

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 24, 2007

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**TEN MEMBERS OF I-70 COALITION APPOINTED TO CDOT COLLABORATION
TEAM TO RECOMMEND ALTERNATIVE FOR I-70 MOUNTAIN CORRIDOR**

(Vail)—The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) has named ten members of the Interstate 70 Mountain Corridor Coalition to a collaborative team that will focus on the future of the Interstate 70 mountain corridor. Beginning in November, coalition representative and a team of 16 other stakeholders will begin working together with a goal of recommending an alternative to address the corridor's transportation needs. This Collaborative Effort is part of the decision-making process of the I-70 Mountain Corridor Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

I-70 Coalition representatives include Coalition Chair and Frisco Town Manager Michael Penny; Dennis Lunberry, Mayor of Idaho Springs; Kevin O'Malley, Clear Creek County Commissioner; Tresi Houpt, Garfield County Commissioner; Beth Ganz, Vail Resorts, Inc.; Eric Turner, Summit County Chamber of Commerce member; Stan Zemler, Vail Town Manager; Cynthia Neely, Georgetown and Historic Preservation representative; Thad Noll, Summit Stage representative; and Harry Dale, Clear Creek County Commissioner and Rocky Mountain Rail Authority representative.

Coalition Chair Penny, says the coalition continues to work closely with CDOT on projects and teams related to the I-70 mountain corridor. "For the past three years the coalition and CDOT have worked together on solutions for improving transit along the I-70 mountain corridor," said Penny. "Myself and the other members of the collaborative team representing the coalition are looking forward to the process and outcomes that could help shape alternatives for I-70, while expediting the development and implementation of a mutually acceptable solution to the increasing demands and congestion on the I-70 mountain corridor."

The 25-member group includes representatives of different interests in the 144-mile corridor, including local governments, highway users, transit, environmental, business and recreation, as well as state and federal agencies. Working with independent facilitators from The Keystone Center, the team will meet regularly at various locations in the corridor. The meetings will be open to the public for observation, with brief opportunities for public comment. Meeting dates, times and locations will be publicized when they are scheduled.

It is expected the Collaborative Effort team will continue to work through the first half of 2008 with a focus on:

- Building agreement around a recommended alternative that identifies modes of travel and transportation improvement strategies, including identifying areas that may need clarity;
- Establishing processes to ensure stakeholder involvement in future decisions.

The roles of the I-70 Mountain Corridor teams:

- Collaborative Effort: Working to build a broad, high-level agreement around a recommended alternative identifying modes of travel and transportation improvement strategies.
- Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement: Identifying a preferred alternative that addresses the transportation needs of the corridor while protecting the natural environments and mountain communities. The preferred alternative will be analyzed in the Final Environmental Impact Statement, which will be released to the public for review and comment.
- Context Sensitive Solutions: Will develop a context statement and values for use in developing design standards for future planning, design and construction.

The 16 other collaborative team members are Federal Highway Administration, Shaun Cutting; Federal Transit Administration, Dave Beckhouse; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Tim Carey; U.S. Forest Service, Carol Krause; CDOT Region 1, Jeff Kullman; CDOT Region 3, Weldon Allen; Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce, representative not yet identified; Colorado Ski Country, Melanie Mills; Colorado Association of Transit Agencies, Elena Wilken; Colorado Motor Carriers Association, representative yet to be identified; Colorado Rail Passenger Association, Jon Esty; Trout Unlimited, Gary Frey; Colorado Environmental Coalition, TJ Brown; Blue River Chapter of the Sierra Club, Karn Stiegelmeier; and Sierra Club, Bert Melcher.

For more information on the collaborative team, go to www.i70mtncorridor.com. For information on the coalition, go to www.i70solutions.org.

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About I-70 Coalition

The coalition was formed through an intergovernmental agreement in January 2004 to address transportation issues in the I-70 mountain corridor and to respond to CDOT's

Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement. The local governments involved in the coalition include the counties of Clear Creek, Eagle, Garfield, Pitkin, Gilpin, Grand, Jefferson, and Summit, plus the cities and towns of Aspen, Avon, Breckenridge, Carbondale, Dillon, Eagle, Empire, Fraser, Frisco, Georgetown, Glenwood Springs, Golden, Granby, Grand Lake, Gypsum, Idaho Springs, Leadville, Minturn, Montezuma, Red Cliff, Silverthorne, Silver Plume, Steamboat, Vail and Winter Park. Private partners include Gart Companies, Intrawest Corporation, Vail Resorts, Inc., the Summit County Chamber of Commerce and the Vail Valley Partnership. More information is available at www.i70solutions.org.