

Meeting Minutes

Stakeholder Task Force Existing Conditions Review Meeting

Federal Boulevard Corridor Wide Study

Date: Thursday, March 31, 2016

Time: 3:00pm-5:00pm

Location: HDR Grand Mesa Conference Room – 1670 Broadway

Attendees: Good, Karen (CCD) Rafael Espinoza (District 1 Council Member)
Evanoff, Kristina (CCD) Kevin Flynn (District 2 Council Member)
Adelberg, Greg (HDR) Jill Locantore (Walk Denver)
Longsdorf, Jason (HDR) Chris Parr (DHA)
McGuire, Shannon (HDR) Amanda Sandoval (Espinoza Office)
Parker, Drew (HDR) Jamie Torres (CCD - Human Rights & Comm.)
Plenge, Rick (HDR) President Fred Van Lieu (CHU)
Cawrse, Anna (Design Workshop) Linnea Borkman (Regis)
Wenskoski, Meredith (Design Workshop) Ian Harwick (Athmar Park)
Taniwaki, Arleen (ArLand) Jan Zebrowski (APNA)
Marshall Vanderberg (Fed Blvd Ptshp.) Mark Marshall (ULC)
JoAnn Phillips (Villa Park NBH) Scott Mobley (Loretto Heights)
Leslie Twarogowski (Fed Blvd BID) Rob Ollett (BikeDenver)
Ailien Vuong (DHA-West Denver Rens.) Bradley Weinig (Enterprise Comm.)
Kaye Boeke (Barnum RNO, MPAC)

I. Introductions and Interests

Each Stakeholder Task Force (STF) member introduced themselves including who or what organization they represented.

Jason mentioned that one of the goals of this effort was to identify Federal Boulevard “Steering Committee” volunteers to carry on the work to implement this plans recommendations. JoAnn Phillips expressed interest.

II. Visions For This Planning Effort

Each STF member answered the question *“When this planning effort is complete, I’ll feel like it was a success if…”*

Below are the responses:

- If people can’t drag race down Federal
- If Federal becomes a community street, not a multi-lane highway
- If Federal is more accessible to residents with relevant businesses and services
- If the effort develops a vision and path forward to facilitating better land uses along Federal
- If there is a specific timeline for improvements and community-identified priorities
- If safety is improved at 10th and Federal, if there are more businesses that are conducive to the surrounding communities, and Federal becomes a place that people want to stay
- If we get an E-W turn signal at 10th Avenue, if safety if improved along the corridor

- If the people who are impacted by this effort (residents and business-owners) have ownership over the process and implementation
- If we improve safety for non-car users
- If we improve access and safe crossings for people riding bikes
- If we remove barriers to walkability across Federal
- If we implement beautification, medians, create special places, and don't create any bike/ped over or underpasses which wouldn't address the underlying issue of there being too high of a priority for vehicular traffic
- There needs to be a bus pullout at Mississippi
- If we do some beautification, make Federal less hideous
- If we make Federal segmented and accessible, and if we celebrate the culture in the area
- If businesses and residents are part of the process; if it sets the stage for funding efforts (Federal dollars), if we improve safety for pedestrians, if there is economic and community development
- If we develop a vision with a clear implementation plan. If Federal becomes a safe and inviting place for people
- Colorado Heights wants redevelopment; pedestrian safety issues between Dartmouth and Harvard—multiple pedestrian fatalities
- If we install better crosswalks (raised or somehow more visually appealing and obvious to drivers), maybe art crosswalks, install more landscaping, make Federal more visually appealing (like area around 35th and Federal)
- If Federal takes advantage of it's North-South orientation to become a safe and vibrant destination
- If we could reduce the frequency of predatory businesses around Westwood (dispensaries, liquor stores, and check-cashing)
- If we can get a pullout bus stop at Louisiana Ave in front of the new Denver Health location (RTD's policy is not to have pull-out stops because it increases their trip times)

III. Existing Conditions Presentation and Comments

The project team gave a presentation on the Existing Conditions report, and took questions and comments throughout the presentation. The comments are below:

- How much of the traffic is local versus through traffic? We need to make recommendations for how we can capture this volume at local businesses along the corridor
- There is a disconnection of the businesses that exist along Federal and the surrounding neighborhoods
- There are significant neighborhoods full of people living in poverty, this effort should not displace them, but rather serve them with culturally-appropriate services
- It would be a good idea to reach out to churches, give out handouts, and some sort of mailings or fliers that better reach the aging populations around the corridor
- Are we conducting on-board bus surveys to see where people are going? (No)
- Please send out all information for public meetings, etc. as JPEGs. PDFs don't interface well when posted on facebook, twitter, etc. and some residents can't open pdfs.
- There is a new partnership with the city and Telemundo, use this for PI (via Rowena)

- Colorado Heights University has a lot of students that they would like to have helped with the student ambassador survey
- Would it be possible to remove all of the billboards from Federal?
- There is a no-man's land between 14th and 20th Ave that is unrealized opportunity
- There is a new project going in at the Northwest side of Federal and Sanderson Gulch, it would be a good idea to check in with the developer regarding any improvements to the gulch that we are envisioning
- The Aria area is critical
- There is a very narrow sidewalk along Federal where it crosses I-70 (4.5' attached) that is unsafe, especially for children –this creates access issues for the parks that are nearby
- Is there potential to convert Federal into a multi-way boulevard?
- Barnum Park is hidden from view when driving along Federal, can we improve the signage and wayfinding around that area?
- What is going on with the garage at Holden and Federal? This could be a great location to improve visibility and access to the Lakewood Gulch
- The Federal and Evans intersection was nominated as a location for an enhanced crosswalk through Public Works small program

Updates from members:

1. Karen notified us that the 7th to Howard improvements on Federal are scheduled to beginning in the summer of 2017.
2. Linnea Bjorkman provided information about upcoming Cultivate Health events.
3. Jefferson Park Farm & Flea will occur next on May 14th.