



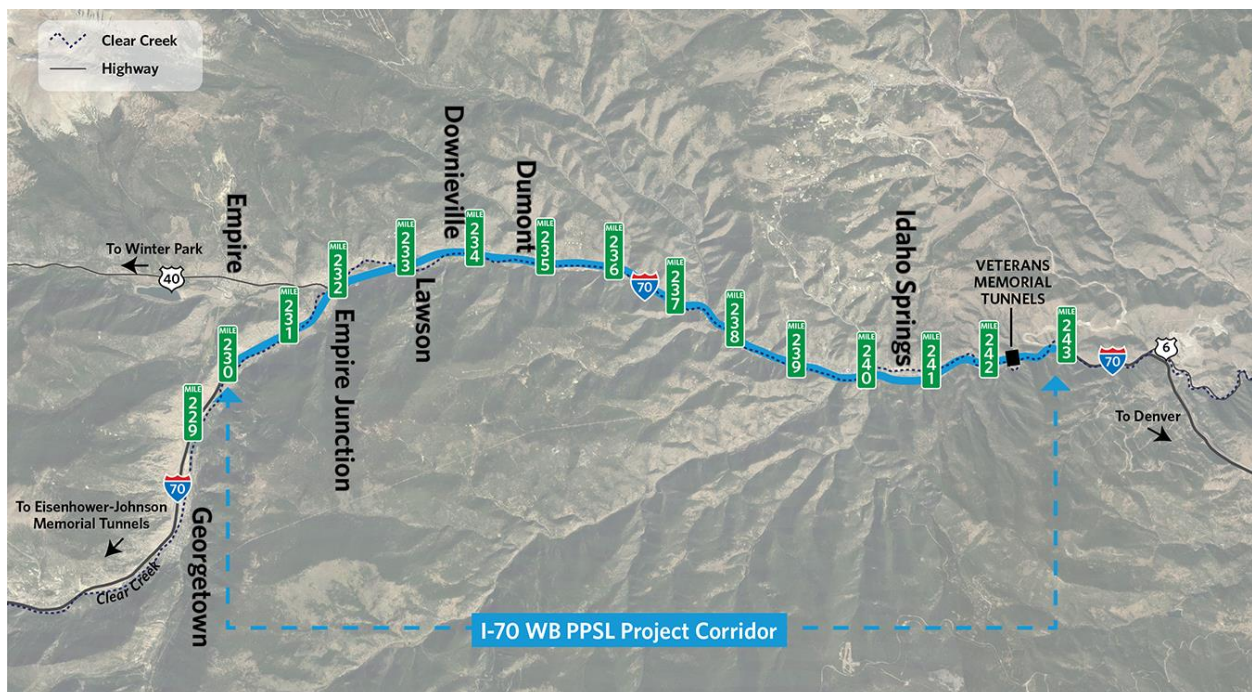
Summary

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), in cooperation with the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), is preparing a Categorical Exclusion for proposed changes to the westbound (WB) lanes of Interstate 70 (I-70) between approximately milepost (MP) 230 and MP 243, in Clear Creek County, Colorado (Proposed Action). The Proposed Action includes the addition of a 12-mile tolled Peak Period Shoulder Lane (PPSL) between east Idaho Springs and the U.S. Highway 40 (US 40)/I-70 interchange in the WB direction and improvements to the State Highway (SH) 103 interchange. The Proposed Action includes the following improvements:

- I-70 resurfacing and widening in select areas
- Walls at acceleration lane locations and at rockfall locations
- State Highway (SH) 103 Interchange improvements
- Rockfall mitigation
- Active traffic management
- Fiber optic upgrades
- Guardrails and barriers
- Drainage infrastructure
- Safety pull-outs

The project corridor is shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1. Project Corridor



Source: HDR 2018.



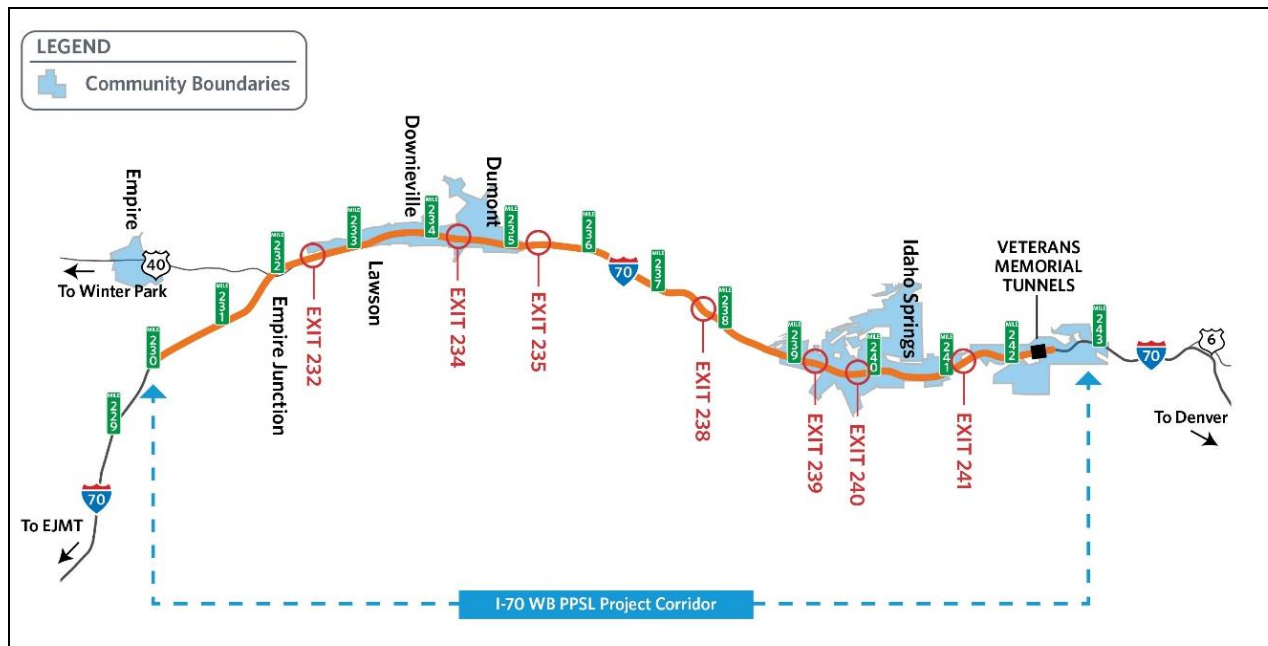
Study Area

The study area for the WB PPSL project encompasses CDOT right-of-way along I-70 in both directions from MP 243 to MP 230 and areas immediately adjacent to the right-of-way. This study area was used to evaluate the **direct** effects of the Proposed Action.

For transportation and socioeconomic impacts, the study area for **indirect** effects includes Clear Creek County and the communities of Idaho Springs, Downieville-Lawson-Dumont, and the town of Empire. This area is broadly defined and includes the communities and other areas that would be **indirectly** affected by the Proposed Action. The indirect effects study area includes the communities shown in Figure 2.

For the remaining resources, the study area for **indirect** effects generally includes a 0.25-mile buffer around the study area. This area encompasses the communities and other areas that would be indirectly affected by the Proposed Action.

Figure 2. Study Area Communities



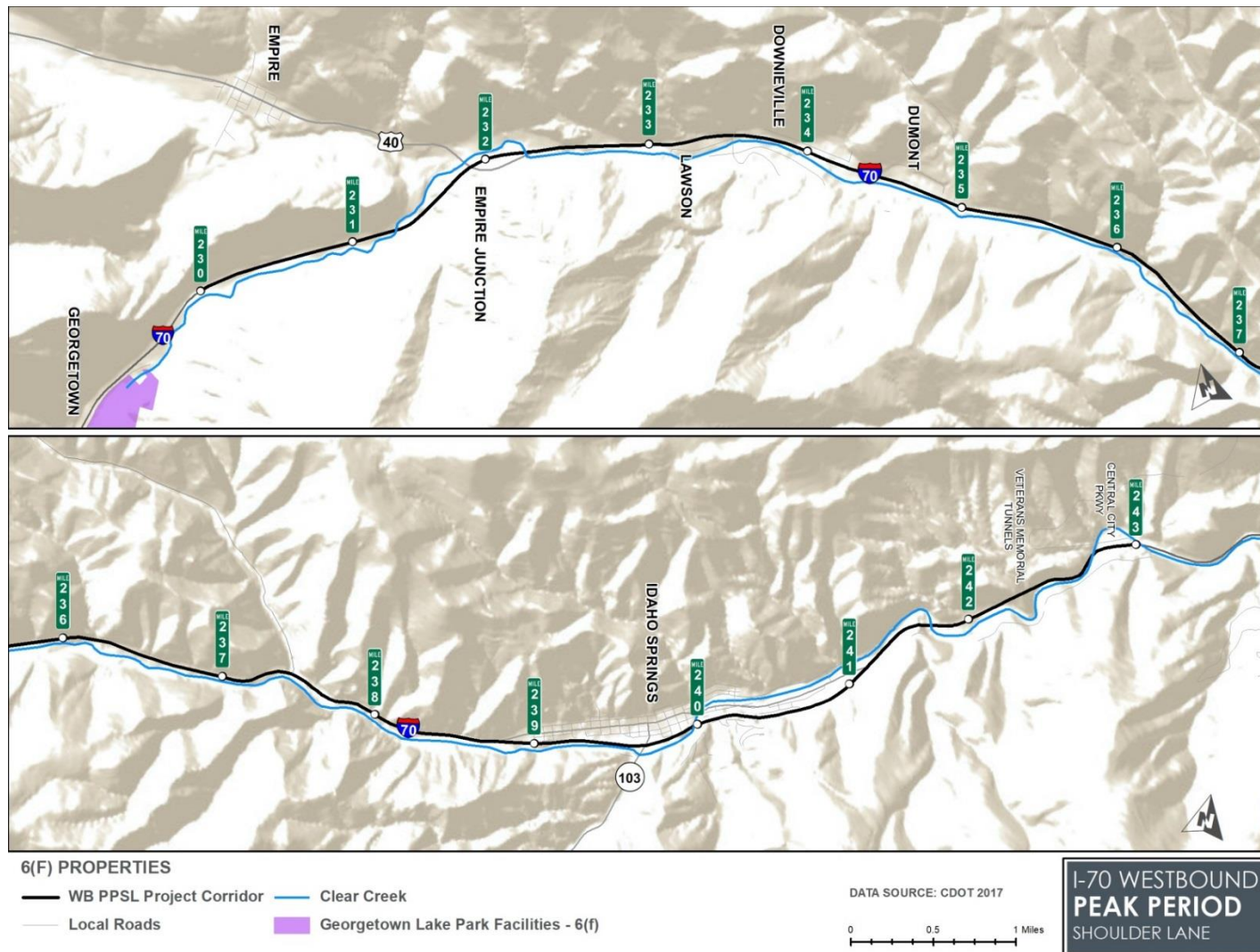
Section 6(f)

The CDOT Online Transportation Information System was surveyed on July 23, 2018, for any properties developed with Land & Water Conservation Fund grants. One property, Georgetown Lake, is located just outside the indirect study area at MP 229. The project does not directly or indirectly impact Georgetown Lake. No other Land & Water Conservation Fund properties were identified within the study area (Figure 3). This information was verified with CDOT’s Section 6(f) specialist

As a result, Section 6(f) clearance with no attached mitigation stipulations is recommended for the WB PPSL project.



Figure 3. LWCF Properties Near the WB PPSL Study Area





Acronyms and Abbreviations

EB	eastbound
I-70	Interstate 70
MP	milepost
PPSL	peak period shoulder lane
SH	State Highway
US 40	U.S. Highway 40
WB	westbound