



I-70 Floyd Hill

Floyd Hill Design - Deicer Issue Task Force

Meeting Summary

September 8, 2023, 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM

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

1. Introductions and Agenda Review

CDR Associates reviewed the agenda.

ITF Agenda 9-8-23

- *Recap Input & ITF Purpose*
- *Identifying Project-Specific & Broader Opportunities*
- *Review Action Items & Next Steps*

ITF Members confirmed the meeting agenda with no changes.

2. Recap input & ITF Purpose

ITF Current Draft Purpose:

- Discuss Floyd Hill-specific opportunities and strategies regarding deicing products that balance safety and environmental needs
 - Identify strategies to collect data, share and apply to Floyd Hill design, maintenance and operations
- Develop corridor and region-wide ideas and/or process recommendations for addressing issues related to deicing practices

Suggested edits:

- Remove “design” from the sub-bullet point since design is complete and this ITF will focus more on informing maintenance and operations moving forward.
- Jo Ann Sorensen, UCCWA, suggested adding “monitor the effectiveness of the constructed drainage system in addressing the effect of the salinity in the creek.”
- Add “and design” to the end of the second bullet point to denote that findings could inform future projects.
- Change “develop” to “identify” in the second bullet point. It is important to know what will be done with the data. We need to figure out how to take questions and concerns that this group has and transfer that to specific types of data we are asking CDOT to collect in order to answer specific CSS concerns.
- **Question** (Ashley Giles, TU): Can data collection and monitoring show us where



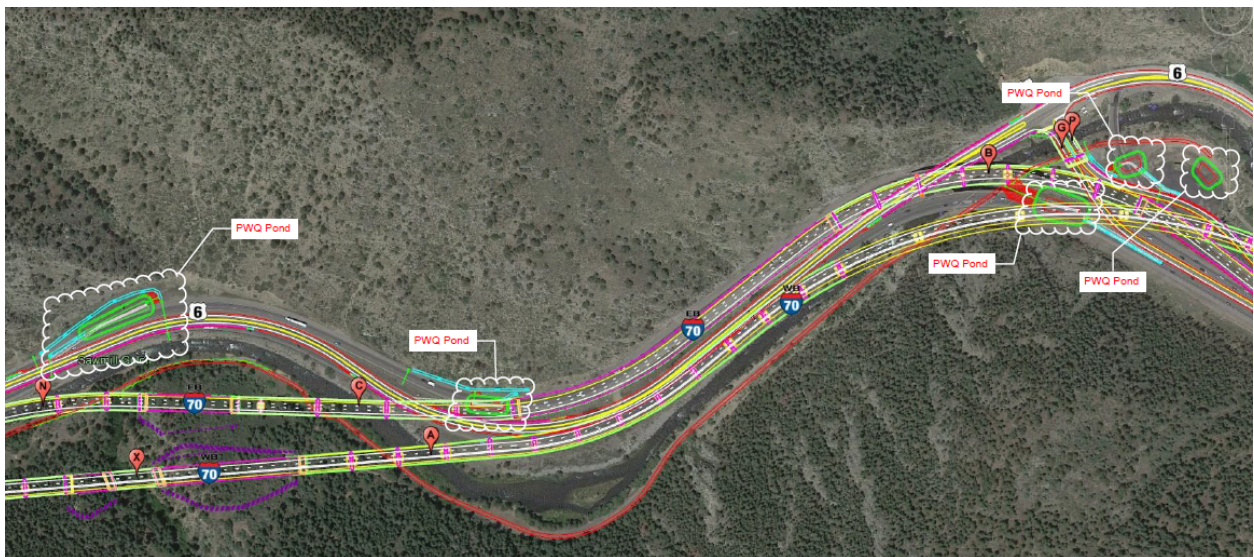
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we are at on FH and help inform improvements that can be made for subsequent projects, specifically Bakerville which is only at 10% design?

- **Response:** We can collect data for Floyd Hill and its design. That Floyd Hill-specific data may not directly inform Bakerville, but an overall better understanding of the issue may inform future projects.
- Jon Cain, Idaho Springs: Water quality is part of the 1041 permit for Idaho Springs. We'd like to not only see mention of the impact, but also the next steps being taken.

Recapping previous input on deicing impacts:

- CDOT Maintenance presented to the TT on May 19, 2023.
- From there, concerns were raised in the TT by UCCWA, TU, and others which led to this ITF.
- Alan Carter, Atkins, showed the water quality pond locations as part of the project's planned water quality measures:



- **Question** (Jo Ann Sorensen): Vegetation lining the ditches can help with mag chloride. What has been the landscape planning of this?
 - **Response** (Kevin Shanks, THK): we have planned to use a seed mix of plants that tolerate the salinity in the soil and can survive with the salt.
- **ACTION:** CDR to send out the slides to those people who were interested in the ITF but were not able to make the meeting.



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3. Identifying Opportunities Related to Deicer Impacts

Daniel Estes, CDR, opened up the forum for ideas.

- Amy Saxton: This ITF may not have the scope to work outside the parameters of the Floyd Hill project, but the broader community can inform this work, such as CDPHE, Georgetown, Idaho Springs, and Golden. This group can facilitate bringing in more expertise to comment on our Floyd Hill-specific questions. Potential questions to ask experts include: What data do they collect, how do they collect it, what are their water treatment practices?
- Group Suggestion: bring in experts to discuss project-specific questions.
 - TU has a science hub in Idaho that does research on cold water fisheries.
 - Ashley Giles knows a professor, Jimmy McCutchan, who could present and knows other professors across the country that study deicers and aquatic health.
 - Mike Raber, Clear Creek Bicycle Users: There is likely someone at School of Mines that we could tap into.
 - **ACTION:** For the next ITF, look into having Josh Giovannetti, CDOT, present.
- Francesca Tordonato, CDOT: What grants, etc. have UCCWA and other stakeholders identified for doing stream restoration in the corridor? Stream restoration seems like one area where meaningful improvements could be made. At Twin Tunnels, 5 years of data on stream restoration shows a large increase in fish biomass. This would make a compelling case for most grant applications.
- Ashley Giles: We know that healthy riparian areas and wetlands increase biodiversity and do a certain amount of cleaning, however, heavy deicer and chlorides could reverse that. This is where data will be useful. West of the tunnel, TU has seen data that suggests increased deicer has decreased biodiversity.
 - **ACTION:** Ashley to share TU data with the group.
- Group Suggestion: Set up a data sharing forum of studies that are available so that the studies are accessible to everyone in this ITF.
 - Start with TU data, any applicable CDPHE data, Twin Tunnels and Clear Creek restoration projects data.
 - **ACTION:** CDR to create a Google Drive folder for studies.
- **Question** (Jon Cain): If pursuing grants, who would be the fiscal agent? What sources could we explore? Clear Creek County and Idaho Springs have a relatively low capacity for grants at this time. We should look at including the county manager and others in this conversation.



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- **Response** (Kevin Shanks): There are many state grants (e.g. CO Water Conservation Board)
- Kurt Kionka, CDOT: We are too far into the process for a new grant to be a part of the FH project itself, but there may be elements of the FH project that can be leveraged to help partners receive water quality grants.
- **ACTION:** Have a separate high level conversation with those that could apply for grants.

4. Review Action Items and Next Steps

- **ACTION:** CDR to send out the slides to those people who were interested in the ITF but were not able to make the meeting.
- **ACTION:** CDR to look into bringing Josh Giovannetti in for the next ITF.
- **ACTION:** Ashley Giles to share TU data with the group.
- **ACTION:** CDR to create a Google Drive folder the Data hub.
- **ACTION:** Have a separate high level conversation related to grants with those that could apply.

5. Attendees

John Curtis, Jo Ann Sorensen (UCCWA); Alan Carter, Matt Aguirre, Anthony Pisano (Atkins); Ashley Giles (TU); Amy Saxton (Clear Creek County); Mike Raber (Clear Creek Bikeway User Group); Vanessa Hallday (Peak Consulting); Jon Cain (Idaho Springs); Kevin Shanks (THK); Shannon Mero, Abbie Modafferi, Kurt Kionka, Francesca Tordonado (CDOT); Daniel Estes, Jonathan Bartsch, Julia Oleksiak (CDR Associates)