

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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(Media Note: Photos attached of Michael Penny and Peter Runyon)

**I-70 COALITION SELECTS NEW CHAIR, VICE-CHAIR FOR 2007; REPORTS  
PRODUCTIVE YEAR FOR 2006**

(I-70 Mountain Corridor)— The Interstate 70 Mountain Transportation Corridor Coalition (I-70 Coalition) has selected Frisco Town Manager Michael Penny as chair and Eagle County Commissioner Peter Runyon as vice chair for 2007, effective immediately. Penny and Runyon replace former coalition chair, Summit County Commissioner Bill Wallace, and former coalition vice chair, Vail Town Manager Stan Zemler, respectively.

With the coalition now in its third year, Penny says he is looking forward to leading the group in 2007 as it continues to make large strides as a powerful voice for local transportation interests concerning the I-70 mountain corridor. "I'm excited about the coalition's potential to grow in membership and to draw serious attention to the unique transportation issues our communities face," said Penny. "I-70 is facing serious challenges in its ability to meet our transportation needs, and this group has important work to do in identifying and advocating for solutions that will work for us."

Runyon says he is looking forward to working regionally as the coalition continues to expand throughout Colorado. "The I-70 mountain corridor coalition isn't only about local concerns but, indeed, is more about preserving the quality of life for all of Colorado," said Runyon. "Our mountain recreation should never be denied because of avoidable gridlock on the interstate."

According to I-70 Coalition Director Flo Raitano, the coalition is reporting a productive year for 2006. Raitano says the year was spent expanding the organization to include private-sector representation, including Vail Resorts, Intrawest Corporation, Gart Companies, Vail Valley Chamber and Tourism Bureau and Summit County Chamber of Commerce, as well as adding new governmental members Jefferson County and the

City of Golden. The coalition also applied for and received a \$30,000 grant to fund a workshop held in October that included panelists from Colorado and across the nation who discussed transit technology, structures, financing opportunities and transit alternatives. Additionally, the coalition developed travel demand-management and construction-impact mitigation recommendations for the I-70 mountain corridor that were presented to the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) as potential strategies for dealing with the current levels of congestion, plus anticipating impacts from construction activities.

During 2007, Raitano says the coalition will concentrate its efforts on continued information distribution about its preferred alternative for transit along the mountain corridor and invite other public entities and private sector organizations to participate. Part of this includes a community outreach program that includes presentations throughout the I-70 mountain corridor, Front Range and elsewhere in Colorado, to provide information about the coalition's preferred transportation alternative and its ability to enhance public accessibility and mobility in the I-70 mountain corridor. The coalition also will be focusing on implementing a \$500,000 grant from CDOT. This grant will be used to complete a land-use planning and zoning effort for all coalition member jurisdictions to ensure transit systems and transit-related development can be accommodated in the future, says Raitano. The coalition also will respond to the CDOT's Final Planning and Environmental Impact Statement, which is scheduled to be released in late 2007.

This year will no doubt prove to be a busy and productive year, just like 2006, says Raitano. "The coalition has many tasks to complete and foremost among them will be community outreach and sharing information about the coalition's activities and progress with state leaders, residents and potential partners," said Raitano. "We look forward to building upon community collaboration and leadership opportunities that exist along the I-70 mountain corridor, Front Range and throughout Colorado."

For more information on the coalition's meeting schedule or to schedule a presentation for your organization, call Raitano at 970-393-2394 or go to [www.i-70coalition.org](http://www.i-70coalition.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, Lake, Pitkin, Gilpin, Grand, Jefferson, Park and Summit, plus the cities and towns of Aspen, Avon, Breckenridge, Dillon, Empire, Fraser, Frisco, Georgetown, Glenwood Springs, Golden, Granby, Grand Lake, Gypsum, Hot Sulphur Springs, Idaho Springs, Kremmling, Leadville, Minturn, Montezuma, Red Cliff, Silverthorne, Silver Plume, Steamboat, Vail, Walden and Winter Park. Private partners include Gart Companies, Intrawest Corporation, Vail Resorts, Inc., the Summit County Chamber of Commerce and the Vail Valley Chamber and Tourism Bureau. More information is available at [www.i-70coalition.org](http://www.i-70coalition.org).