

Economic Benefits

Background

Large infrastructure projects, like Central 70, help to benefit the local and statewide economy. CDOT is investing \$1.2 billion on the Central 70 Project to improve mobility by alleviating congestion and meeting future traffic growth needs, lower maintenance cost and reduce accidents.

This big investment is expected to come with a big payoff. The estimated direct benefit of the Project to road users tops \$12 billion over 25 years. 80% of this benefit comes from business and personal time saved from less congestion on the highway. Most of the remaining benefit comes from better efficiency for businesses that use the corridor.

These benefits will be slightly mitigated by increased vehicle operating costs and emissions, which result from more miles traveled as both more people decide to travel and current users are able to drive further (e.g., longer commutes) as a result of faster speeds.

Savings from direct transportation benefits, along with initial Project investment, will drive \$17.8 billion in new economic activity throughout the state and beyond.

Long-term Project Benefits

- Reduced congestion and improved reliability on the Denver’s most significant east-west corridor
- Increase in Denver’s attractiveness as a place to do business
- Aging infrastructure brought up to modern engineering standards

Short-term Economic Benefits

The primary short-term benefit of this construction project will be the creation of jobs. An estimated 4,285 jobs will be created during the construction of the Central 70 Project. These include construction-related jobs (i.e. flaggers, equipment operators, engineers, etc.) as well as professional services (i.e. accounting, law, IT support, etc.).

Long-term Economic Benefits

The economic outcomes of an investment of this magnitude extend long past the completion of construction. New economic activity is created by project spending and the savings from transportation benefits such as time, money, or other savings, that accrue to road users from faster, safer or more efficient travel. This activity supports job creation within Colorado, and a portion directly boosts the gross state product (GSP), enlarging the State economy.

Economic Outcomes Summary (Project Completion to 2040)

Total New Economic Activity	\$17.8 Billion
Value of Transportation Benefits to Road Users	\$12.4 Billion
Addition to Colorado Economy from Project Benefits	\$8.8 Billion
Permanent Jobs Supported by New Economic Activity	5,560