

Draft Meeting Summary

Gold Line Local Governments Update Meeting

Tuesday, August 4, 2009
1:30 - 2:30 p.m.
City & County of Denver
201 W. Colfax, Room 5.H.13

MEETING GOALS AND AGENDA

The meeting goals were to:

- Follow-up on action items from the last meeting.
- Provide an update on the traffic analysis.
- Update on the one-on-one meetings to discuss 30% design comments.
- Brief participants on FEIS timing and the next LGT meeting.

MEETING SUMMARY

After Liz Telford, RTD project manager, welcomed everyone, she outlined the schedule for the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and other upcoming milestones. Liz confirmed the following:

- The FEIS will be officially released on August 21, 2009, kicking off a 30-day public comment period.
- Public hearings will be held on September 9 and 17, 2009.
- A Local Governments Team meeting will be held in early September prior to the public hearings.
- The FEIS comment period will end on September 21, 2009.
- Following the end of the comment period, there will be a 30-day “cooling off” period before FTA can release the Record of Decision.

Liz confirmed that all hard copy FEIS comments should be sent to GBSM rather than to Dave Beckhouse at the Federal Transit Administration.

Ashland Vaughn, RTD Gold Line Team, stated that he will follow up with each municipality to schedule one-on-one meetings to discuss comments related to the 30% design. Liz Telford asked the participants to keep in mind that RTD is under tremendous pressure to keep the Gold

Line cost effective and that requests for betterments falling outside of current cost assumptions will likely be difficult to accommodate.

Liz Telford provided an update on the Eagle P3 and the timing of the release for the Request for Proposals. Bob Manwaring, City of Arvada, asked how the Eagle P3 would affect overall funding for FasTracks and how it relates to the recommendations of the Metro Mayors Caucus. Liz provided a recap of the new FasTracks funding plan, which assumes a sales tax increase.

Liz informed the group that RTD has submitted a scope of work to CH2M Hill to complete VISSM modeling in response to concerns about traffic signals in the corridor.

Mark Westberg, City of Wheat Ridge, had several questions and comments:

- He voiced some concerns about the grade crossings at Miller Street. Mark stated that Miller is a main route for accessing the Arvada Ridge station and requested that the roadway be improved to allow for a smoother vehicle crossing. He mentioned similar concerns for Tabor Street.
- Referencing the Quiet Zone Report, Mark said that the Lee Street crossing will potentially close, resulting in significant additional traffic on Miller Street. Consequently, Mark had concerns that the Arvada Ridge traffic memo only analyzes Lee Street and not Miller Street.
- Mark clarified a comment made at the previous Local Governments meeting related to the capacity of drainage systems to handle storms. He requested that RTD update the minutes to state that his primary concern is related to smaller storms, not larger ones. Liz Telford confirmed that RTD would update the minutes.
- Mark asked why the projected number of passenger boardings at Ward station had decreased from the Quiet Zone Report to the Traffic Memo. Liz responded that DRCOG had conducted on-board surveys to calibrate RTD's ridership model. The calibrated model showed more people using the West Corridor and buses and fewer people boarding at the Ward station.
- Mark stated that there doesn't seem to be sufficient analysis on how moving the park-n-Ride at Ward Road will affect bus traffic on 52nd and Ridge Road. Liz Telford responded that the FEIS traffic analysis does account for the elimination of the current park-n-Ride at Ward.

Bob Manwaring, City of Arvada, stated that the city feels it's important to leave the Lee Street crossing open. He said that the railroads need to know that this crossing also has value to the Gold Line.

Liz concluded the meeting by stating that RTD would be in touch to schedule one-on-one meetings and to notify the group of the next local governments' team meeting. She asked the municipalities to contact either herself or Ashland Vaughn if they had points that they would like to be included in the IGA.

ACTION ITEMS

- Ashland to schedule one-on-one meetings with each municipality.
- Andy Mountain, Public Involvement Consultant, to notify municipalities of next Local Governments Team and Agency Working Group meetings.
- Megan Lane to update the minutes from the previous Local Governments Update to correct Mark Westberg's comments.

MEETING PARTICIPANTS

- Jeanne Shreve Adams County
- Bob Manwaring City of Arvada
- Jenn Hillhouse City and County of Denver
- Brian Pinkerton City and County of Denver
- Steve Nguyen City of Wheat Ridge
- Sally Payne City of Wheat Ridge
- Mark Westberg City of Wheat Ridge
- Liz Telford RTD FasTracks Gold Line Team
- Don Ulrich RTD FasTracks Gold Line Team
- Ashland Vaughn RTD FasTracks Gold Line Team
- Megan Lane RTD FasTracks Gold Line Team