

## Colorado Transportation Investment Office (CTIO) Memorandum

**To:** CTIO Board of Directors  
**From:** Piper Darlington, CTIO Director  
**Date:** August 14, 2024

**Subject:** I-70 Peak Period Shoulder Lanes (PPSL) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Review

**Purpose:**

To provide background on the PPSL MOU between CDOT, CTIO, and FHWA related to the I-70 PPSLs and the next steps associated with its review.

**Requested Action:**

No action is requested at this time.

**Overview**

The I-70 Peak Period Shoulder Lanes, also known as the Mountain Express Lanes, are 24 miles long (12 miles in each direction), running eastbound from Empire Junction through the Veterans Memorial Tunnels and westbound from the Veterans Memorial Tunnels to Empire Junction. The eastbound direction opened for tolling in December 2015 and the westbound direction opened in 2022. They both use a Hard Shoulder Running concept, whereby the inside shoulder lane is used as a single-lane Express Lane to provide additional capacity in the corridor, during peak travel periods only. The hours of operation each year are restricted based on an agreement between CTIO, CDOT, and FHWA.

CTIO staff have been reviewing the MOU's parameters and are in discussions with FHWA about possible amendments to the agreement to reflect the corridor's growing need, ahead of engagement with local communities to gather their feedback.

**Attachments:**

- Attachment A: PPSL MOU Review PowerPoint