

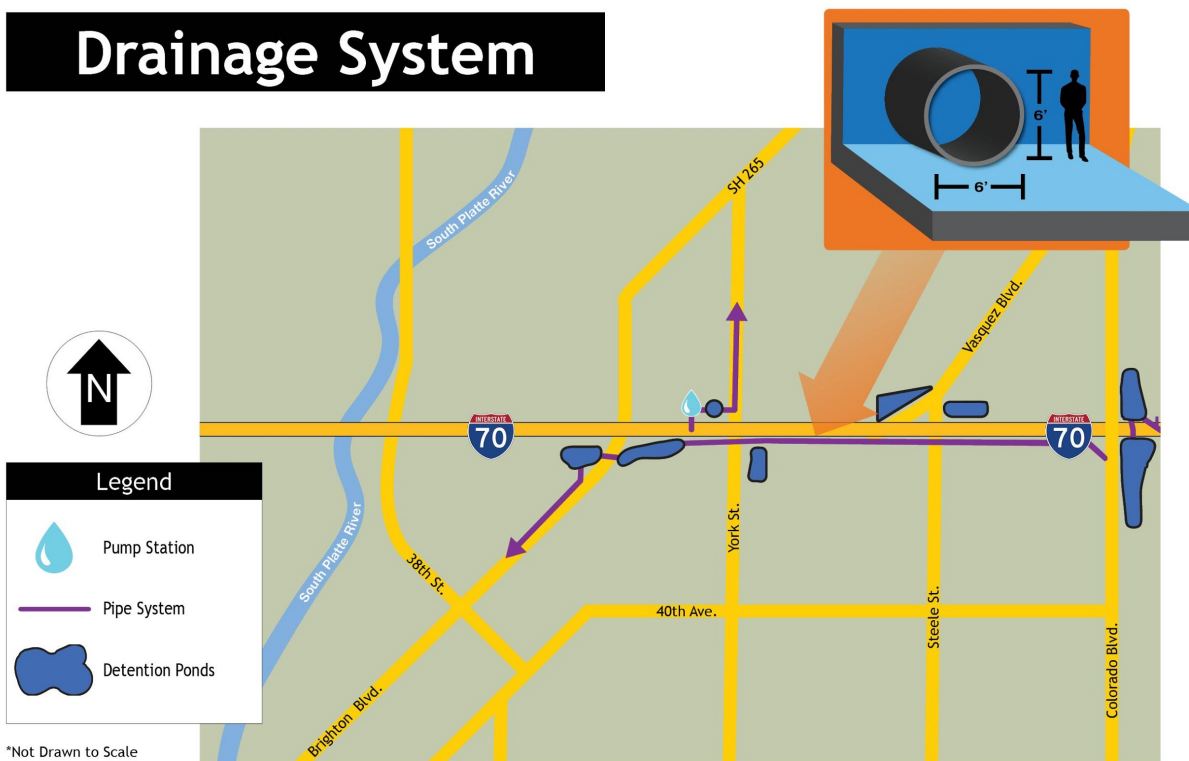
# Drainage

The Central 70 Project includes a robust drainage system designed to handle a 100-year storm event. The drainage plan addresses water from two sources:

1. Water that falls directly into the lowered highway (known as the onsite system)
2. Runoff from surface streets, which currently drain north under the existing viaduct (the offsite system)

The Central 70 Project will add new Express Lanes to the interstate, remove the aging 55-year-old viaduct, lower the interstate between Brighton and Colorado boulevards, and place a 4-acre park over the lowered portion to reconnect neighborhoods.

## Drainage System



The drainage system for I-70 is made up of a combination of underground pipes and detention ponds.

### How would the drainage work?

The Central 70 drainage system is a series of pipes and detention ponds. The pipes, which will be approximately 6 feet tall (large enough for an average adult to walk through), will divert water to detention ponds and ultimately to the South Platte River. This system includes eight detention ponds, the largest of which can hold 8.5 million gallons of water, which is equal to 26 football fields with one foot of standing water on each. The smallest can hold 320,000 gallons, equivalent to 6,400 bathtubs with 50 gallons of water each.

## Has CDOT built this kind of system before?

Yes. The T-REX project on south I-25 included a comparable lowered section of the interstate between Broadway and University Street between two Denver neighborhoods, Washington Park and Platt Park. Prior to T-REX, this area had significant historical flooding issues. The T-REX project drainage system was comprised of pipes and an outfall to the South Platte River capable of handling a 100-year storm event. Since it was completed in 2006, there have been no significant flooding events on the interstate.



*Drainage pipes on south I-25. While the Central 70 system won't be exactly the same, it is being built to handle a 100-year storm event.*

## CDOT and City and County of Denver Coordination

The current CDOT system works in conjunction with Denver's Platte to Park Hill projects upstream to efficiently capture and convey the 100-year storm event south of the Central 70 Project. CDOT's system is not intended to address existing street flooding within the City of Denver. With the exception of limited incidental protection the neighborhoods immediately north of I-70 will see, the Central 70 system only accommodates the interstate.

Due to the multiple projects going on in the Central 70 area and City in general, CDOT and the City entered into an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) that demonstrates an overall collaborative working relationship between CDOT and the City while being good stewards of taxpayer dollars. The IGA includes a variety of items, one of which is drainage. After incorporating the Platte to Park Hill projects, CDOT reevaluated the drainage system needs for the area and have a plan in place to prevent future flooding from up to a 100-year storm event along I-70.