



FLOYD HILL DESIGN - I-70 MOUNTAIN CORRIDOR

Floyd Hill PLT Meeting #9

SEPTEMBER 16, 2020 | 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Floyd Hill NEPA

Meeting Summary

PLT Meeting #9

Welcome and Agenda Review

Jonathan Bartsch, CDR, convened the meeting with self-introductions. The meeting purpose was to review project updates, review the process for incorporating CSS documentation and input into NEPA, discuss upcoming virtual public engagement, and confirm the topics for the TT #20 Meeting on September 24, 2020.

Project Updates

I-70 Mountain Corridor projects:

- Greenway and CR 314 are moving forward. Construction is anticipated in Summer 2021.
- Eisenhower-Johnson Memorial Tunnels are being paved.
- Westbound PPSL / MEXL construction is on-schedule. Currently, there is sanitary sewer work in Idaho Springs and it will continue through the beginning of November 2020. Idaho Springs heavy civil work has also begun and includes grading work, parking lot work, and construction in the Exit 240 area. The schedule includes both day and night work.

Q: Why is the roadway reduced to one lane on the weekend?

A: After Labor Day, the construction team has restrictions on lane closures. CDOT is looking at the construction schedule and timing to modify closures and ensure the road is open during high volume traffic periods.

Mayor Hillman commended Jeff Hampton for his work and communication with Idaho Springs during the MEXL construction process.

Floyd Hill Contracting

- Floyd Hill procurement process will begin Fall 2020 with the goal to onboard the contractor in the Spring of 2021.

Floyd Hill Funding

- The project continues to be a statewide priority. The current effort is to find various funding sources to meet the goal of funding the entire project. CDOT is beginning to push out information and marketing for the Floyd Hill project to the public.

- To meet economic efficiency objectives and the needs of the travelling public, Floyd Hill construction will be packaged into smaller construction bundles.

Roles and Responsibilities of PLT as related to the CSS and NEPA processes

Taber Ward, CDR Associates, reviewed the PLT Charter language outlining the PLT’s purpose and role in the CSS process:

*“The purpose of the WB I-70 Floyd Hill Project Leadership Team (PLT) is to **lead the project, endorse the process, champion CSS and enable decision-making for the completion of the WB I-70 Floyd Hill.***

- ◆ **Lead the Project:** *The project leadership team will identify all relevant materials for the project. . . and discuss and establish project outcomes and identify the actions and decisions needed to reach those outcomes.*
- ◆ **Champion CSS:** *The PLT will ensure that the CSS Guidance, the Context Statement, the Core Values, and the 6-Step Process are integrated into the project.*
- ◆ **Enable Decision-Making:** *The project leadership team will approve the project-specific decision-making process for its project.”*

It was noted that the PLT’s role is to oversee and direct the CSS process, whereas the Technical Team is composed of multi-disciplinary stakeholders and experts who ensure that local and agency contexts are defined and integrated as part of the CSS process. The TT members help to identify the specific critical issues, context considerations, technical, environmental and social/economic in a segment.

Moving forward, the PLT and TT meetings will be separate to ensure the PLT can focus on process oversight, and the TT can provide input on technical issues and context considerations.

CSS and NEPA

Vanessa Henderson, CDOT, outlined the relationship between the CSS and NEPA processes. These concurrent processes are separate, but complimentary. The CSS process assists CDOT/FHWA in the development of multiple Alternatives that are then evaluated by NEPA to select a Preferred Alternative. All of the work done in the PLT and TT meetings, including evaluation matrices, community input, CSS documentation, meeting notes, community considerations, and shared vision elements, are used in the NEPA process when evaluating Alternatives, and ultimately, recommending a Preferred Alternative.

Amy Saxton, Clear Creek County, noted that the goal of the CSS process is not to choose one Alternative over another. The goal is to help identify and develop multiple, well informed Alternatives that will be evaluated in NEPA. The PLT and TT members ensure that the Alternatives are as well-designed as possible, and consider the local context and community concerns, before they are evaluated by the NEPA process.

NEPA Update

Vanessa shared that CDOT received the Floyd Hill EA today (9.16.20) for review. The draft EA is pointing to the Canyon Viaduct as the Preliminary Preferred Alternative based on constructability,

and fewer social and environmental impacts. The PLT and TT will be reviewing the Draft EA impacts during the October CSS meetings.

Discussion

Amy Saxton noted that the Canyon Viaduct Alternative has gotten the best response from Clear Creek County Commissioners. Mayor Mike Hillman, Idaho Springs, also expressed support for the Canyon Viaduct as the Preliminary Preferred Alternative.

Mike Keleman, CDOT, mentioned that while it may be unlikely that the Tunnel Alternative will be moved forward, the Tunnel Alternative is still on the table.

Amy Saxton reminded that group that the Tunnel Alternative with the South Frontage Road Option has fatal flaws for the Clear Creek County community. This Option does not line up with community values and has negative impacts to the Greenway.

CDOT confirmed that all Alternatives analyzed in NEPA include a frontage road and Greenway.

CSS Schedule and Life Cycle Moving Forward

Anthony Pisano, Atkins, presented the CSS Schedule moving forward:

- **October - December 2020**
 - ◆ Contractor procurement
- **January - February 2021**
 - ◆ Contract negotiations
- **March - May 2021**
 - ◆ Evaluate Contractor innovations
- **May - July 2021**
 - ◆ Refine Preferred Alternative, mitigate risks and minimize impacts
 - ◆ Begin design on early action packages

Anthony noted that we will rely on the PLT/TT to be involved and active in this process, especially in the March - May 2021 time period. There is a lot to do in a short amount of time.

The PLT requests that, to the extent possible, the “what,” “who” and “when” be further specified in the schedule. Once a Contractor is on board the schedule will be further modified and refined.

ACTION: Atkins to modify the schedule to include key milestones, PLT/TT input points, and draft dates

Technical Team #20 Meeting Planning

The PLT discussed and confirmed the following Agenda for TT Meeting #20 that will be held on September 24, 2020.

Proposed TT Agenda:

1. Upcoming Schedule

- The schedule will remain preliminary and high level (*see above for draft schedule*). However, it will be modified to include key milestones, PLT/TT input points, and draft dates

2. Matrix Finalization for Central Section

- The Matrix discussion will include:
 - (A) Clarity on how the Matrix will be part of the contractor process, final design and construction (i.e. Amy Saxton suggests a Contractor/PLT workshop to discuss the community context and process - for CSS members to share the “vibe” with the contractor);
 - (B) There will not be additional content changes on the Matrix - the TT will not go through the Matrix line by line and there will be no color coding;
 - (C) Close the loop on any remaining data gaps indicated by the Matrix;
 - (D) Discussion on how the matrices are used in the NEPA process and in the selection of a Preferred Alternative.

3. Preferred Alternative Discussion and Visuals

- Visuals of the Canyon Viaduct will be presented to the TT

4. Review CSS Issues Commitment Tracking Sheet

- Review of CSS Issues Commitment Tracking Sheet
- Possible formation of an ITF to begin filling in Tracking Sheet

Kevin Brown, CDOT, commented that the Contractor will be involved in the design process, and CSS will be included in the work and accounted for in the contract and pricing. This will ensure that the CSS issues, agreements, and matrices comments are carried forward and communicated to the Contractor into construction.

CSS Issues Tracking Sheet

Taber Ward presented the CSS Issues Tracking Sheet to the PLT for review. The purpose of the Tracking Sheet is to reconcile all of the CSS and community input documents (i.e. community considerations/critical issues, matrices, shared vision responsibilities) to track what we have agreed to design (or not to design) as part of the CSS and community engagement processes. The hope is to track both past and upcoming design commitments.

This CSS Issues Tracking Sheet will be brought to the next TT meeting for discussion, and it is likely that a small ITF will work to begin filling in the document.

Amy Saxton suggested that we reach out to Cindy Neely to review the Tracking Sheet prior to the TT meeting.

ACTION: CDR to review CSS Issues Tracking Sheet with Cindy Neely.

Virtual Public Engagement

Mandy Whorton, Peak Consulting, outlined some preliminary ideas for virtual public engagement as part of the 30-day public review period for the EA. The PLT will have an opportunity to review and provide input on the virtual public engagement plan at the October PLT meeting.

The PLT discussed some additional engagement options including:

- Virtual engagement where there are different 'stations' for the public to mimic an in-person meeting.
- Amy Saxton suggested that Clear Creek County cross-promote this engagement effort and leverage their community engagement website to help engage County members, who may have a different perspective than the general travelling public. She also noted that BOCC has successfully increased engagement by using multiple platforms simultaneously including zoom, Facebook livestreaming and live radio streaming.
- Online advertising
- Andy Marsh suggested that Idaho Springs include Floyd Hill engagement opportunities in their virtual City meetings or Idaho Springs work sessions.
- Andy also mentioned that there are ways to hold safe, socially distanced Open Houses. Idaho Springs has successfully held open houses where people wear masks and schedule a time to come to City Hall (or another venue) to limit the amount of people at one time. This would allow people who do not have electronic access or access to stable internet to participate, view maps and documents, and have the chance to interact with Project Staff.

ACTION: Peak Consulting to draft Virtual Public Engagement Plan and present to PLT at October Meeting

Next Steps and Actions

Next TT Meeting - September 24, 2020

Next PLT Meeting - October, 2020 (TBD)

- o Public engagement approach
- o CSS Issues Commitment Tracking Sheet process check-in
- o EA Impact Statement Review

ACTION: CDR to send out PLT Doodle Poll for October

Neil Ogden, CDOT, reminded PLT members that the CDOT Project Staff is available for independent briefings or one-on-one discussions. Reach out any time.

Actions

ACTION: Atkins to modify the schedule to include key milestones, PLT/TT input points, and draft dates

ACTION: CDR to review CSS Issues Tracking Sheet with Cindy Neely.

ACTION: Peak Consulting to draft Public Engagement Plan and present to PLT at October Meeting

ACTION: CDR to send out PLT Doodle Poll for October

Attendees

Neil Ogden, Vanessa Henderson, Jeff Hampton, Mike Keleman, Kevin Brown (CDOT); Mike Hillman, Andy Marsh (Idaho Springs); Amy Saxton (CCC); Anthony Pisano, Tyler Larson (Atkins); Kelly Galardi (FHWA); Martha Tableman (Clear Creek Open Space); Kevin Shanks (THK); Mandy Whorton (Peak Consulting); Jonathan Bartsch, Taber Ward (CDR Associates)