

# Rail Transit for the I-70 Mountain Corridor

## Mountains to Plains Transportation Solutions

### TRAFFIC WOES FOR THE I-70 MOUNTAIN CORRIDOR

Colorado's beautiful landscapes and world-class ski resorts draw thousands of tourists every week, fueling the State's economy. However, traffic problems produced by the high country's popularity are causing economic and environmental damage to our State. The economies of Colorado's mountain communities depend on their visitors - over 60% of jobs in Summit County alone are tourist related.

I-70 is a vital transportation corridor for the state and the nation. Travelers utilizing the I-70 Mountain Corridor must have more transportation choices. Public transit can provide this choice and relieve congestion on I-70. The future of the corridor now hangs in the balance as the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) complete the Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) analyzing options for addressing traffic issues on the highway. Unfortunately, CDOT's preferred alternatives equate to a 20-year construction project that will simply bring more traffic, more air and noise pollution, and possibly toll fees.

### MOUNTAINS TO PLAINS TRANSPORTATION SOLUTIONS

Mountains to Plains Transportation Solutions is a coalition of non-governmental organizations representing recreation, conservation, business, architecture, transit and community interests that has come together to work for a sustainable future that includes better transportation choices for residents and visitors alike. Visit [www.I70mountaintransit.org](http://www.I70mountaintransit.org) to learn more.

### STADLER FLIRT: A FEASIBLE TRANSPORTATION SOLUTION

Members of MPTS, with help from rail experts, came to the conclusion that an elevated fast light rail train was feasible, economical and more environmentally conscious than the CDOT preferred alternatives. Characteristics of the FLIRT:

- *Top speed of 100 mph*
- *Can handle a 7% grade at 65 mph. and a 9% grade for short distances.*
- *Platform height floor for roll on/roll off for bikes or gear.*
- *Regenerative braking with three redundant fail-safe braking systems*



The FLIRT can operate in all weather conditions

### MPTS Member Groups

Alliance for Sustainable Colorado  
American Institute of Architects – Denver  
Audubon Colorado  
Canyon Area Residents for the Environment  
Center for Native Ecosystems  
Citizens Involved in the NW Quadrant  
Clear Creek I-70 Task Force  
Colorado Rail Passenger Association  
Colorado Environmental Coalition  
Colorado Mobility Coalition  
Colorado Trout Unlimited  
Colorado Wild  
Environmental Defense  
Environment Colorado  
League of Women Voters - Colorado  
New Century Transportation Foundation  
PLAN JeffCo  
Sierra Club - Rocky Mtn Chapter  
Sierra Club-Blue River Group  
Sierra Club-Indian Peaks Group  
Sierra Club-Roaring Fork Group  
The Evergreen Naturalists Audubon Society  
The Sopris Foundation  
Transit West

### Highway Widening: Irresponsible and Ineffective

- 20 Years of construction
- 5 years after construction congestion levels will be similar to today
- Hefty environmental impacts in terms of runoff, air pollution and global warming

### Transit: Environmentally Responsible

- Improved air-quality,
- Reduction in polluted run-off that fouls our streams and fisheries
- Reduction in emissions of the greenhouse gases that contribute to global warming.

To learn more about MPTS efforts regarding the I-70 Mountain Corridor email [gregg@cecenviro.org](mailto:gregg@cecenviro.org) or visit [www.I70mountaintransit.org](http://www.I70mountaintransit.org)

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