

Questions & Comments from I-70 Elyria Neighborhood Outreach Meeting
9.18.2011

(Purpose of note taking was to capture the sentiment and questions in the room as well as make sure we answered the questions from the citizens. In addition, to share with residents/community who took part in the meeting).

There was a full PowerPoint presentation and boards which are available on the website
www.denvergov.org/ccd170.

1. How are students going to learn?
2. Civil rights of residents are not being taken into account.
3. Why building new school w 1/6th less students – Single Family? Affordable housing?
4. Are John Lucero or Mayor Hancock in favor of affordable housing
 - a. Yes, City is committed to preserve affordable housing
5. Interest in neighborhood will change.
6. School and environmental justice? –
 - a. About the noise- there is discussion with DPS
 - b. Safety walls
7. Air pollution? Air quality?
 - a. Technology used to address local improvements – creating vehicles that emit fewer pollutants,; CDOT and FHWA will analyze air quality impacts in the FEIS.
8. Health risk assessment?
 - a. DPS – Conducts due diligence to locate schools- very walkable school- a school in this area is needed in walkable distance from the current school location – due diligence work includes an environmental assessment
9. Any representation here from DPS ?
 - a. No, however Mayor Vidal met with DPS to assess their level of interest in working together and DPS provided a Letter of commitment
 - b.
 - c. Final meeting and decision making will happen in January 2012, [since this meeting the timeline has changed to spring of 2012]
10. What will happen to 48th?
11. The City is working with CDOT to design and build a grade separation of the railroad at either 47th or 48th
12. What will happen to us when we have to move and start all over again? / Why are we here just talking about buildings?
 - a. Cost of the highway project includes appraisal, purchase of house, pay of move, will help in finding home, will help find affordable housing, will help with rent for those who cannot afford it. CDOT is committed to making property owners “whole” to compensate for any differential between their current home or rental value and that of a new home or rental unit.
13. Who will lose housing to the south?
 - a. Only the north alignment is on the table tonight.
 - b. South – approximately 63 homes will be lost according to DEIS.

- c. North – approximately 78 homes will be lost according to DEIS.
14. Is the neighborhood being asked to come to consensus or the funding opportunities go away \$\$ moves out of here?
- a. CDOT hopes to see if we can get a decision that feels right or the opportunity for the PACT and City to make a decision is over and CDOT would make a decision on the alignment based on input provided throughout the process and any additional neighborhood feedback. Having a neighborhood supported decision in place can help in the process of securing funding for the project.
15. Will we be doing this again in 60 years?
- a. After assessing options, business and downtown access are needed – solution = rebuilding viaduct and retaining a connection with 46th is best to maintain neighborhood connectivity, and will be built to for a one hundred year lifespan.
16. PACT has heard this –the highway (viaduct) had to be widened – Bottle neck at mousetrap?
- a. Tonight the purpose is to see if we can get the PACT team back on Northern shift, and not on the interchange with I-25
17. Can you (CDOT) build 2:1 houses for every house taken down? Can we go back o light industrial or Get grocery store in the neighborhood? Let’s play ball...
18. We only have 2 streets to the highway from here –
- a. CDOT is committed to keeping 46th Avenue and helping us through this. We looked at North and South and put them side by side. We have looked at impact on jobs both North and South.
19. Drop of housing values and increase in foreclosures – where will those people go?
- a. The houses will be appraised at time of project. That is 5 years from now. Residents will be helped in finding housing. You will have helped with finding same mortgage payments even if we find you a house with larger square footage or if the mortgage is higher.
20. The tunnel was never studied??? – WHY?
- a. The option was analyzed and eliminated <http://www.i-70east.com/alternatives.html>.
21. It is hard to wait and invest while we wait – Can we take a step back and hold off on this project or see promises made/enacted prior to this project.
22. For those of us who will stay here, what help will there be?
- a. CDOT is committed to continuing supporting the communities and the people who are staying here
23. This neighborhood was split in the 1950’s. We do not even have curbs and gutters in this neighborhood. We need basic services! I cannot support the northern alignment - The loss for us – for us people is very large! What will you do? We will loose more of a population base which will in turn gives us less tax money,
- a. How we attract more jobs and support residents
 - b. Directly connected to transportation hubs then to Elyria/Swansea community plan

24. Mousetrap bottleneck?

- a. Focus of improvement from Brighton to Tower
- b. We need to replace the old viaduct and add improvements while we're at it; instead of leaving the capacity the same as it is today.

Other neighborhood issues presented by Elyria residents through Spanish translator:

- No sidewalks
- Improper drainage
- Dirty alleys and large item clusters
- Not enough trees
- Too many medical marijuana stores