



# MEETING MINUTES

Date: May 18, 2006

Time: 10:30 AM

Re: West Corridor Stakeholder Meeting

Location: FasTracks Office – Express Conference Room

In Attendance:

Dennis Cole, RTD-FasTracks

Ashland Vaughn, RTD-FasTracks

Gideon Berger, RTD-FasTracks

Dave Baskett, City of Lakewood

Roger Wadnal, City of Lakewood

Steve Glueck, City of Golden

Dave Ridenour, CCoD

Keith French, CCoD

Tony Ogboli, CCoD

Steve Long, DEA

Sal Birritteri, IBI

Tim Stokes, Del Can

Rob Ball, RTD-FasTracks

Brenda Tierney, RTD-FasTracks

Gail Spencer, City of Lakewood

Rob Smetana, Lakewood

Kate Newman, Jeffco

Bob Kochevar, CCoD

David Abbink, West Metro Fire

Andy Leong, DEA

Peter Zurawel, IBI

John Suttton, PMOC/STV

Kim Podobnik, PRACO

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Minutes

## 1. REVIEW OF MARCH 9, 2006 ACTION ITEMS

- RTD to provide a signed copy of the CDOT executed IGA to stakeholders – Completed
- RTD to complete internal review of draft IGA with Lakewood and distribute for review – Completed; will issue as draft to Lakewood week of May 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- Stakeholders to provide review comments on the West Corridor PMP – Due ASAP
- City of Lakewood to look at how to provide funding to RTD to allow a change order to be issued to DEA to start design of bike structures at Kipling and Wadsworth. – Still required.

- RTD will schedule a meeting with Lakewood to show progress on 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue between Harlan and Oak. – Initial meeting held May 9<sup>th</sup>; RTD will arrange follow-up meeting once cross sections are completed along segment.
- Schedule meeting with Jeffco and Golden to review Kit of Parts from UDC meeting. – Completed

## 2. FEEDBACK ON ELECTED OFFICIALS BRIEFING

The elected officials briefing was held on May 12<sup>th</sup>. RTD staff presented an expanded community outreach update that provides for a monthly elected officials briefing through the rest of 2006, adds three additional sets of UDC meetings and introduces a series of one-on-one-outreach meetings through “Coffee with Dennis”. This expanded outreach is being implemented to allow additional opportunities for community input into specific elements of the design.

## 3. UPDATED PUBLIC OUTREACH TIMELINE

An updated public outreach timeline was handed out along with the updated outreach process that shows the additional public involvement activities and tentative dates described in item 2 above.

## 4. MAJOR WEST CORRIDOR CHALLENGES

A brief update of the following challenges was given to stakeholders.

- Jefferson /County End of the Line – RTD and Jeffco/Golden staff participated in a briefing to the County Commissioners at a Jefferson County staff meeting held on May 16<sup>th</sup>. The baseline option and several station/parking alternatives were presented to the Commissioners along with a comparison of costs against RTD’s baseline budget. The County commissioners reached consensus on a front of campus option with total parking of 650 spaces, of which 436 spaces are assigned for transit use. A follow-up meeting is set for June 1<sup>st</sup> to discuss baseline costs and moving forward.
- GSA Federal Center – RTD and Lakewood continue to meet with GSA to pursue progress on the land appraisal and reconveyance process for transfer of the 65 acres that includes 15 acres for RTD’s station, bus turnaround and parking facility. Compensation for the land reconveyance is being negotiated in infrastructure improvements in lieu of cash. The guideway will be handled separately as a permanent easement.
- 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue – Harlan to Oak – The challenge with the 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue segment is the narrow width of the corridor in which RTD will build two LRT tracks, re-configure the roadway and arrange for relocation of utilities outside the track envelope. RTD and Lakewood met on May 9<sup>th</sup> to discuss the sanitary sewer relocation work and additional utility work that would fall under the city’s local match contribution. RTD will prepare cross sections by block along the corridor to illustrate how components will fit since additional right-of-way or permanent easements are not planned. A follow-up meeting will be held first with Lakewood and West Metro Fire and then the Utilities. It is expected that all parties will have to compromise on their desired standards.

- The challenge at Myrtle Place under I-25 is fitting in two LRT tracks, an access roadway/fire lane and a railroad spur. RTD handed to CCoD a revised concept that provides for a 22 ft. wide frontage road on the south side and two LRT tracks within the existing 54 ft. opening and shifts the Siegel Oil spur to the north. RTD requested CCoD to review and provide comments on the section. It is understood by RTD that a variance will be needed from CCoD.
- Work on design of the Federal Blvd. Bridge replacement and the configuration of the drainage channel is in progress. RTD will schedule a meeting with UDFCD and CCoD to review and obtain concurrence on the recommended channel cross section. This dictates the length of the bridge, which may be a maximum of 165 ft.
- IGAs – RTD has drafted an IGA for its agreement with City of Lakewood. It has been reviewed internally and should be ready to issue to COL the week of May 22<sup>nd</sup>. RTD will start to work on the IGAs with Golden and Jefferson County. CCoD has provided RTD correspondence on suggestions for local match contribution and are working on amendment to the 1993 master IGA. RTD stated that its FFGA application will be delayed until Spring of 2007 but emphasized that CCoD need to be prepared to have an agreement executed by the end of October.
- Cost Containment – RTD commented that a review and update of project costs between Years 2002 and 2005 has been completed and has prompted the need for value engineering and cost containment strategies. RTD faces a significant challenge to build the project within budget and on schedule in view of rising materials and labor escalation over the last few years. RTD presented several cost containment items in item 6 below.

#### 5. DESIGN REVIEW – THIRD PARTY REQUIREMENTS

RTD reminded those stakeholders who have not yet submitted a list of third party requirements to do so as soon as possible. RTD explained the purpose for identifying third party requirements and incorporating into the project data base. Reviewers ("assessors") will be asked to review the design documents against these requirements.

A copy of the form will be re-issued with the meeting minutes and stakeholders are requested to fill out and email to Rob Ball.

#### 6. PROPOSED ALIGNMENT AND SCOPE ADJUSTMENTS ON WEST CORRIDOR

RTD stated that a number of proposed alignment and scope adjustments are being considered by RTD due to materials and labor escalation that has occurred over the last several years. The rate of escalation has exceeded what was assumed in the West Corridor baseline budget and is a significant challenge facing projects nationwide today. A copy of a West Corridor Design Review Update presented to the FasTracks Monitoring Committee on May 16<sup>th</sup> was handed out. RTD conducted an internal workshop to evaluate project costs and ways to mitigate growth in the cost of materials and labor. Several cost reductions, systems/operations savings, right-of-way and construction savings have been identified. There are several cost containment strategies that will require further review and public input. These include:

- Moving Jeffco Govt. Center station
- Shifting alignment at Colfax/US-6
- Eliminating tunnel at North Street and crossing at-grade
- Shortening the tunnel at Simms and Union and eliminating the tunnel across US-6
- Shifting the alignment to the south side of US-6 from Federal Center to just east of Indiana Street
- Reviewing the need for a pedestrian bridge at Red Rocks
- Eliminating the pedestrian tunnel at Howard Place
- Reviewing the peak hour service plan for opening day from 5 to 15 minutes between the Federal Center and Jeffco.

RTD has had preliminary discussions with FTA and has been advised that the above cost containment items do not require the ROD to be opened and can be cleared by a Categorical Exclusion.

#### 7. BRIEFING ON BASIC BRIDGE TYPES FOR WEST CORRIDOR

The design team made a brief presentation on the basic bridge structures that have been chosen for the West Corridor. RTD emphasized that these represent the basic structural elements and not the aesthetic treatments that are still open for community input.

The design team presented the structural types for Colfax, US-6, Kipling, Wadsworth, Sheridan and the South Platte River, and discussed the structural elements that are considered fixed. Types of aesthetic treatments were briefly discussed and RTD noted that these are open to community input. See handout on expanded community outreach.

The design team continued with a presentation on the station perspectives that were presented at the recent UDC meetings and elected officials briefing. These show an excellent graphical representation and make it easier to understand how the station will function.

#### 8. WEST CORRIDOR MONTHLY REPORT

RTD advised the group that the monthly report for the project for the month of April is in progress and should be distributed to stakeholders the week of May 22<sup>nd</sup>.

#### 9. QUESTIONS., CONCERNS , ISSUES BY STAKEHOLDERS

*City of Lakewood:* COL expressed concerns that may be raised by the neighborhoods on the change in alignment from the north to the south side, particularly those neighborhoods on the north side that may have planned to use the system. The removal of the Red Rocks pedestrian bridge would make access to the LRT station difficult for those patrons. RTD commented that the impacts should be reduced and will look at public input as part of the CAT EX process.

COL also raised questions about combining any public meeting processes for the proposed categorical exclusions with the work required at Wadsworth Station. The goal would be to do everything together for cost savings and clarity. RTD will review the city's request and advise.

*City/County of Denver:* CCoD expressed concern that the alignment is being frozen on June 1<sup>st</sup> and that stakeholders will not have had an opportunity to review prior to the alignment being fixed. RTD commented that the design team is only tweaking the alignment in the Denver segment and no significant deviation from PE is being considered.

*Jefferson County:* No concerns were raised

*City of Golden:* No concerns were raised but did request a brief discussion following the meeting.

#### 10. ACTION ITEMS

1. RTD to issue to Lakewood the draft IGA for review – Due week of May 22, 2006
2. Stakeholders to provide review comments on the West Corridor PMP – Due ASAP
3. City of Lakewood to continue looking at how to provide funding to RTD to allow a change order to be issued to DEA to start design of bike structures at Kipling and Wadsworth. – Due ASAP
4. RTD will schedule a follow-up meeting with Lakewood to show cross sections that show the LRT tracks, ROW, roadway and utility envelopes on 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue between Harlan and Oak. – Due ASAP

Meeting ended at 12:05 PM.