



**Community Working Group Meeting # 1
September 14, 2017
St. Luke's Episcopal Church
4:00-6:00pm**

Meeting Purpose

Establish roles and responsibilities of the Working Group and gain a common project understanding of past, current and future efforts.

Welcome

Angela Jo Woolcott welcomed meeting attendees and explained how the Community Working Group (CWG) will provide input over the course of the next 12-18 months on behalf of the broader community and how that input will help shape and inform the Quebec Street Multimodal Improvement Project process. Angela then reviewed the agenda and facilitated a quick activity for CWG members to break into pairs of two in order to learn more about one another and introduce them to the rest of the group.

Role and Responsibility of the Community Working Group

After group introductions, Angela Jo Woolcott further discussed the role of the CWG and how it is critical to the success of the project. The CWG is comprised of stakeholders from neighborhood organizations, businesses and civic interests in the project area to represent the diverse interests of the adjacent community. The CWG is one of the best resources to engage with the broader community and ensure the project team is collecting input as well as disseminating timely project updates along the way. The goal is to convene the group at key times over the lifespan of the project.

Members of the CWG have been asked to participate as representatives of their community (not of their own personal interests), to be collaborative partners to help work toward the project's purpose and need, to stay focused on the task at hand, to help distribute factual updates to their constituents and to encourage other community members to attend Open House meetings and/or sign-up for project updates. Additionally, members of the CWG are the eyes and ears of the project and will help raise concerns in advance of them becoming an insurmountable issue.

Project Overview

Jane Board, Project Manager with the City and County of Denver (CCD), provided a project overview with details on the previous studies leading up to this point which included the following studies:

- 2008 Citywide Transportation Plan
- 2010 East Side Mobility Study
- 2015 Quebec Alternatives Analysis (AA)
- Today - Quebec Street Multimodal Improvement Project between East 13th and East 26th Avenue

The next project step is to evaluate multimodal design options for the Quebec corridor through the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. An Environmental Assessment (EA) is now underway to conduct this evaluation and to select the best combination of multimodal options.

Jane spent some time reviewing the Proposed Action that came out of the AA, which consists of the following main elements:

- A consistent four-lane roadway with additional turn lanes where needed
- Improved intersection operations
- New continuous sidewalks
- Improved bus stops
- Consistency with other CCD projects, including Colfax BRT

As part of the current review process Jane explained how the proposed action will be screened against the Existing and Future (2040) No-Action conditions on Quebec Street between East 13th and East 26th Avenue and against the project purpose and need to improve mobility and safety, reduce congestion and enhance multimodal connectivity along the project corridor.

After reviewing the project history, workgroup members were asked if they had any questions. Below is a re-cap of some of the key themes that emerged:

Needs

- Improvements have long been needed to address mobility and safety concerns
- Cut-through traffic in adjacent neighborhoods is an ongoing problem

Safety

- Slower speeds are actually good in terms of pedestrian safety
- Focus on managing speeds in addition to reducing congestion

Project Boundaries

- Questions emerged about why the project only includes East 13th to East 26th (and doesn't extend south to East 6th Avenue). CCD explained that due to limited funding they will be looking at phased improvements, and that analysis showed the greatest benefit would result from starting with East 13th to East 26th.

Exploring Alternative Options and Transit

- CWG members inquired about options beyond a 4-lane roadway in the proposed action. The project team explained the variables that are part of the consideration, including sidewalks, transit, intersections and an alignment shift are proving to be challenging given the limited real estate but will continue to explore options over the next several months.
- The workgroup wanted to make sure CCD is focused on moving people and wanted special attention to be placed on transit, encouraging BRT, and increased RTD ridership.

Property Impacts

- Given the confined space of the corridor there were concerns and questions regarding potential property impacts and the city-owned Right Of Way (ROW) for those living directly on the corridor. The project team assured attendees that CCD is doing everything possible, if this study results in a proposed action that adds additional lanes and features, to limit property impacts. CCD also stated that they are working closely with CCD Real Estate and Right of Way divisions and will closely follow the federal Uniform Relocation Act to fairly compensate property owners in the future if impacts are determined unavoidable.

Current Conditions

Randal Lapsley provided a procedural update on the recent results from survey work and transportation data analysis completed in the project area. In addition, Randal reviewed traffic models, crash history, noise levels, drainage studies, and historical structure data collection that is currently underway. He explained that he thought the best way to review the Right of Way (ROW) results from the survey was to break into small groups and look at the boundaries on roll plot maps that the team brought with.

Break-Out Sessions

CWG members split into two groups to further review the project ROW maps. The groups then self-selected a representative to report out and share with the Project Management Team their concerns and brainstorming ideas after reviewing the provided Right of Way roll plot maps. Both groups noted the commonalities between the two discussions; the following thoughts were shared:

Group # 1 Report-Out

- What will this project mean for Colfax BRT?
- Create opportunities where ROW is wider
- Consider north and south connectivity
- Discussed the easement Paddington Station has with CCD
- Historical spaces and sensitivities
- Consider BRT lane on Quebec - allows flexibility for Dynamic Transit Plan
- Don't overlook multi-use lanes
- Review speed data during off-peak times
- Noise ordinance should not be overlooked as the road encroaches on home owners
- Land use questions
- Acquisition along the corridor—property values and impact
- Length of future turn-lanes
- Sidestreet traffic is heavy

- Lack of parking in certain areas along the corridor
- What are basic roadway standards/measurements

Group # 2 Report-Out

- What is feasible in existing Right of Way (ROW)?
- Asked if project will be designed to the minimums
- Wanted to know number of feet required for four lanes and compliant sidewalks
- Look beyond just roadway or the project will not be considered a success
- Be aware of safety features around the Senior Center on East 26th
- Consider BRT on Quebec during peak periods of travel to complement Colfax BRT
- The project team should consider bus turnouts to keep general purpose lanes moving
- Affordability and Transit Oriented Developments (TODS) should be encouraged
- Transit connectivity and inclusiveness for all demographics
- Important to balance the different needs of the community
- Important to show the relationship of the Quebec project to the Syracuse Bicycle Facility Study

Meeting Closing and Next Steps

After the breakout session discussion was finished, Angela Jo Woolcott reviewed next steps and previewed known upcoming meeting dates. She then highlighted the best ways to engage with the project team as well as inquired into the best way to stay connected to the workgroup between meetings and preferred times to meet going forward. There was consensus from the group that the current meeting time and location was preferred. She encouraged CWG members to help promote the upcoming September 27th Open House, and inquired about the level of interest from attendees in having the project team present at future Registered Neighborhood Organization (RNO) meetings. The group indicated that they would like to see the project team provide an update at neighborhood meetings before the second Open House. Angela thanked the CWG for their commitment to participate at future meetings and the valuable input they provided on behalf of the broader community. Before adjourning Angela got approval from all attendees that they would allow their information to be posted to the project website as an active member of the workgroup.

Meeting Attendees

CWG Members:

DPD - District 2
Denver Public Schools - DSA
East Colfax Neighborhood Association
Fax Partnership
Foundation for Sustainable Urban Communities
Historic Montclair Community Association Greater Park Hill Community, Inc.
Northeast Transportation Connections
Paddington Station Preschool
Property Owner
Property Owner
Property Owner
Stapleton United Neighbors
WalkDenver

Project Team:

Angela Jo Woolcott	(GBSM)
Sheryl Machado	(GBSM)
Gia Tammone	(GBSM)
Jackson Davis	(GBSM)
Brian Pinkerton	(CCD)
Jane Board	(CCD)
Jess Ortiz	(CCD)
Angela Casias	(CCD)
Randal Lapsley	(TSH)