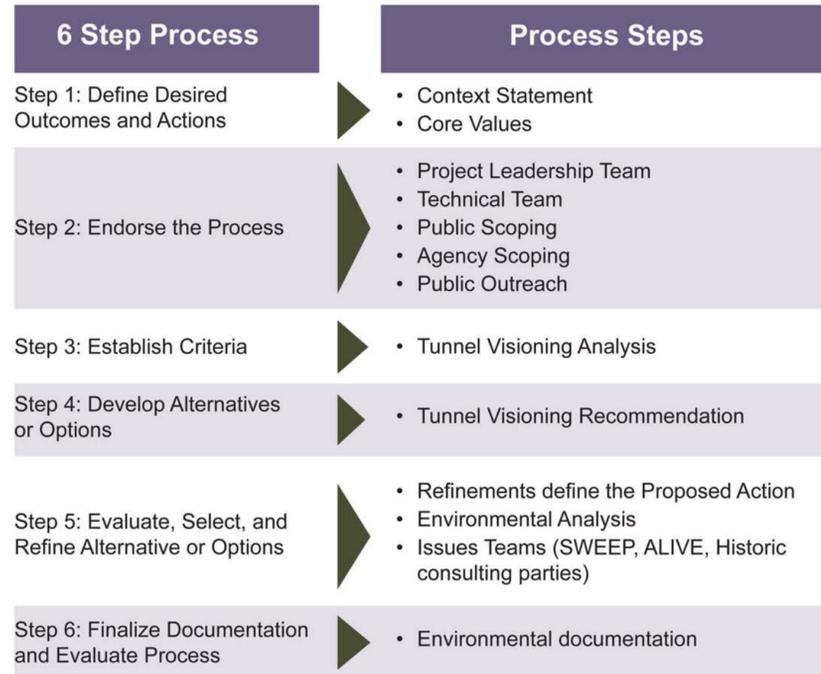


# What We're Doing

## Twin Tunnels Project

### Following the CSS Guidance



### I-70 Twin Tunnels 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, and I-70. The vision for the future includes an Advance Guideway System with these 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. Running 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.

### Purpose and Need

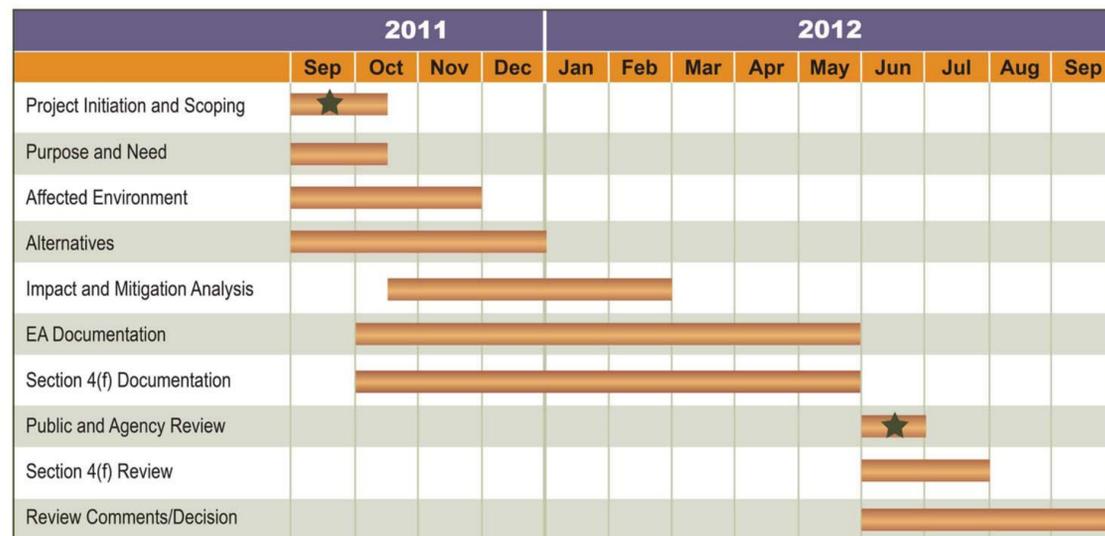
The purpose of the Twin Tunnels project is to improve eastbound highway safety, operations, and travel time reliability in the Twin Tunnels area of the I-70 Mountain Corridor east of Idaho Springs.

The project is needed to address:

- **Safety.** A high number of crashes occur in the project area related to tight curves, poor sight distance, narrow shoulders, and congested traffic conditions.
- **Mobility.** Slow and unpredictable travel times in peak traffic periods (Saturday and Sunday afternoons) frustrate travelers, affect economic conditions, and decrease safety.
- **Operational characteristics that slow travel.** Capacity in the most congested portion of the I-70 Mountain Corridor east of Georgetown is largely controlled by the Twin Tunnels. Real and perceived narrowness of the tunnels causes drivers to slow down and reduces capacity by up to 30 percent. Curves in the project area between the tunnels and Floyd Hill (east of the tunnels) also cause drivers to slow down.

### Core Values

- **Safe** travel for people and goods. **Safety** for emergency responders and maintenance workers. A **safe** crossing for wildlife.
- **Mobility** through safe and reliable transportation facilities.
- A primary access and visual **gateway** to the Mountain Mineral Belt, historic Idaho Springs and Front Range communities.
- **Wildlife**, wildlife habitat, migration routes and access to 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.
- **Tourist destinations and community facilities**, including the Scott Lancaster Trail and Bridge, the waste-water treatment plant, the planned Clear Creek Greenway, the frontage road, and Clear Creek.
- **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.



★ = Public Meetings

### Project Leadership Team

Name	Company
Ben Acimovic	CDOT – Region 1
Chuck Attardo	CDOT – Region 1
Jim Bemelen	CDOT – Region 1
Allan Brown	Atkins Global
Tony DeVito	CDOT – Region 1
Janet Gerak	CDOT – Region 1
Stephanie Gibson	FHWA
Vanessa Henderson	CDOT – EPB
Gina McAfee	Jacobs
Tim Mauck	Clear Creek County
Jack Morgan	Mayor, Idaho Springs
Pat Noyes	Pat Noyes & Associates
Melinda Urban	FHWA
Mary Jo Vobejda	CH2M HILL
Rebecca White	CDOT Govt. Relations
Mandy Whorton	CH2M HILL

### ALIVE Working Group

(A Landscape Level Inventory of Value Ecosystem Components)

#### Goal:

Increase the permeability of the I-70 Corridor to terrestrial and aquatic species to provide and maintain long-term protection and restoration of wildlife linkage areas, improve habitat connectivity, and preserve essential ecosystem components.

#### Outcomes/Actions:

Use the MOU to implement corrective actions to solve permeability problems identified in the linkage interference zones.

Use the MOU framework for ongoing coordination between stakeholders

Work cooperatively to maximize effective and efficient use of limited resources

### SWEEP Working Group

(Stream and Wetland Ecological Enhancement Program)

#### Goal:

Improve, enhance, and protect water resources and ecological services in the I-70 Corridor by including mitigation and/or enhancements in advance of and during project development, project design, project construction, and system operations and maintenance, and maintaining those mitigations or enhancements into the future. Water resources include: water quality, wetland and riparian ecosystems, fisheries, aquatic-dependent communities, water supply, and recreational opportunities

#### Outcomes/Actions:

Use the MOU established as the framework to assure the protection of water resources.

Develop recommendations for mitigation and/or enhancement for the streams, rivers, lakes, and reservoirs in the Twin Tunnel area.

### Section 106 Programmatic Agreement

(Historic)

#### Goal:

Using the Programmatic Agreement and the historic context for the I-70 Mountain Corridor, CDOT will facilitate planning and streamline development of the Twin Tunnels Environmental Assessment in consultation with the FHWA, SHPO and the other corridor consulting parties.

#### Outcomes & Actions:

- Plan, design and implement the Twin Tunnels in accordance with the principles of Context Sensitive Solutions
- Plan, design and implement the Twin Tunnels EA in accordance with the I-70 Mountain Corridor Programmatic Agreement, fully executed in April 2008.
- Provide substantial opportunities during the Twin Tunnels EA for consulting party input concerning design and construction options and variances.
- Consider direct, indirect, and cumulative effects on historic properties and consider measures to improve existing conditions affecting historic properties.
- Seek agreement among FHWA, CDOT and the consulting parties when making decisions on the Twin Tunnel EA

