

Denver Moves: Pedestrian and Trails Task Force Meeting 3 Notes

November 16, 2016 9:00-11:00 am

Public Comment

- Meeting not on the Denverright calendar- please add future Task Force meetings to calendar

October 4-5th Outreach

- The two days of meetings were a major success
 - High attendance
 - High level of engagement and interaction
- The same information and exercises are online for those who were unable to make it
- Values reflect a more European angle that people want to reach destinations (eg grocery stores), not just walking for recreation
- This input will be really helpful in informing the project recommendations and priorities
- Now beginning more focused outreach to specific groups
- Activities (all replicated online):
 - Top 5 words to come up with walkable Denver and world-class trail network
 - Key destination identification
 - Goal voting
 - Map exercise- 858 sticker input
 - Visual preference survey
- Will report back on the results merged with online survey
 - Will become an appendix in the document
 - Will send out before next Task Force meeting
- Paul Aldretti:
 - the attendees at the meeting didn't accurately reflect who lives in those neighborhoods
 - We need to go to the community instead of expecting them to come to us
 - Partner with neighborhood organizations to reach a broader sample of residents
- Stuart Anderson:
 - For Colorado Station Plan, going to every neighborhood meeting
- Councilwoman Kendra Black:
 - Will send notes from other meetings she went to to Jay and David, we will look into combining with our outreach input
 - Outcome from this meeting: SE Denver values biking and walking- they value these facilities
 - Marginalized by arterials
 - 1,500 survey responses
- Results from the outreach:
 - Top 5 words
 - Pedestrian- balance of some top words
 - Trail- 'Safe' was an overwhelming response
 - from users
 - Cherry Creek at 1st is too narrow

- There are stairs at Restoration Hardware at Cherry Creek that is still coded as a trail
 - Mostly about personal safety
 - The physical design of grade separated makes trails less safe
 - Maintenance
 - Rosemary: surveys she's done in the past revealed that people didn't feel safe biking/walking, interpreted as personal safety/crime
 - Different for a pedestrian than bicyclists, more vulnerable as a pedestrian
- Goal voting
 - Pedestrian: safety, connectivity, Public transit access
 - Trail: connectivity, transportation, destination access
 - Urban trail system meeting a utilitarian trail network
- Key destinations
 - 1. Grocery store 2. Public transit stations 3. Parks/work
 - Look at combining retail and grocery store
- Map results
 - Need to make sure were getting thorough coverage- informs where we need to do additional outreach
 - Will combine with online outreach and distribute map
- Hard to reach communities
 - Responding to the communities that we went able to reach
 - Monolingual Spanish community in Montbello
 - BeWell Training- NE representation
 - Asian Pacific Development Center- Vietnamese and Cambodian communities in SW Denver
 - Bridge Project- outreach to children
 - Other ideas
 - St Francis- homeless
 - Auraria campus
 - Station area studies- have relevant information that could be applied
 - DRCOG TOD study results
 - Outreach to transit passengers
 - Could distribute through drivers
 - Work with Denver Moves: Transit and RTD
 - Accessing both the existing and future system
 - High school students
 - With choice school system, many students travel far- multiple buses and walking
 - Meetings at high schools to talk about how they get to school
 - ESL students
 - Higher quality and volume feedback than Bridge program
 - Set up a table and catch students
 - Contact DPS to see what we can piggy back on
 - African Community Center
 - Denver Indian Center

- Servicios de la Casa
- RTD transit stations
- Make really easy, quick survey
- Utilize Task Force members to help with outreach
- Identify what the existing networks are
- INC delegates meeting
 - Would capture a lot of people and delegates
- Bond meetings
- TMA's
 - Make it easy for them to help engage
- Walk2Connect
- Task Force response to outreach results
 - People want to walk to destinations, but in large part the barrier is land use and the distance between destinations
 - Stuart Anderson:
 - We need to think of working towards a complete network, trails and walkways just end without telling you how to pick them back up
 - Councilman Kashman
 - We need to change policy to prioritize ped/bike mobility
 - ACS data measures commute to work, but that's not necessarily what people want to bike/walk to
 - Look at how walking and transit are combined
 - Need to be a conversation between RTD and the City to safely distribute riders
 - Think about users who don't have an opportunity to have transportation options
 - That's where equity comes in
 - Most vulnerable populations are those of need and should be considered
 - There may be a lack of outreach from SE Denver because there were meetings the week prior
 - Consider adding the output from that meeting to our maps
 - The responses on the map show who was able to attend the meetings

Summary of Existing Conditions

- Want to first hear from the majority of the community before going in to depth
- Ultimate goal is to establish priorities, based on community values, data, what were designing to, a complete network
 - Once we understand priority project, can compare the performance measures for different scenarios and see how that moves the performance measures and results
- Existing conditions outline
 - Pedestrians
 - Deficiency- how the existing pedestrian network compares to the City standard
 - WalkSCOPE- perception of quality
 - Demand- land use indicators and density of population and jobs
 - Walksheds and Gaps
 - Crossings of barriers

- Gaps to key destinations
 - Safety
 - Working with Vision Zero to look at ped network in areas of safety concern
 - Equity
 - Pedestrian network completion- Areas of low income
 - Health
 - Working with Department of Environmental Health- using Health Index
- Trails
 - Deficiency- how the existing trail standards vary from City standards
 - Walksheds and gaps
 - Connections to trails
 - Where trails cross a roadway
 - Gaps to destinations
 - Route directness to key destinations
 - Equity- low income neighborhoods served by trails and facilities to get to trails
 - Health- low health index areas served by trails and facilities to get to trails
 - New Trails- drainage, utility corridors to serve
- Task Force response (pedestrian):
 - Charlie: do these metrics cover all of the important things, are we missing any measures?
 - Paul Aldretti: want to know data sources and methodologies
 - He has a study happening at the same time that we could link in
 - Stuart Anderson:
 - Want to do sidewalk inventory in Cherry Creek but was told not to
 - David: we don't have sidewalk conditions
 - If we know of the deficiency, we need to enforce property owners, otherwise the City is liable
 - Should also add schools to the destination, even though it didn't pop up in the outreach
 - Work with Safe Routes to School
 - Look at current neighborhood plans and use that information
 - Lack of data is an important piece of data
 - Consider Senior Centers and pedestrian infrastructure around Senior Centers
 - New developments are putting in Hollywood curb narrow sidewalks
- Task Force response (pedestrian):
 - Look in to getting data for crime on trails- based on outreach
- Policy, Practice and Program Benchmarking
 - Inventorying of policies- met with senior staff to confirm comprehensive
 - We came up with the template from the California Office of Traffic Safety, national best practice
 - Categorized as opportunity, enhancement or key strength
 - Key strength- above state of practice
 - Enhancement- meeting state of the practice
 - Opportunities- not meeting the state of the practice

- Will use this to formulate an action plan
- Feedback: benchmarking feedback or anything we missed
- Task Force feedback:
 - Can you put together glossary of terms- City intern is putting together glossary of terms
 - Missing- TDM ordinance of new development
 - We're missing a funding opportunity
 - Look at travel performance of intended users and make sure connections are there
 - The City not DRCOG hired a TDM coordinator- Carly to correct
- Typologies
 - See presentation for current roadways design standards
 - What variables should influence how pedestrian network changes
 - Buffer- landscape or amenity zone between the sidewalk and the street
 - Where should we test the typology:
 - University when you approach Bonnie Brae (E Ohio Ave)
 - Quebec/170
 - Yale/Evans
 - Mansfield/Southmoor Park
 - 32nd /Zuni
 - Hampden at light rail stations
 - Leetsdale
 - East Evans and South University
 - Walnut Street in RiNo
 - Locations along A line (significant barriers)- 38th and Blake
 - South Steele Street from Mississippi to Mexico goes past 3 schools
 - South Federal
 - Task Force feedback:
 - City doesn't have a standard for sidewalks on new developments
 - Sidewalks vs multi-use trails
 - Classification of street should not dictate sidewalk width
 - Inputs: land use, sidewalk use/activity (eg RTD stop with bench), transit corridor, transit stations, pedestrian volume (don't have the data yet so look at indicators)
 - Be careful with having land use dictate because neighboring land use will use the pedestrian facilities to get to places
 - Break down local further: suburban vs more urban
 - Think ahead to autonomous vehicles and Uber/Lyft- designated drop-off/pick-up locations, curb space management
 - Think about trends and where development is going to be happening
 - Will this consider other types of pedestrian environments including Woonerfs, shared streets, etc.
- Potential Trail Corridors to Investigate
 - For homework
- Next Steps

- Task Force will review existing conditions summary
- Implementation plan which includes prioritization and policy, program, practice action plan
- Network development
- Additional Public engagement
- Next meeting will be in January
- City/FP will send out exact requests for homework
 - Review existing conditions
 - Review Policy, Program, Practice Benchmarking
 - Typology
 - New trail corridors