

Context Statement and Core Values



Context Statement

I-70 is Colorado's only east-west Interstate, providing a link over the Continental Divide, interstate commerce, and mountain access.

Blasted through a geological feature and contained within a narrow canyon, the Twin Tunnels symbolize Colorado's historic endeavors to improve access to and from the mountains. Currently occupying this canyon are Clear Creek, the Frontage Road (CR 314), and I-70. The vision for the future includes an Advance Guideway System with existing transportation facilities.

The Twin Tunnels are a gateway for arriving and departing the mountains, provide a natural crossing for wildlife, and connect local communities to national and regional services. Parallel to I-70 is Clear Creek, a natural and recreational resource. The tunnels now are a constriction to travel and create a safety problem.

Core Values

The Twin Tunnels Project acknowledges core values for the area:

Wildlife

Wildlife, wildlife habitat, migration routes, and access to Clear Creek.

Community

Tourist destinations and community facilities, including the Scott Lancaster Trail and Bridge, the wastewater treatment plant, the planned Clear Creek Greenway, the frontage road, and Clear Creek.

Mobility

Mobility through safe and reliable transportation facilities.

Safety

Safe travel for people and goods.
Safety for emergency responders and maintenance workers.
A **safe** crossing for wildlife.

Gateway

A primary access and visual **gateway** to the Mountain Mineral Belt, historic Idaho Springs, and Front Range communities.

Clear Creek

Clear Creek, as a clean, high-quality water resource, a recreational asset, an aquatic resource with sustainable fisheries' habitat, a drinking water source, and a defining natural feature of the corridor.

History

History as a defining element of Clear Creek County. Celebrating the cultural resources associated with mining and mining towns, and the first successful tunneling operation as part of the construction of I-70 west through Colorado's mountains.