



**FasTracks Citizens Advisory Committee
Meeting #2
June 22, 2006
1600 Blake Street, Rooms T & D**

MINUTES

Committee Members Present: Tom Ashburn, Tom Burns, Melvin Bush, Charles Choi, Anne Hayes, Jeff Holwell, and Angie Malpiede.

Board of Directors Present: Lee Kemp, Dave Ruchman and Barbara Yamrick.

RTD Staff Present: Liz Rao, Bill Van Meter, John Shonsey, Pauletta Tonilas, Susan Altes.

Others Present: Jennifer Heisler, Karen Morales and Roger Sherman.

1. Call to Order and Introductions

Melvin Bush called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. Public Participation

None.

3. Approval of Minutes from May 15, 2006 Meeting

Motion to approve minutes approved unanimously.

4. Corridor-by-Corridor Update

Liz Rao, Bill Van Meter and Jennifer Heisler provided a corridor-by-corridor update.

West Corridor

Status:

- o Value engineering/cost containment analysis completed
- o Design under revision to incorporate value engineering
- o Conducting Environmental Assessment (EA) for design changes including the relocation of the end-of-line station at the request of Jefferson County and moving the alignment to the North side of 6th Avenue from the Auraria Campus to 8th Avenue
- o CMGC contract awarded in June 2006 to Denver Transit Construction Group, a joint venture of Herzog Contracting Corporation of St. Joseph, MO and Stacy & Witbeck, Inc. of Alameda, California
- o Two phase approach: during phase one, which is the Construction Management phase, the contractor is providing professional services like scheduling, planning, etc. in preparation for entering into construction, but not performing construction. In phase two, construction is performed as a General Contractor.
- o Two public meeting scheduled next week

Schedule:

- Updated New Starts submittal to FTA in August 2006
- EA public meetings through January 2007
- 65% design complete late Fall 2006
- EA complete early 2007
- Full Funding Grant Agreement (FFGA) request to FTA, Spring 2007
- Signed FFGA from FTA, Fall 2007

Challenges:

- Escalating cost of commodities and labor
- Timely completion of EA
- Addressing stakeholder expectations

Opportunities:

- First FasTracks corridor
- Transit Oriented Development (TOD) planning underway
- Partnership with Denver and Urban Drainage for drainage improvements

Denver Union Station

Schedule and Status:

- Draft EIS complete in March 2006
- Final EIS /Record of Decision in Fall 2006
- Master Developer proposals due on July 24th
- Final design begins in 2007

Challenges:

- Completion of FEIS and ROD
- Approval of mitigation efforts by historic preservation groups

US 36/Northwest Rail

Status:

- Decision by Federal agencies to produce separate EISs for rail and highway/BRT
- New name for rail corridor: Northwest Rail
- Northwest Rail EIS/EA will include rail to Longmont
- US 36 Highway/BRT EIS continues as joint RTD/CDOT study

US 36 Highway/BRT Schedule:

- Recommended Highway/BRT alternative Summer 2006
- Public meetings planned for Summer 2006
- Draft EIS by February 2007
- Final EIS in the Fall 2007

Northwest Rail Schedule:

- Longmont Rail Environmental Evaluation complete in July 2006
- EIS/EA for Northwest Rail begins Fall 2006; will incorporate analysis to date for US 36 and Longmont Rail Environmental Evaluation
- EIS/EA for Northwest Rail complete in early 2007

Challenges:

- Funding for highway improvements on US 36 uncertain because it is not a federal project
- Selection of Commuter Rail vehicle technology for Northwest Rail Corridor

Opportunities:

- Separating EISs allows Final Design of Northwest Rail Corridor to proceed more quickly
- TOD Planning Underway at Multiple Station Locations
- Phase 1 BRT Complete in 2008

East Corridor

Status:

- Decision by federal agencies to produce separate EISs for Rail and Highway
- UP Railroad will not allow LRT in right-of-way
- Commuter rail vehicle technology (Electric and Diesel Multiple Unit) under study
- Preferred rail alternative will be analyzed in Draft EIS
- RTD Board approval of contract to complete EIS and proceed with advanced basic engineering in June 2006

Schedule:

- Preferred transit alternative expected in Summer/Fall 2006
- Public meetings planned Summer/Fall 2006
- Draft EIS in early 2007
- Final EIS in Summer 2007
- New Starts submittal to FTA in Spring 2007 to request permission to enter Preliminary Engineering (PE)
- PE and Record of Decision (ROD) in late 2007

Challenges:

- Selection of commuter rail vehicle technology
- Alignment and station locations
- Central Corridor – Streetcar or LRT?

Opportunities:

- Discussions with UP Railroad and City of Denver for right-of-way progressing well
- Commuter Rail Maintenance Facility location may assist with economic redevelopment of industrial area
- Opportunities to serve new markets

A question was asked regarding the use of the same type of rail vehicle on each corridor. Lee Kemp responded that either or both vehicle technologies – (Electric Multiple Unit (EMU) and Diesel Multiple Unit (DMU) are still under consideration and may be selected.

North Metro

Status and Schedule:

- Consultant selected for EIS in May 2006
- EIS begins in July 2006
- Scoping (public and agency input on issues and alternatives) scheduled for Summer 2006

- Draft EIS in late 2007
- Final EIS in 2008

Challenges:

- Selection of rail technology
- Agreement on alignment and stations
- Purchase of railroad right-of-way

Opportunities:

- Communities are planning for rail
- Right-of-way preservation for transit: Commerce City to Brighton

Gold Line

Status and Schedule:

- Consultant selected for EIS in April 2006
- EIS begins in July 2006
- Scoping (public and agency input on issues and alternatives) scheduled for Summer 2006
- Draft EIS in late 2007
- Final EIS in 2008

Challenges:

- Selection of rail technology
- Agreement on alignment and stations
- Negotiations with railroads for right-of-way (both UP and BNSF)

Opportunities:

- Communities already planning for TOD at stations (Arvada has hired its own consultant and is particularly active)
- Developers planning for rail; development dollars being spent for City infrastructure improvements

I225

- EIS with FTA and FHWA
- RTD and CDOT working together to develop scope for EIS
- Anticipate advertising for consultant in late 2006
- Draft EIS in 2008
- Final EIS in 2009

Challenges:

- Agreements with CDOT on scope and schedule for EIS
- Right-of-way constraints on I-225 for southern portion of corridor (near Parker Road)
- Station locations

Opportunities:

- Multimodal corridor partnering
- Facilitate access to and development of Fitzsimmons
- Provides system connectivity from Southeast to East Corridors

Corridor Extensions

Central Corridor:

- Alternatives analyzed as part of East Corridor EIS

Southeast Corridor:

- EA/EIS in late 2007

Southwest Corridor:

- EA/EIS in early 2008

Maintenance Facilities

Commuter Rail:

- Two sites under analysis as part of East Corridor EIS

Light Rail:

- Recommended site being evaluated as part of EIS

Bus:

- Preference is to find two sites for 125 buses each rather than one site for 250 buses
- Operational efficiency
- Minimizes deadhead time and cost
- Saves on bus fuel costs
- Gradually adds capacity to system
- Financial flexibility
- Facilitates use of \$3M SAFETEA-LU earmark
- Spreads O&M costs over time
- Provides better employee access
- Feasibility and environmental studies will be conducted

5. Other Matters

Member Retreat – The Committee discussed its desire to hold a members retreat in order to become more acquainted and to discuss its future role and mission. Roger Sherman reported on members availability on three dates originally proposed. As many members have conflicts, Roger was asked to poll the group about their availability on August 12th.

6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.