

## = Peña Boulevard =

Federico Peña Boulevard , named for former Denver Mayor Federico Peña , is a 11 @. @ 1 @- @ mile @- @ long ( 17 @. @ 9 km ) freeway located in Adams County and the City and County of Denver , Colorado . The freeway , which opened in 1993 , provides the primary vehicular access into Denver International Airport which opened at the same time . Peña Boulevard begins as an extension of Airport Boulevard in Aurora at an interchange with Interstate 70 ( I @- @ 70 ) and travels north , then east to end at the airport , with an intermediate interchange with the E @- @ 470 tollway .

## = = Route description = =

Denver International Airport 's access highway Peña Boulevard begins at an interchange with I @- @ 70 in Aurora as a northern continuation of Airport Boulevard . The first highway interchange is at East 40th Avenue , which also provides traffic access to and from to Aurora 's Airport Boulevard running to the south . Travelers leaving the airport use this exit for access to eastbound I @- @ 70 through the adjacent Airport Boulevard / I @- @ 70 interchange . Travelers inbound to the airport from I @- @ 70 East do not have access to the first interchange . Continuing north , the highway leaves Aurora and passes into the Denver Gateway area , Aurora 's Gateway Park development is adjacent . An interchange with Green Valley Ranch Boulevard provides access to the neighborhood of the same name . The East 56th Avenue interchange is the final exit along Peña Boulevard before it turns east near the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge , and reaches the interchange with Tower Road , which serves several airport hotels .

A full cloverleaf interchange with the tolled E @- @ 470 , which E @- @ 470 provides an alternate North @- @ South route to I @- @ 25 for travelers wishing to bypass on the eastern side of Metropolitan Denver area . E @- @ 470 also intersects I @- @ 70 and has a ten @- @ mile @- @ per @- @ hour ( 16 km / h ) higher speed limit than Peña Boulevard . The interchange with E @- @ 470 is the easternmost exit before entering Denver International Airport . Once inside airport grounds , the freeway intersects the car rental return area , and connects to the parking garages and terminal access roads .

The segment of the freeway between I @- @ 70 and E @- @ 470 is listed on the National Highway System ( NHS ) , a system of roads that are important to the nation 's economy , defense and mobility . The portion between E @- @ 470 and the airport is listed as a MAP @- @ 21 NHS Principal Arterial .

## = = History = =

Construction of the \$ 18 million ( equivalent to \$ 38 million in 2015 ) freeway , which opened in 1995 , was halted for six weeks during summer 1992 due to a family of burrowing owls living in the right @- @ of @- @ way near the interchange at 56th Avenue . Ten thousand people were employed during the construction of the airport and the connecting freeway . Originally the toll booths that served the parking lots were located 3 @. @ 5 mi ( 5 @. @ 6 km ) from the entrance to the airport causing delays for persons just dropping off people at the airport . The toll booth was removed in 2000 , and new booths were installed at the exits of the airport parking garages . Peña Boulevard was named for Federico Peña because he was very influential in bringing about the construction of Denver International Airport .

## = = Future = =

Construction of a westbound ramp from Tower Road is in the design process with an opening expected in 2018 .

## = = Exit list = =

