



Meeting: South Broadway, Arizona to Exposition & I-25 Interchange Open House No. 3
Location: Denver Design Center, Denver CO
Meeting Date: September 27, 2012
Prepared by: Nanci Regnier, Regnier & Associates, Inc
Attendees: Attendees List On File

MEETING MINUTES

PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE MEETING SUMMARY:

The South Broadway: Arizona to Exposition & I-25 Interchange Public Open House No. 3 was held on September 27, 2012 from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. at the Denver Design Center located at 595 S. Broadway Denver, CO in the East Building Conference Room. A total of 55 members of the community were in attendance.

The meeting was organized in an open house format with members from the City and County of Denver and the Design Team available to provide information on the design progress, upcoming construction, and project accomplishments to date and to answer questions. Attendees were provided the opportunity to have one-on-one conversations with Project Team members and discuss project related design questions.

Roll plots were exhibited on tables and display boards were placed throughout the room illustrating the overall project layout of segments 1 & 2, roadway typical sections, design and right-of-way features and remaining project elements of the reconstruction of South Broadway between Arizona and Exposition Avenues. Handouts and display boards also included schedule and funding information. Copies of all displays and handouts are attached to the end of this summary.

In addition, a 3D computer visual simulation was set up to illustrate a virtual tour of before and after scenarios showing the realignment and reconstruction of three of the I-25 interchange ramps and the extension of Exposition Avenue to provide a northern access into RTD's I-25 & Broadway Station

This same evening, the BMP Metro District and D4 Urban also hosted a public open house in a meeting room adjacent to the South Broadway Open House to discuss plans for development of the Alameda Station and the Dakota Outfall Project. Many of the attendees from the Alameda Station meeting also attended the South Broadway meeting.

WHAT WE HEARD

During the open house, the Project Team took note of common themes and concerns heard during their conversations with meeting attendees. Comments sheets were placed throughout the meeting room for the public's use in providing comments. Two formal comments were submitted during the meeting. As of the comment cutoff date of October 4, 2012, there were no additional comments received via mail or fax. Below is a summary of the common themes and concerns heard verbally and expressed through written comment form submissions.

Planning and Development:

Question: What changed from the NEPA process?

Answer: Overall the plans are very similar to the conceptual plans completed during the NEPA process; the current final design did widen the sidewalks from 8 feet (conceptual) to 10 feet wide on the east and west side of Broadway from Mississippi to Kentucky, and for the north side of Mississippi between Logan and the CML.

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Question: Medians seem to improve pedestrian access. Will there be medians in Broadway similar to the other South Broadway projects?

Answer: A raised median is included on Broadway for approximately one-half block between Arizona and Mississippi.

Question: What are the development plans for the area?

Answer: Currently the 1050 S. Broadway development is being constructed in the area bounded by Broadway, Lincoln, Mississippi and Tennessee.

Question: Why aren't the Gates buildings being preserved as historic structures?

Answer: Demolition is necessary to remove pollutants buried under the old plant buildings. There is also a desire by the neighborhood groups living near the building to see the buildings demolished.

Question: When will the Gates Buildings be taken down?

Answer: Demolition permits have been obtained from the City and County of Denver; it is unknown when Gates will demo the buildings.

Bicycle/Pedestrian:

Comment: In general attendees are happy with the widened sidewalks (or multi-use trails) and with the sidewalks being separated from the roadway by the amenity zone.

Question: What bicycle connections will be provided by this project?

Answer: Bicycle connections will be enhanced by this project by providing shared-use paths from Arizona to Kentucky on both the east and west side of Broadway; and on the north side of Mississippi between Lincoln and the CML.

Comment: Concerned with building "protrusions" on the Ford Building and the sidewalk abutting the building, as it has to do with obstacles for pedestrians and bicyclists.

Answer: The sidewalk in front of the Ford Building will be 10 feet wide; which will provide adequate room for pedestrians and bicyclists to maneuver around.

Traffic Control:

Comment: In general, attendees are happy with the improvements at Mississippi & Broadway – i.e. the additional turn lanes.

Comment/Question: Concerned that Ohio & Lincoln is very dangerous and feel a traffic signal is warranted now. Can a signal be installed at Ohio & Lincoln?

Answer: Ohio and Lincoln is outside the limits of the current final design. The issue has been referred to Traffic Engineering Services.

Comment/Question: Concerned that Ohio & Logan is already very dangerous and will only get worse during reconstruction of Broadway. What will be done to prevent increased danger?

Answer: Ohio and Logan are outside the project limits.

Neighborhoods:

Comment: RTD riders are parking in the area neighborhoods when the RTD park-n-Ride lots are full.

Schedule/Funding:

Comment: Great plans but concerned that the Ohio/Lincoln/I-25 improvements are too indefinite in terms of timing and funding.

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OUTREACH METHODS USED TO ENGAGE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

- May 2011 to Oct. 2012 – Periodic website updates. Since the last Open House held in May 2011, the project website, www.Sobroi25.com, has been periodically revised and updated to include the most current information and progress of ongoing work activities such as: design progress to date, project status updates, project accomplishments to date, project graphics, project overview and refinements, description of Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Funding, and right-of-way information, and development plans for 1050 S. Broadway Development Plan and Gates East 2-Site Transportation Plan.
- August 2012 Posted “Save the Date” on website for Open House to be held on September 27, 2012 at the Denver Design Center.
- Sept. 13, 2012 Emailed Open House meeting announcements (approx. 150 emails) to Councilman Chris Nevitt’s office, neighborhood and business organizations and members of the public added to email contact list from past property owner’s meetings, neighborhood, and public meetings.
- Sept. 10, 2012 Mailed postcard invite to nearly 3,325 property owners and residents within project area.
- Sept. 20, 2012 Distributed meeting flyers to the Denver Design District stores (50), recreation centers, three coffee shops (Starbucks, Buffalo Doughnut & Coffee Shop and Wash Perks), and the Wild Oats Grocery in the project area.
- Sept. 25, 2012 Posted Open House invitation to City of Denver Facebook and Twitter accounts.
- Sept. 27, 2012 Held Public Open House from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. at the Denver Design Center, 595 S. Broadway in the East Building conference room. A total of 55 members of the community were in attendance and two comment forms were submitted.
- Oct. 4, 2012 Updated project website to include Open House meeting materials including display boards, 3D virtual tour, handouts and meeting summary.