



Meeting Details

Meeting Name:	East Central Steering Committee
Date/Time:	Wednesday, August 16, 2017, 6-8 PM
Location:	Capitol Hill United Neighborhoods' Tears McFarlane House, 1290 Williams St.

Attendees

Steering Committee Members

Frank Locantore, Chair; Michelle Reichmuth; Trent Thompson; Heather O'Neil; Brad Cameron; Myles Tangalin; Caroline Schomp; Bob Hampe; Buzz Geller; Neil Goldblatt; Jimmy Balafas;

Non-member Technical Advisors

Brian Klipp

Denver Elected Officials

Wayne New

Denver Staff

Curt Upton; Scott Robinson; Jason Morrison; Ella Stueve; Elizabeth Weigle

Other Attendees

David Gaspers (CPD); Laura Brudzynski (OED); Kara Hahn (Landmark); Kelly Reed (Parks and Rec.),
Melissa Horn

Meeting Summary

1. **Welcome** - Curt Upton welcomed the steering committee members and walked the committee through the meeting agenda.
2. **Concurring Planning Efforts** – Various representatives from other departments within the City and County of Denver were asked to come speak about concurring planning efforts occurring throughout the City and specific to this planning area. The representatives spoke for roughly 5-10 minutes which was followed by a brief Q&A session with the steering committee.
 - Blueprint Denver (David Gaspers – CPD)
 - Question: How does this (Blueprint Denver) relate to the neighborhood planning process?
-Answer: Blueprint Denver will have a chapter devoted to small area plans.
Blueprint Denver sets the framework for the individual neighborhood plans.



- Question: What percent of the city is designated as an “area of change”? How successful has the directed growth strategy been?
-Answer: Roughly 18% of the city is designated as an “area of change”. An important part of the update is to broaden the definition of “change” and capture the general changes Denver is seeing. Overall, this strategy has been very successful with much more development being directed into these areas.
 - Question: Did Blueprint Denver say that we want change to occur “here”, or was it based on the change already occurring in the City?
-Answer: It is used to direct growth to those areas.
 - Denver Comprehensive Plan Update (Laura Brudzynski – OED)
 - Question: Is the focus more on new construction or existing uses? What about looking at zoning changes?
 - Answer: Thinking about the way we invest resources – new and used properties are being targeted. OED is thinking about how diversity relates to affordability and how the department can introduce a more diverse housing stock across the City (ADUs, more density along transit corridors, etc.).
 - Discover Denver (Kara Hahn – Landmark)
 - Question: Will Discover Denver be documenting Colfax Avenue?
-Answer: Discover Denver will be looking at parts of Colfax and will be expanding our efforts if there is additional funding.
 - Question: When will Discover Denver be finished with the documentation/inventory?
-Answer: This is entirely dependent on the funding and other resources.
 - City Park Master Plan Update (Kelly Reed – Parks and Rec.)
 - Question: Will there be specific recommendations for the two parks (City Park and Cheesman Park) in this area?
-Answer: Both parks will be examined with particular attention focused on the barriers to accessing the parks. Larger issues will be examined as well.
 - Question: How much input was put in about the goose poop?
-Answer: This topic has been taken into consideration and has been brought to our attention on numerous occasions.
3. **Feedback on Future Meeting Date/Time** – Curt Upton asked the steering committee for feedback on the current date/time of the east central steering committee meetings.
- Both South City Park and Congress Park have a current conflict with this meeting date.
 - The third Thursday of the month conflicts with CHUN Board Meetings.



- ***Second Wednesdays*** of the month will be reserved for future steering committee meetings – A Doodle Poll will be used to figure this out moving forward. September 13th is the next tentative meeting date for this group.
4. **Reactions to Data Presentation from the First Steering Committee Meeting** – Curt Upton asked the steering committee for feedback on the data presentation that was given at the previous steering committee meeting.
- The group wanted to know if there was a central depository for all the information that was presented at the previous meeting and the steering committee members were directed to the website where the information has since been posted.
 - The group thought it would be interesting to see where the affordable housing is located and when/if the funding will expire. The group was pointed to the website where the information (Powerpoint Presentation) has been posted.
 - The group wanted to know if they would be able to access this information during future meetings and, if there is a wireless connection, everyone should continue to have real-time access to this material.
 - The group agreed that an improved layout where the tables were arranged in a more circular fashion would help facilitate a better discussion as well as help everyone hear one another.
5. **Update on Responses to the Online Survey** – Scott Robinson gave a brief update on the status of the online survey which included the number of responses the survey has received to-date.
- Over 700 respondents and 1,200 individual locations have been placed on the map to-date
 - The team is questioning how long to keep the survey active and how many responses we are looking to receive. The group agreed that the diversity of the captive audience is more important than the sheer number of responses.
 - There was a suggestion to look for a percentage of the total population to achieve.
 - Some believed it was important to recognize that this survey will not be representative of the study area but only based on those that want to respond.
 - The group agreed that we should have a plan for how to deal with those that don't get a chance to give feedback.
 - Some members believe it will be helpful to announce a date that the survey will be shut-down.
 - Initial thought was to keep the survey running through September (September 30th)
6. **Targeted Community Engagement Activities and Discussion.** Curt Upton introduced two in-person engagement activities that will be used in the next few months. The activities are



designed to be used for several audiences, events and meetings, and the input will be compared with the online survey input. The committee participated in the activities and provided feedback

- **Keypad Polling** – Elizabeth Weigle led a brief polling activity which had the steering committee members answer some general questions about the planning area. The exercise will be used in conjunction with the mapping exercise at upcoming meetings, and the results will be tabulated and analyzed together with the Online Survey input.

- **Mapping Exercise** – Elizabeth Weigle, Scott Robinson and Curt Upton led a 20-minute mapping exercise which asked steering committee members to place a dot on areas that they considered to be: 1) likes, 2) dislikes, and 3) big ideas in the planning area. The dots were color-coded and a sticky note was provided to record and document the feedback. Each table (members were split into three tables with roughly 4-5 people) then reported out to the larger group.
 - Table 1 (Curt Upton)
 - Big ideas for this group included:
 1. Colfax Avenue and 17th Avenue were labeled as priorities.
 2. The group agreed that parks are a big draw in the area.
 3. Safety on Colfax was a concern as was making sure it continues to serve as a destination.
 4. The group agreed that sidewalks along parts of Colfax Avenue need to be larger and perhaps there is an option to do something with the on-street parking. Shared parking on Colfax Avenue was suggested so the area could achieve maximum density in the surrounding blocks.
 5. The group also believed that 17th Avenue is an important commercial area.
 6. Access to City Park is not safe nor is it easy.
 7. Cheesman Park was also recognized as an amenity.
 8. Finally, the group shared that connectivity can be improved in the area.

 - Table 2 (Elizabeth Weigle)
 - Big Ideas for this group included:
 1. The group saw great opportunity for transit changes along Colfax Avenue (in addition to BRT).
 2. The group believed that there should be a focus on the Park Avenue/Colfax Avenue intersection and that improvements should be made to safety and movement (pedestrian/bike/vehicle).
 3. The group shared concerns about the pedestrian crossings on 17th and 18th Avenues.
 4. The group would like to see a walk-in mental health center in the neighborhood.



5. The group envisioned a bike route on 16th Avenue and possible connection through the East High School Property.

- Table 3 (Scott)

- Big Ideas for this group included:

1. The group focused on Streets (one way- two way, 13th Avenue, 14th Avenue, 17th Avenue, and 18th Avenue and opportunities on Grant Street).
2. The group mentioned that there needs to be better ways to get around the planning area and not just a focus on busses/mass transit.



- **Intercept Exercise** – Scott Robinson introduced a 30-second exercise intended to be used at events. The exercise asks participants to choose three priority issues from a list of topics.

7. **Overall Feedback on Targeted Community Engagement Activities**

- A few members like the idea of being asked to fill out their thoughts before speaking. It was mentioned that peer opinions help morph individual feedback.
- Some members think that having a blow-up of study area as well as a blow-up of individual neighborhood would be beneficial because many residents only care about their neighborhood and have much to say about their neighborhoods. Everyone agreed that it's worth noting that this is wide-scale, however.



- “Neighborhood Assemblies” within CHUN would be a great opportunity to get this activity in front of a large group of individual. Similarly, feedback from students at East High School is important and presents a captive “audience”.
 - Other suggestions were: hospitals, major employment centers, Botanic Gardens, Cheesman Park
- A suggestion was made to create smaller versions of the mapping activity and have people “host” this activity on their own.
- A suggestion was made to add the topic of traffic congestion to the intercept exercise