Twin Tunnels Environmental Assessment

Proposed Action

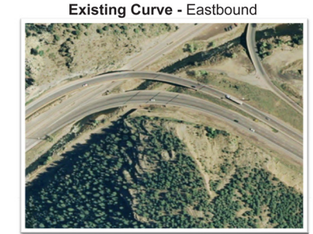
(Developed from Tunnel Visioning Concept Package 2)

Tunnel Entrance Existing - Eastbound

Conceptual Design - Eastbound

Existing Curve - Eastbound

Existing Curve - Eastbound

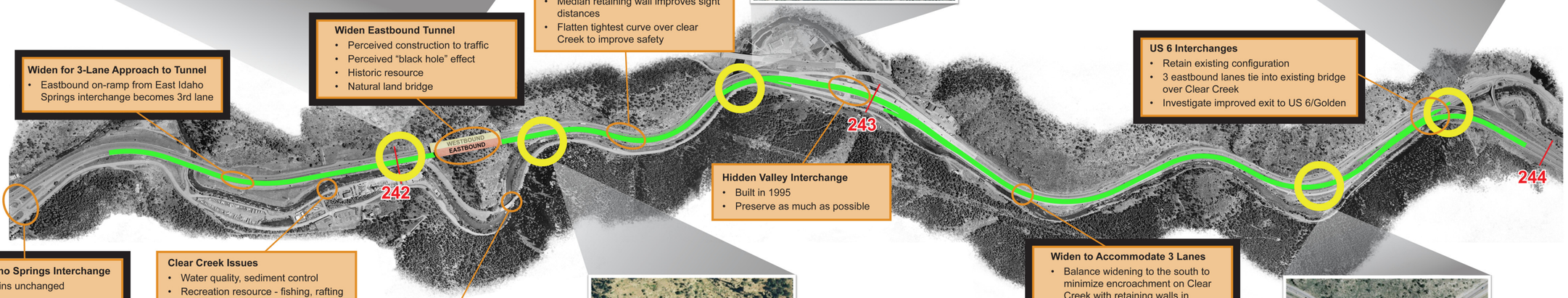


Widen for 3-Lane Approach to Tunnel
- Eastbound on-ramp from East Idaho Springs interchange becomes 3rd lane

Widen Eastbound Tunnel
- Perceived construction to traffic
- Perceived "black hole" effect
- Historic resource
- Natural land bridge

Improve Curve Safety
- High crash frequency
- Design speeds less than 50 mph
- Deficient sight distances
- Safety improvements indicated
- Median retaining wall improves sight distances
- Flatten tightest curve over clear Creek to improve safety

US 6 Interchanges
- Retain existing configuration
- 3 eastbound lanes tie into existing bridge over Clear Creek
- Investigate improved exit to US 6/Golden



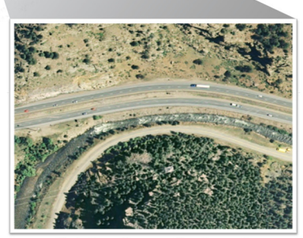
East Idaho Springs Interchange
- Remains unchanged

Clear Creek Issues
- Water quality, sediment control
- Recreation resource - fishing, rafting
- Concerns over channelization
- Retaining walls to minimize encroachment

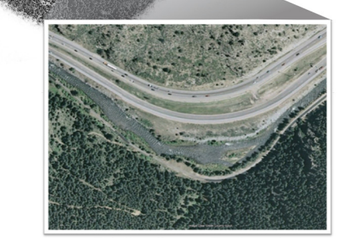
Possible Detour Around Tunnel
- Old US 40
- Clear Creek County Road 314 (to be closed during construction)
- Construction work and impacts to traffic will be minimized

Hidden Valley Interchange
- Built in 1995
- Preserve as much as possible

Widen to Accommodate 3 Lanes
- Balance widening to the south to minimize encroachment on Clear Creek with retaining walls in median and near Clear Creek



Existing Curve - Eastbound



Existing Curve - Eastbound

Twin Tunnels Environmental Assessment
Idaho Springs/Clear Creek County