

Draft Meeting Summary

Gold Line Local Governments Team

Tuesday, September 1, 2000

1:00- 3:00 p.m.

RTD FasTracks - Regional Conference Room

1560 Broadway, Denver, CO

MEETING GOALS AND AGENDA

The meeting goals were to:

- Provide a preview of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) Public Hearing presentation
- Answer questions about the roles/expectations of local governments in the FEIS review/comment process

The Local Governments Team (LGT) meeting agenda included a presentation and discussion of the Gold Line FEIS process, schedule and public comment process. The presentation began with an update on the project's purpose and schedule. The project team then provided an overview of the activity since the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and changes in Impacts since the DEIS. The team also presented a summary of the FEIS public comment process and concluded with an overview of the next steps following the FEIS comment period.

MEETING HANDOUTS

- Meeting Agenda

PRELIMINARY ITEMS

Andy Mountain, Public Involvement consultant, welcomed the participants and commenced the meeting by announcing that the Gold Line FEIS was available for review and comment. Liz Telford, RTD Project Manager, then briefly discussed the anticipated timing of the Record of Decision (ROD) from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA).

PRESENTATION

Chris Proud, RTD consultant, previewed the draft presentation for the upcoming FEIS Public Hearings, including discussion of individual slides about Gold Line project history and purpose, EIS schedule, various options and refinements to the preferred alternative, public/private funding, activities since the DEIS and summary of DEIS comments, station design and fencing.

During the presentation Chris Proud also discussed inclusion of the Commuter Rail Maintenance Facility (CRMF) Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) in the FEIS. Chris Proud then provided an overview of how impacts in the FEIS had changed since the DEIS by individually going through each impact area. Specifically, changes to parkland impacts were highlighted as the only area where impacts went from no impacts to one impact. The change to noise impacts since the DEIS were also described, including the impact at the Olde Town Arvada Station. The quiet zones on the Gold Line corridor were highlighted along with the at-grade crossings that required specific mitigation. The attendees had the following questions/comments during the presentation:

- Shelly Cook, City of Arvada, asked how much private funding is anticipated for the Eagle P3 agreement and what percentage of the total budget will be provided by a private entity versus RTD. Liz Telford discussed the Eagle P3 process and Ashland Vaughn, RTD consultant, described the engineering process as it relates to timing for the private concessionaire bid.

Patricia Lorence, City of Arvada, mentioned that she heard that of all the FTA's Public Private Partnership Program participants, FasTracks was the last one standing. Liz Telford responded that one of the other participant projects had been removed from the program (but later reinstated) and one of the projects dropped out of the program.

- Patricia Lorence questioned the change in ridership calculations since the DEIS. Liz explained the improvements to the model used to estimate ridership and referenced Chapter Five of the FEIS.
- Jennifer Hillhouse, City and County of Denver, asked how highly visible areas will be fenced and how those designs will be presented. Chris Proud noted that several areas have been identified for upgraded fencing and referenced in Chapter Two of the FEIS.
- Jennifer Hillhouse commented on the need for highlighting the locations where at-grade crossings are located and why they required specific mitigation measures. Chris Proud and Liz Telford noted that those are important considerations and will be referenced during delivery of the presentation at the public hearings.

Andy Mountain provided an overview of the Public Involvement process since the commencement of the Gold Line project, including a summary of public participation numbers, upcoming milestones during the FEIS process, ROD, financing, the design and construction phases through testing and opening day. The attendees had the following questions/comments:

- Lorraine Anderson, City of Arvada, asked about the potential for phased openings along the corridor as construction is finished and if there was anything RTD could do to expedite the process. Liz Telford explained that the phasing of openings would be determined by the Eagle P3 concessionaires that will finance, design, build, operate and maintain the Gold Line.
- Lorraine Anderson asked about the status of reauthorizing the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) Liz

Telford and Wally Pulliam, RTD Board Member, explained that there were multiple factors for consideration in regards to the complex process of revising SAFETEA-LU and speculated that it would be a lengthy process if regulations related to how projects are selected for funding are revised.

- Kevin Nichols, City of Arvada, asked about the process for FEIS comments, specifically about responses to questions from local governments about design factors. Ashland Vaughn and Andy Mountain explained the process for addressing and responding to comments as a component of the ROD.
- Sally Payne, City of Wheat Ridge, asked if we were still on schedule for the P3 RFP. Liz Telford noted that the RFPs are available for review.
- Jennifer Hillhouse asked how FEIS questions regarding the CRMF will be addressed. Liz Telford noted that questions/comments regarding the CRMF will be answered and available on the Gold Line website (along with responses to other FEIS questions/comments).
- Jeanne Schreve, Adams County, asked when CRMF additions to the RFP language will be available for review. Liz Telford noted that the RFP will be updated to include the CRMF.

Andy Mountain then described the FEIS public comment process, including a summary of FEIS comments submitted to-date, methods of submitting FEIS comments, deadlines and what to expect at the FEIS Public Hearings. Specific stations planned for the FEIS Public Hearings were outlined, including what materials will be available at each station.

- Kevin Nichols inquired how the public will be able to monitor the design elements and stay involved during the design and construction phases. Liz explained that a Construction Mitigation Plan was one of the requirements specified for the design and construction phase and asked that meeting attendees submit specific items they would like to see in the plan.
- Shelley Cook spoke in regard to concerns expressed by Olde Town Arvada business owners will stay involved on design developments. Liz Telford noted the Construction Mitigation Plan would guide that process.
- Lorraine Anderson mentioned that having a municipal contact would be an effective way to communicate with the public and Patricia Lorence agreed that everyone in attendance would probably have a similar need. Liz Telford and Chris Proud also agreed with the suggestion of hosting Issue Focused Team meetings to update the public.
- Patricia Lorence asked if there were going to be more official communications like the Gold Line Times newsletter following the ROD. Liz Telford noted that official Gold Line updates will be posted to the FasTracks website.

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- Brian Pinkerton, City and County of Denver, asked what the circulation of the Gold Line Times newsletter was. Andy explained that about 7,000 were mailed and 3,000 were distributed by email.
 - Will Kerns, Jefferson County, inquired about a potential bike and pedestrian facility, as he would like to see some sort of multi-use trail along the corridor, especially if the corridor was extended in the future. Kevin Nichols mentioned that he has been working on multi-modal transportation options around the Arvada stations, specifically the need for north-south options. Jennifer Hillhouse mentioned the multi-modal plans in development by the City and County of Denver. Liz Telford discussed the potential for collaboration between local governments to evaluate a multi-jurisdictional multi-modal transportation partner project.

After ensuring that there were no further questions, Andy Mountain reminded meeting attendees of the FEIS Public Hearing schedule and noted the Gold Line will also have an informational booth at the Arvada Harvest Festival. He then adjourned the meeting.

MEETING PARTICIPANTS

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| 1. Jeanne Shreve | Adams County |
| 2. Lorraine Anderson | Arvada City Council |
| 3. Kevin Nichols | City of Arvada |
| 4. Patricia Lorence | City of Arvada |
| 5. Shelley Cook | City of Arvada |
| 6. Bob Manwaring | City of Arvada |
| 7. Jennifer Hillhouse | City and County of Denver |
| 8. Brian Pinkerton | City and County of Denver |
| 9. Will Kerns | Jefferson County |
| 10. Steve Nguyen | City of Wheat Ridge |
| 11. Sally Payne | City of Wheat Ridge |
| 12. Wally Pulliam | RTD Board, District L |
| 13. Liz Telford | RTD FasTracks Gold Line Team |
| 14. Angela Brand | RTD FasTracks Gold Line Team |
| 15. Ashland Vaughn | RTD FasTracks Gold Line Team |
| 16. Chris Proud | RTD FasTracks Gold Line Team |
| 17. Jonathan Spencer | RTD FasTracks Gold Line Team |
| 18. Andy Mountain | RTD FasTracks Gold Line Team |
| 19. Miles Graham | RTD FasTracks Gold Line Team |