

Gold Line EIS Contact Report

Date of contact: January 18, 2007
Contact method: Ridge Rd./Ward Rd. Issue Focused Team Meeting
Attendees: **Issue Focused Team Members:** Cheryl Ames, Faith Armour, Dale Bradshaw, Ernest and Judy Ellingson, Peggy and Andy Goldberg, Denise Graff, Tom Graham, Luke Jasso, Michael Layer, John Marriott, Mike Salazar, Steve Smith, Danny Spletstosser, Jason Stout, Toby and Sandra Winsett.

LGT Members/City Staff/Elected Officials: Lorraine Anderson, Kevin Nichols, Bob Manwaring, Larry Schulz, Sally Payne, Shelley Cook

Project Team: Liz Telford, Don Ulrich, Jon Spencer, Andy Mountain, Megan Lane

MEETING SUMMARY/KEY ISSUES

After introductions, Jonathan Spencer provided a detailed description of the alignments in the Ridge Road/Ward Road area for each alternative. As the alternatives were reviewed, Issue Focused Team members were engaged in discussion about impacts and potential mitigation measures. During this overview of alternatives and in a more structured discussion following, the team members provided feedback on each of the alternatives, as well as input and recommendations.

SPECIFIC TEAM INPUT:

Alternative 3

- This is unanimously the preferred alternative for the Ridge Road/Ward Road Issue Focused Team. All other alternatives are considered by the team to be inferior due primarily to travel time, community impacts and required property acquisitions.
- The team encouraged RTD to continue negotiating with the railroads and also requested contact information for their state elected officials to encourage their support of giving RTD the ability to indemnify the railroads from liability within their right-of-way.

Light Rail Alternatives

- The team thinks that the property impacts are far too great with the two light rail alternatives. It strongly opposed further consideration of both alternatives, considering both to be the worst two being evaluated.
- The team wants to see the traffic impacts of making Ridge Road continuous alongside the proposed light rail routes. There are questions about, if a light rail alternative were constructed, whether a continuous Ridge Road would increase or decrease the amount of traffic in the neighborhoods. The team encouraged City of Arvada officials and RTD to make decisions about Ridge Road that would result in the least amount of traffic and parking in the neighborhood.
- If one of the light rail alternatives remains under consideration after Detailed Evaluation, the group recommends that RTD evaluate benefits/impacts of other route design options to help avoid the property impacts along Ridge Road. There was strong sentiment from some IFT members that direct service in Olde Town Arvada should not necessarily be the top priority. Some of the possible design options that they recommended to be reviewed include:
 - I-70 Frontage Road to either Miller or Ward Road
 - 52nd Avenue or 57th Avenue to Independence to 58th Ave. to either Kipling or Ward
 - While some elements of the routes recommended by IFT members were included in the Level 1 screening, RTD committed to ensuring that, should a light rail alternative remain under consideration, it would consider routes that were not previously dismissed from the EIS or previous studies like the MIS.

Streetcar Alternative

- While the team has an overwhelming preference for Alternative 3, this IFT considered the streetcar alternative the better of the three in-street alternatives being evaluated.
- If the streetcar alternative remains under consideration after Detailed Evaluation, the team recommended that RTD evaluate route-design options that use wider streets than Grandview and Ridge. The team cited two specific concerns:
 - Safety and impact concerns about the Grandview to Carr section as it passes an elementary school. One possible design option would be to take 57th to Independence, instead of Grandview to Carr.
 - Traffic and impact concerns about a potential traffic signal where Ridge Road turns onto Grandview.

Traffic

- When traffic analysis is completed, the group would like to see how traffic on intersecting streets is impacted, in addition to roads like Ralston, Ridge and Grandview.
- As is mentioned in the Streetcar Alternative section, this group is interested in the potential traffic impacts at the intersection of Ridge and Grandview.



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Public Involvement

- The team encouraged more direct outreach to individuals and businesses adjacent to the proposed routes, especially those that may potentially be impacted.