

What is Air Quality?

The Clean Air Act requires CDOT to demonstrate that the I-70 East project, once completed, does not violate national health-based air quality standards set by EPA, worsen existing violations, or delay timely attainment of federally established standards.

This requires a focus on three pollutants for which the Denver area is currently in violation or has been in violation in the past: carbon monoxide (CO), particulate matter 10 microns or less in diameter (PM₁₀), and ozone.

- Local “hotspot” analyses for CO and PM₁₀ have been updated in the Final EIS
- Ozone is evaluated by DRCOG at a regional level

CDOT also conducted emissions inventories for criteria pollutants, MSATs, and greenhouse gases. This information is included in the Final EIS.

Criteria pollutants

- Ozone (O₃)
- Carbon monoxide (CO)
- Particulate matter 10 microns or less (PM₁₀)
- Particulate matter 2.5 microns or less (PM_{2.5})
- Nitrogen dioxide (NO₂)
- Sulfur dioxide (SO₂)
- Lead (Pb)

Mobile source air toxics (MSATs)

MSATs include seven pollutants designated by EPA as having serious health and/or environmental effects:

1. Benzene
2. Formaldehyde
3. Naphthalene
4. Diesel particulate matter/
Diesel exhaust organic gases
5. Acrolein
6. 1,3-Butadiene
7. Polycyclic organic matter