



COLORADO
Department of
Transportation



I-25 South Gap Environmental Assessment Project

Monument to Castle Rock

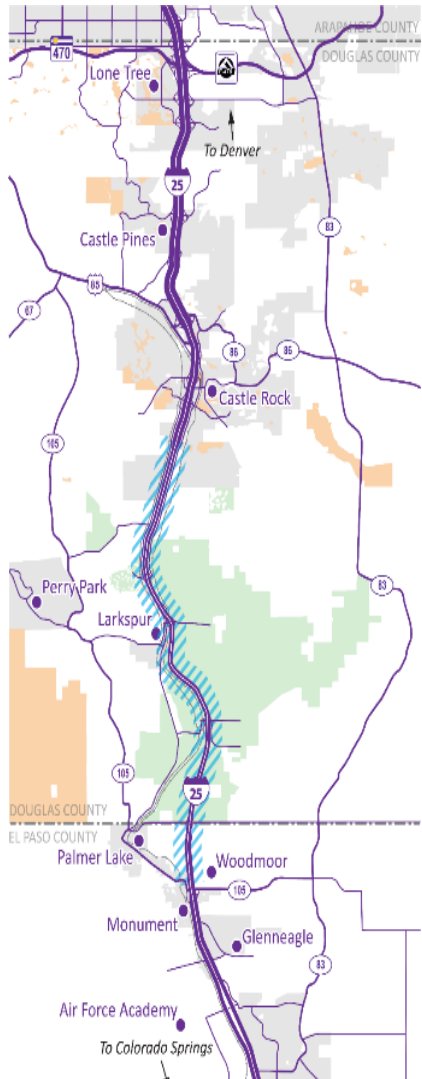
Public Meetings – Castle Rock and Colorado Springs

December 5 and 7, 2017



Why We Are Here

- Study History and Background
- Advancing Gap project
- What happens next?





I-25: An Important Corridor to Colorado

- One of the state's top transportation priorities
- Links the state's two largest metropolitan areas and communities between
- Critical to the state's economic and business development
- No major improvements since the 1960s
- Broad support among local, state, federal, and private economic development organizations





What We've Done PEL - A Year of Very Important Work

- Defined safety, mobility, and trip reliability problems
- Evaluated over 100 alternatives
- Detailed engineering survey
- Advanced environmental data collection
- Detailed traffic counts and travel demand model preparation
- Resource agency and local government coordination





What Did We Learn from the PEL Study?

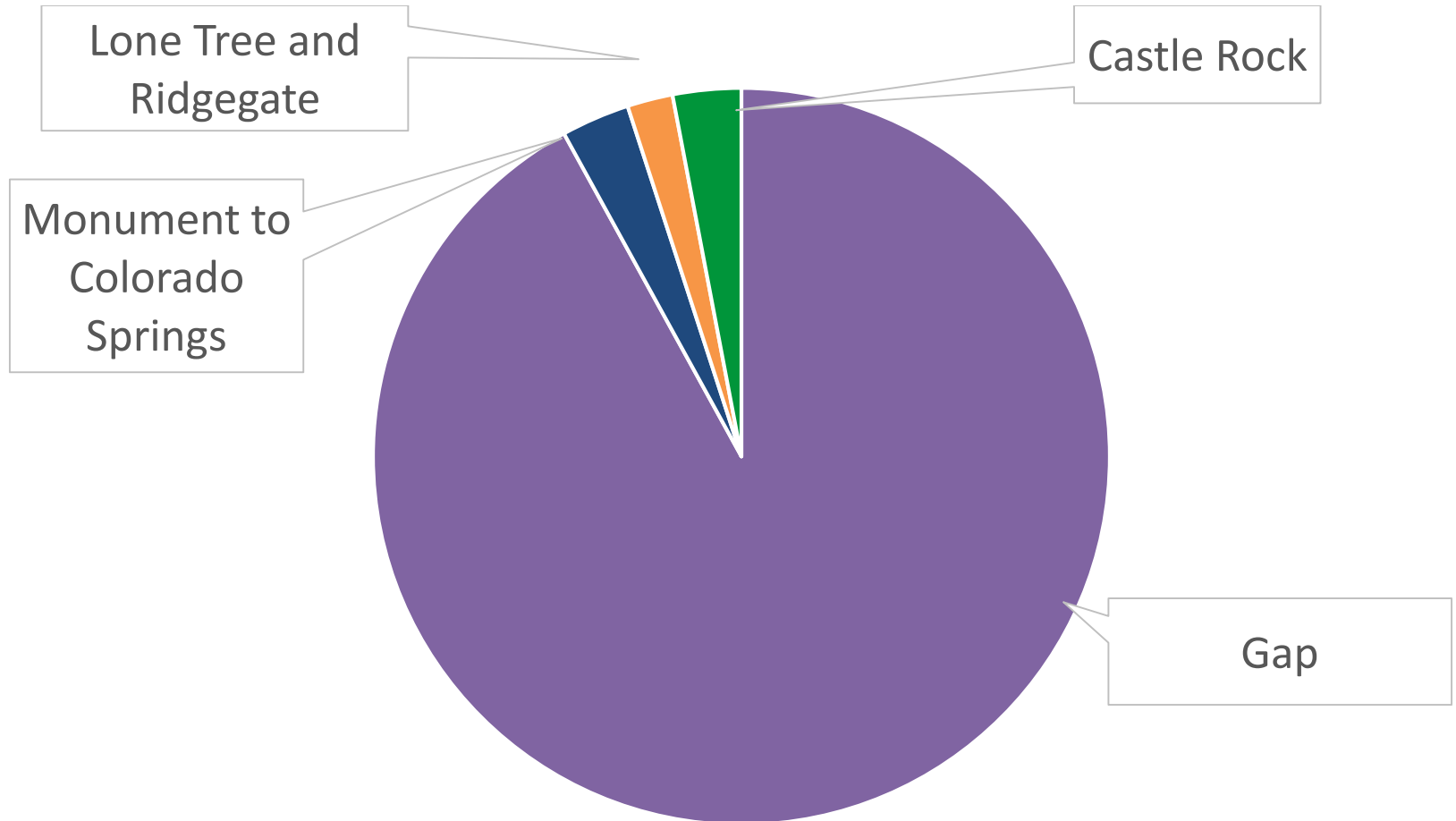
- More time is needed to identify long-term corridor solutions
- **I-25 South Gap Project identified as the most urgent and highest priority**
- The I-25 South Gap Project needs to provide an **additional lane** in each direction, improved / wider shoulders, improved **wildlife crossings** better lighting, and improved **bus and freight operations**





What We've Heard

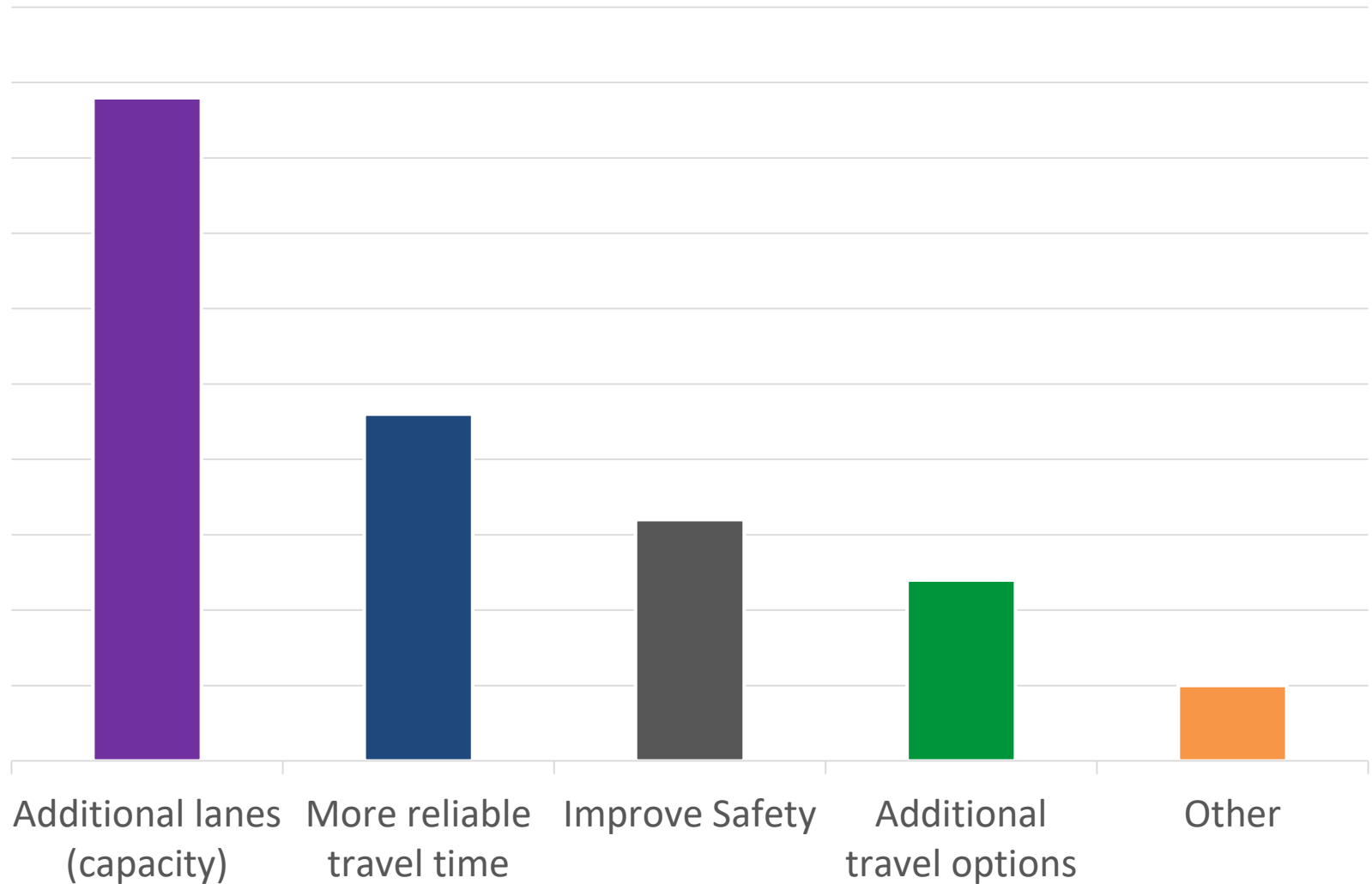
WHERE do you think the most problems with travel occur in the corridor?





What We've Heard

What is the MOST important improvement for the Gap?



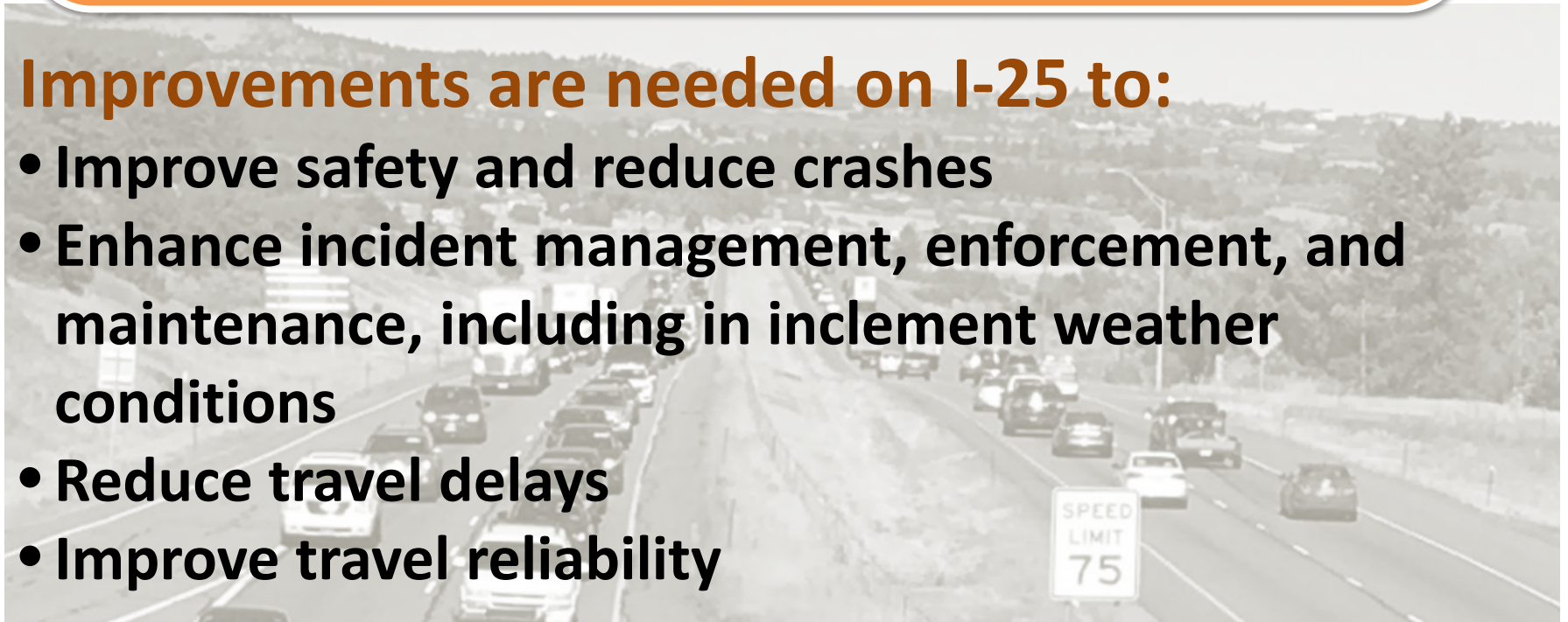


Gap Purpose and Need

Enhance safety, reduce delays, and improve reliability for travel on I-25 through the 18-mile, four-lane bottleneck (the Gap) between Colorado Springs and the Denver South region.

Improvements are needed on I-25 to:

- **Improve safety and reduce crashes**
- **Enhance incident management, enforcement, and maintenance, including in inclement weather conditions**
- **Reduce travel delays**
- **Improve travel reliability**





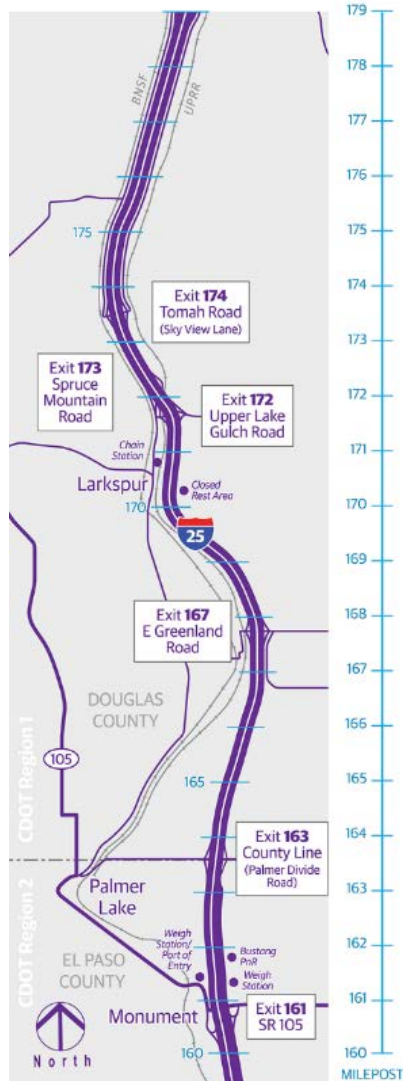
Advancing the Gap Project

- Construction starts by November 2018 or sooner
- Construction completed by Summer 2021





Proposed Action for I-25 South Gap EA



- Add one express lane NB and SB
 - 18 miles segment between Monument and Castle Rock
 - Address bottleneck
 - Balance lane capacity
- Widen shoulders for safety & incidents
 - Disabled vehicle recovery
 - Enforcement
 - Maintenance
 - Emergency detours
- Reconstruct / rehabilitate structures and pavement as needed
- Improve wildlife passage



Express Lanes vs. General Purpose Lanes

- Can't build our way out of congestion
- Provide a reliable trip
- Still have a choice
- Improved system performance in every corridor where express lanes have been implemented

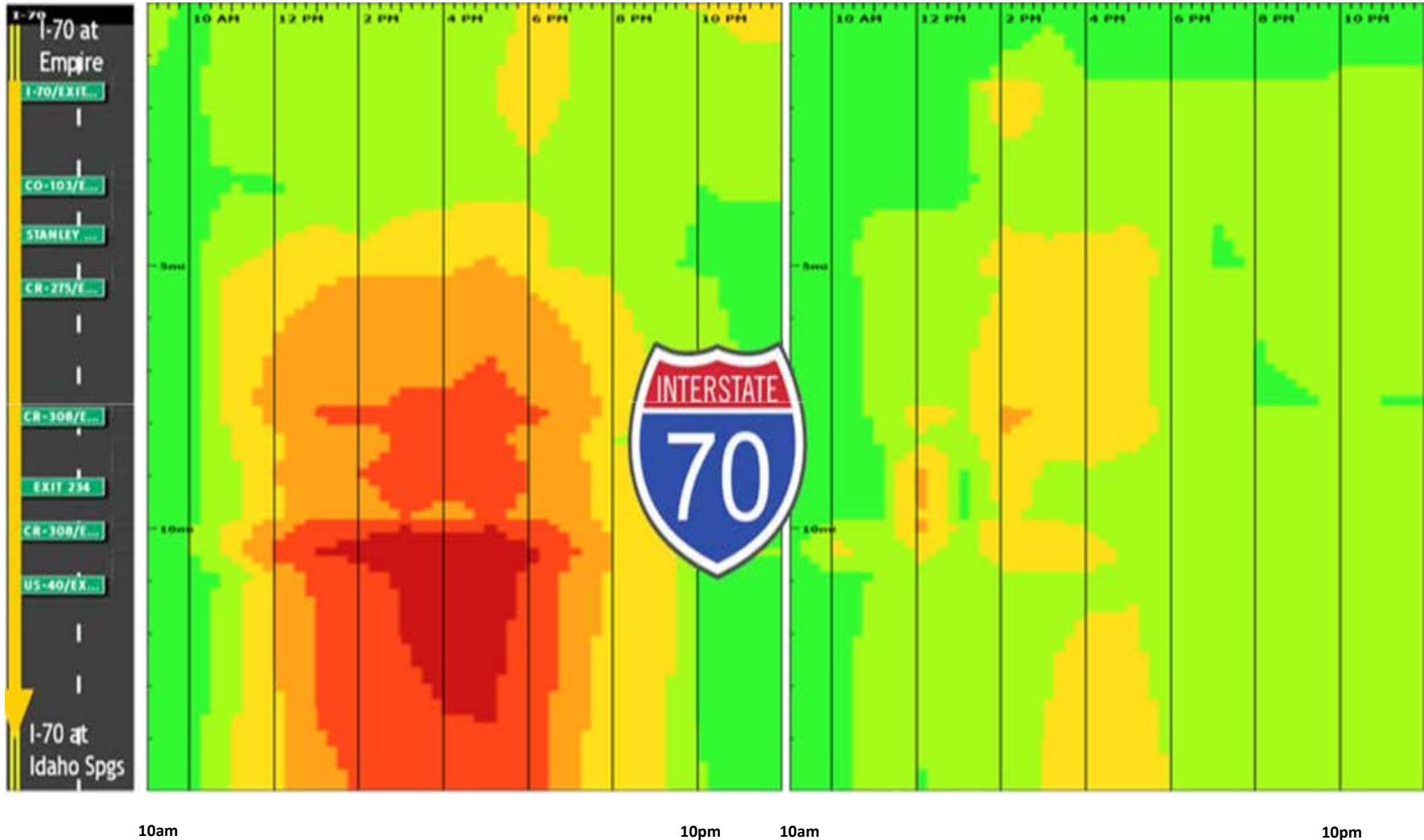




Express Lanes vs. General Purpose Lanes

BEFORE EXPRESS LANE
Sundays Dec. 2014 – Mar. 2015

AFTER EXPRESS LANE
Sundays Dec. 2015 – Mar. 2016





What about Transit?

- Bustang and other private operators (shuttles) provide regional transit now
- Our project will make that travel more efficient and faster
- Improvements to the Park n Ride at Monument
 - Improve circulation and reduce travel times
- Looking for options to serve Castle Rock





Freight Operations

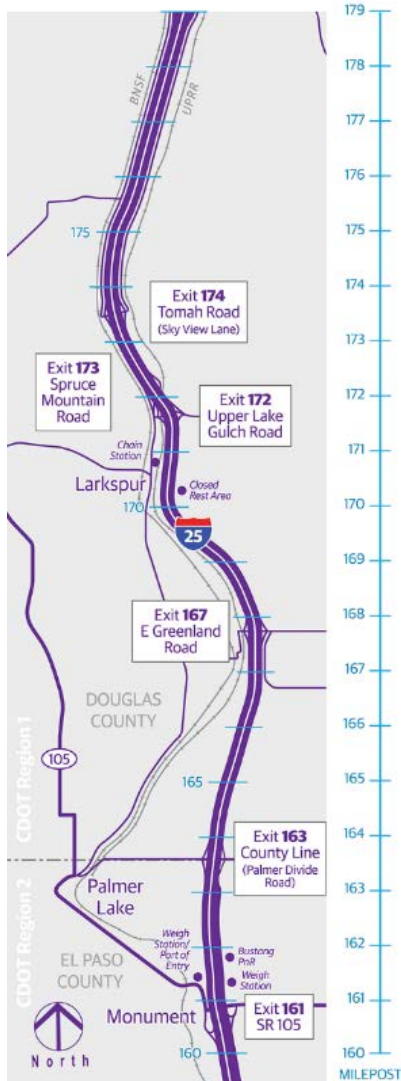
- I-25 is an important freight corridor
- Many operational challenges
 - Long climbing grades, speed differentials, weather
- Benefits of wider shoulders
 - Chain up, opportunity to safely pull off highway
- Enforcement opportunities to improve driving conditions
- Improved travel times
 - Capacity and reliability





Schedule, Funding, and Design Assumptions

- NEPA Decision Document – **June 2018**
- Complete Final Design – **Summer 2018**
- Construction Notice to Proceed (NTP) – **November 2018 or sooner**
- Construct within existing right-of-way
- \$350 million Project
 - **Proposed Funding (not secured yet)**
 - \$250 M state funds
 - \$35 M local funds
 - \$65 M federal grant
- Proposed Construction method: CMGC





PUBLIC MEETINGS: DECEMBER 5th & 7th



MEETING STATIONS

- ▶ Welcome & Sign In
- ▶ Project History & Background
- ▶ Purpose & Need
- ▶ Project Development
- ▶ Environmental Characteristics
- ▶ Beyond the Gap
- ▶ Proposed Action
- ▶ Comments