



Jeff Kullman I-70 Maestro

For the past eight years, Colorado native and CDOT veteran Jeff Kullman has overseen the I-70 mountain corridor. In late September, Kullman called it a career; here, he dishes on Colorado natives, cars, and I-70.

Typically when people think of CDOT, they think of those orange trucks out there that they see doing the road maintenance. But in every aspect of your life, whether it's a commute to the grocery store or long-distance traveling, CDOT has played a role in getting you there—or prevented you from getting there—on time.

There's no road like I-70 in the world. You might have Donner Pass in California or Snoqualmie Pass outside Seattle that have that kind of terrain, but with them it's up and over and you're done. Here, we go up and over, then up and over again.

I don't think God intended for a major interstate highway to run through the Rocky Mountains.

I don't believe the state will ever have enough money to build a third bore at the Eisenhower Tunnel. The costs are astro-

nomical. On the low end, \$500 million; on the high end, well into the billion range. I think the ultimate solution from a highway perspective would be to expand the highway to six lanes all the way to U.S. 40.

I recognize that rail, certainly from an emissions and environmental perspective, is ultimately a superior solution, but I just question whether the mountain communities are prepared to have a high-speed transportation system that's going to result in suburban growth. Because if you know every day you can take a train to downtown Denver and it's only going to take you one hour from Frisco, that's going to become a more desirable place to reside.

I believe that the automobile is the most superior form of transportation ever invented by mankind. And the reason I say that is because it allows you to control, point to point, your destiny.

I was born in 1959 and grew up in Westminster. There were 2,000 people in the town back then. We'd have our woodsies—our parties in high school—right where the Westminster Mall is now. We'd just take a keg and find an open field and set up a bonfire. That's what you kind of miss, but then I'm always eager to share Colorado with anybody I can.

Other than vacations, I've never lived a day outside Colorado. I've traveled enough and I've talked to enough people to know there's really no reason to leave.

The "No Vacancy" bumper sticker—I don't agree with it. I resent the fact that Colorado is growing, and I resent that there's so many people, but you and I are people. I recognize that you love this place too—you just weren't born here. We all have a right to live where we want to live.

Maybe the only thing we can do to stop [population growth] is when anybody [from out-of-state] says, "God, those winters are miserable," we can say, "Yeah, they're the worst."

—INTERVIEW BY DEVON O'NEIL