

**I 70 Mountain Corridor PEIS
Collaborative Effort
January 24, 2008**

Summary Notes

The Independent Advisors, Gina McAfee and Dr. George Sherk, presented fundamental and background information regarding:

- The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and its general requirements
- NEPA as related to transportation planning and different agency guidelines
- Mechanisms and options for updating environmental studies
- Recent and relevant case law for transportation studies; and,
- Information specific to programmatic and tier 1 studies
- **Please see both presentations at www.i70mtncorridor.com*

One prominent discussion point was that while there are important and recent agency guidelines for the implementation of NEPA, there are few hard-and-fast rules or bright-line tests that result in proscriptive instructions for preparing an environmental study.

The group continued discussion on criteria to evaluate different alternatives. This discussion is still in progress. While there is not yet agreement about the range of criteria, nor agreement about how specific criteria are analyzed or utilized, the group recognized that:

- There are likely many evaluation criteria, and potentially limitless information that can be brought to bear on the process
- The most useful criteria are those which help the Collaborative Effort answer questions about recommended alternatives
- Agreement on which criteria are important is not the same as agreement on how criteria are measured or utilized.

In the next meeting, the group will begin to look at ways to:

- Group and/or narrow the range of alternatives for consideration
- Seek to clarify areas of agreement
- Seek to clarify areas of disagreement

Materials for next time:

- Summary of 21 alternatives analyzed in the PEIS