

## I-70 Shift – School & Recreational Center Focus Group

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January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2011 meeting

This was the second meeting of the school/rec center focus group. Our goal was to discuss issues and concerns from a big-picture perspective. Below is a brief summary of the conversation.

- I. Introductions and greetings
- II. Charbonneau reviewed the key points from the last school/rec focus group
  - a. Proximity to RR issues
  - b. Access within neighborhood (walkability and bikeability)
  - c. Space availability on the present Swansea Rec Center lot, should this be the location for a new school
  - d. Timing and quality of new school construction
  - e. Functionality of new school
- III. We discussed solutions to these concerns and more
  - a. Proximity to RR issues
    - i. We discussed and agreed that some type of berm and/or barrier will be necessary for noise and environmental issues
  - b. Access within neighborhood (walkability and bikeability)
    - i. A grade separation at either 47<sup>th</sup> or 48<sup>th</sup> will resolve some of the walkability and bikeability issues, as well as the RR crossing horn issue.
    - ii. Lighting within the neighborhood will need to be improved so children are safe to walk and bike.
  - c. Space availability on the present Swansea Rec Center lot, should this be the location for a new school?
    - i. It should be noted that a decision on the location of a new school has not been made.
    - ii. However, a most likely site is the Swansea Rec Center lot.
    - iii. There is room at this site for a school and a new improved/larger Rec Center.
    - iv. There was some concern expressed that currently some students catch a transfer bus out of the neighborhood to Bruce Randolph. It will be important to ensure these bus connections are still workable with any changes which are made to the location of the school. Trena from DPS mentioned that DPS would evaluate school bus connections should the school be relocated
  - d. School / Rec Center combination
    - i. Dody shared materials and presented information on the Omar Blair School / Green Valley Recreation Center and how the two functioned well in tandem.
    - ii. There were questions about timing and use.
    - iii. There were questions and discussion about the safety of children with a school/recreational center combination. How can we guarantee the safety of the children when the two are together?
    - iv. There was discussion about how these neighborhoods differed from Green Valley neighborhood.
    - v. Is it possible to have two separate gyms, one for the rec center and one for the school?
    - vi. We agreed that the decision to build a school/rec center combination did not need to be determined before CDOT's decision regarding the shift.

- vii. We agreed that the neighborhood needs a rec center and that this rec center should be run and managed by the City and that use rates must be affordable for adults and children from the neighborhood.
    - e. Timing and quality of new school construction
      - i. We discussed the importance of having a school within the neighborhood. DPS has provided a letter and numerous assurances that they will maintain an elementary school within the neighborhood.
      - ii. We also discussed and DPS' representative assured the group that DPS will build any new school to standards for all newly built schools within the City.
      - iii. Also, a new school will be built and moved into before any construction impacts the present school
    - f. There was also some discussion and concern for the money which was being spent to repair the present park space. We briefly discussed that any significant construction is 5-7 years away and the park needs immediate repair.
- IV. Next meeting of the four combined focus groups will be February 9<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 – 7:00 at the Swansea Recreational Center.