

Project IM 0703-244
I-70 MOUNTAIN CORRIDOR
FINAL PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
SECTION 4(f) DISCUSSION

Submitted Pursuant to:

42 USC 4332(2)(c) and 49 USC 303

Submitted by the:

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION
and the
COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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United States Army Corps of Engineers
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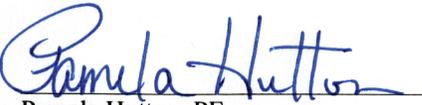
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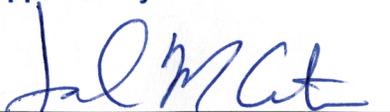
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The Federal Highway Administration may publish a notice in the Federal Register, pursuant to 23 United States Code (USC) § 139(1), once the Record of Decision is approved. If such notice is published, a claim arising under Federal law seeking judicial review of a permit, license, or approval issued by a Federal agency for a highway or public transportation capital project shall be barred unless it is filed within 180 days after publication of a notice in the Federal Register announcing that the permit, license, or approval is final pursuant to the law under which the agency action is taken, unless a shorter time is specified in the Federal law pursuant to which judicial review is allowed. If no notice is published, then the periods of time that otherwise are provided by the Federal laws governing such claims will apply.

Abstract

The Colorado Department of Transportation and Federal Highway Administration (the lead agencies) prepared this Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) to provide reader-friendly, concise information about the major findings of the I-70 Mountain Corridor National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. The I-70 Mountain Corridor extends between Glenwood Springs and C-470, from approximately milepost 116 to milepost 260, and traverses five counties in Colorado: Garfield, Eagle, Summit, Clear Creek, and Jefferson.

This document is the first tier of a Programmatic NEPA process. Twenty-one action alternatives and the No Action Alternative are evaluated for their ability to meet the purpose and need and to gain an understanding of the types of impacts that these alternatives have in the I-70 Mountain Corridor. The decisions to be made at the first tier are mode, capacity, and general location. These decisions will not be revisited at Tier 2. This document identifies a Preferred Alternative, a long-term 2050 vision of a multimodal transportation solution for the Corridor that includes non-infrastructure components, an Advanced Guideway System, and highway improvements. It incorporates an adaptive management approach for implementing improvements incrementally in response to changing conditions and trends. The Preferred Alternative was developed through a Collaborative Effort among the lead agencies and stakeholders; ongoing stakeholder engagement is an important component to the implementation of the Preferred Alternative. Potential impacts relative to all the alternatives are identified, and considerations for mitigation strategies are discussed. Once the first tier decision is made, Tier 2 processes will be needed to identify specific alternatives and alignments consistent with the Tier 1 decision. At that time, impacts will be analyzed more thoroughly and specific mitigation commitments will be made.

At the first tier, the lead agencies commit to follow I-70 Mountain Corridor Context Sensitive Solutions process and the stipulations of the Stream and Wetland Ecological Enhancement Program and A Landscape Level Inventory of Valued Ecosystem Components Memoranda of Understanding and Section 106 Programmatic Agreement, all of which are attached as appendices to this document.

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Visit the **project website** at <http://www.i70mtncorridor.com> for an electronic version of the Final PEIS, appendices, and technical reports. Appendix F of the PEIS provides responses to all comments received on the Revised Draft PEIS released in September 2010. The project website lists locations where hard copies of the Final PEIS and associated materials are available for public review.

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- I-70 Mountain Corridor PEIS Transportation Analysis Technical Report*
- I-70 Mountain Corridor PEIS Alternatives Development and Screening Technical Report*
- I-70 Mountain Corridor PEIS Safety Technical Report*
- I-70 Mountain Corridor PEIS Climate and Air Quality Technical Report*
- I-70 Mountain Corridor PEIS Biological Resources Technical Report*
- I-70 Mountain Corridor PEIS Wetlands and Other Waters of the U.S. Technical Report*
- I-70 Mountain Corridor PEIS Water Resources Technical Report*
- I-70 Mountain Corridor PEIS Geologic Hazards Technical Report*
- I-70 Mountain Corridor PEIS Regulated Materials and Historic Mining Technical Report*

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I-70 Mountain Corridor PEIS Social and Economic Values Technical Report
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I-70 Mountain Corridor PEIS Visual Resources Technical Report
I-70 Mountain Corridor PEIS Recreation Resources Technical Report
*I-70 Mountain Corridor PEIS Historic Properties and Native American Consultation
Technical Report*
I-70 Mountain Corridor PEIS Section 4(f) Evaluation Technical Report
I-70 Mountain Corridor PEIS Paleontological Resources Technical Report
I-70 Mountain Corridor PEIS Energy Technical Report
I-70 Mountain Corridor PEIS Cumulative Impacts Technical Report
I-70 Mountain Corridor PEIS Financial Considerations Technical Report
I-70 Mountain Corridor PEIS Cost Estimating Technical Report
I-70 Mountain Corridor PEIS Public and Agency Involvement Technical Report

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List of Acronyms

4P	Project Priority Programming Process
AGS	Advanced Guideway System
ALIVE	A Landscape Level Inventory of Valued Ecosystem Components
APCD	Air Pollution Control Division
APE	Area of Potential Effect
ARNF	Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests
AST	aboveground storage tank
BLM	United States Bureau of Land Management
BTU	British Thermal Units
CDBG	Community Development Block Grant
CDOT	Colorado Department of Transportation
CDPHE	Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CO ₂	carbon dioxide
Corridor	I-70 Mountain Corridor
CSS	Context Sensitive Solutions
CWA	Clean Water Act
dB	decibel
dBA	decibel scale, A-weighting
DRCOG	Denver Regional Council of Governments
EA	Environmental Assessment
EB	eastbound
ECO Trails	Eagle County Regional Trails
ECO Transit	Eagle County Regional Transportation Authority
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EJMT	Eisenhower–Johnson Memorial Tunnels
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ERNS	Emergency Response Notification System
FASTER	Funding Advancement for Surface Transportation and Economic Recovery
FGT	Fixed Guideway Transit
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration
FRA	Federal Railroad Administration
FTA	Federal Transit Administration
FY	Fiscal Year
Gal	gallons
GIS	geographic information system
GRP	Gross Regional Product

List of Acronyms

HOT	High Occupancy Toll
HOV	High Occupancy Vehicle
I-70	Interstate 70
IMC	Intermountain Connection
ITS	Intelligent Transportation System
kWh	kilowatt hour
LEED	Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design
LOS	Level of Service
LUST	leaking underground storage tank
maglev	magnetic levitation
MIS	Major Investment Study
MMT	million metric tons
MP	milepost
mpg	miles per gallon
mph	miles per hour
MSATs	Mobile Source Air Toxics
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standard
NAC	Noise Abatement Criteria
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NHL	National Historic Landmark
NO _x	nitrogen oxides
NWCCOG	Northwest Colorado Council of Governments
OAHP	Colorado Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation
PEIS	Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement
PM ₁₀	particulate matter less than 10 microns in diameter
PM _{2.5}	particulate matter less than 2.5 microns in diameter
R1	Colorado Department of Transportation Region 1
R3	Colorado Department of Transportation Region 3
RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
REMI	Regional Economic Models, Inc.
ROD	Record of Decision
SAFETEA-LU	Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users
SCAP	Sediment Control Action Plan
SCORP	Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan
SH	State Highway (numbered highway route)
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Officer
SWEEP	Stream and Wetland Ecological Enhancement Program
TAC	Technical Advisory Committee
TDM	Transportation (or Travel) Demand Management
TPR	Transportation Planning Region
TSM	Transportation System Management

List of Acronyms

U.S.	United States
US	United States Highway
USACE	United States Army Corps of Engineers
USC	United States Code
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
UST	underground storage tank
VMT	vehicle miles of travel
WB	westbound
WHI	Weighted Hazard Index
WRNF	White River National Forest

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