



I-70 Floyd Hill

Floyd Hill – Project Leadership Team

Meeting Summary

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

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

1. Introductions, Agenda Review, General Updates

CDR Associates opened the meeting and reviewed the agenda, which included:

- *Project Updates*
- *Project Communications Update and Discussion*
- *Construction PLT*
- *Action Items & Next Steps*

Project Leadership Team (PLT) members confirmed the meeting agenda with no changes.

2. Project Updates

Kurt Kionka, CDOT, provided the PLT with an overview of current schedule updates on the main project.

- Package 1 (East Section) is currently under construction.
- Package 2 (West Section) is progressing through the design phase, post 90%. Construction will begin in early 2024.
- Package 3 (Access Package) is progressing through the design phase, with construction expected in Spring of 2025.
- Package 4 (Central Section) construction will begin in Fall of 2024.
- All construction is scheduled to conclude in late 2028.
- CDOT had a productive meeting with utilities yesterday. Some utility companies could get started on relocation work in mid-September. The utility companies still need to apply for permits from Clear Creek County.
 - Cindy Neely, Clear Creek County, said that the county is ready to turn around the permits once they apply.
 - The Greenway Trail could close as early as late September and certainly by the first week of October for utilities work. This closure will span through the winter.



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- The West End access (Package 2 & 3) has a 1041 Permit underway. CDOT is working on this.

Matt Hogan, Kraemer, provided the PLT with main project construction updates.

- Blasting is underway (4 blasts occurred today), there is 1,000 ft of pipe in the ground, and the walls near Homestead will be up soon.
- There is progress on wall 5 with initial layer work.
- Walls are in different stages of blasting and excavation.
- Work on the water quality ponds is underway.
- There are about a dozen blasts remaining on walls 8-11.
- Some blasting got delayed due to more rock work and mitigation. Kraemer has people looking at slopes ahead of time a few days before the blasts to mitigate incidents that could lead to closures.

Jeff Hampton, CDOT, provided updates on the early projects.

- *Genesee Wildlife Crossing*: poured their deck last week, doing the backfill right now; no major issues.
- *US 40 Roundabouts*: still having some issues related to walls but expect construction to occur early next year.
- *Empire Wildlife Crossing*: close to wrapping up the design, have had some challenges with north side abutment.
- *El Rancho Parking Lot*: making progress, received clearances through Jeffco, and design is progressing.

Daniel Estes, CDR, provided the PLT with an update on the current CSS topics that the TT has been discussing.

- There is a Deicer ITF scheduled for later today.
 - Ongoing topic, exploring opportunities for understanding that issue better and how data can be applied to decision making.
- The TT continues to discuss Greenway closures and detours/access opportunities.
 - At the last TT meeting, a conceptual plan was shared for a bikeway detour on I-70 which would need FHWA approval.
- There have been discussions with Central City about the Hidden Valley interchange design.



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- Central City has noted the importance of signage and wayfinding. The Team is looking at different options to address these interests and will bring those to the TT, per the CSS process.
- The TT is working through Central Section wall aesthetics. There is further analysis taking place.
- Communications have also been a discussion of the TT and will be further addressed later in this meeting.
- **PLT Question:** For the Greenway detour, would this be included in construction Package 3?
 - **Response:** This is still being determined. We have heard many safety concerns and are looking into balancing the effect on traffic to provide a bike lane. We are also looking at pursuing other options such as a shuttle. There is not consensus in the TT around this topic, but discussions will continue using the standard CSS process to arrive at the best option for the project.
- **PLT Question:** Is there any long term benefit to the bike detour ramp for emergency response on the final alignment?
 - **Response:** Probably not, as there is not enough space for emergency response in the design currently.

3. Project Communications Update & Discussion

Stacia Sellers and Kurt Kionka, CDOT, provided the PLT with communications updates.

- Project communications are going well so far. There are nearly 8,500 text subscribers which has served as a great resource to update the public.
- The Communications Team received feedback from the TT on incident communications after the unexpected highway closure on August 24. This feedback will help improve efforts:
 - The closure occurred when school was getting out and there was not a direct communication channel with the school district. The Communications Team is working to streamline this.
 - During closures, people take alternate routes which are not meant to be detours. This impacts Idaho Springs and leads to safety concerns. There is an opportunity for more messaging asking drivers to stay on the highway during closures.
 - The TT suggested that it would be helpful to provide updates to the public after closures, including pictures and a narrative, to explain what



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happened and how the project team responded. This went out in a project update email.

- For any future crisis communications, the Communications Team can send a text to PLT members to give them a heads up and open a line of communication.
 - **ACTION:** PLT members provide their contact info to Kurt
- For highway closures, the Communications Team will also provide an update to FHWA.
- Late afternoon blasts lead to potential peak time closures. CDOT will talk with Kraemer about potentially moving up the timing of blasts.
- Google maps is sending people to local roads on potentially dangerous detours. CDOT does not have power over what the mapping companies do but are building those relationships and will continue having conversations with them. When there are specific detours for closures, CDOT will reach out to the mapping companies to try and make sure that is the detour they are listing.
- IPAWS, which is similar to an amber alert in that you get notification if you're in the targeted area whether you've signed up for it or not, would be helpful for this project and beyond. The Communications Team is looking to see if CDOT can tap into it moving forward.
- **Question** (Cindy Neely): What organizations are on the emergency contact list? Can this group take a look at it?
 - **Response:** The list does need to be revised. It was shared in the past, but we can reshare it to take another look.
 - **ACTION:** Stacia to send out the external crisis contact list to the PLT for review
- Most motorists did receive information about the recent closure. CDOT will continue to share information on social media channels, e-blasts (2,500+ email subscribers), text chains, hotline, etc.
- The Communications Team is meeting with the traffic ops team and will talk to them about crisis communications and signage.
- **Comment** (Amy Saxton, Clear Creek County): Recapping a situation to the public is always needed and helps build trust. It should be part of the checklist after the crisis is over. A recap could be sent in a text afterwards.
- How does communication work with the dispatchers, where does the information go from there?
- The PILT is a forum to talk through some of these ideas as well.



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4. Construction PLT

Jonathan Bartsch, CDR, introduced the need for a Construction PLT. He asked the group to discuss how the CSS teams should adapt as the project begins to focus more on construction.

- **Comment** (Cindy Neely): In the CSS process, there is meant to be one PLT that takes a project from the beginning to end with different TTs and ITFs (as needed). There is already a TT for design. One option is to create another TT for construction tracking. The core PLT should remain to see that the CSS process is adhered to for the entire project. It would be up to the PLT to figure out who is willing to be part of the Construction TT.
- Tasks and characteristics of the Construction TT:
 - *Task*: The Design TT has developed a draft tracking sheet, which they will pass to the Construction TT to use and populate based on their on-site monitoring and discussions with CDOT and Kraemer. The Construction TT will raise issues to the PLT as needed.
 - *Participants*: Members would come out of the Design TT. Experts would include CDOT and construction contractors. Someone from CDOT who is doing environmental tracking should also sit on this team. This will likely be Abbie Modafferi. Gov/county/regional entities should be represented on the Construction TT.
- **Question**: How does the Construction TT relate to the Design TT?
 - **Response**: They are independent of each other. The Design TT continues through design. When design is finished, the Design TT creates and hands over a tracking sheet to the Construction TT.
- **Next steps**: The PLT recommends which entities need to be represented and then those entities can recommend staff. At the first Construction TT meeting, we can see if there is anyone missing who needs to be there.
 - Recommended entities for the Construction TT:
 - Clear Creek
 - Idaho Springs
 - Central City
 - CDOT
 - Contractors (Kraemer)
- **ACTION**: CDR will reach out to the entities with a description of the Construction TT (distinct from Design TT), potential roles, and solicit participants.
- The Construction TT would meet more infrequently, likely every other month to start. The Team will look into holding TT meetings back to back on the weeks they align.



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5. Wrap Up & Next Steps

Daniel Estes wrapped up the meeting by thanking all PLT participants for joining and providing helpful input in the process.

Summary of Agreements & Action Items:

- **ACTION:** PLT members provide their contact info to Kurt for crisis communications.
- **ACTION:** Stacia to send out the external crisis contact list to the PLT for review.
- **ACTION:** CDR to develop a Construction TT write up and solicit participation from the entities recommended by the PLT.

Attendees

Wendy Koch (Town of Empire); Matt Aguirre, Anthony Pisano (Atkins); Margaret Bowes (I-70 Coalition); Lindsey Daniels (CIG Public Relations); Cindy Neely (Clear Creek County); Julian Gonzalez, Liz Cramer (FHWA), Vanessa Hallady (Peak Consulting); Andy Marsh (Idaho Springs); Kevin Shanks (THK); Matt Hogan (Kraemer); Emily Wilfong, Abbie Modafferi, Kurt Kionka, Jeff Hampton, Tamara Rollison, Presley Fowler (CDOT); Jonathan Bartsch, Daniel Estes, Julia Oleksiak (CDR Associates)