



I-70 Coalition Speaking Points

Who is the I-70 Coalition?

- In January 2004, numerous local governments formalized the I-70 Coalition by adopting the “Intergovernmental Agreement for the Establishment of an Interstate 70 Central Mountain Transportation Corridor Coalition” to address transportation issues regarding the I-70 corridor, and specifically the Draft Interstate 70 Central Mountain Transportation Corridor Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) issued by the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT).
- In December 2007, the I-70 Mountain Corridor Coalition received designation as a 501(c)(6), non-profit corporation.
- The coalition is comprised of 32 political jurisdictions and 4 private sector members that depend on the I-70 Corridor to move people and goods to and from their communities

Where is the Process at for a Long Term I-70 Solution?

The State of Colorado must complete a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) before any major action can be taken on the I-70 corridor. The final Record of Decision is expected in late 2009 or early 2010. Governor Ritter and the Colorado Department of Transportation appointed a 27 member panel of corridor municipalities, counties, environmental groups, the private sector and CDOT staff who were able to reach consensus on a preferred solution to the I-70 corridor. This Collaborative Effort (CE) outlines that the State will address:

- Major highway pinch point locations including highway widening from Floyd Hill through the Twin Tunnels,
- Some frontage road improvements
- Improvements to the Empire Junction stretch
- And will concurrently focus on the feasibility and funding for an advanced rail guideway system (AGS).

What is the I-70 Coalition’s Mission?

- To enhance public accessibility and mobility in the I-70 Central Mountain Corridor and adjoining dependent counties and municipalities through the implementation of joint public and private transportation management efforts.
- The Coalition supports the Collaborative Effort preferred solution as outlined above.

What is the Value of the I-70 Coalition?

- Assists CDOT in identifying funding sources and mechanisms for constructing the preferred alternative, as well as helps CDOT define long-term mitigation policies for the I-70 Mountain Corridor
- Increases awareness of transportation alternatives among citizens, federal and state legislative bodies, etc.
- Serves as a collective voice for the I-70 Central Mountain Corridor for both private sector and public entities

Additional Information:

- <http://www.i70solutions.org>

What is the Future Role of I-70 Coalition?

- Implement Travel Demand Management (TDM) strategies. While TDM is not the silver bullet, it is a short term strategy to relieve congestion on the I-70 corridor while we are working towards a long term solution.
- Stay actively involved in relevant plans and processes
- Secure transportation financing for the I-70 corridor
- Support actions to develop a statewide transit plan and organization structure to implement a transportation plan.
- Focus on the significance of the I-70 corridor and the I-70 Coalition by educating people in the state of the importance, condition and demand on the I-70 corridor.

Additional “Facts”

- 2025 travel demand in the I-70 Mountain Corridor - projected to increase by more than 10 million trips at the Eisenhower Tunnel over the next 25 years.
- Traffic and population predictions show that even with TDM at a 100% success, current weekend traffic volumes might be seen on a Wednesday in 2025.
- Approximately 10 million vehicles traveled through the Eisenhower tunnel in 2000
- In 2025 the Front Range population is expected to reach approximately 5 million (increasing by 45 percent) creating substantial increase in summer and winter recreation travel demand in the I-70 Mountain Corridor
- The 2025 nine-county Corridor region (Clear Creek, Eagle, Garfield, Gilpin, Grand, Lake, Park, Pitkin and Summit)- are to reach approximately 340,000 (101 percent projected growth) creating additional traffic demand in the I-70 Mountain Corridor
- More than 200 recreational sites are within six miles of the I-70 Mountain Corridor including 15 ski areas
- If no major improvements are made it could affect the economy of the nine-county region due to a reduction in recreational spending