressToll pass or pay a License Plate Toll (LPT), for those vehicles without an ExpressToll account and pass.
- Those with temporary tags will be charged a License Plate Toll.
- Drivers will pay the toll and a charge, which on the I-70 Mountain Express Lane can be up to \$10 more than the toll, if they choose to use License Plate Tolling.

OPERATIONS AND USAGE:

15. How far will it go?

- The I-70 Mountain Express Lane runs eastbound for 13 miles from Empire through the Veterans Memorial Tunnels in Idaho Springs.

16. What is the full capacity estimate of the toll lane and what speed are you targeting in the lane?

- CDOT estimates between 750-900 cars per hour will be able to use the I-70 Mountain Express Lane. This should help to relieve congestion in the two free general purpose lanes. Drivers in the Express Lane should be able to travel at a speed of 45 mph.

17. What are the days of operations?

- CDOT will operate the lanes 73 days a year, and only during periods of peak travel such as the weekends and holidays.

18. What vehicles will be allowed in the Express Lane?

- All drivers choosing to use the I-70 Mountain Express Lane will pay a toll. Drivers can save money every time with an ExpressToll account and pass.

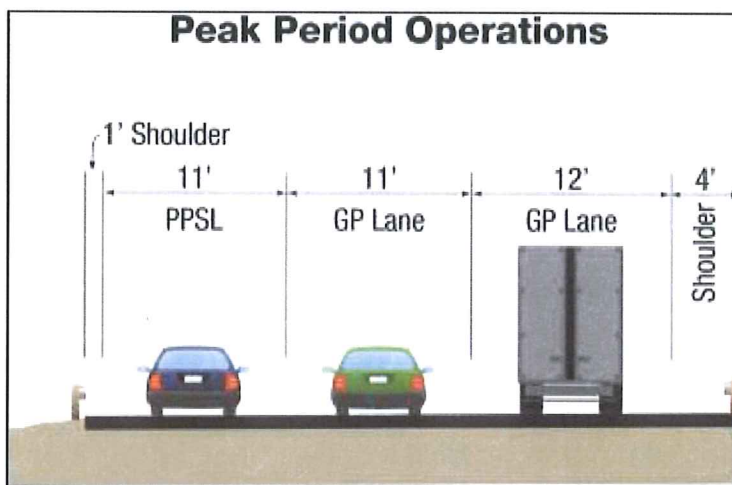
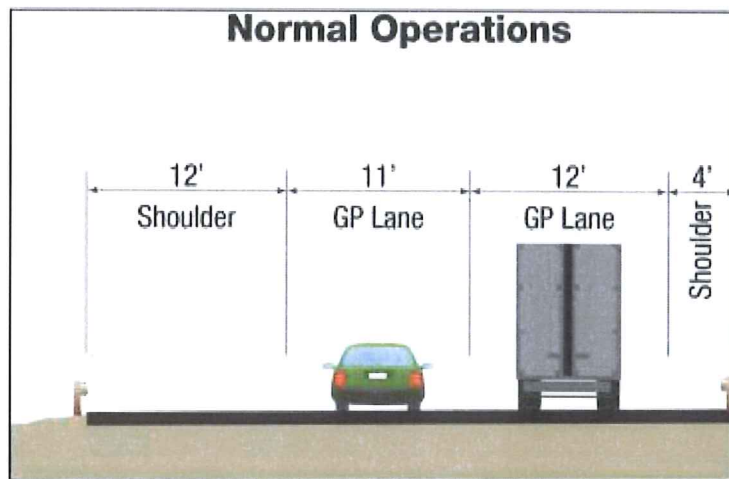
- The two free general purpose lanes will always be open and available when the Express Lane is open, providing drivers a choice.
- Vehicles with trailers or trucks are not permitted in the Express Lane.
- HOV/Carpoolers and motorcyclists will pay to use the lane.

19. The lane has no drainage. What will happen when it snows?

- CDOT may choose to not open the I-70 Mountain Express Lane during snow and weather events.

20. I am concerned about toll lane speed and normal lanes. Are these lanes narrow?

- These lanes are narrow since a shoulder is being used as the Express Lane. The speed limit is the same for all lanes, whether general purpose or an Express Lane.



21. If going to Idaho Springs, will you be charged the full amount?

- Drivers using the Express Lane will be charged one toll price listed on the signage, whether they enter near Empire Junction or near the Veterans Memorial Tunnels.

22. When will the I-70 Mountain Express Lane open?

- The Express Lane will open by the end of the year, in December.

EXPRESS LANE ACCESS AND EXITS:

23. Where do you enter the Express Lane?

- There are two entrances for the Express Lane located at:
 - Empire Junction, serving both I-70 eastbound travelers from the EJMT Tunnel and those coming from Berthoud Pass or Empire.
 - Just west of the Veterans Memorial Tunnel in Idaho Springs.

24. Do you need to stay on the whole 13 miles?

- The Express Lane will be marked by a solid white line and signage stating not to cross the line.

25. Can you exit at Idaho Springs?

- There is one egress (exit) that is prior to Exit 239, which will allow drivers to exit the Express Lane and move into the general purpose lanes to go to Idaho Springs. This area will be marked with a dashed line and signage indicating where to exit for Idaho Springs. It is not an entrance into the Express Lane.

26. If I pay a toll and exit and Idaho Springs, will I pay a toll if I get back into the Express Lane after visiting in Idaho Springs?

- Drivers who pay a toll will have four hours to visit the Idaho Springs area and then re-enter the toll lane without paying the toll again. If the visit is longer than four hours, the driver will pay to use the toll lane if they choose to re-enter it.

27. How do you ensure people won't weave in and out?

- There will be law enforcement.

OTHER QUESTIONS:

28. Will you consider shortening the metering lights from US 40 onto I-70 eastbound?

- CDOT constantly monitors the metering to optimize efficiency in the corridor.

29. Has this experiment been done in other states and what lessons were shared? Where has this pricing model been used and what are the lessons learned?

- Many states have tolled Express Lanes. However, CDOT's I-70 Mountain Express Lane is the only one that is offered only during peak times

(weekends and holidays), for 73 days maximum a year and is based on recreational drivers, not commuters such as all other Express Lanes. CDOT has worked with other states on lessons learned for educating the public on how to use Express Lanes.

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