

HISTORY



I-70 Rises



Central 70



IT DIDN'T TAKE LONG for Eisenhower's Interstate System to reach the growing City of Denver. The first segment of I-70 in the city started across the northeast corner in 1961. The 2.6-mile segment followed the route of 46th Avenue between Jackson Street and the junction of I-25. The six-lane I-70 viaduct followed quickly thereafter and was completed on Sept. 12, 1964 at a cost of \$12.5 million.

At the time of this early construction, the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) had not yet been passed. It was projects like I-70 that divided neighborhoods without community input or mitigation in place that prompted the historic NEPA legislation in 1969. Through the NEPA process, agencies now evaluate the environmental, social and economic impacts of their proposed actions prior to making project decisions and beginning construction. Opportunities for public review and comment are also included in these evaluations.



DID YOU KNOW?

These are the original prime contractors who built I-70 between Colorado Boulevard and I-25 between 1964 and 1965:

- Leon K. Suhm, Inc.
- A.S. Horner
- Ramsour Brothers
- Peter Kiewit Sons'

“Kiewit is proud to have worked in Colorado for the past 75 years building iconic projects throughout the state and the Denver-metro area, including the Central 70 Project. It has been an honor to help transform this portion of I-70 and reconnect the local neighborhoods through this Project.”

—*Jason Proskovec, Kiewit Infrastructure Co. Project Manager*



I-70 CONSTRUCTION 1963:
(Top) Concrete being moved from trucks up to the viaduct before concrete pumps were used.



(Bottom) Crews moving and laying concrete on the new viaduct bridge deck.

Courtesy of the Colorado Department of Transportation



I-70 CONSTRUCTION 1963:

(Top left) Near Brighton Boulevard, looking east.

(Bottom left) Aerial near Nestlé-Purina plant.

(Bottom right) Piers under future Union Pacific RR bridge.

Courtesy of the Colorado Department of Transportation

