



Water Resources

Types of Impacts

- Increases in impervious (paved) surfaces increases stormwater runoff
 - Highway runoff contains contaminants, salts, and sediments that can enter waterways
 - Runoff also increases potential for heavy metals from exposed mine tailings to be released into streams
- Streams could be further channelized (moved or straightened) when transportation footprint widens. Channelized streams have higher velocity flows that lead to bank erosion and less desirable habitat.
- Hazardous material spills on the I-70 highway would increase as traffic volumes increase. Spills can enter and contaminate waterways.
- Impedance or blockage of cross-slope streams could worsen as transportation footprint widens
- Construction could disturb historic mine waste materials, potentially releasing contaminants into waterways
- Induced growth increases demand for water and may affect existing communities, water supplies
- Induced growth requires other new construction, which increases impervious areas and associated runoff impacts



Mitigation Strategies

The Colorado Department of Transportation has committed to the following mitigation strategies to avoid or possibly improve water quality in the Corridor:

- Adopt the water quality and water resource mitigation strategies the *Draft Stream and Wetland Ecological Enhancement Program (SWEET) Memorandum of Understanding* (which will be finalized before the Record of Decision), which include, but are not limited to, sedimentation control and stream restoration measures.
- Work cooperatively with various local, state, and federal agencies and local watershed groups to address Clear Creek water quality:
 - Manage impacted mine waste piles and tunnels within the Corridor
 - Use appropriate best management practices during stormwater permitting
- Incorporate local watershed initiatives and consider goals of the local watershed planning entity in future projects.
- Provide detention basins for the collection of sediment as outlined in the Sediment Control Action Plans developed for Black Gore Creek and Straight Creek and under development for Clear Creek.
- Mitigate construction impacts for erosion and sediment control primarily through the implementation of a Stormwater Management Plan, which will be in place before construction begins and after construction until site stabilization has been achieved.
- Refine placement of roadway and bridge piers to avoid water resource impacts of future projects when feasible.

Other mitigation strategies could be considered for Tier 2 processes. Mitigation will be developed in context of project impacts – that is, more complex projects will likely require more mitigation.