



Notice to Elyria and Swansea Residents Community Mitigation Update – October 2015

OVERVIEW

Since the start of the I-70 East project more than a decade ago, the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) have worked to involve the communities in the project area in the decision making process. Identifying mitigations to reduce the impacts of the project has been an important part of this effort.

The 2014 Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) included a number of proposed mitigation measures. This update describes proposed mitigation measures that have been revised and refined based on the comments received on the 2014 Supplemental Draft EIS and additional analyses. These proposed mitigation measures will be included in the Final EIS, which will be released for public review in January 2016. A Record of Decision (ROD) is expected in summer 2016 with construction beginning in 2017.

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PROJECT?

You can learn more about the project through any of the following ways:

- Visit the project websites: <http://www.i-70east.com/> or <https://www.codot.gov/projects/i70east>
- Send us an email: contactus@i-70east.com
- Leave us a voicemail: 303-757-9413
- Send us postal mail: CDOT I-70 East EIS Team, 2000 S. Holly St., Denver, CO 80222

MITIGATION MEASURES BEING PROPOSED IN THE FINAL EIS

All large construction projects require mitigation measures to reduce impacts during construction and CDOT will implement its standard mitigation throughout the project. These are things such as covering all dump trucks leaving sites to prevent dirt from spilling or blowing out, wetting soil piles to minimize blowing dust, etc.

Based on further analysis and extensive public involvement, the project team has developed additional mitigation measures beyond those required or normally provided on CDOT's transportation projects to lessen the adverse impacts in the project area. These mitigation measures are integral to the project and, thus, will be fully funded and implemented once they are included in the ROD.

Some of the additional mitigation measures developed to date for the Preferred Alternative (Partial Cover Lowered Alternative) include:

- Provide a covered segment over I-70, not to exceed 1,000 feet, where it would pass below grade through the Elyria and Swansea Neighborhood. Based on community input and area needs, an urban landscape would be created on top of the cover that would be shared use for Swansea Elementary School and the community. The cover for the highway was designed to mitigate the adverse impacts to the Elyria and Swansea Neighborhood and to restore and enhance the neighborhood connectivity, which was disrupted decades ago by the original I-70 construction in the 1960s.



I-70 East

- Mitigation measures for Swansea Elementary School include:
 - Redesigning and reconstructing the playground
 - Installing new windows, doors, and heating and ventilation system
 - Building two additional classrooms
 - Rebuilding school parking facilities
 - Addressing access needs of the school during construction phasing and identifying options to minimize impacts to the school during construction
- To reduce impacts from dust and noise during construction, for homes between 45th and 47th Avenues, from Brighton Boulevard to Colorado Boulevard:
 - Provide interior storm windows
 - Provide two portable or window-mounted air conditioning units with air filtration and assistance to pay for the potential additional utility costs during construction
- Provide funding to the Community Resource Housing Development Corporation (CRHDC) to assist residential and business displaces with financial counseling and procurement of financing for replacement property and securing business and residential loans. CDOT has already provided this fund as early mitigation.
- Provide \$2 million to replace some low-income housing units acquired in the Elyria and Swansea Neighborhood through available programs
- Provide funding (TBD) to existing programs to facilitate access to fresh food
- Facilitate opportunities to promote hiring local individuals from the communities, such as job fairs with contractors. CDOT is also looking into investing funds in a local workforce development program aimed at job readiness training prior to construction and submitting an application for the US DOT pilot program to impose geographic-based hiring preferences on the I-70 East project.
- Provide funding and participation in a documentary covering the history of I-70 East and its relationship to the Elyria and Swansea and Globeville Neighborhoods. This is currently in progress and should be completed by the end of 2015.
- Collect representative soil samples of recently cleaned-up residential properties pre-, during, and post-construction to test for lead and arsenic to ensure that the properties aren't re-contaminated due to construction activities
- Require continuous PM₁₀ (dust) monitors to be placed along portions of the project corridor where active construction is underway. These monitors will have "alert levels" set that are lower than the standard to provide early notice to the contractor so that they can start to address the high dust levels immediately rather than after the standard is exceeded. This data will be available to the public on-line.

You can still view the summary of mitigation in the Supplemental Draft EIS in Section 5.22, but note that they will be refined and revised for the Final EIS. The full list of proposed mitigation for the Preferred Alternative will be included as Chapter 9 of the Final EIS.