

STATE OF COLORADO

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
REGION 1 – I-70 MOUNTAIN CORRIDOR
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Context Statement

The I-70 mountain corridor is Colorado's only east-west interstate and the primary access route from Denver to the mountains of western Colorado.

The segment of the I-70 corridor that runs from Empire Junction to the Twin Tunnels at Idaho Springs has spectacular view sheds and is one of the most heavily populated areas of Clear Creek County. It also is one of the narrowest sections in the corridor, with the roadway located on the canyon floor adjacent to Clear Creek. This segment of interstate is an important link for the community, acting as a major arterial throughout the area and also providing multi-modal forms of transportation. Improvements to the interstate in this area directly impact established communities as well as unique environmental, historic and recreational resources.

This segment of the corridor experiences heavy flows of eastbound traffic causing severe congestion and traffic delays during peak periods, especially at the I-70/US 40 interchange at Empire Junction.

Short term operational strategies need to be explored until sufficient funding can be obtained to implement the corridor's ultimate vision.

