

Westbound I-70 Twin Tunnels – August 2014

Construction Update

Blasting work inside the tunnel is nearly complete and outside the tunnel, most of the remaining blasts will be done on the east side of the tunnel. Above the west end of the tunnel, the focus is on installing rock bolts, mesh anchors and the mesh to prevent rockslides.

Overall, crews are about 55 percent complete with all blasting work, and this work will continue throughout August and September. Following these blasts outside the tunnel there could be the need to periodically scale materials and intermittently stop I-70 traffic in both directions for up to 30 minutes while materials are removed from above the highway. Delays to motorists can exceed 30 minutes, however, as it takes time for the traffic queues to clear.

To complete the rock blasting work, there will continue to be periodic traffic stops on weekdays, primarily mid-day, and early mornings on Fridays and Saturdays. With traffic through the mountains still being strong in August, the project does not schedule any work that would interfere with having free-flowing traffic between the hours of 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Fridays, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturdays, and 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Sundays. This means there could be early-morning blasting work on the weekends.

Because the blasting schedules can vary, everyone is encouraged to sign up for text or email alerts at <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/CODOT/subscriber/new?pop=t&qsp=1851>

In addition to the ongoing blasting work, construction of the tunnel form liner continues on the west side of the portal in anticipation of rolling this liner into the westbound bore in September to start pouring the concrete sections of the tunnel.



The use of blast mats and tall fencing along the highway help contain the blasts outside the tunnel to minimize the amount of rock that reaches the westbound lanes of I-70.