



I-70 Floyd Hill

I-70 Floyd Hill Rock Scaling and Blasting Frequently Asked Questions

(answers in blue)

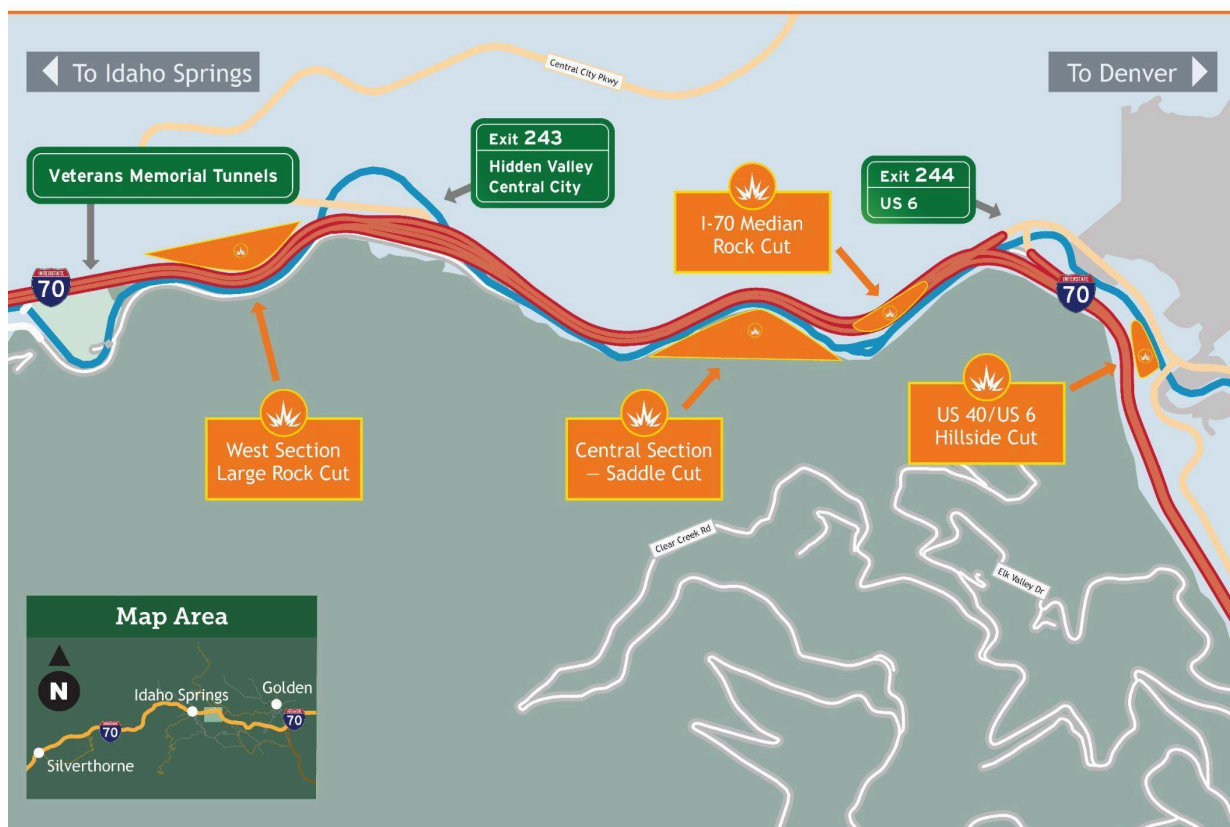
Description

As part of The Colorado Department of Transportation's I-70 Floyd Hill Project, rock scaling and blasting will be necessary in the West and Central Sections (between the middle of Floyd Hill to Idaho Springs) of the Project to widen I-70, rebuild and replace bridges over I-70, and straighten I-70 curves to improve safety and operations. Rock scaling began in early October 2024 in the West Section. Rock blasting in the West and Central Sections began in late October 2024.



Floyd Hill Project

West and Central Sections



Frequently Asked Questions - Scaling

What is rock scaling?

Rock scaling is the process of removing loose or unstable rock and debris from a slope or cliff face to reduce the risks of rock falls.

Why is rock scaling necessary?

Rock scaling is necessary to protect motorists from rocks falling onto their car. By rock scaling before rock blasting, crews reduce the possibility of loose rocks flying during a blast and clean up time following a rock blast.

What areas of the Project require rock scaling?

Rock scaling is only required in the West Section of the Project, which spans from Hidden Valley (Exit 243) to Idaho Springs. Rock scaling will happen above westbound I-70 between the Veterans Memorial Tunnels and Hidden Valley.

When will rock scaling occur?

Rock scaling began in early October 2024 and is expected to last approximately two months.

Where will traffic be held during rock scaling operations?

For scaling operations, westbound I-70 traffic will be held east of the Hidden Valley interchange (Exit 243). Eastbound I-70 traffic will be held west of the Veterans Memorial Tunnels. Traffic holds may be required on County Road 314. Access to Central City Parkway will remain open during scaling operations.

How often will the Project perform rock scaling?

Rock scaling will occur up to six times per day, Monday through Thursday, between 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. during off-peak travel hours. Motorists can expect a traffic hold for rock scaling approximately every 60 to 75 minutes beginning at 9 a.m. on days that rock scaling operations are occurring.

How long will traffic be stopped for each scaling operation?

Traffic will be held up to 20 minutes per rock scaling operation. Motorists can anticipate 45-minute delays as the traffic queue clears.

Why is traffic held for rock scaling?

The safety of the traveling public is the number one priority during construction of the I-70 Floyd Hill Project. With that in mind, crews will stop traffic to ensure the safety of motorists and their passengers.

Why are rock scaling operations conducted during the day and not overnight?

Rock scaling operations must occur during the daytime because visibility during these operations is imperative to the safety of the traveling public and construction crews.

How will I be notified before rock scaling occurs on my commute?

The Floyd Hill Project's public information team will ensure the scaling schedule is available to the public. In addition to overhead message boards, here is how you can stay informed.

- Visit the Project website - codot.gov/projects/i70floydhill
- Call the hotline - 720-994-2368 (CDOT)
- Email the Project and receive email updates - cdot_floydhillproject@state.co.us
- Sign up for text alerts - Text floydhill to 21000
- Real-time traffic information - Visit [COtrip.org](https://cotrip.org)
- Check NextDoor before you hit the road
- Follow CDOT on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/cdot) and [Twitter](https://twitter.com/cdot)

Is there a detour during rock scaling?

There will not be a traffic detour in place during scaling - motorists should stay on I-70. The Project asks travelers to plan trips around the scaling schedule. If you have to travel during scaling operations, you should expect to be stopped for 20 minutes while scaling occurs. Overall, motorists can expect delays up to 45 minutes. Please turn off your vehicle during the traffic holds to reduce emissions in the area.

Frequently Asked Questions - Blasting

What is rock blasting?

Unlike earthen material that is encountered in the Denver metro area, rock material in a mountain environment is much harder and cannot be excavated with conventional methods. To fracture the material and remove it from the site, rock blasting is used. Rock blasting involves drilling a hole into the rock and placing explosive and void-filling materials into the hole. A controlled blast is then triggered to fracture the rock so it can be excavated and removed from the site.

When will blasting occur?

Rock blasting in the West and Central Sections began in late October 2024 and will last through 2026. Rock scaling operations may be necessary after rock blasting to clear any loose rocks above I-70 traffic. Therefore, motorists can anticipate multiple traffic holds per day.

Where will traffic be held during rock blasting operations?

Traffic will be held at least a half-mile away from the blasting operations, but plan for traffic slowdowns extending farther than a half-mile away. For rock blasting operations, motorists can generally expect to be held on I-70 as far east as Homestead Road (Exit 247) and as far west as the Veterans Memorial Tunnels. Intermittent traffic holds on County Road 314, Central City Parkway, US 6 and US 40 may be required during rock blasting operations.

How often will the Project perform rock blasting?

Motorists can anticipate several traffic holds per day, Mondays through Thursdays, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Fridays, 9 a.m. to noon. Blasting will occur in the West and Central Sections of the Project from east of US 6 (Exit 244) to the Veterans Memorial Tunnels.

How long will traffic be stopped for each blast?

Traffic will be held for up to 20 minutes during each blast, but motorists can anticipate delays of up to 45 minutes. Mondays through Thursdays, delays could extend to 4 p.m.

Will there be a detour?

There will not be a traffic detour in place during blasting - motorists should stay on I-70. The Project asks travelers to plan trips around the blasting schedule. If you have to travel during blasting operations, you should expect to be stopped for 20 minutes while blasting occurs. Overall, motorists can expect delays up to 45 minutes. Please turn off your vehicle during the traffic holds to reduce emissions in the area.

Why are rock blasting operations conducted during the day and not overnight?

Rock blasting operations must occur during the daytime because visibility during these operations is imperative to the safety of the traveling public, construction crews, and for emergency response access. Rock blasting can also result in loud noise, which can be disruptive to nearby residents and businesses.

Why is traffic held for rock blasting?

The safety of the traveling public is the number one priority during construction of the I-70 Floyd Hill Project. With that in mind, crews will stop traffic to ensure the safety of motorists and their passengers.

Will I feel the rock blast?

You will likely only feel a blast if you're within 1,000 feet of the blasting site. Because traffic will be stopped at least a half-mile away from blasting operations, it is unlikely you will feel the blast, but you may hear it.

Will rocks be able to hit my car from a blast?

Rocks will not be able to strike vehicles during blasting operations. Drivers will be stopped far enough away from the blasting zone to reduce the risk of this.

Will you pay for any damages caused by rock blasting?

Yes. In the unlikely event that a blast causes any property damage, the vehicle or property owner should file a claim for reimbursement by emailing the Project at cdot_floydhillproject@state.co.us. Damage that is not a direct result of blasting will not be covered.

How will I be notified before blasting occurs on my commute?

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