

VETERANS MEMORIAL TUNNELS



Westbound I-70 Twin Tunnels – Winter 2015

I-70 traffic shift completed ahead of schedule

Last month, it took about 12 hours to realign westbound I-70 traffic and about 24 hours to realign eastbound I-70 traffic through the Veterans Memorial Tunnel (formerly known as the Twin Tunnels). With two days of inactivity in between these two traffic shifts to allow a winter storm to pass, all I-70 traffic was realigned by 5 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 17 – three days ahead of schedule.

[Click here](#) to read a letter to the editor published in the Dec. 18 issue of the *Denver Post* regarding these efforts to restore I-70 traffic at the tunnels.

Upcoming construction activities include finishing work at tunnels and restoring County Road 314

Moving all lanes of I-70 traffic back into their original alignment allows crews to finish several pieces of work that couldn't be accessed while the detours were in place last year. This work includes finishing the retaining wall leading into the westbound tunnel (see photo at right), and building the median wall and restoring the center median area on the west side of the tunnels.

This work on the west side of the tunnel will require periodically closing a single lane of eastbound I-70 through mid-February. The other two lanes of eastbound I-70 will remain open through the tunnel. Along with building the median wall, crews will be removing the asphalt pavement used to detour westbound traffic last year so the median area can be regraded, light poles reset and permanent signs put in place.

Once this final work along I-70 is complete, crews will turn their attention to restoring County Road 314, making improvements to



The rebar on the right side of this photo shows where a retaining wall will be poured in place to help keep rocks from rolling onto the westbound lanes of I-70.

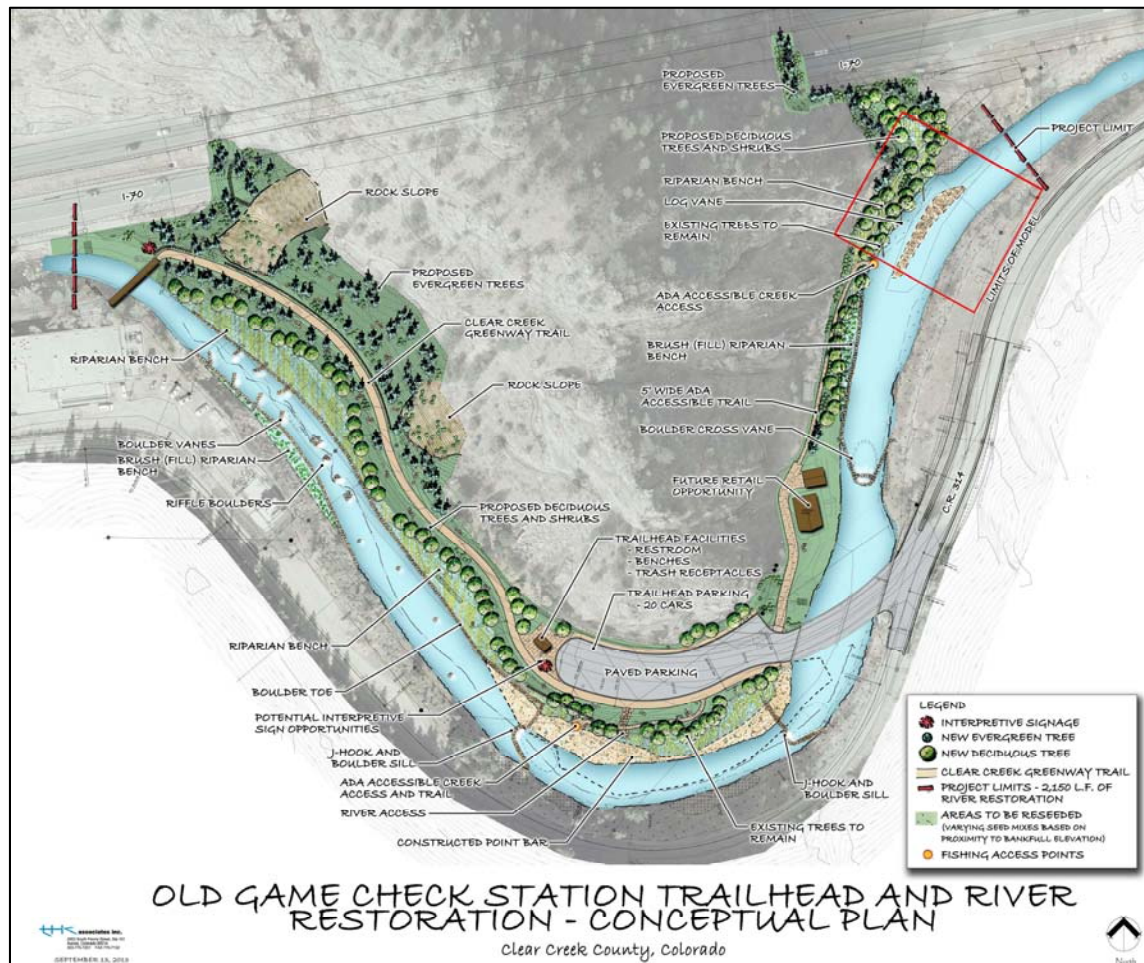


Clear Creek and building a new trailhead access that connects to the pedestrian bridge between I-70 and Clear Creek (see graphic below). Stream restoration work, which includes channel realignment and habitat creation, is scheduled to begin in early March and be complete by mid-April.

County Road 314 remains closed to vehicular through traffic while work is done to place stone fascia on the existing retaining walls and repave the roadway. Access to businesses on CR 314 is being maintained. Retaining wall work at the Hidden Valley off ramp (Exit 243) is scheduled to begin in March and be completed by late spring and paving work is currently scheduled for late spring or early summer.

Tunnels in Idaho Springs renamed Veterans Memorial Tunnels

Last March, Colorado lawmakers passed a bill to rename the I-70 Twin Tunnels near Idaho Springs as the Veterans Memorial Tunnels to honor those who have served this country. Later this year, letters will be adhered to the tunnel portals to indicate the new name to drivers as they enter the tunnels from either direction. The project's contractor, the Kraemer-Obayashi Joint Venture, is paying to have the Veterans Memorial Tunnel name mounted at both portals.



Later this year, restoration efforts along Clear Creek will include constructing a new trailhead to access the stream near the old Game Check Station.

