With an overall goal of fostering a meaningful dialogue with Cole community members, the Platte to Park Hill: Stormwater Systems team, in partnership with Councilman Albus Brooks, held a Cole-specific, bilingual community meeting on Thursday, December 17, 2015 at Jake’s Food and Drink. More than 70 community members attended the meeting, which provided a high-level project overview, an in-depth review of the draft alternatives, followed by a Q&A session with the project team and Councilman Brooks.

Comment forms were distributed during the meeting of which 11 attendees elected to fill them out. This document provides an overall summary of feedback collected through those forms as well as the general group Q&A at the end of the meeting.

Meeting Overview and Agenda

- Councilman Albus Brooks (City Council District 9) opened the meeting and provided an overview of the project need with particular attention to the regional perspective.
- Angela Woolcott (GBSM) described the outreach process to date and the purpose of the meeting.
- Jennifer Hillhouse (City and County of Denver) presented the project overview, including history of flooding in the area. She reiterated the need for the project and also emphasized that the project is still in the conceptual design phase, with much more work to be done.
- Meredith Wenskoski (Design Workshop) then provided a detailed look at the two alternatives including detention in the Cole Neighborhood and detention in City Park Golf Course.
- Once the formal presentation concluded, the meeting moved into Q&A.

Input Received

The bullets below summarize the collective input gathered at the meeting during both the group Q&A session and through comment forms submitted.

Overarching Themes:

- **Project Communication** – Attendees were concerned that there was not sufficient prior communication about various community meetings.
  - Some felt alternative methods of communication should be utilized in order to inform residents about upcoming meetings. This included phone and direct USPS mail in addition to the flyers and emails already being utilized.
  - A few mentioned a desire to receive meeting notices further in advance for planning purposes.

- **Cole Neighborhood Detention and Property Acquisition** – Community members were concerned with the amount of potential residential impacts depicted by the Cole detention alternative as well as the timeline for acquisition.
• Many had been under the impression that acquisition would be done by the end of 2015 and as such had several questions re: timeline and notice.
  o Some attendees were curious about their legal rights during an acquisition process.
  o Attendees also requested complete transparency when dealing with acquisition issues.

• City Park Golf Course Detention – Cole residents expressed a strong preference for the alternative that would put detention in City Park Golf Course.
  o Many felt the protection of historic homes in the Cole neighborhood was a higher priority than an impacted tree canopy in the City Park Golf Course.

• Community Demographics – Several community members expressed concern that the project was targeting the Cole neighborhood because of its ethnic diversity and lower socio-economic residents.
  o Residents were curious as to what additional resources would be made available to them in the event of acquisition given the aforementioned demographics.
  o Many were adamant that the neighborhood’s diversity need be preserved.

• Environmental Concerns – Attendees were interested in how EPA standards would be addressed during the project.
  o Residents stated water quality and water treatment as important components of the project.
  o A few mentioned a desire to learn more about soil displacement and quality.

• Alternative Development – Community members were curious if all possible solutions had been vetted before narrowing to the two known alternatives.
  o Some expressed a desire for greater detail re: technical aspects of the project to provide context on the current level of conceptual design.
  o A few wondered how the Coca-Cola property could be utilized as well as what opportunities existed with Bruce Randolph School, Market Lead or City-owned parcels.
  o Meeting attendees expressed lack of support for the Open Channel if it meant the acquisition of any residential properties.

• Lack of Trust – Several community members expressed concern that trust with the City has deteriorated in recent years with all of the active development in the area.
  o People spoke of a general wariness anytime they hear about a new project.
  o Residents wanted to know who all is considered an active project partner (e.g., private developers vs agencies).

• Partnership – Attendees believed a true partnership with the City was highly important to the success of the project.
  o Residents have strong preference for increased involvement in the project going forward.
- Cole Neighborhood Association representatives committed to improved engagement with the project team.

**Meeting Conclusion and Next Steps**

Following the Q&A, Councilman Brooks thanked attendees and encouraged them to stay proactively engaged with projects in North Denver and not only when there is an issue in their backyard. The team committed to providing additional forms of communication about the project going forward and to continue coordinating closely with RNO leadership.