



## **I-270 Corridor Improvements**

# **Final Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision - I-270 Corridor Improvements Project**



**Federal Project Number: STU 2706-046**  
**CDOT Project Code: 25611**  
**Identification Number: FHWA-CO-EIS-24-001**  
**August 2026**

## Abstract

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) have prepared this combined Final Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision (Final EIS/ROD) for the Interstate 270 (I-270) Corridor Improvements Project (project). The project would modernize a critical 6.5-mile segment of I-270, from the Interstate 25/United States Highway 36 interchange to Interstate 70 in the Denver metropolitan area (City and County of Denver, City of Commerce City, and unincorporated Adams County), to improve safety, mobility, and travel efficiency on a facility that serves regional commuters, freight movement, and the National Highway System.

FHWA published the Draft EIS on November 21, 2025, initiating a 60-day public comment period that concluded on January 20, 2026. The Draft EIS evaluated a No Action Alternative and a reasonable range of alternatives and preliminarily identified a Preferred Alternative based on transportation operations, environmental considerations, and public and agency input. During the comment period, FHWA and CDOT conducted a series of public hearings and informational webinars. All substantive comments received during the comment period were reviewed and considered in refining the analyses and alternatives.

This Final EIS/ROD uses an abbreviated Final EIS with Errata approach consistent with 23 United States Code (USC) Section 139(n). It incorporates the Draft EIS by reference and provides corrections, clarifications, and updates to environmental analyses, design refinements, and applicable regulatory requirements. Updates include refinements to the preliminarily identified Preferred Alternative and the consideration of a proposed alternative submitted during the comment period, referred to in this Final EIS/ROD as the Two Express Lanes that Accommodate Transit Alternative. The Errata also documents any updates based on substantive public and agency comments, as applicable.

Based on the full National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) record, FHWA identifies and approves the Selected Alternative in this Final EIS/ROD. The Selected Alternative (the Two General-Purpose Lanes and One Express Lane that Accommodates Transit Alternative) best meets the project's Purpose and Need while minimizing environmental impacts and incorporating mitigation and environmental commitments. The ROD documents FHWA's decision, the basis for that decision, the required findings under applicable environmental laws, and the mitigation measures that will be implemented and enforced.

Publication of this Final EIS/ROD completes the NEPA process for the project and provides a clear basis for advancing the project into final design, permitting, right-of-way (ROW) acquisition, and construction.

## NEPA Statement

This combined Final EIS/ROD has been prepared in accordance with NEPA (42 USC Section 4321-4370(h)) and FHWA environmental regulations at 23 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 771. NEPA requires federal agencies to evaluate the environmental, social, and economic effects of major federal actions and to disclose those effects to the public to support informed decision making. Preparation of an EIS ensures that FHWA considers a full range of reasonable alternatives, evaluates potential impacts, and identifies mitigation measures before taking final action on a proposed project.

FHWA is the lead agency for this Final EIS/ROD pursuant to 42 USC Section 4336a(a)(1)(A), and CDOT is the joint lead agency under 23 USC Section 139(c)(3). Cooperating agencies for this Final EIS/ROD pursuant to 23 USC Section 139(d)(5) include the United States Environmental Protection Agency and United States Army Corps of Engineers. Consistent with 23 USC Section 139(n), FHWA has determined that issuance of a single document containing both the Final EIS and the ROD is appropriate because no new significant environmental issues or substantial changes to the Preferred Alternative have emerged since publication of the Draft EIS. This combined Final EIS/ROD therefore provides FHWA's final agency action under NEPA.

This Final EIS/ROD incorporates the Draft EIS by reference to provide the full environmental record supporting FHWA's decision while avoiding unnecessary duplication of material. An abbreviated Final EIS with Errata format is used to avoid duplication and focuses the analysis on new information, corrections, design refinements, and responses to substantive public and agency comments. The Errata section documents updates to the Draft EIS resource analyses; identifies corrections and clarifications; incorporates design refinements and new information; and indicates whether these changes affect the original conclusions. FHWA's and CDOT's responses to substantive comments received during the public comment period are provided in Chapter 5.0 of the Final EIS.

This combined Final EIS/ROD package contains the abbreviated Final EIS, the ROD, and appendices, including all comments received during the public comment period. These documents are available for download and/or printing on the project website at: <https://www.codot.gov/projects/studies/i270study>.

Readers seeking FHWA's decision, findings under applicable environmental laws, and enforceable mitigation commitments should consult the ROD. Readers seeking information on updates since the Draft EIS should refer to Chapter 2.0, Changes Since the Draft EIS and Errata, of the Final EIS. The Draft EIS remains the primary source for full environmental analyses, methodologies, and descriptions of alternatives.

Publication of this Final EIS/ROD completes the NEPA process for the project and provides the basis for advancing the project into final design, permitting, ROW acquisition, and construction.

For additional information concerning this document, contact:

Bill Schiebel, P.E.  
Federal Highway Administration  
12300 West Dakota Avenue, Suite 180  
Lakewood, CO 80228  
720-963-3032

David Merenich, P.E.  
Colorado Department of Transportation  
4670 Holly Street  
Denver, CO 80216  
720-933-5755

If you require the Final EIS/ROD, or portions of it, in Spanish, please contact 303-512-4270. Free language assistance services are available upon request.

Si usted requiere el Final EIS/ROD, o partes del mismo, en español, por favor comuníquese al 303-512-4270. Los servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística están disponibles a solicitud.

CDOT is dedicated to providing an accessible experience for everyone. While we are continuously improving our standards, some complex items in this document, such as certain figures and images, are difficult to create with fully accessible parameters to all users. If you need help understanding any part of this document, we are here to assist and have resources to provide additional accessibility assistance to any requests. Please email us at [CDOT\\_Accessibility@state.co.us](mailto:CDOT_Accessibility@state.co.us) to request an accommodation, and a member of our I-270 Engineering Program will schedule a time to review the content with you. To learn more about accessibility at CDOT, please visit the [Accessibility at CDOT webpage on the CDOT Website](#).

## Acronyms and Abbreviations

| Acronym | Definition                                                                        |
|---------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| a.m.    | morning                                                                           |
| ACM     | asbestos-containing material                                                      |
| APCD    | CDPHE - Air Pollution Control Division                                            |
| APEN    | Air Pollutant Emissions Notice                                                    |
| AQCC    | Air Quality Control Commission                                                    |
| BMPs    | best management practices                                                         |
| BNSF    | BNSF Railway                                                                      |
| BTE     | Statewide Bridge and Tunnel Enterprise                                            |
| CAA     | Clean Air Act of 1970                                                             |
| CCR     | Code of Colorado Regulations                                                      |
| CDOT    | Colorado Department of Transportation                                             |
| CDPHE   | Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment                              |
| CDPS    | Colorado Discharge Permit System                                                  |
| CEQ     | Council on Environmental Quality                                                  |
| CFR     | Code of Federal Regulations                                                       |
| CORA    | Colorado Open Records Act                                                         |
| CTIO    | Colorado Transportation Investment Office                                         |
| CO      | carbon monoxide                                                                   |
| CO 224  | Colorado Highway 224                                                              |
| CORA    | Colorado Open Records Act                                                         |
| CPW     | Colorado Parks and Wildlife                                                       |
| CRS     | Colorado Revised Statutes                                                         |
| CTIO    | Colorado Transportation Investment Office                                         |
| CWA     | Clean Water Act of 1972                                                           |
| dB      | decibel                                                                           |
| dBA     | A-weighted decibel                                                                |
| DRCOG   | Denver Regional Council of Governments                                            |
| EA      | Environmental Assessment                                                          |
| EIS     | Environmental Impact Statement                                                    |
| EO      | Executive Order                                                                   |
| EPA     | US Environmental Protection Agency                                                |
| ESA     | Endangered Species Act of 1973                                                    |
| FASTER  | Funding Advancements for Surface Transportation and Economic Recovery Act of 2009 |
| FCI     | Functional Capacity Index                                                         |
| FEMA    | Federal Emergency Management Agency                                               |



|                   |                                                                          |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| FF5               | Flatiron Flyer 5                                                         |
| FHWA              | Federal Highway Administration                                           |
| FIRM              | Flood Insurance Rate Map                                                 |
| FIS               | Flood Insurance Study                                                    |
| FTA               | Federal Transit Administration                                           |
| I-25              | Interstate 25                                                            |
| I-270             | Interstate 270                                                           |
| I-70              | Interstate 70                                                            |
| I-76              | Interstate 76                                                            |
| ID                | Identification number                                                    |
| ISRRPP            | Interstate System Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Pilot Program        |
| ITS               | Intelligent Transportation Systems                                       |
| JD                | Jurisdictional determination                                             |
| LBP               | lead-based paint                                                         |
| LOMR              | Letter of Map Revision                                                   |
| LWCF              | Land and Water Conservation Fund                                         |
| MBTA              | Migratory Bird Treaty Act                                                |
| MMP               | Materials Management Plan                                                |
| MOVES             | Motor Vehicle Emissions Simulator                                        |
| MS4               | municipal separate storm sewer system                                    |
| MSAT              | Mobile Source Air Toxic                                                  |
| NAAG              | CDOT's Noise Abatement and Analysis Guidelines                           |
| NAAQS             | National Ambient Air Quality Standards                                   |
| NAC               | Noise Abatement Criteria                                                 |
| NEPA              | National Environmental Policy Act                                        |
| NO <sub>x</sub>   | nitrogen oxide                                                           |
| NOI               | Notice of Intent                                                         |
| NWP               | Nationwide Permit                                                        |
| O <sub>3</sub>    | ozone                                                                    |
| OHWM              | Ordinary High Water Mark                                                 |
| OWJ               | Official with Jurisdiction                                               |
| p.m.              | afternoon                                                                |
| PFAS              | per- and polyfluoroalkyl substance                                       |
| PIP               | Public Involvement Plan                                                  |
| PM                | particulate matter                                                       |
| PM <sub>2.5</sub> | particulate matter less than 2.5 microns in diameter (fine particulate)  |
| PM <sub>10</sub>  | particulate matter less than 10 microns in diameter (coarse particulate) |



|             |                                                                                      |
|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Project     | I-270 Corridor Improvements Project                                                  |
| PWQ         | permanent water quality                                                              |
| ROD         | Record of Decision                                                                   |
| ROW         | Right-of-way                                                                         |
| RTD         | Regional Transportation District                                                     |
| RTP         | Regional Transportation Plan                                                         |
| SAFETEA-LU  | Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users |
| SB          | Senate Bill                                                                          |
| SCRGP       | Sand Creek Regional Greenway Partnership                                             |
| SGPI        | Shortgrass Prairie Initiative                                                        |
| SHPO        | State Historic Preservation Office                                                   |
| STRAHNET    | Strategic Highway Network                                                            |
| SWMP        | Stormwater Management Plan                                                           |
| Uniform Act | Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act             |
| UPRR        | Union Pacific Railroad                                                               |
| US          | United States                                                                        |
| US 36       | United States Highway 36                                                             |
| USACE       | US Army Corps of Engineers                                                           |
| USC         | United States Code                                                                   |
| USDOT       | United States Department of Transportation                                           |
| USFWS       | US Fish and Wildlife Service                                                         |
| VMT         | vehicle miles traveled                                                               |
| VOC         | volatile organic compound                                                            |
| VPPP        | Value Pricing Pilot Program                                                          |
| WOTUS       | waters of the US                                                                     |
| WQCD        | CDPHE - Water Quality Control Division                                               |



## **I-270 Corridor Improvements**

# **Final Environmental Impact Statement - I-270 Corridor Improvements Project**



**Federal Project Number: STU 2706-046  
CDOT Project Code: 25611  
Identification Number: FHWA-CO-EIS-24-001  
August 2026**

STU 2706-046  
Subaccount 25611 I-270  
I-270 from I-25 to I-70

Adams County, City of Commerce City, and City and County of Denver, Colorado

## Final Environmental Impact Statement

Document Submitted Pursuant to:  
42 USC §4332, 49 USC §303, and 23 USC §139

by the  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
Federal Highway Administration  
and  
Colorado Department of Transportation

**Cooperating Agencies**  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

**Submitted by:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jessica Myklebust  
Region 1 Transportation Director  
Colorado Department of  
Transportation

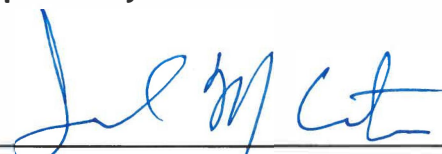
August 20, 2026  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Concurred by:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Keith Stefanik, PE  
Chief Engineer  
Colorado Department of Transportation

8/20/2026  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Approved by:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
John M. Cater  
Division Administrator  
Federal Highway Administration

8/20/2026  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

---

## Table of Contents

|            |                                                                                                        |            |
|------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| <b>1.0</b> | <b>Introduction .....</b>                                                                              | <b>1-1</b> |
| 1.1        | Project Overview .....                                                                                 | 1-1        |
| 1.2        | Abbreviated Final EIS and Errata Approach .....                                                        | 1-1        |
| <b>2.0</b> | <b>Changes Since the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and<br/>Errata .....</b>                     | <b>2-1</b> |
| 2.1        | Changes Based on Current Data, Design Refinement, Regulatory Developments,<br>and Public Comment ..... | 2-1        |
| 2.2        | Errata .....                                                                                           | 2-8        |
| <b>3.0</b> | <b>Purpose and Need.....</b>                                                                           | <b>3-1</b> |
| <b>4.0</b> | <b>Alternatives Considered .....</b>                                                                   | <b>4-1</b> |
| 4.1        | Overview of Alternatives Development.....                                                              | 4-1        |
| 4.2        | Alternatives Evaluated in the Draft EIS.....                                                           | 4-1        |
| <b>5.0</b> | <b>Public and Agency Involvement .....</b>                                                             | <b>5-1</b> |
| 5.1        | Influence of Stakeholder Engagement on Project Development .....                                       | 5-1        |
| 5.2        | Draft EIS Public Review and Comment Period .....                                                       | 5-1        |
| 5.3        | Approach Used to Summarize and Respond to Comments .....                                               | 5-4        |
| 5.4        | Responses to Substantive Comments on the Draft EIS.....                                                | 5-6        |
| <b>6.0</b> | <b>References .....</b>                                                                                | <b>6-1</b> |

## **Appendices**

Appendix A - Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Appendix B - Alternatives Map Books

Appendix C - Comments Received on the Draft EIS

Appendix D - Two Express Lanes that Accommodate Transit Alternative Technical Report

Appendix E - Noise Report

Appendix F - Errata Figures and Tables

Appendix G - Aquatic Resources Supporting Documentation