



COLORADO

# Transportation Investment Office

## Colorado Transportation Investment Office Memorandum

**To:** The Colorado Transportation Investment Office (CTIO) Board of Directors

**From:** Alex Frank, Express Lanes Operations Manager

**Date:** May 20, 2026

### Subject: I-70 Mountain Express Lanes Updates

#### Purpose:

To update the Colorado Transportation Investment Office (CTIO) Board of Directors (Board) on the I-70 Mountain Express Lanes (MEXL), specifically focusing on the impact of expanded operating hours and the ongoing safety patrol sponsorship.

#### Requested Action:

This item is informational only, and no action is requested at this time.

#### Background:

In May 2025, CTIO collaborated with Clear Creek County and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) under a Project Leadership Team Chartering Agreement to amend the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to expand the MEXL operating hours and days. These expanded hours were requested due to the increase in traffic along the I-70 Mountain Express Lanes corridor, especially during peak traffic hours. With CTIO having utilized these expanded hours and days over the past year, staff would like to update the Board on current use and planned hours and days.

The attached presentation will also provide the Board with specific updates regarding this past winter season's traffic statistics, noting the unique impacts of the historically low snowfall and its effects on winter travel patterns and MEXL operations. This update also covers the performance of the safety patrol sponsorship and intends to gauge the board's interest in continuing this sponsorship.

#### Next Steps:

Staff will continue to provide updates on the I-70 Mountain Express Lanes as needed.

#### Attachments:

Attachment A - I-70 Mountain Express Lane Updates CTIO May Board Meeting 2026