



Westbound I-70 Twin Tunnels – October 2014

Construction Update

Outside the tunnel, crews continue to do blasting and scaling work to remove rock from the wall above the east end of the tunnel. This work, which has to be done during daylight hours to comply with safety regulations, is expected to continue through October. While both directions of I-70 traffic are stopped for blasting work, the scaling operations only affect westbound traffic.

Single lane closures will be needed along westbound I-70 in the next two weeks to work on the lanes that will carry traffic once vehicles are moved into the new tunnel later this year. The majority of this work is scheduled to take place during the overnight hours of Tuesday, Oct. 7, through Thursday, Oct. 9. Additional work is tentatively scheduled to be done Sunday, Oct. 12, through Tuesday, Oct. 14, and this work could require daytime lane closures. As additional details become known, it will be recorded on the project hotline, 303-327-4034.



Representatives from several media outlets walk through the tunnel liner forms on their way into the westbound tunnel bore. The media was given a sneak peek inside the tunnel in mid-September just before these liner forms were rolled into the tunnel.

Inside the tunnel, work is under way to place the concrete for the new tunnel lining. Of the nearly 20 concrete pours it will take to complete the lining, crews had completed four as of the end of September.

October Lane Closure Strategies

With October sandwiched between the busy summer tourism season and the start of the ski season, traffic volumes on I-70 through the mountain corridor typically decrease. With that in mind, the only day and time in October when rock blasting operations cannot be scheduled is Sundays from noon to 4 p.m. Project crews will continue to monitor traffic conditions, however, so if there is unusually heavy congestion or an unanticipated event occurs on the roadway just prior to a scheduled blast, it will be rescheduled for a time when traffic conditions are more conducive.

To track on any changes that need to be made to scheduled blast times, sign up for text or email alerts at <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/CODOT/subscriber/new?pop=t&qsp=1851>

Media Coverage

Just prior to moving the massive tunnel lining structures into the westbound bore, the project invited representatives from area media outlets to take a tour inside the westbound bore on Tuesday, Sept. 16. If you missed any of those stories, here are links to the coverage.

<http://denver.cbslocal.com/2014/09/16/cdot-crews-replacing-tunnel-lining-in-idaho-springs/>

<http://www.thedenverchannel.com/news/local-news/cdot-lining-i-70-twin-tunnels-with-concrete>

<http://www.9news.com/story/travel/2014/09/16/i-70-blasting-twin-tunnels-idaho-springs/15743811/>

<http://kdvr.com/2014/09/16/work-on-twin-tunnels-entering-home-stretch-on-target-for-december-finish/>

<http://www.summitdaily.com/news/13058170-113/westbound-bore-tunnels-tunnel>