North Denver Cornerstone Collaborative

NDCC

Mayor Michael B. Hancock’s Corridor of Opportunity Initiative

project news

Issue 33, 2016

North Denver Cornerstone Collaborative Projects Map

Dear Friends,

In March, the NDCC hosted its quarterly Town Hall Meeting at the National Western Complex. Teams were on hand to provide updates on the six major NDCC projects and other related projects. NDCC Deputy Todd Wenskoski provided an overview of the NDCC work plan for 2016, which included a review of the National Western project by Kelly Leid. In addition, we hosted a discussion with the community on mobility in GES.

Thank you to everyone who braved the weather and attended. Our next Town Hall meeting will take place in June. Stay tuned for more details. If you missed the event, click here for a copy of the 2016 work plan.

Sincerely,
NDCC Team

NDCC PROJECT UPDATES

Neighborhood Plans

Washington St.

Washington Street is a key featured project in the Globeville Neighborhood Plan and, as such, the City is continuing to advance efforts to move the project planning forward. Last year we conducted the ULI Technical Advisory Panel (TAP), which included a two-day activity with stakeholders and ULI expert panel. If you are interested in learning more about the ULI TAP the report, click here here.

Since the TAP, the City was successful in identifying funds to advance planning for eventual Washington Street improvements as one of the corridor’s important north/south connections. The upcoming project for Washington Street will focus on assessing the multimodal connectivity from the South Platte River north to the 52nd and the Adams County boundary. The study will create preferred cross section(s), understand drainage needs and envision urban design...
A Line Grand Opening:
Community Celebrations
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
38th & Blake and 40th & Colorado Stations

treatments for the corridor. There will be a strong public involvement component and the final product will include both conceptual design and cost estimates. The City team is working on the project scope and consultant coordination with an anticipated project kick off this summer.

First - ever "Healthy Food Challenge" issued for Globerville, Elyria and Swansea

The Denver Office of Economic Development (OED) announced this past month that both grants and competitive loans are available to fund innovative approaches to healthy food issues in the Denver neighborhoods of Globerville and Elyria-Swansea. The "Healthy Food Challenge" will award up to $250,000 in grants to projects addressing one or more aspects of healthy food education, fresh food retail, or food-related microbusinesses, and a combined loan opportunity of $1 million has been established to support new retail as well.

Through a Request for Proposals (RFP), grants are available to governmental, educational, or nonprofit organizations or agencies engaged in a public service within the Globerville and Elyria-Swansea neighborhoods. Private, for-profit organizations engaged in food retail, food distribution, and microbusiness development support for target businesses may also apply.

The RFP for grants is available online at denvergov.org/oed. Proposals are due by 4 p.m. on Monday, April 11. Information on the loan process is also available online, and pre-applications are due Thursday, September 1.

OED has identified loan funding opportunities with support from the Colorado Fresh Food Financing Fund (CO4F), Colorado Enterprise Fund, and the Colorado Department of Transportation through its I-70 East Project, among other partners. The Healthy Food Challenge complements other efforts underway to address food insecurity in north Denver.

Last month, the Globerville and Elyria-Swansea neighborhoods were selected for designation by the White House’s 2016 "Local Foods, Local Places" project, awarding technical assistance from both the Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Agriculture to help facilitate meetings with local shareholders and help craft plans to boost food accessibility and food-driven entrepreneurship.

38th & Blake Station Area Height Amendments
The City continues its effort to refine the vision for building heights in support of transit oriented development (TOD) on 38th and Blake. Building on input from public meetings #1 and
Wed., April 6, 2016  
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm  
Bruce Randolph School,  
3955 Steele St.  

Childcare, Snacks and  
Spanish translation  
services will be provided.  

The following topics will be discussed:  

- Original Law  
- Explanation of moratorium  
- Explanation of the difference between medical and recreational marijuana  
- Discuss saturation within the City  
- Overview of where we are now (timeline)  

Marijuana proposal will be presented by  
Councilwoman-at-Large Robin plus a comment period.  

For questions, Contact Councilman Brooks at  
720-337-7709  

Quick Links  

NDCC 2015 Annual Report  

NDCC  
Councilman Albus Brooks  
NDCC  
Airport City Denver  
Neighborhoods & Planning Committee  

#2, our upcoming meeting will focus on a preferred building heights alternative while considering other important elements of a great TOD station area.  

38th & Blake Station Area Height Amendments Public Meeting #3  
Tuesday, April 26  
5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.  
EXDO Event Center, 35th Street and Walnut  

Food and Spanish interpretation will be provided.  

Click here to learn more about the project.  

Platte to Park Hill: Stormwater Systems  
The Platte to Park Hill: Stormwater Systems team continues to meet with community members to provide information and gather feedback on the program. As of the end of March, program representatives have held more than 80 meetings with more than 1500 individuals.  

As a reminder, Platte to Park Hill: Stormwater Systems is a program of near-term improvements to better protect neighborhoods north and east of downtown Denver from major floods. These communities see some of the worst flooding across the city during storms. The program includes four components to improve flood protection and better control stormwater:  

- Globeville Landing Outfall drainage design and park redesign  
- 39th Avenue Open Channel and recreational trail  
- Lower Montclair Basin stormwater detention area  
- Park Hill Basin stormwater detention area  

An open house on the Two Basins Drainage Project and Globeville Landing Outfall is scheduled for tomorrow!  

Platte to Park Hill: Stormwater Systems Program Open House  
Tuesday, April 5  
5:30-7:30 pm  
St. Charles Rec Center (3777 Lafayette St, Denver, CO 80205)  

An announcement on the decision for placement of the Lower Montclair Basin detention area is expected in early April. Additional information can be found on the program website, www.denvergov.org/PlattetoParkHill or by calling (303) 223-6585.
**Please note this open house includes the Globeville Landing Outfall public meeting that was cancelled in March due to the blizzard.**

National Western Center Campus

National Western Center Project Obtains Upgraded Bond Ratings by Top Credit Rating Agencies

The nation's top three credit ratings agencies have upgraded the City and County of Denver's excise tax bond ratings in advance of the sale of bonds that will be issued to help redevelop the National Western Center and make improvements to the Colorado Convention Center to the "double A" category. Standard and Poor's upgraded the ratings two notches to AA-, Fitch's upgraded the ratings to AA, and Moody's upgraded the ratings to Aa3. All three ratings have a "stable" outlook.

"The rating agencies have affirmed that Denver's financial management and economy are strong. Having the bonds upgraded to a higher category means that Denver will receive better interest rates, saving the taxpayers' money. These upgraded ratings also put the city in an even better position to finance and continue to make progress on these projects," said Denver Chief Financial Officer Brendan Hanlon.

The upgraded ratings are based on Denver's strong economy, the growth of the pledged tourism-driven tax streams, the city's favorable long-term economic prospects, and an improved legal structure of the bonds, among other factors. Moody's rating statement noted that, "Denver's stable outlook reflects its role as an important regional economic center and tourist destination that will continue to grow in the near term." The AA category ratings will allow the city to achieve lower cost of funds on the bonds, a lower cost on future issuances and will help ensure continued access to capital markets during economic downturns.

Denver plans to price up to $425 million of bonds ($200 million for the NWC project) that include financing for the project the week of March 21st. Colorado residents will be given priority on the purchase of those bonds over institutional investors.

City Council gave final approval to the bond issuance on February 29, 2016. This initial funding will be used to acquire...
throughout the community. If you would like to make these available at your business or organization, please contact Erika Martinez.

Brighton Blvd. Redevelopment Corridor

Brighton Construction Update

The next step for the Brighton Corridor Project is the relocation of utilities. There are different types of utilities existing in the Brighton Corridor that will require relocation: Xcel, electric and gas as well as fiber optics - Comcast, Level 3, and Sprint to name a few. The work to relocate the existing fiber optic lines is scheduled begin in May/June.

Xcel finished design for the relocation of utilities from 39th Street to 44th Street, and work will begin soon. Xcel is currently working on their design for utility relocation between 29th Street and 39th Street and that work will be done in coordination with roadway construction. Construction activity associated with utility relocations and roadway will require ongoing coordination. Activities will be communicated to stakeholders as it is made available.

River North (RiNo)

Celebration! 38th & Blake Station Transit Oriented Development

Join us for a special event to celebrate the completion of several projects around the 38th & Blake Station! The celebration will include remarks by Mayor Hancock and others along with a ribbon cutting and lunch. See you there!

38th & Blake Project Celebration
Thursday, April 7
11:30 - 1:00 pm
38th & Blake A Line Station

For questions, contact Erika Martinez.

Central 70 (Formerly I-70 East Reconstruction)

Swansea Cover Workshop

Please join CDOT, DPS and the NDCC to provide your input on the latest design concepts for the new 4-acre Swansea Community Cover. We are reaching the final stages in determining what features this unique and exciting community space will include and want your thoughts.
CDOT will also present three design concepts for other elements of the Central 70 (formerly the I-70 East) Project, including noise walls, retaining walls and gateway elements. Spanish translation, childcare and refreshments will be available at this meeting.

Swansea Community Cover Workshop
Thursday, April 7
5:30 - 7:00 pm
Swansea Rec Center (2650 E. 49th Ave.)

New Project Name
CDOT is gradually transitioning the name of the I-70 East Project to Central 70. The name change is meant to distinguish the upcoming construction project from the environmental study and to better reflect the project’s location in the Denver metro area.

Project Office Now Open
The I-70 East/Central 70 project now has a project office at 3601 East 46th Avenue (Sno-White Linen & Uniform Rental). Right-of-way team members will be available at this location Tuesday through Thursday to provide property-related information and answer your questions.

More information: I-70 East/Central 70 Project Office.

Community Leaders Meetings
In lieu of the Community Leaders Meeting, the project team is pleased to offer extended office hours on the first and third Wednesdays of the month from 4:30 pm until 6:30 pm at the I-70 East/Central 70 Project Office.

This is a new format for the Community Leaders Meetings that were held at the same time. Project staff will be available to provide project updates and answer questions during these times. The extended office hours will start on April 6, 2016.

RTD Station Development

University of Colorado - A Line

The countdown begins! RTD's A Line is opening in April! The NDCC is fortunate to have two stops along the way and there are two big celebrations in your neighborhood!

The general public will be invited to ride the rail for free to and from Denver Union Station and DIA. Please save the date and join us for this exciting celebration.

Saturday, April 23

38th & Blake Hosted by the River North Arts District
10:00 am - 4:00 pm
RiNo is the A-Line Art Stop! Join us as we celebrate the grand opening of the station at 38th and Blake Street. Guests to our neighborhood will be encouraged to park at the new station, or hop off the train and come see "Where Art is Made." Highlights include a live iron pour performance, kid activities, local beer - cider - wine garden, artist and makers booths, chalk art, live bands and the Denver Flea!

40th & Colorado Hosted by the City & County of Denver and Surrounding Communities
10:00 am - 2:00 pm
Keep your family healthy at the Denver Active! Station Party at 40th & Colorado Blvd. This fiesta includes an Activity Zone that keeps the entire family moving, an Entertainment Zone that reflects the diverse communities, a Health Zone with tips on staying healthy, food trucks and so much more!

Gold Line - G Line

Great news! Here are some of the construction projects completed for the Gold Line:

- The 41st & Fox Station Park-N-Ride lot paving is complete
- Stairs installed at the Pecos Junction Station connecting the platform to the pedestrian bridge

Click here to review the Gold Line's March Update.
Discover Denver citywide building survey comes to Globeville and Elyria-Swansea

Discover Denver, a project to identify historic and architecturally significant structures citywide, will continue its building survey work in the Elyria-Swansea neighborhood this Spring. The 2015 Elyria & Swansea Neighborhoods Plan recommended identifying historic resources and promoting the adaptive use of significant buildings, in order to preserve the neighborhood's identity and unique character.

Historic Denver, Inc. and the City and County of Denver are leading this collaborative project, funded mainly by a grant from History Colorado. The citywide survey of 160,000 buildings has thus far included neighborhoods like Harvey Park, Park Hill, Berkeley, Cole, Jefferson Park and Globeville.

As in these neighborhoods, the citywide survey will gather information about buildings in Elyria and Swansea using public records, neighborhood canvassing, academic research, and tips from the public. Findings from this first- ever citywide survey of Denver will eventually be accessible online so that everyone can learn about our city's past - building by building.

Most residents and business owners in the survey area will experience minimal - if any - impact from Discover Denver surveyors. Discover Denver will first review publicly-available data (such as assessor records) on all properties and buildings that are more than 30 years old will be surveyed in the field. You may see Discover Denver volunteers walking throughout the neighborhood, taking notes on paper or tablet, and snapping photos from the street or sidewalk. Volunteers will have project-specific identification and should identify themselves to you if asked. Volunteers will survey every building in the area; however, you are not obligated to participate in any way or to allow anyone access to your property. No one associated with Discover Denver will enter or access your property without your permission.

If you wish to participate in the survey, we encourage you to talk to Discover Denver volunteers and share information or photos, or point out architecturally significant elements of a building that you own. Many property owners enjoy exchanging information with survey workers - to learn more about their own property/community, or to provide information that may be relevant to the survey. Community input is key to the success of the project! Learn more and share your stories at www.DiscoverDenver.CO.

Office of Economic Development releases four-year plan for workforce services and programs
Public comment invited on draft document

Denver's Office of Economic Development has published a draft plan for its state and federally funded workforce development services and programs, and invites public comment over the next 30 days.

The report, officially known as the Denver WIOA 2016-2020 Area Plan, provides details on the city's delivery of employment and training support to jobseekers and employers as required under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).
The draft plan will be available for a 30-day public comment period through April 30, 2016 at www.denvergov.org/oed, click on "Reports and Studies."

Public comments may be provided to Cindy Gaertner at cindy.gaertner@denvergov.org. Final copies of the plan document will be available at www.denvergov.org/oed in May.

**Denver's Corridor of Opportunity**

The Corridor of Opportunity represents a nearly 23-mile stretch between linking I-70 and East Commuter line from Denver Union Station to Denver International Airport.

The corridor is one of the most compelling commercial investment opportunities in the world, with thousands of developable acres. With nine commuter-rail stations along RTD's East Line alone (slated to open in 2016), future plans for the area include transit-oriented development with housing, strategic locations for corporate headquarters and abundant options for additional open space.

The variety of opportunities, both existing and future, make this corridor a focal point for Denver's future economy, with nearly 40,000 new jobs through new and expanded businesses and $2.6 billion in economic impact expected over the next three decades, including $13.4 million annually in additional city revenue.

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**About the North Denver Cornerstone Collaborative (NDCC)**

The North Denver Cornerstone Collaborative was founded by Mayor Michael B. Hancock on January 25, 2013. Recognizing a convergence of upcoming projects in the Elyria-Swansea and Globeville neighborhoods, the Mayor identified an opportunity to energize a cornerstone of the Corridor of Opportunity and create an updated gateway to downtown by aligning...
individual efforts into one coordinated vision. Kelly Leid manages the general oversight, planning, strategic coordination, financing and implementation of the six primary projects.

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