



**COLORADO**  
Department of  
Transportation

**Transportation Legislation Review Committee**  
*September 20, 2016*



# Why We're Here

- NEPA Overview
- Updates on major corridor projects
  - ✓ C-470
  - ✓ North I-25
  - ✓ South I-25
  - ✓ Central I-70
  - ✓ I-70 Mountain Corridor

# National Environmental Protection Act

NEPA = 42 U.S.C. §4321 et seq.

Requires federal agencies to assess the environmental effects of their proposed actions prior to making decisions.

NEPA became law = 1969

Range of actions covered by NEPA is broad and includes:

- making decisions on permit applications,
- adopting federal land management actions, and
- constructing highways and other publicly-owned facilities.



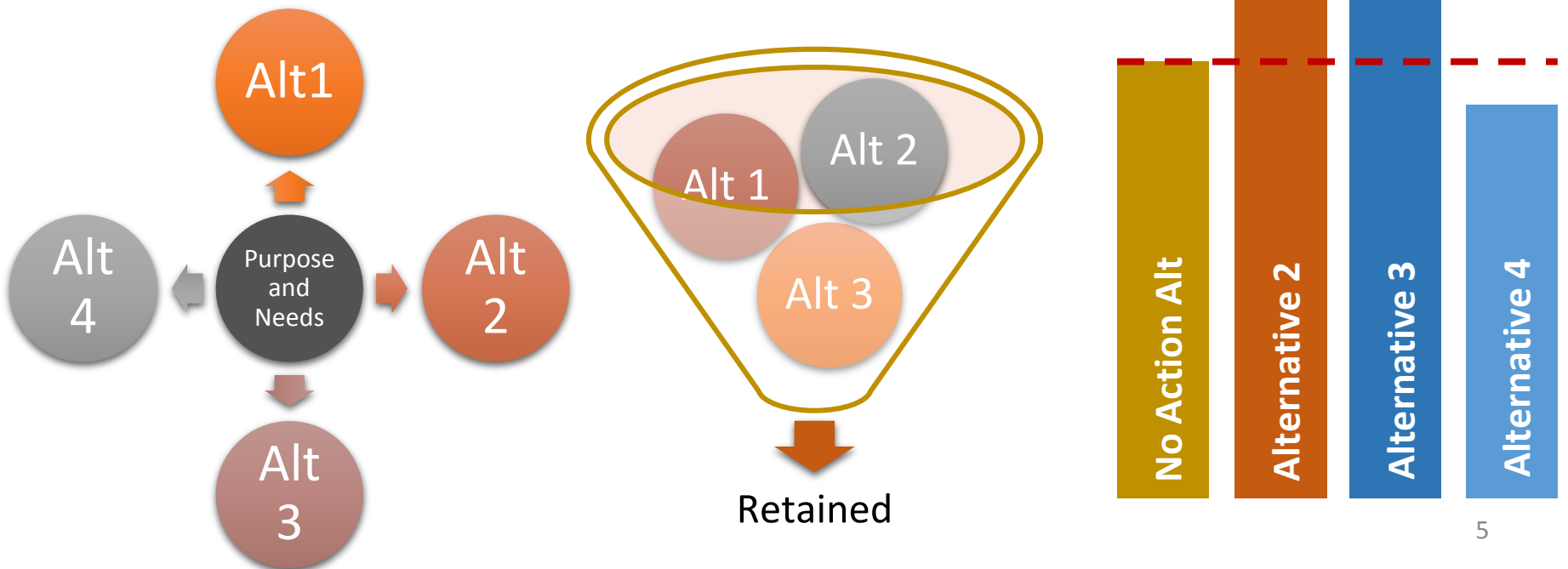
# NEPA Process

- Purpose and Need
- Alternatives
- Impacts
- Mitigation
- Interagency Coordination
- Public Involvement
- Documentation and disclosure
- Decision



# Develop Purpose & Need and Alternatives

- Purpose & Need: What does CDOT hope to accomplish?
- Analyze reasonable alternatives
  - Includes the 'no build' alternative as baseline
  - Develop and Study alternatives



# Preferred Alternative



- Not required to have least impacts
- Public has input, but decision is agency's



# Public Involvement and Agency Coordination

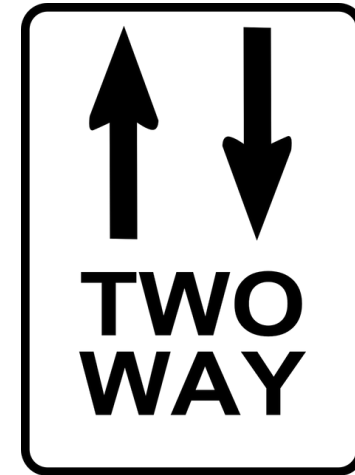
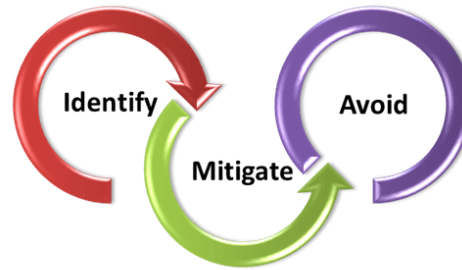
- Open and Continuous dialogue
- With all stakeholders
- Public and technical meetings
- Leads to better decision making
- Develop a solution that fits the project's context



# NEPA Essential Elements

## Impacts

- Environmental, social, economic
- Long term versus short term



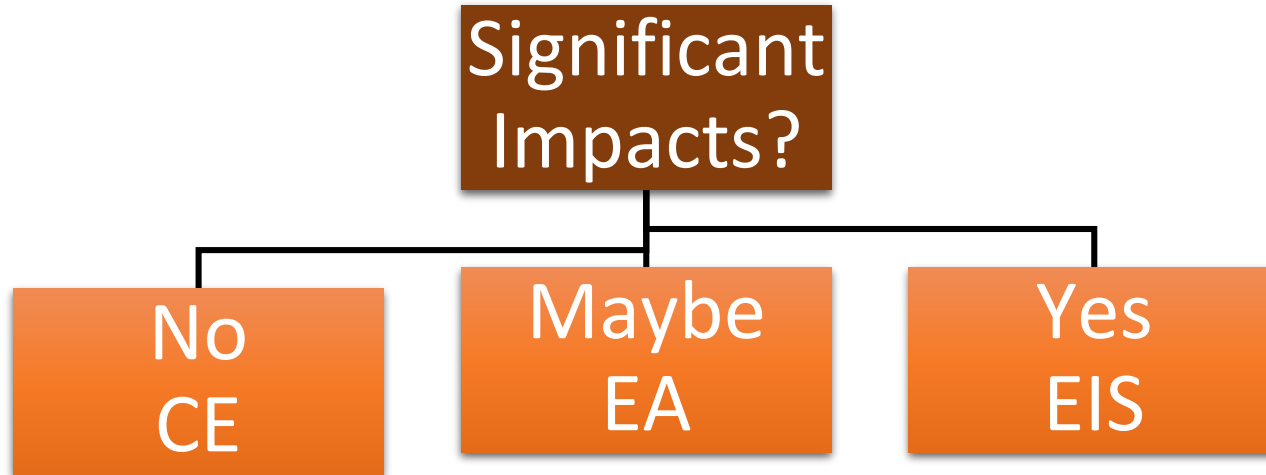
## Mitigation

- Avoid, minimize, compensate
- Becomes a part of project





# NEPA Classes of Action



- **Categorical Exclusion (CE)** – projects that do not have a significant impact on the environment
- **Environmental Assessment (EA)** – projects where impact is not clearly established.
- **Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)** – projects with known significant effect on the environment

# Documentation and Disclosure



- Show work and justification for preferred alternative including mitigation
  - Public has opportunity to comment
  - Must have taken a hard look at alternatives
- 
- Was decision making arbitrary and capricious?
  - Captured in Record of Decision





# Major Corridor Projects

C-470

North I-25

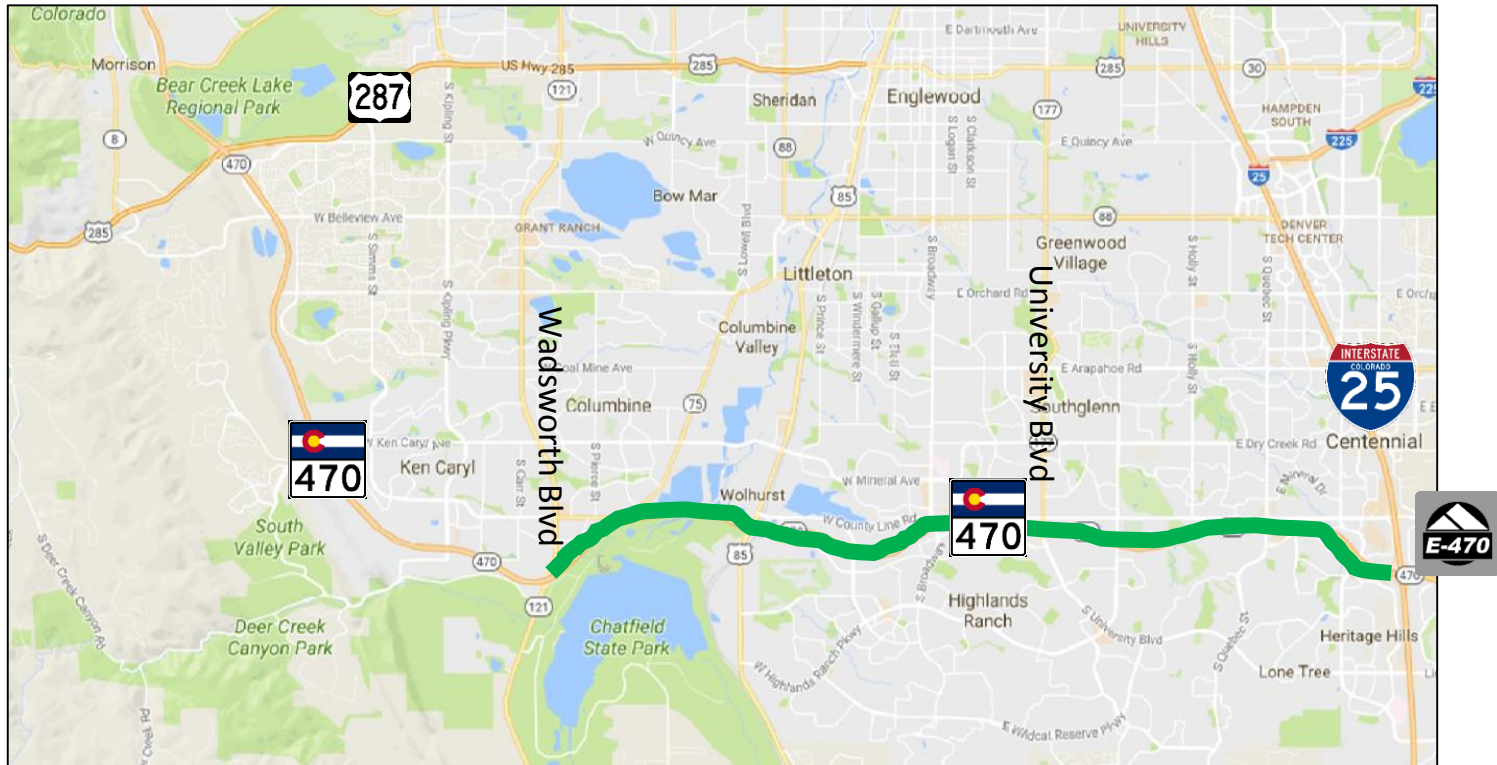
South I-25

Central I-70

I-70 Mountain Corridor



# C-470: I-25 to Wadsworth





# C-470: I-25 to Wadsworth

## Financing

\$107M+/- TIFIA Loan

\$162M Bonds

## Schedule

Spring 2017 – Spring 2019 (Const)

## NEPA

12 Years

24 Public meetings

Record of Decision 12/20/2016

## Mitigations

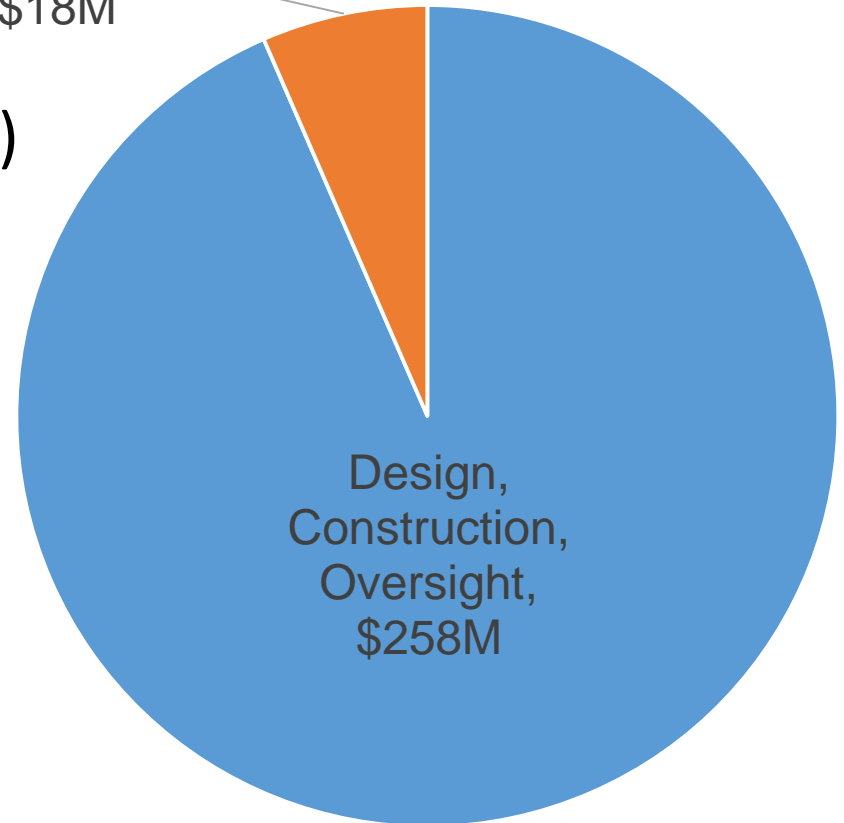
Permanent Noise Walls

Water Quality Ponds

Prairie Dog Relocates

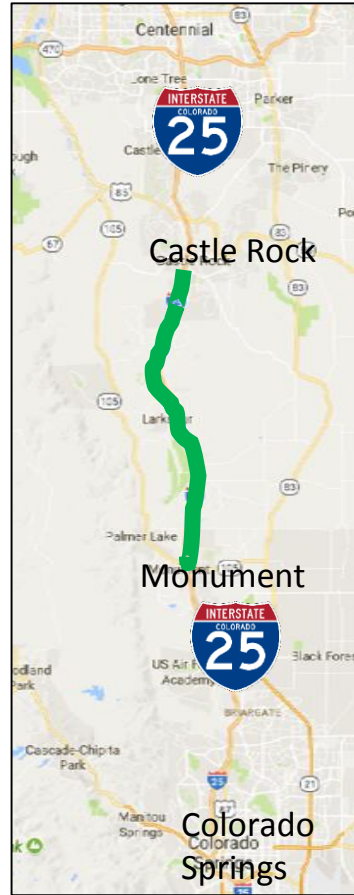
**Budget = \$276M**

Mitigations,  
\$18M





# I-25 North (Ft. Collins to Loveland)







# I-25 North (Ft. Collins to Loveland)

## Financing

\$50M- HPTE Tolling Loan

## Schedule

Spring 2018 – Winter 2020 (Const)

## NEPA

11 Years (corridor)

33 Public meetings (corridor)

Record of Decision 1 – 8/16/17 (7&8)

Record of Decision 4 – 4/27/17 (7&8)

## Mitigations

Depressed Median

Multi-modal transit system

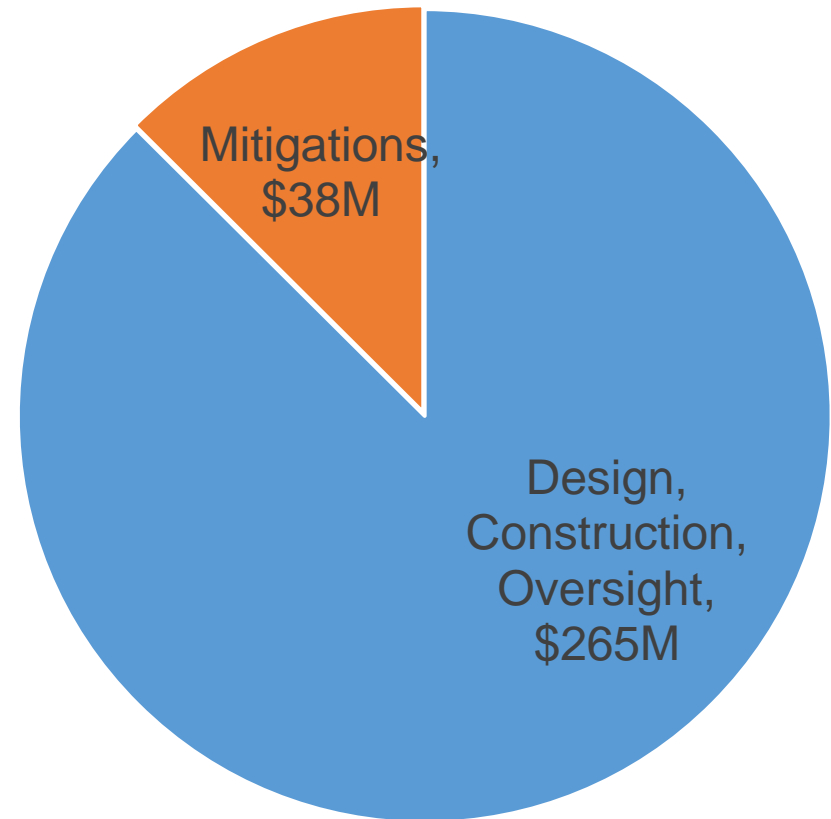
- Poudre Trail, Park and Ride

Noise wall

Wetlands

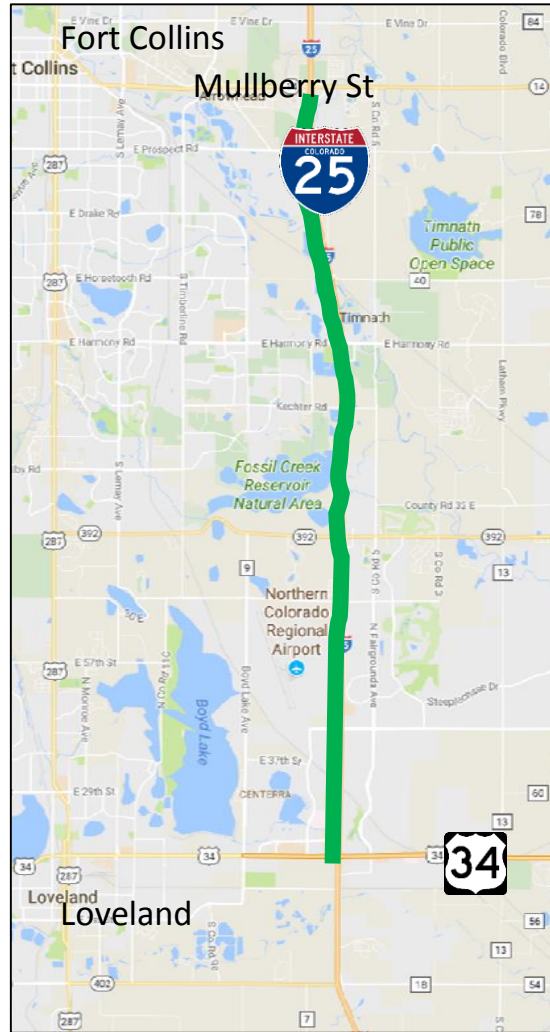
PMJM

**Budget = \$303M**





# I-25 South: Monument to Castle Rock





# I-25 South: Monument to Castle Rock

## Financing

TBD

## Schedule

Fall 2019 – Spring 2022 (Const)

*If funding is identified*

## NEPA

15 months for FONSI

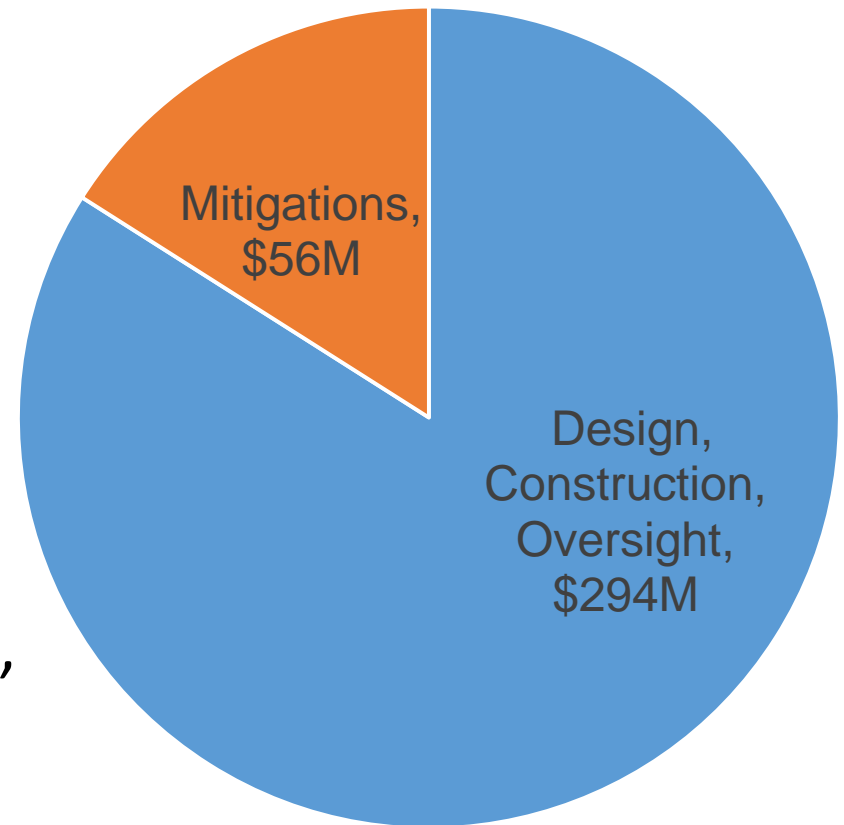
3 Public meetings

Record of Decision Dec 2018

## Mitigations

Noise walls, retaining walls, visual, water quality, wetlands, Preble's mouse, 5 wildlife crossings, Dark Skies Compliant Lighting (~\$56M)

**Costs = \$350M**







# I-70 West (Floyd Hill, WB MXL)

## Financing

\$700 M Approximate Budget

Financing Unknown at this point

## Schedule

Spring 2019 – Fall 2021 (Const)

## NEPA

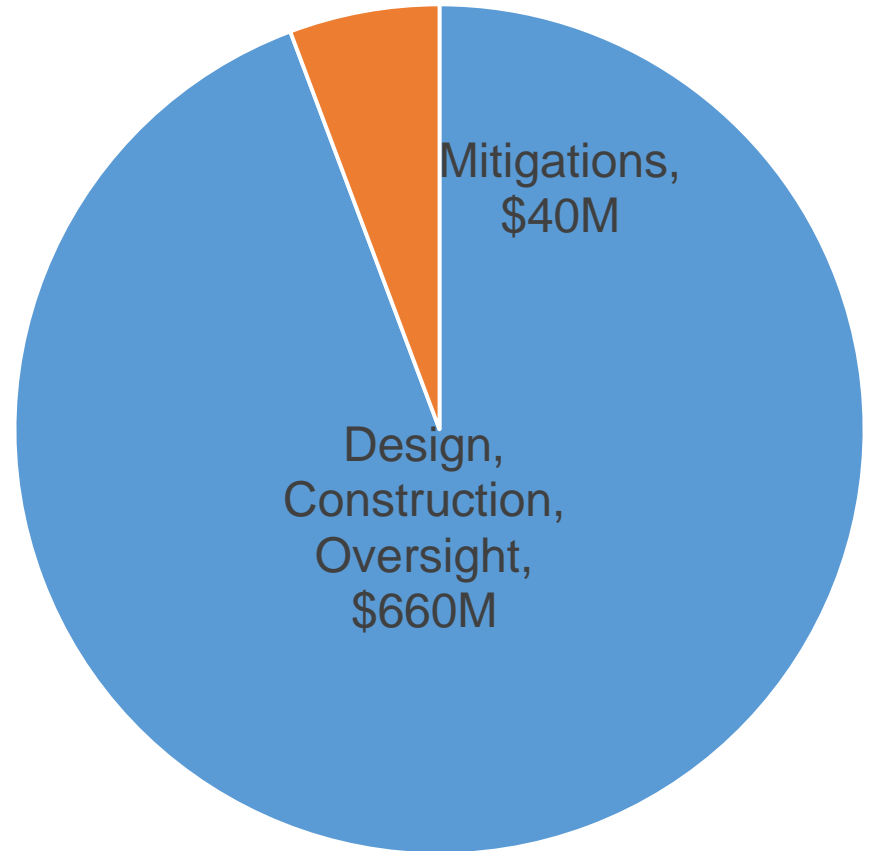
2.5 Years

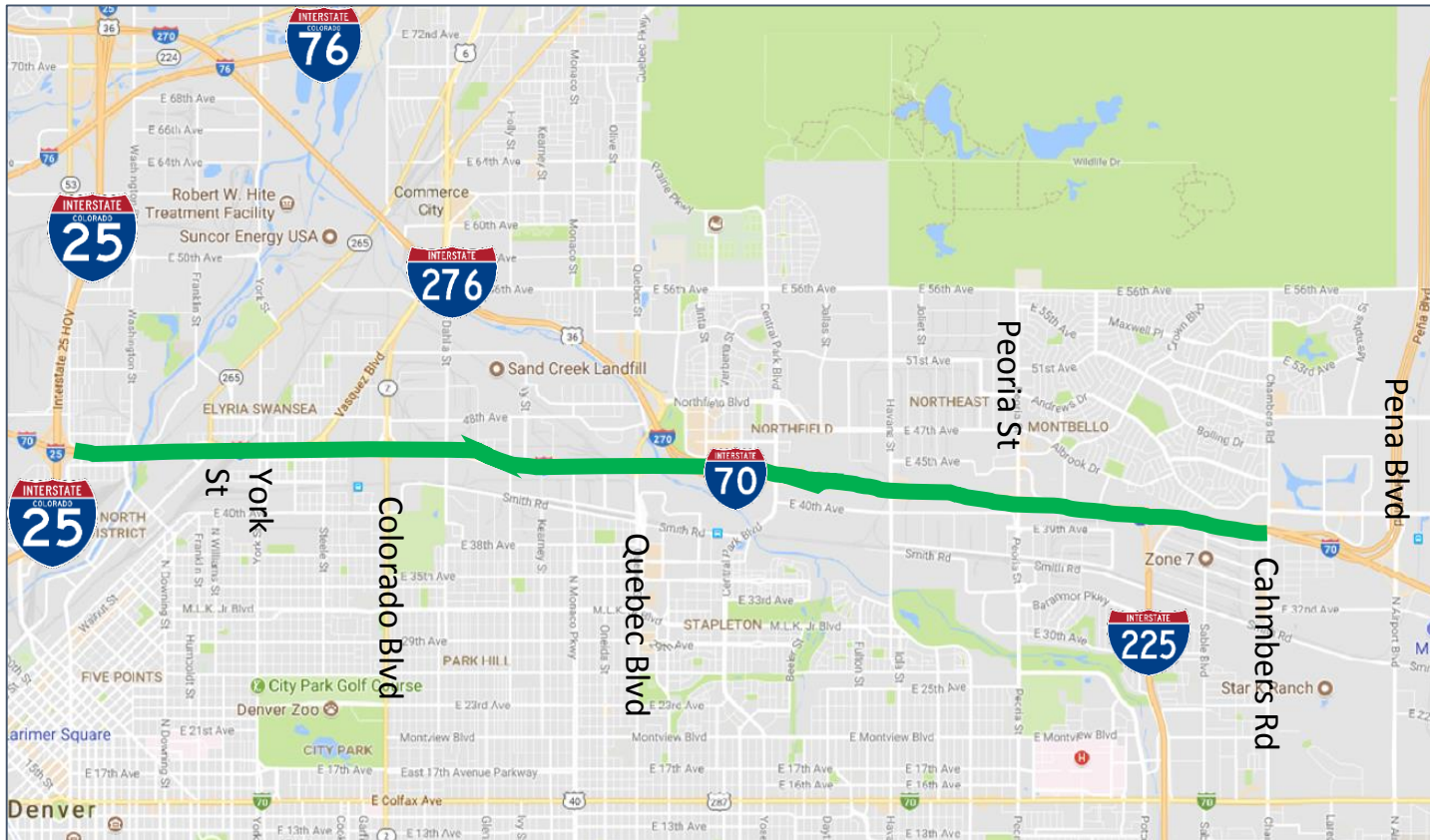
12 Public meetings

## Mitigations

Noise, Wildlife, Stream  
Restoration, Recreation Trails,  
Transit Improvements

**Budget = \$700M**









# Central 70

## Financing

~\$500 TIFIA/PABs

## Schedule

Spring 2018 – Spring 2022 (Const)

## NEPA

14 Years

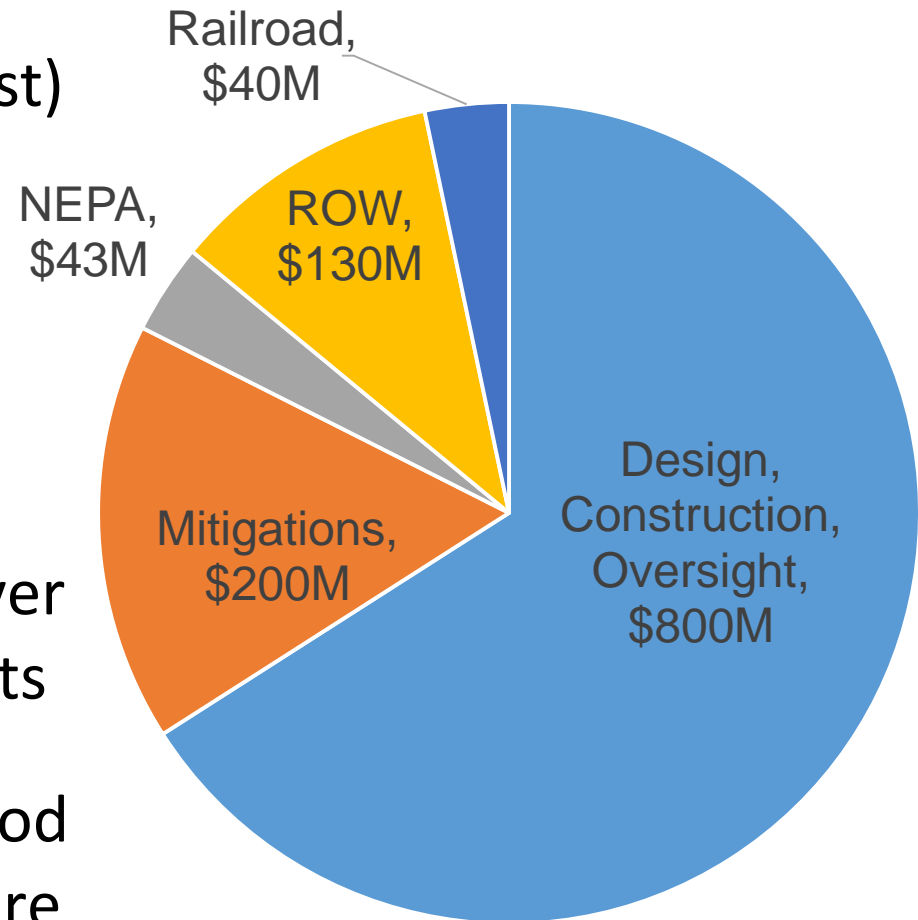
~300 public meetings

Record of Decision 01/19/2017

## Mitigations

- Lowered roadway & 4-acre cover
- School and home improvements
- Financial contributions to affordable housing and fresh food
- Workforce training and local hire

**Budget = \$1.2B**





# Title VI Letter of Finding

In the Fall of 2016 FHWA's Civil Rights Office was asked to investigate CDOT's compliance with Title VI requirements for the Central 70 Project.

The final finding was issued in April of 2017 and found:

- "insufficient evidence that the Project will create adverse, disparate impacts."
- CDOT has provided a "substantial legitimate justification for its actions and shown that a less discriminatory alternative has not been identified."
- "The evidence demonstrates that the Project is likely to improve community cohesion in the Elyria-Swansea neighborhoods, with few temporary impacts during construction."





# I-70 West (VMT, EB MXL)

## Financing

\$25M Commercial Loan

\$300 M Total Budget

## Schedule

Spring 2012– Fall 2015(Const)

## NEPA

3 Years

8 Public meetings

## Mitigations

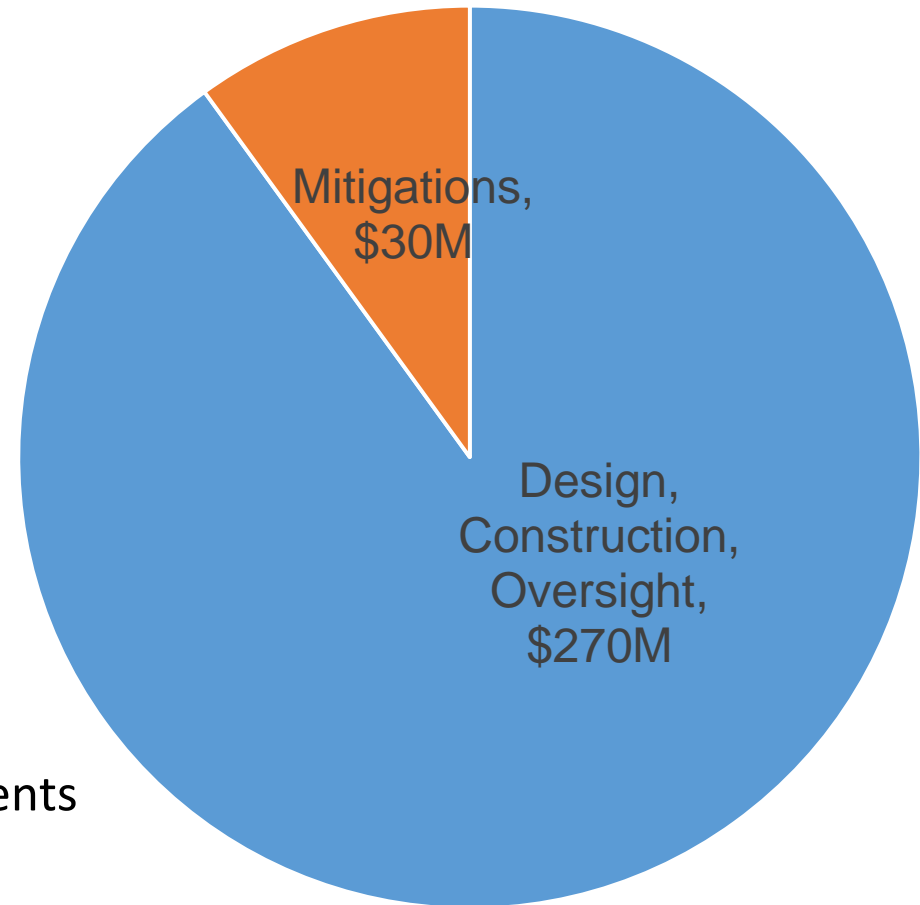
Business Access

Work Hours

Frontage Road and Bike Path Improvements

Stream Restoration

**Budget = \$300M**





# Questions

