

The Eisenhower Tunnel

Location-

The tunnel is situated 60 miles West of Denver along I-70. The tunnel is at 11,000 feet above sea level making it the highest vehicular tunnel in the world.

Geology-

The rock through the tunnel is made of 75% granite and 25% gneiss.

Tunnel Construction-

Construction began on March 15th, 1968. The project took 5 years finishing on March 8th, 1973. The cost of the project was \$108 million dollars.

The height of the tunnel is 48 feet with a width of 40 feet. The height is not apparent because the exhaust and supply air ducts are located above a suspended porcelain enamel panel ceiling and a drainage system is built underneath the roadway surface. The height to the motorist going through the tunnel is 16 feet 4 inches. The width of each traffic lane is 13 feet.

The total length of the tunnel is 1.693 miles at a grade of 1.65% rising to the East.

The Tunnel Today-

Has been in service for 35 years and will continue to see service.

The Tunnel says hello and bye to about 28,000 vehicles per day.

The surface is designed for a 10 year life, but with 11 million vehicles a year, it is lucky to last a 7 to 8 year life.

The tile panels cost \$10 to \$12 million to replace.

The electric bill costs \$70,000 dollars a month.

The Tunnel Tomorrow-

It is said that with any widening of the tunnel, a third bore (tunnel) will need to be constructed to prevent a traffic pile up.

This tunnel would lie to the North of the other 2 and would consist of 3 lanes of westbound traffic or a monorail system.

To fund the project a \$5.00 dollar toll would be implemented at both ends of the tunnel. This would raise around \$40 million dollars a year.

Special Thanks-

The 3 workers who lost their lives so we don't need to take Loveland pass every time to go skiing.

