



# I-70 Floyd Hill

## Floyd Hill CMGC Technical Team

### Meeting Summary

July 28, 2023, 9:00 to 12:00 AM

Kraemer Floyd Hill Office: 35715 US-40 Building B, Ste 220, Evergreen, CO 90439

## 1. Introductions, Meeting Purpose and Project Updates

CDR Associates opened the meeting and reviewed the agenda.

### TT Agenda 7-28-23

- *Project Updates*
- *Previous Design & Construction Topics*
- *Current Design & Construction Topics*
- *Wrap Up & Next Steps*

TT members confirmed the meeting agenda with no changes.

## 2. Project Updates

### Main Projects

- East Section construction began on July 6th. Current work includes:
  - Signs being put out on permanent posts
  - Excavation beginning on E6
  - Storm sewer work is beginning for Walls E3 & E2: up the hill (E3) features a closed drainage system, down the hill (E2) features an open drainage system.
  - Pictures from the first few weeks of construction included below:



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**Topsoil Stockpile**



**Work Zone**



**Excavation**



**Work Zone**



**Clearing**



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- The Project Team intends to start rock scaling next week (July 31), which will have traffic impacts. 20 minute closures will take place multiple times throughout the day.
- Kraemer reached out to 28 different homeowners, 21 have scheduled inspections and most have been completed.
- Over 2,000 people have signed up for project text alerts.
- **Question:** Will the dirt road through Saddleback remain? Even though it goes through private property, this road is important in the event of emergency evacuation.
  - **Response:** The road will remain passable during construction and there are no plans to remove it after the project is completed.
- West Section designs are currently in the 90% review phase. Clear Creek County and Idaho Springs are working on West Section 1041 permits.
- Central Section designs are at around 35% complete. The current focus is on access, critical path items, and the Hillside area.

## Early Projects

- *The Genesee Wildlife Crossing* - The Team has been working on the EB part of the structure with a goal to have girders in place by August 6th. There will be a traffic shift toward the end of September/Early October with a goal of completion by early spring.
- *US 40* - The Team is working on a grade change on the north end of Homestead; contractors are currently adding soil and continuing progress on the retaining wall with the goal of completion by spring 2024.
  - **TT Comments:**
    - Some motorcycles have expressed concerns about the big grooves on I-70.
    - During night time closures, there are only signs that the right lane will be closed. There could be better signage that two lanes will be closed.
- *The Empire Wildlife Crossing* has had some challenges in design. Right now the Team is targeting October to complete design and trying to get to construction this year.
- *El Rancho Parking Lot* - The lot is still in early design, and has not yet reached 30% design; The site has been identified off of the El Rancho exit (251). As a reminder to the group, this location was eventually selected for multiple reasons, including:
  - CDOT owns the ROW



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- Location was previously graded for a potential offramp so this becomes an easy spot to lay out the parking lot
- **Question:** Are RTD/CDOT planning on having bus services from this location?
  - **Response:** Yes - CDOT plans to use the lot for Bustang, Snowstang, and Pegasus transit services.
- An alternate location to the south has been suggested by community members, but is challenging because CDOT doesn't own the ROW and there are significant engineering challenges related to grading and wall design needed in that location. The PLT reviewed the El Rancho Lot engagement process during the May 19, 2023 meeting and agreed to follow Jefferson County's rezoning process and associated public comment.
- **TT Comment: (Margaret Bowes, I-70 Coalition)** I understand a number of considerations have gone into this site selection: cost, right of way, engineering. The I-70 Coalition requests that interconnectivity of transit services such as RTD be a consideration when determining the El Rancho transit station location as well.
- **Question:** Does the lot location work with a future AGS (Advanced Guideway System)?
  - **Response:** The Design Team will review this but our understanding is that the current location doesn't preclude a future AGS.

## Utilities

- Discussions are ongoing with utilities.
- Excel, Comcast, and others appear to be targeting September for commencing relocation. This will require closing areas of the trail.
- Utilities are requesting the final grade be complete before they begin relocation. This means the Project Team will need to work concurrently with them or right before them to grade sections of that trail in September.
- The team will likely not pave the trail during this time but can regrade and pack it down.
- **ACTION:** Project Team to share schematics of utilities relocation plans with Clear Creek County
- **Question:** How will this topic feature into public information and communication?
  - **Response:** Once we have all the schedules available we will work together to develop a strategy and minimize impact as much as possible.



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## ROW

- The Project Team recently had a productive meeting with Clear Creek County on ROW. The parties discussed getting appraisers on site and everything seems to be on schedule.
- **TT Comment (Cindy Neely, Clear Creek County):** At some point we need to consider long term maintenance. We should convene a small ITF to discuss that.
  - In the past for other projects: a spreadsheet was created of all walls, culverts, etc. their location, whose ROW it is on whose will it be in the future
    - **ACTION:** Project Team to draft a similar document so we can begin discussing the issue
    - **ACTION:** ITF to focus on long-term maintenance of the greenway and associated project elements: re-veg slopes, etc.
  - Will also inform 1041 permit for this section
  - **Question:** Who else not in this room needs to be included on the ITF?
    - **Response:** CDOT Staff Bridge, CDOT R1 Maintenance

## Other updates:

- As scheduled rock blasting dates approach, the Project Team is coordinating with emergency responders and developing clear communication protocols.
  - CDOT acknowledges community concerns about multiple projects with lane closures occurring concurrently. Weekly meetings are taking place with members from each project team to coordinate lane closures east of the tunnel and reduce community impacts to the extent possible. The Floyd Hill project website has the most up-to-date information on closures.

## 3. Previous Design & Construction Topics

### Package 3 - Access Road Update

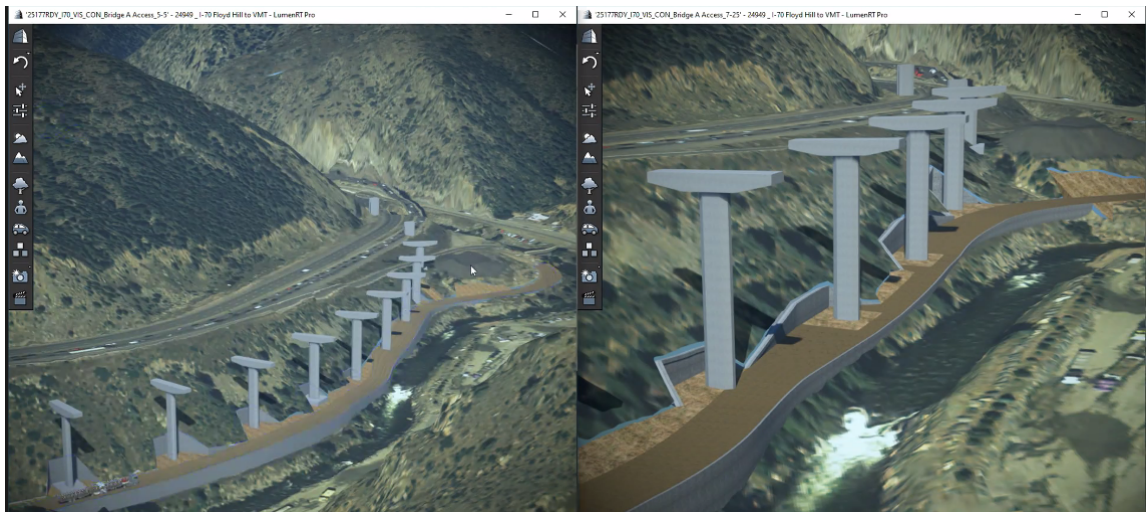
Alan Carter, Atkins, presented updates on the Package 3 Access Road (see blue line in KMZ image below). An earlier version of the Access Road design was previously shared with the TT. Alan shared the following updates:



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- Improvements made to minimize wall height on the creek side. The right side of the rendering below shows a reduction in the creek side wall by about 10-15 feet. The team is continuing to workshop this.
- Section includes many variables, including making sure the full access road grade meets ADA compliance.
- Anticipated construction timing: March 2024
- Submitting 30% design in 1.5 weeks
- Section includes some maintenance of traffic work and a general excavation of the saddle cut.





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## **Alternate Cycling Route Discussion**

At the previous TT meeting, the group initiated a discussion of strategies for long-distance cyclists in light of anticipated extended greenway trail closures. The Team provided an update that a formal analysis of rerouting cyclists along I-70 is underway and user data is being gathered to inform strategy development. The Team anticipates a more detailed update in the coming weeks.

## **4. Current Design & Construction Topics: Environmental Updates**

### **Water Quality and Maintenance - UCCWA Concerns**

Jo Ann Sorenson, John Curtis (UCCWA), Gary Frey, and Ashley Giles (Trout Unlimited) opened the discussion of environmental updates by sharing concerns in the form of a formal letter from UCCWA regarding potential impacts to water quality, soil quality, stream health, and stream-side vegetation related to the use of deicing products containing chloride. This is a continuation of an ongoing issue, most recently discussed at the May 19, 2023 TT meeting in which CDOT Maintenance presented on their winter maintenance processes. UCCWA representatives reviewed the FONSI which analyzes probable changes of impact based on chosen design versus alternatives and noted a commitment to mitigation efforts (pgs. 49, 60-61).

- **TT Members noted the following comments:**

- The monitoring station at Clear Creek 40 has been reactivated – UCCWA requests an analysis of that data to track trends on increasing salinity.
- There is an opportunity to review a 2007 CDOT study conducted by UNC. UCCWA is interested in how the findings of that study inform current maintenance practices, the design, etc.
- CDOT recently funded a research project with CSU to look at deicing effects on high alpine areas. UCCWA is interested in details on the timeline of that study and any additional information that will help inform mitigation for design, construction, and operation of this project.
- UCCWA is interested in cumulative ways that magnesium chloride affects species and secondary effects for habitat and habitat loss.
- Clear Creek County had been receiving quarterly data on amounts of snow removal material and water quality from CDOT.
- One question to potentially pursue is whether there are opportunities for drainage design updates to improve water quality.
- Another key question is which organization is responsible for ecosystem-level analysis (e.g. CDPHE, CPW). TU sent the letter to CPW



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- & CDPHE and while both agencies don't have capacity to lead an effort on the issue, they may come to the table for discussion.
- CDOT has a maintenance staff member on a Western US deicing committee who should attend subsequent discussions (as well as potentially others on that committee).
  - FHWA facilitates peer exchanges, which might also be an option for information and data-sharing.
  - Ashley Giles stated that TU believes the 1041 process may be the best avenue for addressing these concerns, but they would like this to be a collaborative and innovative process with the Project Team and CDOT to understand what is possible to mitigate environmental impacts.

In closing the current discussion and looking ahead, Jonathan Bartsch (CDR) noted several questions the team can work to address: What is the current understanding of the impacts of deicer products and what data is available? Who needs to be included in these discussions to understand the full picture? Are there long-term options that exist that are broader than the Floyd Hill Project (e.g. overall maintenance practices)? Are there immediate steps that can be taken within the parameters and scope of the Floyd Hill Project? The Project Team committed to review the information shared by UCCWA and develop a proposal for next steps, understanding that timeliness is important to this issue.

**ACTION:** Project Team to convene internally and come back to the TT with ideas on next steps to address concerns related to deicing and environmental impacts

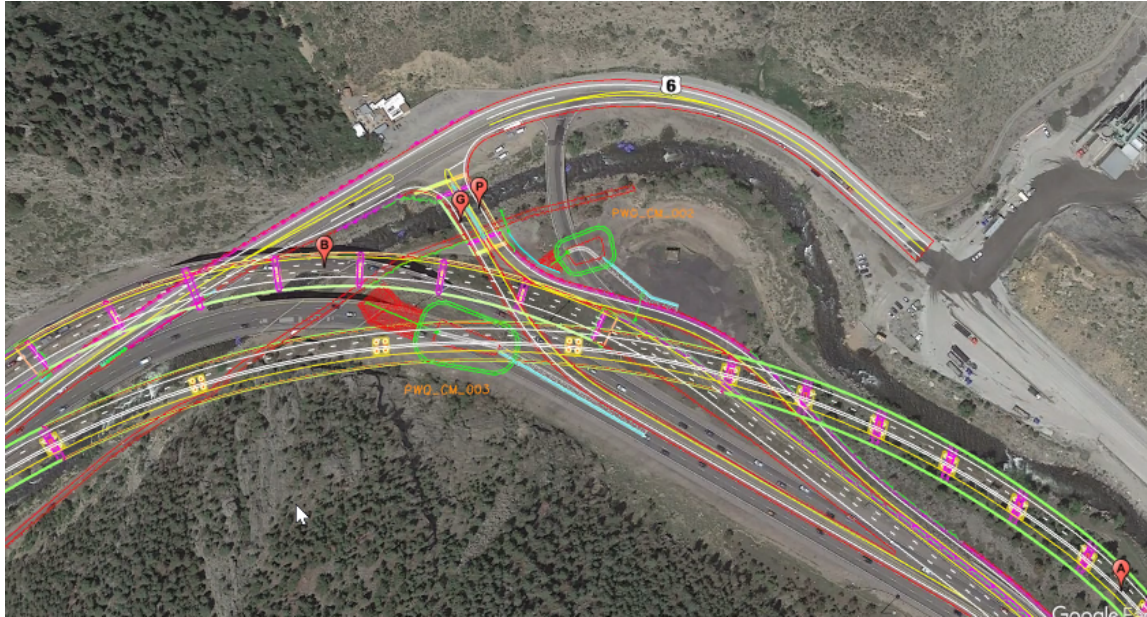
## Water Quality Ponds

Matt Aguirre, Atkins, shared an update on the Water Quality ponds and their locations. The intent is the ponds will receive drainage from viaducts and will be able to direct and control flow to a given location. Future discussions may focus on directing flows to a water quality feature, but design is not currently at the level to have those discussions. Matt shared the following images denoting the locations of the ponds:

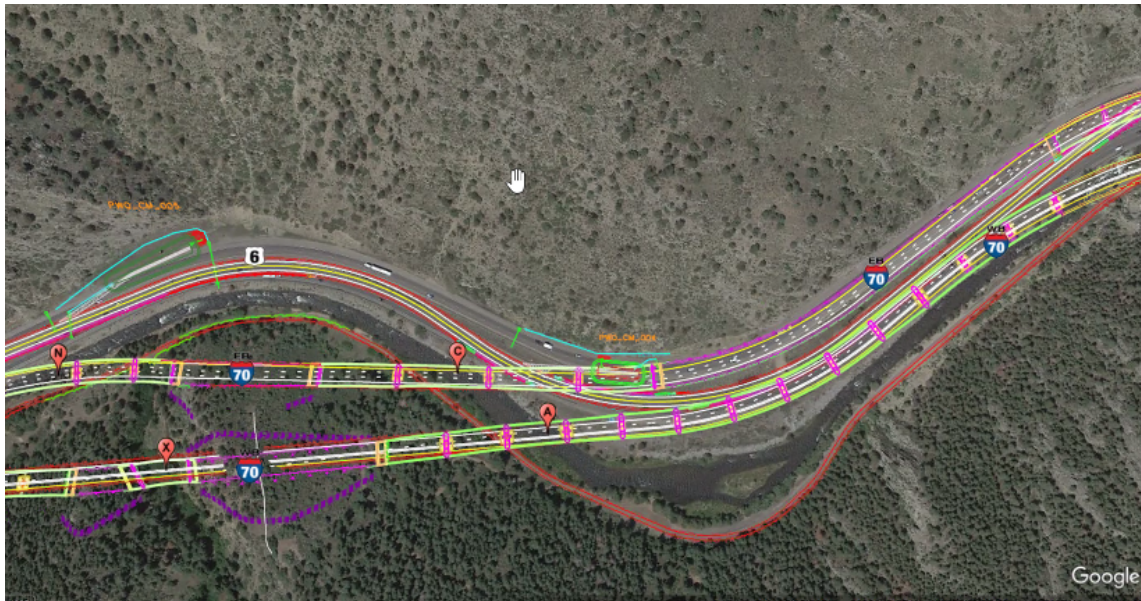




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**Ponds 1 & 2**



**Ponds 3 & 4**

## **Update on Revegetation in Central Section**

Matt Aguirre moved on to providing updates on revegetation of the Central Section areas following construction. He noted that opportunities for revegetation currently hinge on whether existing wells in the area can be utilized. The Team hopes to use the wells for drip irrigation to facilitate revegetation. The Team is asking for TT support in ascertaining the permitting documents of the wells.



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- **Question:** Is the water needed for re-vegetation a long term need?
  - **Response:** No, just to help establish revegetation, then let nature do the rest.

**ACTION:** Clear Creek County to help gather permit information for Central Section wells and share with Project Team.

## 6. Wrap Up and Next Steps

- Project Team is working on updated topic schedule and will share soon for TT review
- Project Team is drafting the West Section commitment tracking sheet and will share for initial feedback soon
- The TT agreed the current meeting location at the CDOT/Kraemer offices in Evergreen is working fine with no changes needed currently.

### **ACTION ITEMS:**

- **ACTION:** Project Team to share schematics of utilities relocation plans with Clear Creek County
- **ACTION:** Project Team to convene ITF to focus on long-term maintenance of the greenway and associated project elements
- **ACTION:** Project Team to convene internally and come back to the TT with ideas on next steps to address concerns related to deicing and environmental impacts
- **ACTION:** Clear Creek County to help gather permit information for Central Section wells and share with Project Team

## 5. Attendees

Cindy Neely, Amy Saxton (Clear Creek County); Jessica North (Clear Creek County School District); Mike Raber (Clear Creek Bicycle User Group); Margaret Bowes (I-70 Coalition); John Curtis, Jo Ann Sorenson, Gary Frey, Ashley Giles (SWEEP); Brian Dabling, Julien Gonzalez (FHWA); Stefi Szrek (Jefferson County); Jon Cain (Idaho Springs); Tracy Sakaguchi (CMCA); Kurt Kionka, Jeff Hampton, Abbie Moddafri, Ryan Sullivan (CDOT); Matt Aguierre, Alan Carter, Anthony Pisano, (Atkins); Matt Hogan, Koichi Shimomura (Kraemer); Mandy Whorton, Vanessa Halladay (PEAK Consulting); Daniel Estes, Jonathan Bartsch, Julia Oleksiak (CDR Associates)