



FasTracks

West Rail Line

Meeting
Minutes

November 18, 2011

Re: West Rail Line Elected Officials Briefing

In Attendance: See sign-in sheet

Minutes:

Welcome and Introductions- Matt Cohen

Matt Cohen reported that RTD was awarded \$1.03 billion through the Full Funding Grant Agreement (FFGA) for the EAGLE projects and said that RTD is recognized nationally and internationally. Additionally, Director Cohen explained that RTD may go for a tax increase in 2012 however the decision has not been finalized.

FasTracks Update – Del Walker

Del Walker, Deputy AGM of Capital Programs for RTD, reported that the Eagle P3 project won an award for Project of the Year. He explained that people in the industry are taking lessons learned from the Eagle P3 project and implementing them. Walker also reported that the design phase and utility relocations of the East Line are nearly complete.

Additionally, Walker updated the group on the \$305 million that was saved from the Eagle P3 project and how that money is starting other FasTrack projects such as the I-225 Line (from Parker Road to Iliff), North Metro Line (from DUS to the National Western Complex), and the US 36 project. RTD is working with CDOT on I-225 and is planning to advertise the project by December 15. Also working with CDOT, RTD plans to begin the US 36 project in the summer of 2012. The bus transit lane will extend to Interlocken with hopes to eventually end in Boulder.

PI Update – Kathy Berumen

Kathy Berumen reported that RTD and DTCG hosted Block Parties for neighborhoods affected by construction in July, August and September. The Eiber neighborhood party was on Saturday, July 23, 2011. The Block Party for the Sun Valley/Villa Park neighborhood was held on August 20 and a Block Party for Two Creeks neighborhood was held on September 10.

Another way the West Rail Line gave back to the community was through the rail build out. On August 27, 2011 DTCG donated more than \$50,000 worth of materials, equipment and labor to the Colorado Railroad Museum to build track needed to relocate the museum's standard gauge boxcars.

Berumen also reported that the PI team has made a considerable effort to update the website on a daily/weekly basis by updating photos and has developed an interactive way to provide detour maps to the public. Overall, these efforts have increased the number of hits to the website.

Finally, Berumen reported that the grand opening event of the Auraria West Station was held on October 31, 2011.

Project Status – Jim Starling

Jim Starling informed the group that there has been a lot of progress on the West Rail Line since our last meeting. DTCG is closing activities out and their contract is over next summer. Paving operations will continue as long as the warm weather holds out. BBRI also continues with great progress and construction on the parking structures should begin in early 2012.

Dave Lewis and Dennis Ashley, Managers from Swinerton Constructors, spoke about the Wadsworth and Sheridan parking structures. Ashley explained that design is underway on Wadsworth and construction is scheduled to begin in March 2012. The Sheridan garage is about six weeks behind Wadsworth's start date. The construction of the Sheridan garage will begin late May, early June and the foundation and structural components will begin in July. These structures will be completed by May 2013, when the West Rail Line opens.

Cindy Baroway asked whether or not RTD owes another public meeting to the community for the Sheridan parking structure. Starling explained that RTD has plans to introduce the community contractor and the final garage design in early 2012. Bruce Daly asked Swinerton members what recent projects they have worked on. Ashley said they completed the Four Seasons Hotel and are working on the VA and Children's Hospitals. Cohen asked if Swinerton was based in Colorado. Ashley said they were a California-based company.

Starling reported that following the death of a high school student at a light rail crossing in Utah, there has been heightened national awareness about safety at grade crossings. The FTA asked RTD to look more closely at the at-grade crossings on the West Rail line. Thus, an internal Task Force was convened and recommendations have been made. The recommendations will require redesign of the recommended elements and resubmittal to the PUC. Recommendations range from extending fencing, adding bollards and/or pedestrian gates, moving crossing gates back behind sidewalks and removing some track crossing panels to deter walking across the tracks in that area. There is also a recommendation to remove one portion of soundwall at Independence Street where the train speeds have been reduced.

Final recommendations will be detailed by early 2012 and the public will be notified.

Cindy Baroway asked what type of fencing would be installed at the crossings. Brenda Tierney explained that the extended fencing in the neighborhood would be the post and cable fencing. Baroway suggested that RTD meet with Eiber to discuss the fencing and look of the fence. Tierney said that will be an option, but would like to wait until all recommendations are made to discuss further changes.

Cohen asked why some rail crossings at intersections are more noisy and bumpy to drive over than others. Starling explained that as roads phase into final configuration, the noise and bumps should be less and less. Some intersections do not yet have a top lift, which may cause the noise and bumps. Cohen asked about the safety of bicyclist crossing at the intersections. Starling explained that each street intersection has the standard grade panels. Jerry Goldman made known that the people at Carr and Garrison still have a problem with the noise and bump issues crossing the tracks at the

intersections. Goldman explained that he didn't know the answer to the problem but asked RTD to take another look at the issue. Tierney explained that she discussed the issue with engineers on the project and that the rail height above the concrete is well within tolerance. The contractor will be at the intersections doing some maintenance on another issue and will see if there are any adjustments possible at Carr and Garrison at that time. Goldman explained that the issue is more noticeable with trucks and trucks with trailers. Bill Spriggs mentioned to the group that it might be wise to check the noise and bump issue after the trains are running on the rail as the trains might change the noise and bump issue. Bill also asked the weight of the trains. Starling said that the trains were 55,000 lbs and explained that the rail should settle and might see some slight movement.

John Wieland asked when the bike path on the West Rail would open. Starling said that RTD is looking at opening the path in the spring as soon as it is complete. It will be opened in phases. There is still a lot of work to complete on the Wadsworth Bridge, such as setting the shelters and installing the catenary wires, which means the bike path can't open in this area until the station is complete, for safety reasons.

Systems Work Update - Greg Gonzales

Greg Gonzales told the group that Balfour Beatty Rail, Inc. (BBRI) works on the power and signal control systems on the rail line. He said that BBRI has completed installation of the catenary systems between Ulysses and Red Rocks. He explained that 8th Ave to Wadsworth was also complete. System installation between Wadsworth and Federal is ongoing. Gonzales said that TPSS stations have been set at four locations (Juniper, 8th Avenue, Colfax, and Jeffco). He said that the TPSS for Lamar and Oak Stations will be set soon.

Additionally, 43 of the 56 relay houses are set, and 19 of the 22 crossings are built. Nine of 12 communication platforms have been set. Gonzales explained that BBRI has started work on the communication platform at the Auraria West Station.

Construction Progress Presentation – Jon Brazeal

Jon Brazeal provided the group an overview of construction activities via a PowerPoint presentation.

Civil Work: Construction Update - Jon Brazeal

Brazeal explained that work at the Jeffco Campus is progressing and will soon be turned over to BBRI. The bus loop at Jeffco will be constructed in December. Most of the bike path at Jeffco was complete as DTCG needed to have it open when reconfiguring Johnson Road. He said the configuration of Johnson road was a great partnership between DTCG, Jeffco, and Golden.

He also explained that work at Knox Court was almost complete; however, DTCG is replacing an area of concrete where a car ran through traffic control signs and got stuck in wet concrete. Cohen asked for elaboration on the incident. Brazeal explained that traffic control signs were in place, but a car with two women disregarded the signs and the construction workers waving them to stop. The two women fled the scene and the investigation with Denver police continues.

Wieland asked whether the bike path at Federal Boulevard in Denver was complete. Brazeal said that path was an existing path, just reestablished by DTTCG. He explained crews are still constructing the path at Hazel Court and Perry and hope to have it complete by spring. Cohen commented that there is amazing progress on the rail line.

Dave Baskett commented that the reconstruction of Wadsworth Blvd was in its Final Inspection Review (FIR) with CDOT next week and invited Swinerton to join. Baskett also explained that he was working on a school grant with RTD to focus on school safety for Molholm and Eiber Elementary Schools and has high hopes that the grant will be approved.

Baskett also expressed his dissatisfaction that none of the bike paths are open, especially the Kipling Bridge bike path. Starling explained that RTD and Lakewood haven't completed the IGA for the bike path in this area and the path isn't complete. Baskett commented that there are minor punch list items that can be completed in one week's time. He said currently students need to walk across Kipling to get to school and will have to go through another four months of inconvenience. Wieland explained that there are horrible bike path detours in place, specifically at Quail, Union Boulevard, and along 10th Avenue. Berumen explained that the detours are standard and she has spoken with the traffic control engineer.

Cohen asked if there could be some compromise to opening the Kipling Bridge bike path. Starling reiterated that the path could open as early as spring.

Cohen asked if there were any final topics to discuss. Kathy said that DTTCG and RTD have an internal partnering survey and the stakeholder that won this time was Beth Wicht. Cohen also reported that Spriggs won Outstanding Academy Graduate from the Transit Alliance Program.

Next Meeting

February 10, 2012 at the West Rail Project Office

Attachments: Construction Progress Presentation and sign-in sheet

cc: RTD-FasTracks Document Control