



I-70 Floyd Hill

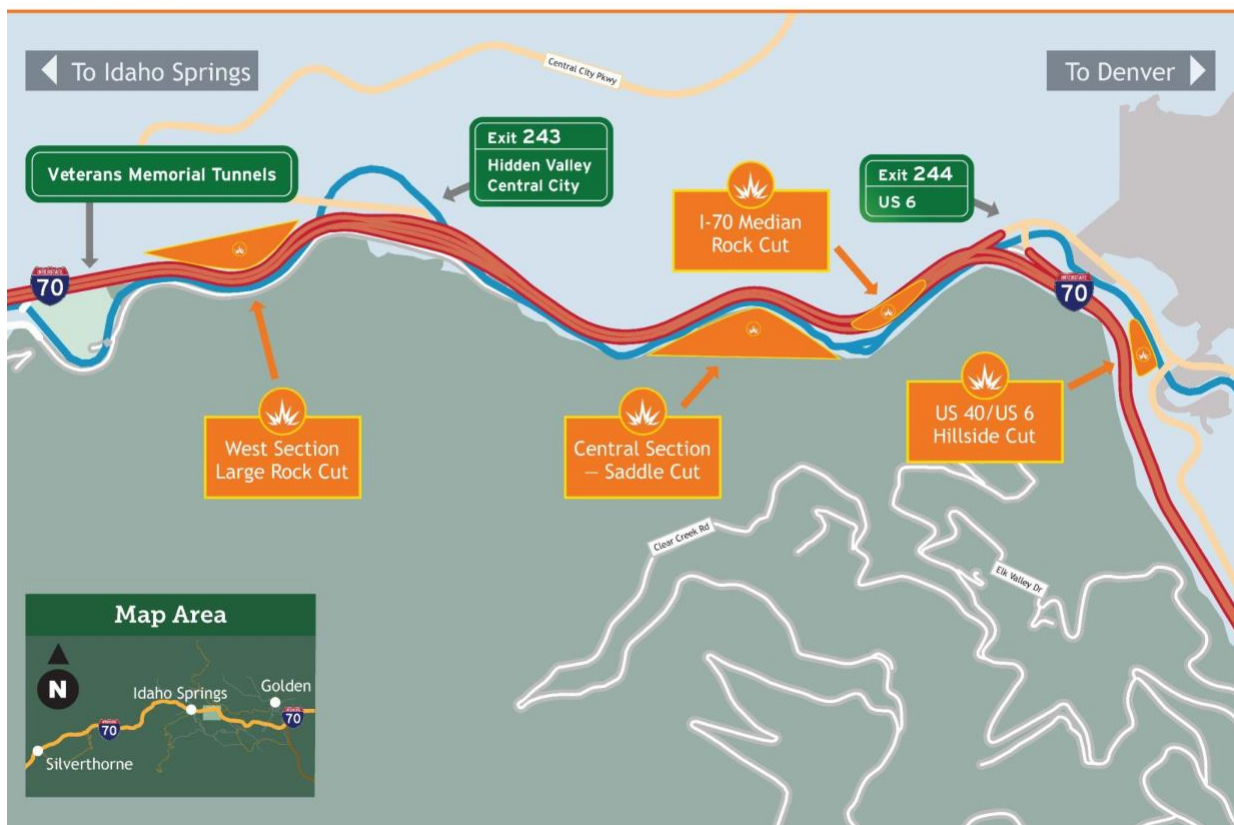
I-70 Floyd Hill Rock Scaling and Blasting Frequently Asked Questions (answers in blue)

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 Spring) of the Project to widen I-70, rebuild and replace bridges over I-70, and flatten I-70 curves to improve safety. Rock scaling is estimated to begin in the West Section after Labor Day. Rock blasting in the West and Central Sections is expected to begin in fall 2024 after the completion of rock scaling.



West and Central Sections



Frequently Asked Questions - Scaling

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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 between the Veterans Memorial Tunnels and Hidden Valley.
4. When will rock scaling occur?

Rock scaling is expected to begin after Labor Day 2024 and last approximately two months.
5. How far away from the rock scaling operations will cars be stopped?

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. Access to County Road 314 and Central City Parkway will remain open during scaling operations.
6. 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 active.
7. How long will traffic be stopped for each scaling operation?

I-70 traffic will be held up to 20 minutes per rock scaling operation. Motorists can anticipate 45-minute delays as the traffic queue clears.
8. Why does traffic have to be stopped 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.
9. Why do rock scaling operations have to be 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.
10. 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 - codot_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](#) and [Twitter](#)

11. 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

12. What is rock blasting?

Unlike earthen material that is encountered in the metro area, rock material 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.

13. How far away from rock blasting operations will cars be stopped?

Cars will be stopped at least a half-mile away from the blasting operations. In many cases, traffic slowdowns will occur farther than a half-mile away. For rock blasting operations, motorists can generally expect to be stopped as far east as Homestead Road (Exit 247) and as far west as the Veterans Memorial Tunnels. Traffic on County Road 314, Central City Parkway and the US 6 on-ramp to westbound I-70 will also be stopped during rock blasting operations.

14. When will blasting occur?

Rock blasting in the West and Central Sections is expected to occur following rock scaling operations in the West Section. Rock scaling operations are currently expected to last two months so motorists can expect rock blasting to begin in fall 2024.

15. How often will the Project perform rock blasting?

Following rock scaling (estimated for completion in fall 2024), the contractor anticipates blasting once per day and up to three times per week through 2026. Blasting will occur in the Central and West Sections of the Project from east of US 6 (Exit 244) to the Veterans Memorial Tunnels. Blasting will occur Monday through Thursday, between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., and Fridays, from 9 a.m. to noon.

16. 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.

17. 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.

18. Why do rock blasting operations have to be 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 emergency response access. Rock blasting can also result in loud noise, which can be disruptive to nearby residents.

19. Why does traffic have to be stopped for each blast?

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.

20. Will I feel each blast?

You will likely only feel a blast if you're within 1,000 feet of it. Because traffic will be stopped at least a half-mile away from blasting operations, you will not likely feel the blast, but you may hear it.

21. 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 damage.

22. Will you pay for any damages caused by the blasting?

Yes. In the unlikely event that a blast causes any property damage, the vehicle or property owner should file a claim for reimbursement. Damage that is not a direct result of blasting will not be covered.

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

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

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