

West Area Plan Steering Committee Meeting #9



Date and Time: May 22, 2020

Location: Virtual Meeting, Microsoft Teams

Attendees

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS (PRESENT)

Brien Darby	Dannie Dilonno
Dan Shah	
Maureen McCanna	Adriana Pena
Kaye Kavanagh	Korey Whitaker
Jeanne Granville	Jaime Aguilar
Sean Brady	

ELECTED OFFICIALS/COUNCIL DISTRICT AIDES

Councilwoman Amanda Sandoval, District 1	Melissa Mejia, District 3
Daisy Rocha Vasquez, District 3	Anita Banuelos, District 7
Ben Chavez, District 3	

COMMUNITY PLANNING PROJECT TEAM

Eugene Howard	Beth Vogelsang, OV
Valerie Herrera	Fernando Abbud, OV
Becca Dierschow	Anne Kuechenmeister, MBI
Sung Han	Zack Wallace Mendez, DOTI
Sayre Brennan	Ana Claudia Magalhaes, DPR
	Megan Miles DHA

Meeting Summary

1. WELCOME

Eugene opened the meeting at 6:04 PM

2. AGENDA FOR THE EVENING

- Where are we today? Impact of Covid and the Plan schedule
- Project Schedule / what has the team been working on?
- Public Meeting #3 - Town Hall Modules

1. Where are we today?

Dannie with Valverde - Valverde is hosting pop up masks tents and putting up yard signs that say, 'Valverde Strong'. There are more people walking, which leads to a larger sense of community.

Question: Covid is impacting the neighborhood - what can the plan do?

Response: The plan will work to balance Immediate impacts vs long term strategic vision.

For instance, this could immediately impact our economic analysis and may have a strategic vision for recovery.

2. Project Schedule and Overview:

The plan is moving into the second phase in May.

January through April have been about studying and exploring the planning area and the different topics that will make up the plan (land use, mobility, quality of life).

May through September will be spent with the steering committee and agency partners exploring and studying different ideas and diving into the focus topics, based on what we've learned through compiling our work from January through April. Will work our way toward identifying areas of opportunity (and alternatives) and draft recommendations by the end of the summer.

3. Public Meeting / Town Hall preview

To kick off this second phase, the project team has put together a Virtual Town Hall for the scheduled Public Meeting #3.

(Eugene noted that while the team was focused on making it virtually accessible, we would also be making physical copies and PDF versions of the workshop modules for those with limited or no computer access).

Virtual Town Hall Workshop Website:

- Overview of the planning process to date.
- Existing conditions, recap of what's happened so far.

Workshop Modules:

1. Land Use
2. Mobility
3. Quality of Life
4. Economy

Module Structure:

- What we've heard and learned over the last 8 months.
- How those ideas relate to city wide goals (Blueprint Denver, Comp Plan 2040).
- Maps to identify where projects / goals listed above might be enacted.
- Questions about specific projects/ goals.

Modules are still at a high level and will lead into specifics but aimed at confirming guiding ideas and principles previously identified by the public at meetings #1 and #2.

Question: Will the landing page be translated?

Response: Yes. Google translate will be used - it is embedded into all the city websites. Will be at least Spanish and Vietnamese. Will be quality checked by native speakers prior to launch.

Example Land Use Module:

What have we learned:

About where to grow: along corridors

About where to adapt: industrial areas

About where to expand: more housing options

About where to nurture: commercial nodes

About where to preserve: residential neighborhoods and character

Question: How will the above principles and modules translate into our next steps?

Response: If the neighbors confirm that we've hit upon the right track, we can develop / flesh out targeted strategies/projects for the areas. If we are not on the right track, we will tweak the principles until we are on the right track.

Question: Where does gentrification tie in/how will it be addressed?

Response: The guiding principles and values are decided by the neighborhood, and will translate into tangible goals. So, if creating the ability for neighbors to stay in their homes is a guiding value of the plan, the plan can create policies to achieve that goal, such as Incentives for affordability, compatibility of new development.

Question: Can Conservation/design overlays be a part of that?

Response: Potentially, but not normally used to preserve affordability - overlays are generally used for design features but can definitely be on the table - everything is on the table.

Example Land Use Map Comments:

Many of the steering committee members felt like this map needed some serious re study. Concerns included the definition of “neighborhood development area” vs “neighborhood preservation area”, how these maps may open neighborhoods like Villa Park to gentrification etc. Seems like the map isn’t aligned with the guiding principles from the previous slides.

Example Mobility Map:

The committee had a few areas where they would add areas of opportunity - identifying an area to cross 6th near Barnum / Valverde

Example Economy Map:

Answered some of the questions the committee had about the land use map. Identified 1st Avenue as a potential transformative project

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OTHER BUSINESS

Schedule

May - refine modules

June - begin to layer topics together, identify key areas of opportunity

July - add in details

August - craft alternatives/ ideas

September - draft recommendations with steering committee

Outreach & Engagement

Eugene emphasized the need to work together to identify neighborhood groups that were meeting again or doing online meetings, so that the project team can continue outreach efforts.

Jaime pointed out that committee members need help from the city to reach out to these groups - we don’t have those personal connections right now, need tech help (zoom meetings over forty minutes for example). Need the city to step up on outreach.

[END OF MEETING]