

I-70 Floyd Hill Rock Blasting FAQ – Commuters

Kraemer North America (answers in blue)

Description

As part of The Colorado Department of Transportation's I-70 Floyd Hill Project, rock blasting will be necessary on the south side of eastbound I-70 (between the US 6 interchange and Hyland Drive - MP 247) for 20 feet to help provide space to widen I-70. It is anticipated this work will begin in late July or early August 2023.

I-70 Floyd Hill East Section Rock Blasting Map





I-70 Floyd Hill

FAQs - Commuters, Travelers, Etc.

1. What is rock blasting?

Unlike earthen material that is encountered in the metro area, rock material is much harder and cannot be excavated with conventional methods. To fracture the material and remove it from the site, rock blasting is used. Rock blasting involves drilling a hole into the rock and placing explosive and void-filling materials into the hole. A controlled blast is then triggered to fracture the rock so it can be excavated and removed from the site.

2. Why is blasting necessary?

Unlike earthen material that is encountered in the metro area, rock material is much harder and cannot be excavated with conventional methods using excavators. To fracture the material and remove it from the site, rock blasting is necessary. Rock blasting is necessary as part of this Project to widen I-70 in this area. Once I-70 is widened, crews will be able to increase mobility by adding an extended on-ramp on eastbound I-70 for slower-moving traffic and adding an Express Lane.

3. How far away from rock blasting operations will cars be stopped?

Cars will be stopped at least a half-mile away from the blasting operations. In many cases, traffic slowdowns will occur farther than a half-mile away.

4. How often will the Project perform rock blasting?

The contractor currently anticipates blasting one to two times a week through early 2024 in the Project's East Section from County Road 65 to the bottom of Floyd Hill. The Project expects there will only be one blast per day. As the project progresses and construction on the West and Central sections begins, motorists can expect additional rock blasting in the West and Central sections throughout 2024 and 2025.

5. How long will traffic be stopped for each blast?

Traffic will be stopped for 20 minutes during each blast, but delays could span up to 45 minutes.

6. Why does traffic have to be stopped for each blast?

The safety of the traveling public is the number one priority during construction of the I-70 Floyd Hill Project. With that in mind, crews will stop traffic to ensure the safety of motorists and their passengers.

7. Will rocks be able to hit my car from a blast?

Rocks will not be able to strike vehicles during blasting operations. Drivers will be stopped far enough away from the blasting zone to ensure there is no damage.

8. Will I feel each blast?

You will likely only feel a blast if you're within 1,000 feet of it. Because traffic will be stopped at least a half-mile away from blasting operations, you will not likely feel the blast, but you may hear it.

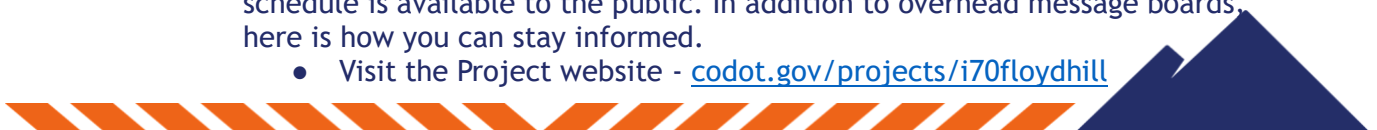
9. Will you pay for any damages caused by the blasting?

Yes. In the unlikely event that a blast causes any property damage, the vehicle or property owner should file a claim for reimbursement. Damage that is not a direct result of blasting will not be covered.

10. How will I be notified before blasting occurs on my commute?

The Floyd Hill Project's public information team will ensure the blasting schedule is available to the public. In addition to overhead message boards, here is how you can stay informed.

- Visit the Project website - codot.gov/projects/i70floydhill





I-70 Floyd Hill

- Call the hotline - 720-994-2368 (CDOT)
- Email the Project and receive email updates - cdot_floydhillproject@state.co.us.
- Sign up for text alerts - Text floydhill to 21000.
- Real-time traffic information - Visit COtrip.org
- Check NextDoor before you hit the road.
- Follow CDOT on Facebook and Twitter.

11. Will there be a detour?

There will not be a traffic detour in place during blasting. The Project asks travelers to plan trips around the blasting schedule. If you have to travel during blasting operations, you should expect to be stopped for 20 minutes while blasting occurs. Overall, motorists can expect delays up to 45 minutes.

12. When will blasting occur?

- a. The Project anticipates starting rock scaling work in July and following this up with rock blasting starting in late-July or early-August in the East Section of the Project. Blasting work in the East Section is expected to continue into early 2024.
- b. The Project anticipates that blasting will occur between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Thursday, and at more restricted times on Fridays.
- c. As the project progresses and rock blasting in the East Section concludes, motorists can expect additional rock blasting in the West and Central Sections throughout 2024 and 2025.

13. What walls are going to be built?

Walls will be constructed in front of the newly excavated rock face to stabilize the slope behind it following the rock blasting. The retaining and reinforcing walls are known as conventional soil nail and shotcrete walls, which CDOT implements frequently on roadway projects.

14. How tall will these walls be?

In the Project's East Section on I-70 from County Road 65 to the bottom of Floyd Hill, wall heights will range from 5 to 25 feet.

15. Why will holes be drilled into the rock face?

The team will drill three-inch diameter holes into the rock face to place the explosives. They will be spaced and loaded to control the movement of rock during the blast.

16. Will the blasting cause landslides?

No. An analysis of the slope's stability has determined that blasting will not increase the possibility of a landslide.

17. How much of the hill is going to be removed?

At the ground level the widest area being removed is 20 feet. Approximately 20,000 cubic yards will be removed in the East Section.

