

COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Headquarters
4201 E. Arkansas
Denver, Colorado 80222



October 1, 2007

Dear I-70 Stakeholder:

This fall the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) initiated two processes on the I-70 Mountain Corridor, the Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS) process and the Collaborative Effort, which is an element of the Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

You are a key stakeholder in the corridor. As such, we extend an invitation to you or an assigned representative from your organization, to be a member of the CSS Corridor Team.

The Corridor Team is a working group comprised of leaders from organizations with interests and responsibilities in the corridor. The Corridor Team will develop the I-70 Mountain Corridor CSS Guidance Manual; provide feedback to the Collaborative Effort on the criteria and the evaluation of alternatives for the corridor; and work with the county Segment Teams to develop segment specific guidelines for design, aesthetic treatments, construction and mitigation.

Multiple ways exist, beyond the Corridor Team, to get information and participate in the development of the Context Statement, the Core Values or the Recommended Alternative. There will be public forums, as well as information on the website, www.i70mtncorridor.com.

These two processes, the CSS and the Collaborative Effort, will be supplanting the former I-70 Mountain Corridor Advisory Committee (MCAC).

Your Role

We request that you or an assigned representative from your organization work with us over the next year and a half, as a member of the Corridor Team.

We request your reply by returning the enclosed postcard, contacting Fawn Friend @ 720-286-3185 or emailing her at Fawn.Friend@ch2m.com. **Please reply whether you will participate or if you will not be joining the Corridor Team.**

The first meeting of the Corridor Team is a workshop from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Friday, October 26, 2007 at the Keystone Convention Center.

The purpose of this workshop is to clarify the goals of the CSS processes and discuss how the CSS Corridor Team and the Collaborative Effort will interact and support each other's work. The workshop will initiate development of a context statement for the I-70 Mountain Corridor and identification of core values. A draft workshop agenda and additional process information has been attached.

Our goal is to move a world-class solution forward in the I-70 Mountain Corridor through principle-driven processes that involve everyone and produce results that stand the test of time.

Sincerely,

Jeffery R. Kullman
Regional Transportation Director
Region 1

Weldon Allen
Regional Transportation Director
Region 3



Taking a Leadership Approach

One of the stated goals in *National Cooperative Highway Research Program Report 480 A Guide to Best Practices for Achieving Context Sensitive Solutions** is to “exceed the expectations of both designers and stakeholders and to achieve a level of excellence in the people’s minds.”

To this end, CDOT has embarked on two processes, the Collaborative Effort and the Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS).

The Collaborative Effort is a part of the Programmatic EIS and will facilitate discussions among stakeholders toward building an informed consensus around a recommended transportation alternative for the I-70 Mountain Corridor.

Developing the Context Statement and Core Values will be the first work completed by the CSS Corridor Team. These will be used by the Collaborative Effort in developing criteria for evaluating the alternatives. The final product of the CSS process will be the I-70 Mountain Corridor Guidance Manual which will include: the Context Statement and Core Values; the processes for Tier 2 Environmental Documents, design efforts and construction projects; the Historic Context Report for the corridor; and the Design Guidelines for aesthetics, engineering, mitigation and construction in the corridor.

CDOT has also assigned the CSS process the role of coordination among the current and on-going CDOT I-70 Mountain Corridor projects and processes. This coordinated approach will result in several benefits to the I-70 stakeholders:

- Using the Context Statement and Core Values to inform all processes and analyses will provide common ground to discuss and solve the challenges of the corridor.

- Respecting stakeholder’s time, all project schedules will be coordinated to minimize the conflicts and the number of meetings.

- Sharing stakeholder input and comments will avoid repeating activities (for both stakeholders and the project teams) and multiply the effectiveness of input by incorporating it into all processes.

An element of this coordinated approach, a website, has been built to provide one web address, www.i70mtncorridor.com for stakeholders to link to any of the project websites. Mailings and media will provide a cohesive message that informs stakeholders about the status of all of the processes. Providing a ‘one-stop’ information approach within the corridor will lessen confusion and increase trust.

*Copies of NCHRP Report 480 will be available at our October 26, 2007 Corridor Team meeting.



Context Statement and Core Values

The CSS process will begin by discussing and developing a context statement for the corridor. This context will go beyond the highway and transportation issues for the corridor.

The Context Statement begins by discussing issues of concern and community goals for the corridor. From the issues and goals come statements regarding the most important elements in the corridor, the heart of what makes the I-70 Mountain Corridor what it is. These are the essential elements that must be preserved, protected and duplicated. The Context Statement and Core Values will capture these essential elements.

The Context Statement and Core Values can then be used to guide the selection of recommended transportation solution as well as the design, aesthetic, mitigation and construction guidelines.

Issues help define core values...

Respect the natural environment

Protect the historic resources

Improve stakeholder communications

Core Values address issues...

I-70 has narrow canyons and broad valleys, therefore improvements should seek first to fit the terrain while meeting the design standards.

I-70 is a corridor built from the history of Colorado and preserving this unique history is valued by the corridor residents. Opportunities to enhance the interaction of corridor users with the history of the area should be considered during development of I-70 projects.

I-70 is a corridor with diverse residents and users. To achieve world class solutions all stakeholders must first respect each other and then work together toward finding answers.

The Context Statement describes what is truly important...

The I-70 Mountain Corridor Context

The I-70 Mountain Corridor combines natural and manmade features. Natural features such as the Continental Divide, watersheds, and wildlife migration routes are woven together with manmade elements such as tourist attractions, roads, and neighborhoods. The integration of these diverse elements has occurred over the millenniums and it is now our goal to maintain, improve and/or enhance this balance while we provide for 21st century uses.

In 1854 Chief Seattle said, "Humankind has not woven the web of life. We are but one thread within it. Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves. All things are bound together. All things connect."



I-70 Mountain Corridor Team Workshop Agenda

October 26, 2007

9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Keystone Conference Center

9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.	Registration and Information Fair
9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Welcome
10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	Where we Are
10:30 a.m. -10:45 a.m.	Break
10:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Small Groups discussing values and context
12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.	Lunch - Remarks by Russell George, CDOT Executive Director
1:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Summary and Wrap up
2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Information Fair



Corridor-wide CSS

The purpose of the Context Sensitive Solutions' process is to develop a context statement and core values that will give guidance to current studies and future plans. The final product of CSS will include a Guidance Manual and Design Guidelines that capture the context and core values for use by future plans and designs.

As an approach founded in "*open and honest, early and continuous communication*," CSS is well suited to assist in integration and coordination among corridor studies, processes and projects. CDOT is committed to using the CSS process on the I-70 Mountain Corridor.

For more information go to www.i70mtncorridor.com

The Collaborative Effort

The Collaborative Effort is an element of the PEIS and has been designed to facilitate the stakeholders in discussions about the transportation alternatives for the I-70 Mountain Corridor. Professional facilitators will work with all stakeholders to design a process for collectively developing a recommended alternative.

For more information go to www.i70mtncorridor.com

I-70 Coalition Transit Planning Grant

The Transit Planning Study will review the land use and zoning regulations of the I-70 Mountain Corridor communities to determine their compatibility with transit and related transit development.

This effort is lead by the I-70 Coalition and is funded by a grant from CDOT.

For more information go to www.i70solutions.org

Programmatic EIS

The PEIS is charged with developing and analyzing the transportation problems, solutions, impacts, and mitigations along the corridor.

CDOT leads this FHWA sponsored effort.

For more information go to www.i70mtncorridor.com

Rocky Mountain Rail Authority

The RMRA is a state-wide group investigating the feasibility of rail in several corridors, including the I-70 Mountain Corridor. Studies conducted by this group will include the investigation of feasible transit technologies.

For more information go to www.rangerxpress.com