Denver Moves: Pedestrian and Trails Task Force Meeting 3
Notes
November 16, 2016 9:00-11:00 am

Public Comment
- Meeting not on the Denveright 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
- 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
o Will use this to formulate an action plan
o Feedback: benchmarking feedback or anything we missed
o 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
    o See presentation for current roadways design standards
    o What variables should influence how pedestrian network changes
    o Buffer - landscape or amenity zone between the sidewalk and the street
    o 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
    o 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
      o 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