



Release of the I-70 Mountain Corridor Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) will release the Final I-70 Mountain Corridor Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) on March 11, 2011. The Final PEIS evaluates improvements and associated environmental and social impacts of those alternatives for the I-70 Mountain Corridor between Glenwood Springs and the western edge of the Denver metropolitan area. Appendix F of the Final PEIS includes public and agency comments received on the Revised Draft PEIS released in September 2010 and provides FHWA and CDOT responses to those comments.

What comments were received on the Revised Draft PEIS, and how are those comments addressed?

FHWA and CDOT released the Revised Draft PEIS on September 10, 2010 for a 60-day review and comment period. During the review period, we held four public hearings. Nearly 300 people attended one of the hearings, and more than 550 people commented on the Revised Draft PEIS by providing written or oral comments at these hearings, by sending us letters, or through the project website.

The majority of the roughly 1,100 comments received on the Revised Draft PEIS focused on the improvement alternatives for the Corridor. Many comments expressed support for CDOT's Preferred Alternative and the collaborative process used to identify the Preferred Alternative. Other comment topics included transportation needs in the Corridor; environmental analyses; and implementation, funding and cost of the improvement alternatives. CDOT and FHWA responded to each comment received. Some comments resulted in changes or clarifications to the PEIS document, which are reflected in the Final PEIS.

Where can I get a copy of the Final PEIS?

The Final PEIS is available for review until April 11, 2011. The project website (www.i70mtncorridor.com) is the easiest place to view and download the Final PEIS. The document was distributed to hundreds of interested parties, including local, state, and federal agencies, that have been involved in the PEIS process. Hard copies of the document are available for viewing at a number of locations throughout the corridor, including offices, community centers, and libraries (see box). Electronic (CD-ROM) copies of the document are available by request, and hard copies are available for purchase for \$180, consistent with the Colorado Open Records Act. Individuals with extenuating circumstances or disability may receive a hard copy free of charge. For all requests, please contact Wendy Wallach, I-70 Mountain Corridor Environmental Manager at (303) 757-9008.

Where can I review printed copies of the Final PEIS?

Federal and State Offices

Colorado Department of Transportation

- Headquarters, Room 277, 4201 E. Arkansas Avenue, Denver, CO, 80222
- Region 1, 18500 East Colfax Avenue, Aurora, CO 80011
- Region 1, 425C Corporate Circle, Golden, CO 80401
- Region 3, 714 Grand Avenue, Eagle, CO 81631
- Region 3, 202 Centennial Street, Glenwood Springs, CO 81601
- Region 3, 606 South Ninth, Grand Junction, CO 81501-3794

Federal Highway Administration Colorado Division, 12300 W. Dakota Ave., Suite 180, Lakewood, CO 80228

Libraries

Denver Public Library, 10 West 14th Avenue Parkway, Denver, CO 80204

Clear Creek County

Idaho Springs Public Library, 219 14th Avenue, Idaho Springs, CO 80452

John Tomay Memorial Library, 605 6th Street, Georgetown, CO 80444

Eagle County

Avon Branch Library, 200 Benchmark Road, Avon, CO 81620

Glenwood Springs Branch Library, 413 9th Street, Glenwood Springs, CO 81601

Gypsum Public Library, 48 Lundgren Boulevard, Gypsum, CO 81637

Gilpin County

Gilpin County Public Library, 15131 Highway 119, Black Hawk, CO 80422

Grand County

Fraser Valley Library, 421 Norgren Street, Fraser, CO 80442

Jefferson County

Belmar Library, 555 S. Allison Pkwy., Lakewood, CO 80226

Evergreen Public Library, 5000 Highway 73, Evergreen, CO 80439

Lake County Public Library, 1115 Harrison Avenue, Leadville, CO 80461

Pitkin County Library, 120 N. Mill Street, Aspen, CO 81611

Summit County

Main Branch, 0037 CR 1005, 2nd Floor, Frisco, CO 80443

North Branch, 651 Center Circle, Silverthorne, CO 80498

South Branch, 504 Airport Road, Breckenridge, CO 80424

Town of Vail Public Library, 292 West Meadow Drive, Vail, CO 81657

Community Centers

Empire Town Hall, 30 E. Park Avenue, Empire, CO 80438

Silver Plume Town Hall, 710 Main Street, Silver Plume, CO 80476

Who can I contact if I have questions about the PEIS?

CDOT and FHWA are available to answer questions or meet with you or your organization about the PEIS. Please contact:

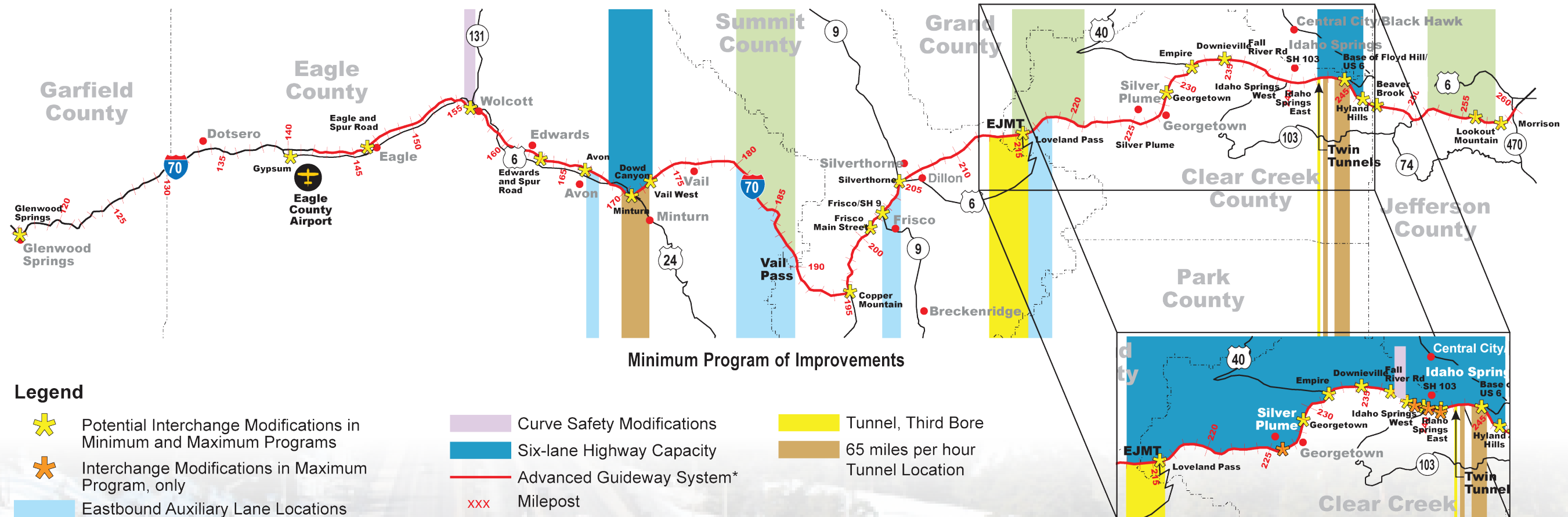
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Para información en español, por favor contactar a Caitlin McCusker al (720) 286-0484 o escribir al cmccuske@ch2m.com.

What is the Preferred Alternative for the I-70 Mountain Corridor?

The Preferred Alternative for the I-70 Mountain Corridor is a multimodal solution to meet 2050 transportation needs. It consists of three primary elements:

- **Non infrastructure components** are actions we can take that involve little or no construction, such as encouraging carpooling, improving trucking operations in the Corridor, and providing drivers with more information about travel conditions.
- **Advanced Guideway System** is a modern, fixed guideway transit system that would run between the Eagle County Airport west of Vail and the Regional Transportation District's Jeffco Government Station light rail line in the Denver metropolitan area. A specific rail technology has not been selected at this first tier of analysis.
- **Highway improvements** include a range of improvements from a Minimum Program to a Maximum Program. The figure below illustrates the features of the Minimum Program, and the call-out box shows the elements that would be added to the Minimum Program to comprise the Maximum Program. Based on the information we know today, the Maximum Program is necessary to meet transportation needs in 2050. Highway improvements in the Maximum Program would be implemented only after review of certain conditions and "triggers" that guide the planning decisions for the Preferred Alternative.



Legend

- Potential Interchange Modifications in Minimum and Maximum Programs
- Interchange Modifications in Maximum Program, only
- Eastbound Auxiliary Lane Locations
- Westbound Auxiliary Lane Locations
- EJMT = Eisenhower-Johnson Memorial Tunnels
- Curve Safety Modifications
- Six-lane Highway Capacity
- Advanced Guideway System*
- Milepost
- Tunnel, Third Bore
- 65 miles per hour Tunnel Location

*Advanced Guideway System follows the general location of the I-70 highway but is not necessarily within the highway right-of-way.

Additions to Maximum Program of Improvements

The Maximum Program of Improvements includes all the Minimum Program of Improvements and adds six-lane highway capacity from Eisenhower-Johnson Memorial Tunnel to the Twin Tunnels, four additional interchange modifications in Clear Creek County, and curve safety modifications at Fall River Road.

What happens next?

The Final PEIS evaluates and recommends a broad program of improvements for the I-70 Mountain Corridor. This broad analysis is referred to as Tier 1 of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. The Tier 1 decision will not directly result in construction or impacts. To carry out the program of improvements, subsequent NEPA processes, referred to as Tier 2 processes, will be initiated to develop and evaluate specific projects consistent with the Tier 1 decision.

FHWA and CDOT intend to issue a Record of Decision (ROD) in the early summer of 2011. The ROD is a document that states the final decision; identifies the alternatives considered, including the environmentally preferable alternative; and commits to mitigation strategies. The ROD is the final step in this Tier 1 NEPA process.

Please visit the Project Website for more information about the PEIS and Preferred Alternative
www.i70mtncorridor.com