

2025 I-70 Floyd Hill Frequently Asked Questions – Rafters

Where is the I-70 Floyd Hill Project located?

The I-70 Floyd Hill Project is located west of Denver and spans eight miles of I-70 from west of Evergreen at County Road 65 (Exit 248) to Colorado Boulevard/Idaho Springs (Exit 241).

What improvements will be made as part of this Project?

- Add a third westbound I-70 travel lane in this two-lane bottleneck to improve travel time reliability. This new lane will be a full-time, tolled Express Lane from just west of Homestead Road (Exit 247) to Colorado Blvd./Idaho Springs (Exit 241).
- Change the alignment of I-70 from the middle of Floyd Hill to the Veterans Memorial Tunnels to straighten roadway curves, which will improve safety and sight distance.
- Rebuild bridges due to heavy usage and wear and tear.
- Add a two-mile section of frontage road between the US 6 and Hidden Valley/Central City Parkway interchanges, which will improve resiliency and emergency response.
- Move the current left-merge US 6 on-ramp to westbound I-70 to the Hidden Valley/Central City Parkway (Exit 243) interchange to improve safety and operations.
- Build an extended on-ramp from US 6 onto eastbound I-70 for slow-moving vehicles to have more room to merge.
- Improve traffic flow at interchanges and intersections by adding roundabouts on US 40 at County Road 65 (Exit 248) and Homestead Road (Exit 247), and at the Hidden Valley/Central City Parkway (Exit 243) interchange.
- Improve the Clear Creek Greenway trail and resurface it with concrete.
- Implement environmental mitigation to enhance wildlife connectivity, air and water quality, stream conditions and recreation.
- Install two permanent air quality monitors.

What traffic impacts can customers and employees expect during the 2025 rafting season?

The I-70 Floyd Hill Project is dedicated to keeping I-70 moving during construction. In summer 2025, drivers can expect overnight I-70 lane and ramp closures, alternating single-lane closures on US 40 between Homestead Road and the US 6 interchange, as well as daytime I-70 traffic holds for rock blasting operations. Motorists should stay alert for changing lane alignments and traffic shifts, along with decreased lane and shoulder widths. Speed limits may be reduced to as low as 35 mph.

Will there be rock blasting operations during the 2025 rafting season?

Yes. Rock blasting requiring I-70 traffic holds will continue through 2026. During the 2025 and 2026 rafting seasons, please expect multiple daily I-70 traffic holds on weekdays for rock blasting. Plan extra time to get to your destination. For safety, rafters in the river will be temporarily held during blasting operations. Generally, blasting will occur during the following times:

- 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Mondays through Thursdays
- 9 a.m. to noon, Fridays



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For information on blasting and operation hours, [please view our rock scaling and blasting Frequently Asked Questions](#).

Will I get stopped in the river during blasting operations? Where will we be stopped?

Yes, rafters will be required to hold in a safe area for a few minutes during the blast. Rafts will be stopped no less than a ½ mile from the blasting operations at or before the Game Check Station Trailhead (see map on page 5), where there is space for multiple rafts to stop at the eddies.

How will the Project coordinate blasting holds in the river with rafting companies?

The Project will have flaggers along the river who will use signs and whistles to alert rafting guides of an upcoming blast so they can prepare to hold their raft on an eddy.

- Flaggers will alert rafters by using stop ahead/slow signage and whistles to gain their attention. Flaggers upstream will use signage that says flaggers ahead or prepare to stop ahead to prepare guides. There will be a flagger farther upstream past/near Clear Creek Rafting to give more notice to the rafting guides.
- Please see the map on page 5 for where the flaggers will be located and where the rafting guides are expected to stop.

Will parking and access at the load-out area near Two Bears be impacted?

The parking areas north of the river near Two Bears will remain open for loading and overflow parking. However, the parking area southwest of the I-70 off-ramp to US 6 (see photo on page 4) will continue to no longer accommodate overflow parking, as it is part of the construction work zone. For additional overflow parking, rafting companies can stage their vehicles at the Game Check Station Trailhead.

How far in advance do you know the weekly rock blasting schedule?

Our tentative weekly rock blasting schedule is available the Friday before, so we recommend staying connected to the Project to be alerted of information as soon as possible. Text alerts are the best way to stay informed of day-to-day blasting operations and schedules.

Will the Clear Creek Greenway Trail be open?

No. In October 2023, crews closed one mile of the Clear Creek Greenway Trail, between the US 6 and Hidden Valley interchanges, for utility relocation and grading activities. The trail is expected to remain closed until summer 2027 as construction continues in the area. From May to September 2025, a dedicated shuttle will be available to detour trail users from one end of the trail closure to the other. For more information on the Clear Creek Greenway Trail closure and shuttle, please visit bit.ly/ccgreenway.

Since the Clear Creek Greenway Trail is closed, who should I contact if we need to use the trail in an emergency?

If there is a stranded or injured rafter who needs to be helped or evacuated from the Clear Creek Greenway Trail, please first call 911. There may be trenches dug into the ground at the eastern closure point at US 6 (Exit 244), so if you must access the trail, we ask that you do so from the western closure point at Hidden Valley (Exit 243). To access the trail for non-life-threatening emergencies, please call 303-327-4016 to



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coordinate with the Project team.

Will the Project make improvements to Clear Creek?

Yes. Crews will stabilize the sides of the riverbank to help with riparian life, but the Project team will restore the creek to its prior condition after construction is complete.

Will the riverbed be altered?

The Project will not intentionally realign the creek. We expect there might be changes to the sides of the riverbank to help with the riparian bench life.

Will Project crews be working in the river during rafting season?

No. During the rafting season, crews will be out of the river, and Clear Creek will be safe for rafting.

During non-rafting months, crews will build temporary river crossings to accommodate construction access, remove existing bridges and build new bridge columns.

What kind of communication can we expect from the Floyd Hill Project?

The I-70 Floyd Hill Project is committed to working with the rafting community to minimize construction impacts. Sign up for text alerts by texting floydhill (one word, lowercase) to 21000 to receive day-of reminders for traffic holds and estimated blast timeframes. Additionally, rafting companies can expect weekly emails every Friday and direct coordination with crews while floating down the river. If you have specific questions or comments, please contact the Project via the contact information listed below.

Will you have to close access to the river while building the I-70 bridges? The temporary westbound bridge had no impact on rafting operations. Can we expect minimal impacts as bridge construction continues?

Future work will continue in a similar fashion, but crews will need to be in the river at certain times. This work will be scheduled during the low-water season when rafters aren't in the river. During the winter of 2025/2026, we will be demolishing and rebuilding the westbound bridge. We will try to do as much work as possible during the winter to limit impacts to rafters.

If I-70 traffic holds for blasting delays rafting company buses in getting rafters to the starting points, can the Project allow buses to use the I-70 Mountain Express Lane?

No, the I-70 Mountain Express Lanes are only used during peak travel periods. When they aren't open, they may only be used for first responders during an emergency.

Is it possible to host a notice on Google Maps?

Unfortunately, no. Google Maps does not have a feature that allows us to add messaging to it. We recommend using [COtrip.org](https://cotrip.org), which has messaging up for rock blasting operations.

How can I stay connected to the Project?

Stay informed about the Project by:

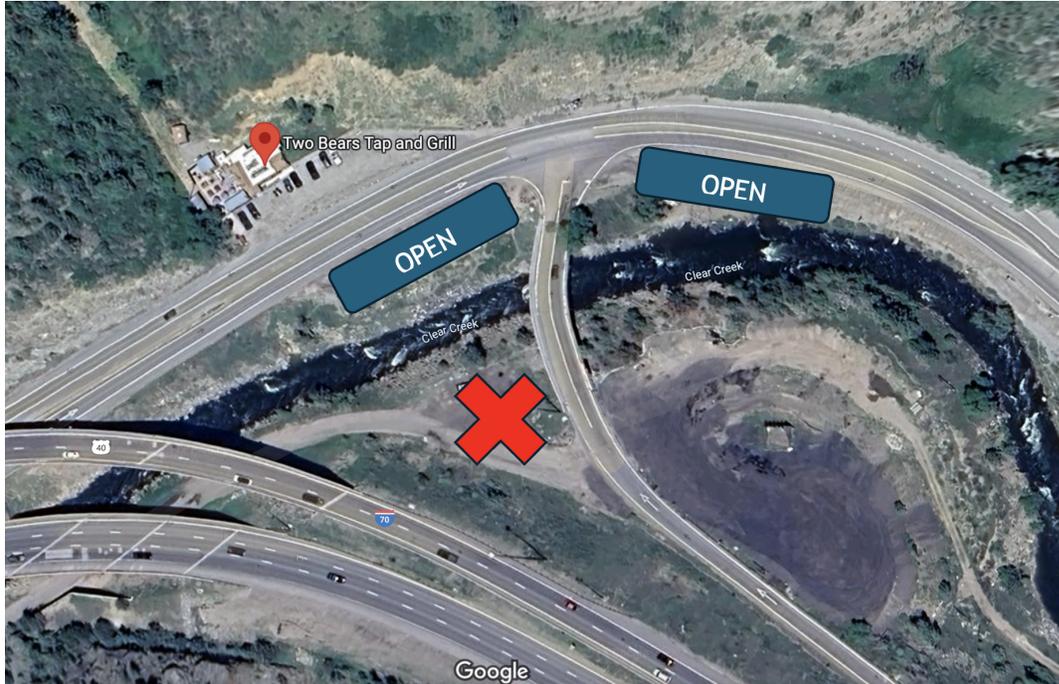
- Signing up for text alerts - Text floydhill (one word, lowercase) to 21000



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- Visiting the Project website and signing up to receive general Project email updates - codot.gov/projects/i70floydhill
- Calling the hotline - 720-994-2368 (CDOT)
- Emailing the Project - cdot_floydhillproject@state.co.us
- Visiting COtrip.org for current travel information
- Following CDOT on Facebook and Twitter

Two Bears Load-Out Location:





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Hold Location for Rafters - Game Check Station Trailhead:



*Note – The stop locations along Clear Creek at the Game Check Station Trailhead will require raft guides to get out and hold the raft.