

Stakeholder Working Group (SWG) Meeting Summary

Date: Tuesday May 10, 2016
Time: 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM
Location: Temple Emanuel

Overview

The City and County of Denver's Go Speer Leetsdale Study is a mobility study for the Speer Leetsdale Corridor. This study will focus on multimodal travel from Broadway and Speer southeast to Mississippi Avenue and Leetsdale, a segment of the larger Speer/Leetsdale travel shed that connects people to I-25 to the west and I-225 to the southeast.

This first of three SWG meetings was held at Temple Emanuel to collect information on the issues, needs and to begin to develop a long-term vision for the corridor. Two separate small group break-out sessions were conducted; the groups collaborated to first identify mobility issues along the corridor and then subsequently to identify aspirations for the corridor.

Map Comment Summary

Initially, attendees noted their concerns and suggested improvements on two roll plot maps in the back of the room. Several common themes emerged from these comments. They include:

- Several locations need improved bike and pedestrian facilities. Attendees suggested additional separated bike and pedestrian facilities on Cherry Creek Trail including the area along 1st Avenue west of University and the entire east side of the corridor.
- Attendees identified several locations that are uncomfortable and feel unsafe for bikes and pedestrians. Attendees suggested improved connections between Cherry Creek Trail and adjacent roadways, pedestrian crossings along the corridor and along 1st Avenue west of Colorado Boulevard, pedestrian crossings along Colorado Boulevard, and along the entire east side of the corridor. Improved lightings/security on Cherry Creek Trail was suggested as well as both reduced speed limits (30 max) and increased speed limits along 1st Avenue to 35 MPH.
- Buses impede flow of autos because they stop in the traffic lane. Attendees suggested bus pull outs along the corridor and enhanced bus stops with better lighting.
- Several intersections need improvements to address volume of vehicles, pedestrian crossings, and difficult geometry; wayfinding should be improved for all modes.

Mobility Issues Exercise

Attendees were split into five groups to discuss their top mobility issues and concerns. Roll plot maps were provided for attendees to identify and provide more information on their top issues/concerns. The groups were asked to discuss their mobility issues and to write a newspaper headline about the corridor as it exists today:

- Group 1: "Surgery Needed on Main Artery in Denver"
- Group 2: "Pedestrian & Bicyclists Third Class Citizens on Speer-1st Leetsdale Corridor"
- Group 3: "Pedestrians Endangered Species on Cherry Creek Trail"
- Group 4: "Cherry Creek Inventor Creates Jet Pack for Shoppers"
- Group 5(a): "Emergency Delivery on Speer During Rush Hour"
- Group 5(b): "Pizza Delivery Banned in Cherry Creek – Can't Get it Hot!"

Vision/Aspiration Exercise

A vision/aspiration exercise followed the mobility issues exercise. Attendees were asked to individually identify and discuss their aspirations their top three aspirations with their group. These aspirations were used to create a second newspaper headline for the corridor as they would envision it 20 years from now:

Group 1 – *Aspirations:*

- a) Fewer vehicles
- b) more efficient public transit
- c) Speer-Leetsdale as a park with traffic underneath
- d) Street car

Group 1 – *Headline:* “DRCOG Gives Speer-Leetsdale a Clean Bill of Health”

Group 2 – *Aspirations:*

- a) Creating BRT quality service
- b) Ability to walk easily
- c) Mixed-use modes [seconded by another group]

Group 2 – *Headline 1:* “Leetsdale Car Museum Draws Thousands of Visitors Wondering Why People Lived Like That”

Headline 2: “Denver Becomes International Model for Multi-Modal Synergy as Two-Thirds of Households Give Up Cars”

Group 3 – *Aspirations:*

- a) Slow/steady traffic
- b) Electric vehicles – quieter/calmer

Group 3 – *Headline:* “You Can Hear the Birds”

Group 4 – *Aspirations:*

- a) Landscaping throughout corridor
- b) Rapid transit
- c) Better biking/walking → shared experience and safe

Group 4 – *Headline:* “Drones Now Delivering Pizza and Groceries in Cherry Creek”

Group 5 - *Aspirations:*

- d) Reduce thru-traffic
- e) Intelligent transport solutions

Group 5 – *Headline:* “Light Rail Line SL Opening Day”

What's Next

A public open house will be held on May 24th at Temple Emanuel from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. This will be an opportunity for the public to share their thoughts and ideas for future improvements along this corridor.