

News From  
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**CDOT ADVANCES TOLLED EXPRESS LANES AS PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE  
FOR C-470 CORRIDOR ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

*Santa Fe Interchange Reconstruction also Included as Study Moves into Decision Phase*

**ARAPAHOE/DOUGLAS/JEFFERSON COUNTY**– After three years of intensive study and extensive public input, the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) has released the C-470 Corridor Environmental Assessment (EA) document for public review, as the study moves into a final decision phase.

In the released study, CDOT names new tolled express lanes and reconstruction of the Santa Fe/C-470 interchange as the preferred alternative that will most effectively minimize congestion, reduce travel delay and increase reliability in the C-470 Corridor for the next 20 years.

“With no funding available for C-470 through 2030, tolled express lanes give us the opportunity to address the increasing traffic congestion in the C-470 Corridor sooner,” said Ron Buck, project manager for CDOT. “We have thoroughly studied the tolled express lanes option throughout this study and the results support the tolling alternative as being the most feasible.”

In addition to the tolled express lanes alternative, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is considering a second alternative focused on improving only the existing general purpose lanes and a no-action alternative.

Prior to FHWA making a final decision, the findings of the EA will be presented to the public over a 45-day public input period, which is scheduled from February 28, 2006 through April 13, 2006. The 45-day period was extended from the normal 30 days by CDOT to allow more time for public input. In addition, open-house format public hearings will be held during the 45-day period, so feel free to drop in at anytime either night.

The preferred alternative will be the focus of the formal public hearing scheduled for:

- April 4, 2006 from 5:00pm – 8:00pm at the Recreation Center at Southridge  
(4800 McArthur Ranch Road, Highlands Ranch)
- April 5, 2006 from 5:00pm – 8:00pm at the Ken Caryl Ranch House  
(7676 South Continental Divide Road, Littleton)

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*“Taking Care To Get You There”*

“This is a critical time for the public to voice their opinions, as a final decision period is nearing,” added Buck. “Throughout the study, we have consistently heard from the public that we need to do something now, before congestion gets dramatically worse – and the tolled express lanes option has proven to be the most realistic solution for the C-470 Corridor.”

The preferred alternative between Kipling Parkway and Interstate 25 (I-25) includes the following elements:

- Construction of four new barrier-separated tolled express lanes between I-25 and Kipling Parkway. The four existing lanes would be reconstructed and remain toll-free. The new tolled express lanes would be located in the current median.
- Reconstruction of the SantaFe/C-470 interchange to eliminate a major congestion point. The reconstruction would widen the existing bridge and build a flyover ramp connecting southbound Santa Fe with eastbound C-470.
- Toll pricing will be variable according to demand, allowing for consistent free-flow traffic in the tolled express lanes. Estimated opening day peak-hour toll to travel the entire 12.5-mile corridor will be approximately \$2.50, calculated by using a 19 cent per mile rate in the tolling model. Actual tolls will be set once the toll system is operational
- Tolls would be collected using EXpressToll electronic transponder technology currently in use on E-470 and the Northwest Parkway. No cash toll booths will be installed.
- Drivers could access the barrier-separated tolled express lanes at I-25, Quebec Street, Colorado Boulevard, Broadway, University Blvd., Wadsworth Blvd. and Kipling Parkway. At some locations, access would only be provided in one direction.
- Toll revenues would pay for the initial \$325 million construction cost, the costs to reconstruct the exiting lanes as well as ongoing operation and maintenance costs. The Colorado Tolling Enterprise would build and operate the tolled express lanes.
- The Santa Fe interchange, estimated to cost \$60 million, would be built separately from the tolled express lanes and general purpose lanes rehabilitation, potentially using a combination of federal, state and local funds.
- Public survey data, tolling fact sheets and frequently asked questions are available at [www.c470.info](http://www.c470.info).
- The preferred alternative also outlines local street and trail improvements along the C-470 Corridor. For those interested in reviewing the Environmental Assessment document and providing comment, it will be available for viewing at 18 locations:

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- Jefferson County office (100 Jefferson County Pkwy., Ste. 3500, Golden)
- Arapahoe County 4<sup>th</sup> floor office (5334 S. Prince St., Littleton)
- Douglas County office (100 Third St., Castle Rock)
- Columbine Library (7706 W. Bowles Ave., Littleton)
- Lone Tree Library (8827 Lone Tree Pkwy.)
- Southglenn Library (7500 S. University Blvd. #101, Centennial)
- CDOT Region 6 office (2000 S. Holly St., Denver)
- CDOT Environmental Programs Branch (1325 S. Colorado Blvd., Ste. B400, Denver)
- CDOT Headquarters (4201 E. Arkansas Ave., room 277, Denver)
- Federal Highway Administration (12300 W. Dakota Ave., #180 Lakewood)
- City of Littleton Public Services Dept. @ Littleton Center (2255 W. Berry Ave., Littleton), City of Lone Tree (9777 S. Yosemite St., Ste. 100, Lone Tree)
- Highlands Ranch Metro Districts Office (62 W. Plaza Dr., Highlands Ranch)
- City of Greenwood Village (6060 S. Quebec St., Greenwood Village)
- City of Lakewood (480 S. Allison Pkwy., Civic Center North, Lakewood)
- City of Centennial (12503 E. Euclid Dr., Ste. 200, Centennial)

The project team will also accept written comments through the project website, [www.c470.info](http://www.c470.info), via standard mail (999 18<sup>th</sup> St., Ste. 2600, Denver, CO 80202), by fax (303-297-2693) and e-mail ([C470@wilsonco.com](mailto:C470@wilsonco.com)).

After considering public input, FHWA will issue its final decision, scheduled for fall 2006. The final decision document will clarify whether project design and construction can begin, or if a further environmental impact study (EIS) is necessary.

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#### **ABOUT THE C-470 CORRIDOR PROJECT**

**The C-470 Corridor project is a cooperative effort between the Federal Highway Administration, the Colorado Department of Transportation and Arapahoe, Douglas and Jefferson counties. The team has conducted an environmental assessment to minimize congestion, reduce traveler delay and increase reliability on the C-470 freeway between I-25 and Kipling Parkway. The project team also has studied the feasibility of tolled express lanes from I-25 to I-70.**