

***HIGH LINE CANAL PRESERVATION AND ENHANCEMENT PLANNING STUDY – SECTION NO.8
OPPORTUNITY AND POSSIBILITY IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS STUDY***

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August 21, 2012

Objective:

The purpose of the opportunity and possibility implementation process study is to formulate a strategy and develop a methodology that will facilitate the conversion of the projects identified in this Preservation and Enhancement Planning Study / Needs Assessment into physical upgrades and improvements to the High Line Canal corridor.

Projects that will upgrade and improve the existing trail and signage system throughout the study corridor, as well as Denver Water Board approved infill planting projects that will preserve and enhance the tree canopy along the canal corridor for future generations need to be evaluated and prioritized into future phases.

Process:

The opportunity and possibility implementation process study is intended to identify the next step in the planning process for the preservation and enhancement of the High Line Canal. A next step which will build on the work of this Preservation and Enhancement Planning Study / Needs Assessment, and which will become a natural extension of this needs assessment providing a vehicle to navigate forward as we progress from needs identification to solution development to the prioritization and implementation / construction of spin off project opportunities.

One possible next step is the development of a master implementation and phasing plan that will establish a framework for decision making which will provide the organization and structure necessary for the evaluation and prioritization of the individual improvement projects identified in this Preservation and Enhancement Planning Study.

Considerations:

There are a series of questions that need to be answered about the projects identified in this needs assessment prior to the development of any recommendations for implementation:

- 1) Where are the individual upgrade and improvement projects located along the corridor and what is the overall distribution of the improvements?
- 2) How much will each upgrade and improvement project cost?
- 3) What is the distribution of the potential investment represented by the upgrade and improvement projects identified?
- 4) What is the immediate benefit of each upgrade or improvement project to users?
- 5) What is the long term life cycle pay back value of each upgrade or improvement?
- 6) What is the appropriate form of expression for upgrade and improvement projects along the High Line Canal corridor, (rustic versus modern etc.)?

- 7) Should a High Line Canal specific brand be developed and expressed through the form and or character of the proposed upgrade and improvement projects?
- 8) What should the future High Line Canal recreation and trails corridor look like?
- 9) What is the process for establishing consensus on the location, timing and appearance of the upgrade and improvement projects identified?

Answering these questions will require taking the next step in the larger process of preserving the High Line Canal as a recreation and trails corridor.

Conclusions:

This Preservation and Enhancement Planning Study / Needs Assessment represents a body of good and important work but, it is only the first step in the larger process of preserving and enhancing the new High Line Canal recreation and trails corridor.

If the High Line Canal is to realize the recreation potential we all recognize it is capable of, more work needs to be done. Specific solutions need to be developed to address the needs identified in this assessment. Costs need to be assigned to each solution as it is developed. A decision making framework needs to be developed to evaluate the short and long term cost / benefit of each solution and a phasing plan developed for their implementation. A comprehensive public process needs to be outlined and executed to insure that the new High Line Canal recreation and trails corridor meets the needs and expectations of the owner, the managers, the users and the larger communities along its length as a whole.

Recommendations:

Funding should be appropriated to move the preservation and enhancement of the High Line Canal forward with the commission of a master implementation and phasing plan.

