



WESTBOUND I-70 MOUNTAIN CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENTS

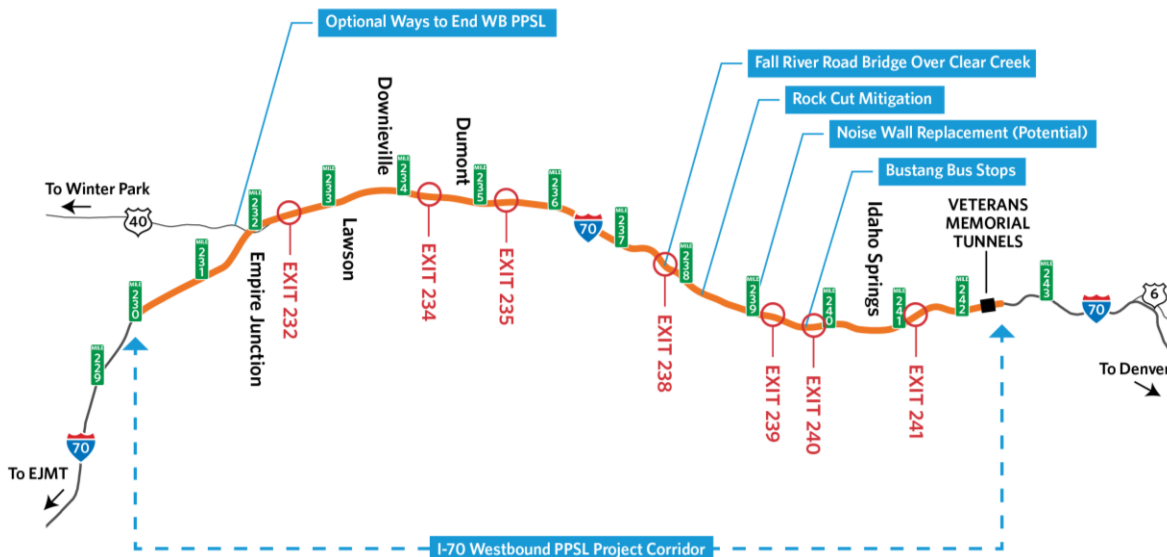
Westbound Peak Period Shoulder Lane (WB PPSL) Project— Veterans Memorial Tunnels to Empire Junction

AGENDA

- **5:00-5:30 p.m.:** Please sign-in and feel free to walk around to the different stations.
- **5:30-6:00 p.m.:** We invite you to join us for a presentation about the Westbound I-70 Mountain Corridor Concept Development Process and our transition into the National Environmental Policy Act.
- **6:00-6:30 p.m.:** Question and answer session following the presentation.
- **6:30-7:00 p.m.:** Please feel free to walk around and view the various stations. If you have any questions or comments, walk up to any of the agency officials with a name tag and they'll be happy to speak with you.
- Comment sheets are available if you wish to write to us.

PROJECT LIMITS

The Westbound I-70 Mountain Peak Period Shoulder Lane project limits are anticipated to be located between the Veterans Memorial Tunnels and Empire Junction.





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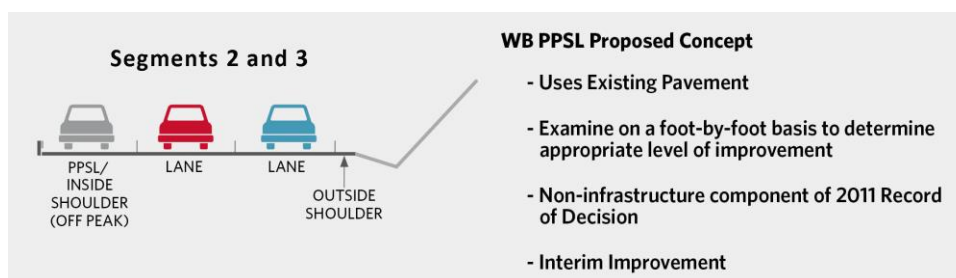
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PROJECT PURPOSE

Information collected during the Concept Development Process helps to identify the purpose for highway improvements in the WB PPSL section. There is traffic congestion during peak hours, there is a lack of reliable travel, and there is a need for improved emergency response. This information will be confirmed and additional information collected during the upcoming NEPA process.

SUMMARY OF CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT FINDINGS

- Individuals from local jurisdictions, communities, state and federal agencies and special interest groups were a part of an 18-member Project Leadership Team and a 48-member Technical Team that guided the concept development process.
- There is agreement that a similar approach regarding the peak period shoulder lane can be pursued in the westbound direction as was recently constructed in the eastbound direction.
- The 2011 Record of Decision did not identify this section of I-70 for any additional highway capacity (for the Minimum Program of Improvements).
- Many suggestions and concerns were identified during the eight month Concept Development Process. These will be forwarded to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) WB PPSL team for their consideration during the upcoming NEPA process.
- One basic roadway concept was identified and is shown below. Options for beginning the WB PPSL at the east end and ending it at the west end were identified and will be further considered during the upcoming NEPA process.
- Neighborhood and business concerns (from Idaho Springs, Downieville, Dumont and Lawson neighborhoods, from businesses throughout the corridor and others) will be forwarded to the NEPA team for further consideration during the NEPA process.





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UPCOMING NEPA PROCESS

The NEPA process for the WB PPSL project began in June 2017. A Project Leadership Team (comprised of the Federal Highway Administration, the Colorado DOT, Clear Creek County, Jefferson County and others) has been formed to begin the Context Sensitive Solutions process in late July. The basic steps of the NEPA process include:

1. Scoping to identify items to be considered in the upcoming NEPA process. The July 26, 2017 public meeting is a part of this process. Additional input will be sought through the I-70 Mountain Corridor Context Sensitive Solutions process.
2. Data collection (traffic, safety, environmental, engineering)
3. Refine Proposed Concept from the Concept Development Process. This will be done together with the CSS participants (the Project Leadership Team, and other groups such as a Technical Team and Issue Task Forces as needed.)
4. Analyze Refined Proposed Concept to determine its environmental impacts.
5. Prepare NEPA documentation (this is anticipated to be a Categorical Exclusion similar to the Eastbound Peak Period Shoulder Lane project).
6. Public and agency involvement will be conducted throughout this process

CONTEXT SENSITIVE SOLUTIONS PROCESS

The I-70 Mountain Corridor Context Sensitive Solutions process was developed five years ago and is a required part of every project on the I-70 Mountain Corridor. This process is being followed throughout the WB PPSL process. This includes establishment of a Project Leadership Team, a Technical Team and Issue Task Forces as needed. It also includes following the six step decision-making process of:

1. Defining desired outcomes and actions
2. Endorsing the process
3. Establishing core values, issues and evaluation criteria
4. Developing alternatives with project CSS teams and public
5. Evaluating, selecting, and refining alternatives
6. Finalizing documentation and evaluating the process





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For more information, please see: <https://www.codot.gov/projects/contextsensitivesolutions>.

WHAT'S NEXT?

WB PPSL NEPA project Timeline

- **Summer/Fall 2017:** Begin data collection and project concept refinement
- **Winter 2017/2018—Spring 2018:** NEPA documentation
- **Fall/Winter 2018:** Final Design
- **Winter 2018:** Construction

TELL US YOUR IDEAS

Want to learn more or have questions? Send your additional comment and questions to Neil.Ogden@state.co.us or go online to codot.gov/projects/i-70mountaincorridor.

Materials from the July 26, 2017, meeting are available at:

<https://www.codot.gov/projects/i-70mountaincorridor/concept-development-process>.

