

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**LAND-USE PLANNING STUDY UNDERWAY ALONG I-70 MOUNTAIN CORRIDOR**

**(I-70 Mountain Corridor)**— The Interstate 70 Mountain Corridor Coalition (I-70 Coalition) has selected Jacobs Carter Burgess to move forward with a land-use planning and zoning study along the I-70 mountain corridor. The study is anticipated to be completed in February 2009 and results will clarify how to best connect local communities with a regional transit system along the I-70 mountain corridor. The study will identify logical sites for transit stations while considering freight capacity considerations, storage and maintenance needs, land use patterns and community concerns.

According to Jacobs Carter Burgess, the study will take place in three phases with data collection to learn more about growth and preservation issues during the first phase, determination of site locations and connections during the second phase and agreement and documentation during the third phase. “The study will come up with answers that work best for the communities along the corridor,” said Burgess. “Once complete, the study will provide communities with guidance on what to look at and what could work and why.”

I-70 Coalition Chair Michael Penny, who also serves as Frisco’s Town Manager, says the Coalition will use study results to provide key information needed to make the complimentary Rocky Mountain Rail Authority High Speed Rail corridor study, also underway, successful. “We’re making great progress with coordination and timing of multiple studies and activities on the I-70 corridor,” said Penny. “This study will also serve as an important component of any future statewide strategic transit planning.”

The study is being funded through a \$400,000 matching grant from the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) and will occur simultaneously with additional

efforts by CDOT. These include CDOT's Collaborative Effort, in which a team of 16 other stakeholders, 11 who are Coalition members, are working together with the goal of recommending an alternative solution 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). The Coalition is also working with CDOT on its Context Sensitive Solutions effort to develop design standards for future planning, design and construction that will compliment results from the land-use planning study.

According to I-70 Coalition Director Flo Raitano, the Coalition also is reporting a productive year for 2007. "The year was spent building strategic partnerships, making key transportation interests across the state aware of the I-70 Coalition and increasing membership and geographic representation on the Coalition," said Raitano.

In 2008, Raitano says the Coalition will not only focus on the land-use planning study, but also undertake a new joint venture with CDOT and the Denver Regional Council of Governments to create and oversee a Travel Demand Management (TDM) position for the I-70 corridor. "TDM strategies are important when seeking short-term partial solutions to alleviating the current levels of congestion on I-70," said Raitano. "It's not the silver bullet, but every bit helps to prevent congestion along the corridor from increasing."

For more information on the land-use study, the Coalition's meeting schedule or to schedule a presentation for your organization, call Raitano at 970-393-2394 or go to [www.i70solutions.org](http://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 Grand Valley Regional Transportation Commission, 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 Partnership. More information is available at [www.i70solutions.org](http://www.i70solutions.org).