

Panel Recommends Rail, Road Expansion to Ease I-70 Traffic

Recommendation follows lengthy study

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KEYSTONE, Colo. (MyFOXColorado.com) – A CDOT-sponsored panel charged with finding a solution to traffic congestion on Interstate 70 between Denver and Summit County have recommended a combination of rail service and expanding the interstate.

The group, called Collaborative Effort, made its recommendation to state government officials Thursday after hosting eight months of meetings.

The rail service, known as an “advanced guideway train,” would be completed by 2025 while I-70 would be widened to six lanes from Floyd Hill through the twin tunnels east of Idaho Springs.



Traffic at the Eisenhower tunnel. 12/01/07

Colorado Department of Transportation Executive Director Russ George said the two solutions were proposed to satisfy two camps within the group: one that favored rail service and another that favored roadway expansion.

CDOT has been studying potential fixes to the congested mountain corridor for eight years.

In 2001, Colorado voters rejected a ballot initiative that would have allocated \$50 million for a pilot project in Pueblo to test whether a high-speed monorail could help ease I-70 congestion.

A proposal to charge a toll for I-70 drivers failed in Colorado State Legislature this past session.