



Meeting Details

Meeting Name:	East Steering Committee
Date/Time:	Thursday, September 28, 2017, 6-8 PM
Location:	Art Gym Denver, 1460 Leyden Street

Attendees

Steering Committee Members

Merritt Pullam, Chair; Laurie Bogue; Tom Fesing; Bridget Galati; Lyle Hansen; Marti Holmes; Ted Manley; Tom Meyer; Hilarie Portell; Wende Reoch

Denver Elected Officials & Staff

Councilman Christopher Herndon; Councilwoman Mary Beth Susman; Lucas Palmisano (Office of Councilwoman Susman)

Denver Staff

Ryan Billings; Jason Morrison; Curt Upton; Elizabeth Weigle

Meeting Summary

1. **Welcome** – Merritt Pullam welcomed the steering committee members and asked members and participants to introduce themselves.
2. **Approval of August 23 Meeting Summary** – Merritt Pullam asked whether there were any comments on the August 23 meeting summary. No comments were raised, and members approved the summary for posting on the website.
3. **Overview of Proposed Colfax Bus Rapid Transit Project (BRT)** – Ryan Billings, Department of Public Works, gave an overview of the project and answered questions from the steering committee and members of the public in attendance. Additional information and upcoming public engagement opportunities can be found on the project website at www.colfaxcorridorconnections.com. Questions and comments included:
 - Concerns about traffic impacts on adjacent neighborhood streets. Response: Modeling shows that there will be about a 30-40% reduction in vehicular capacity on Colfax. About a third of that will take a different trip outside the immediate neighborhood (e.g., take I-70 to downtown instead), a third will take the bus instead of their vehicle, and a third will divert to a parallel route. The Denver block grid offers many options for alternative



routes, but there will be some impact on adjacent streets. The project has funding to help mitigate these impacts.

- Impact of autonomous vehicles on transportation planning. Response: Autonomous vehicle development is in its infancy and could have a range of outcomes (e.g., reduced cost for transit operations, growth of shared vehicle services, etc.).
- Accommodations for delivery and emergency vehicles. Response: The proposed alternative would allow for emergency vehicles to use the bus lane. Delivery access will be studied further once the design progresses.
- Need pedestrian crossings in between stations. Response: Increased pedestrian crossings will be explored through the design process.
- Concern about loss of local stops and increased walking distance to BRT stops. Response: The stops shown are recommendations, and there may be more or different stops once the design is complete. However, if the stops are too close together, this will decrease the time savings that the BRT offers.
- Consider adding a stop at Syracuse.
- Encourage coordination with the steering committee members on outreach to immigrant and refugee population.
- Future input opportunities. Response: There is a task force meeting scheduled for October 5, and additional public engagement opportunities will be planned for November/December.

4. **Neighborhood Histories Discussion.** Curt Upton introduced the discussion of neighborhood histories. The plan will include brief history summaries for each neighborhood, and we are looking for the committee's direction before starting the research. In small groups, the steering committee members discussed what elements of the history are important to understand as part of the planning process. Ideas included:

- Demographic changes (Piton Foundation Shift Research Lab has neighborhood descriptions that could be a good start)
- Institutions (e.g., churches, hospitals, schools, military, airport, TB houses)
- Immigration patterns and causes for change
- Segregation, lending practices, integration of schools
- Rise and deterioration of East Colfax
- Early platting and development of residential neighborhoods (e.g., Baron Richthofen in Montclair)
- Early suburban settlement – driven by health, quality of life, and escape from City; flower/resort names for streets
- Earliest buildings – Richthofen Castle; Treat Hall at Johnson and Wales (originally opened by Baptist Church)



5. **Overview of Existing Adopted Plans and Studies.** Liz Weigle gave a brief overview of the previously adopted plans in the East Area, including East Montclair/East Colfax Neighborhood Plan, Park Hill Neighborhood Plan, Colorado Boulevard Health Care District, and East Colfax Corridor Plan. The Steering Committee will have an opportunity to consider the plans' previous recommendations in detail later in the planning process. Due to time constraints, the overview of previous studies was not provided at this meeting.

6. **Online Survey Update.** Liz Weigle gave an update on the East Area Plan Kick-Off Survey results to-date, with a focus on the demographics of participants as compared to residents of the East Area.

7. **Upcoming Engagement and Equitable Outreach Discussion.** Steering Committee members split into small groups to discuss strategies for engaging under-represented groups in the planning process. The under-represented groups, as highlighted in the online survey results, included renters, young people, low-income residents, people of color, and businesses/employees. Suggestions included:
 - Make the survey more cell-phone friendly (consider pushing the short intercept survey out through social media)
 - Advertise on social media and/or in neighborhood newsletters
 - Survey through Uber/Lyft
 - Survey riders on the 15/15L
 - Partner with Street Fraternity to survey neighborhood
 - Set-up a lunch time table at hospitals
 - Reach out to immigrant and refugee organizations and contacts
 - Reach out to apartment property management companies to share surveys with renters
 - Attend Halloween event in East Colfax

Prior to the next meeting, each steering committee member should send the project team at least one suggested organization or event for further outreach. The suggestion should include a contact person.