

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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I-70 TRANSIT & LAND-USE PLANNING STUDY COMPLETE

(I-70 Mountain Corridor)— If and when transit is determined feasible along the I-70 Mountain Corridor, the planning process is at least one step closer to completion. Consultants from Jacobs Carter Burgess completed the Land Use Planning Study for Transit Rail Alignment Along the I-70 Mountain Corridor this month. The study analyzed town and county land use codes along I-70 to determine if these codes were amenable to transit development. Each jurisdiction was given a “tool box” with suggestions for modifying their codes, if needed, to be ready for possible transit development. The study also gathered input at the local level on how to best connect local communities with a regional transit system along the I-70 mountain corridor. The final report identifies logical sites for transit stations while considering light consumer freight capacity, storage and maintenance needs, land use patterns and community concerns about a transit system.

The study was funded through a \$400,000 matching grant from the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) and has been closely coordinated with the complimentary and more detailed Rocky Mountain Rail Authority (RMRA) High Speed Rail Feasibility Study. The RMRA study’s goal is to determine if some level of high speed rail service is technically, financially and economically feasible and would warrant further planning and engineering exploration. While the Land Use Study focuses on community preferences for station location, the RMRA study is looking at the engineering data and potential ridership numbers to determine preferred station locations from that perspective. Harry Dale of RMRA states, “The Rocky Mountain Rail Authority intends to use the results of the I-70 Coalition Transit Planning Study to further develop and optimize the rail alternatives under study for the I-70 mountain corridor. The RMRA study team has been working closely with the I-70 Coalition

effort and will continue to work closely with the I-70 Coalition until the RMRA study is completed in July 2009." More information on this High Speed Rail study is available at www.rockymountainrail.org

For more information on the I-70 Coalition, visit www.i70solutions.org. There you can sign up for the *I-70 Alert*, a quarterly e-newsletter updating you on efforts towards an I-70 solution.

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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 Roaring Fork Transportation Authority, the counties of Clear Creek, Eagle, Garfield, Pitkin, Gilpin, Grand, Jefferson and Summit, plus the cities and towns of Aspen, Avon, Breckenridge, Dillon, Empire, Fraser, Frisco, Georgetown, Glenwood Springs, Golden, 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. and the Summit County Chamber of Commerce. More information is available at www.i70solutions.org.