

East Area Plan

Steering Committee Meeting #19



Date and Time: Thursday, April 25, 2019, 6 – 8 p.m.
Location: Montclair Civic Center (The Molkery), 6829 E. 12th Avenue

Attendees

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Laurie Bogue; Mina Goldstein; Marti Holmes; Monica Martinez; Tracey MacDermott; Tom Meyer; Hilarie Portell

CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER STAFF

Liz Weigle; Curt Upton; Israel Cruz-Rubio; Gretchen Armijo

CONSULTANT TEAM

JJ Folsom; Brad Segal; Beth Vogelsang; Cheney Bostic; Fernando Abbud

Meeting Summary

1. WELCOME

Curt Upton welcomed the steering committee members and walked the committee through the meeting agenda.

2. APPROVAL OF MARCH MEETING MINUTES

The committee had no comments on the March meeting summary and voted to approve it for posting on the website.

3. REVIEW REMAINING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

JJ Folsom described the upcoming community engagement activities, including the community workshop in May, RNO meetings, and the remaining steering committee meetings.

4. FOCUS GROUP SUMMARY & PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATIONS

JJ Folsom introduced team members to provide a summary of the April focus group meetings and introduce preliminary recommendations. Three questions of focus for the committee were: 1) disagreement with any of these recommendations; 2) what recommendations are missing; and 3) how we should prioritize recommendations.

Beth Vogelsang walked through the green infrastructure summary and preliminary recommendations. The committee was generally supportive of the recommendations. One member expressed concern with the Hale Parkway concept, particularly the removal of existing mature trees. Members discussed what could be done to encourage more tree preservation, including relocation of existing trees if possible. Members also emphasized that trees should be provided in the Colfax streetscape, a community/recreation space is a priority in East Colfax, and the crossing at 12th and Quebec is critical to considerations for improvements along 12th Avenue.

JJ Folsom walked through the preliminary recommendations for mobility, and the committee was supportive of the recommendations. The committee discussed the importance of recommendations that support the GO Bond safety and intersection improvements, a BRT stop at Colfax and Yosemite, and traffic calming on streets one block off of major corridors such as Colorado to deter cut-through traffic.

Brad Segal walked through the preliminary recommendations for economy and housing. The committee was supportive of the recommendations. They discussed including other recommendations to increase healthy food access besides incentivizing grocery stores, such as increased support for existing markets, and considering the progression of community gardens to market. One member also suggested that the plan should include recommendations about the use of Opportunity Zones to help accomplish community goals.

Cheney Bostic then walked through the land use and built form preliminary recommendations. Again, the committee was supportive of the recommendations. The committee pointed out that parking maximums recommendation would also benefit small business along Colfax by allowing expansion without having to provide parking. The committee also discussed that the recommendation about deconstruction aligns well with the recommendation to help preserve existing trees within private property. The committee suggested considering a cultural district for the East Colfax Neighborhood and mentioned Thai Town in East Hollywood as an example.