MEETING SUMMARY
Denver Moves: Downtown
Community Taskforce Meeting #2
April 29, 2019

Meeting Purpose

- Provide an update on the technical analysis that has been ongoing since the kick-off meeting held in December (e.g., completion of the State of the System report, review of peer cities, etc.).
- Share themes from the broader community engagement process.
- Gather feedback on draft scenario development options.

Welcome and Introductions

Meeting Facilitator, Angela Jo Woolcott welcomed attendees and explained her role on the team before conducting introductions. City and County of Denver Project Manager, Riley LaMie introduced himself as the current Project Manager for *Denver Moves: Downtown* and thanked the group for attending.

Angela reviewed the meeting purpose and agenda and quickly re-capped meeting guidelines, capturing agreement from attendees.

Project Update

Riley provided a high-level overview of activities since the Community Taskforce (CTF) last met in December 2018, including collecting feedback on the project's draft vision and goals, which helped inform the current draft scenarios. Riley also spoke to the collection of transportation improvement ideas from the wider community and the feedback received to the draft State of the System Report.

Jason Longsdorf, project consultant, presented key highlights of the final State of the System report. He previewed an overview of the scenario development process and discussed next steps that will ultimately lead to the preferred alternative. Questions from the CTF led Jason to take a deeper dive into the State of the System report's analysis on how people are traveling to/from downtown. He walked through methodology and compared and contrasted the State of the System analysis with both Denver Moves: Downtown survey results and the Downtown Denver Partnership's commuter survey results. CTF members recommended further analysis into how downtown residents and office workers travel within the neighborhood.

Angela then reviewed the community engagement process to-date, including recent community meetings and the broader public launch of the project from earlier in 2019, which featured a news release and community-wide survey. She shared high-level results and select cross analysis from the survey, noting that the full summary will be posted to the project website at a later date. Survey results promoted a brief discussion about mode share, and how results from varying data sources compared and contrasted.

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Draft Scenarios

Jason walked through results from the peer city review, showcasing Seattle, Washington D.C. and Portland as examples of how peer city information will inform this process.

Jason then introduced nine draft scenarios at a high level, providing representative examples of potential projects that align with the theme of each scenario. He noted that scenarios do not encompass every potential idea or project, but serve as guiding examples. He described how each scenario was informed by both research and community feedback and also related back to the project vision and goals, and State of the System report.

He reiterated next steps in the process moving forward, from narrowing down draft scenarios to the creation of alternatives and potential future implementable projects.

Angela vetted with the group whether the information needed any clarification before broad public release. CTF members indicated that the draft scenarios were clear and digestible.

Scenario Activity

Angela then split attendees into two small groups. Stakeholders rotated through the nine scenarios posted around the room and shared feedback via flipchart paper and direct to project team members. Each person also received a one-page handout that included a description of each scenario on it with a blank section at the bottom for notes. Participants were asked to provide any other comments they might have.

The following is a high-level summary* of feedback received:

- Alley activation – Need to balance enhancing alleys for placemaking while maintaining access for freight and delivery.
- Connectivity – Consider connections to adjacent neighborhoods outside of study area (i.e. Highlands and River Mile) as well as main transportation corridors (i.e. Speer Blvd.) Target larger general areas surrounding the study area to consider circulator options to move people efficiently from key hubs (e.g. Union Station to Capitol to the DAM).
- Curbside management – Universal desire to enhance curbside use, and request to study peer cities such (i.e. Seattle) for best practices.
- Density – Incorporate the downtown resident and business owner perspective vs. commuter perspective to reflect density changes.
- Enhanced placemaking – Vibrant placemaking with upgraded wayfinding is a high priority across scenarios.
- Freight/loading management – Stressed the importance of comprehensive street design that maintains access and ease for larger freight vehicles downtown.
- Green and natural – Across all nine scenarios, attendees stressed the strong desire to have more green space (e.g. trees and more planters) to recreate as well as noise and air pollution mitigation.
- Long-term/short-term needs – Scenarios should have aspects that address both short-term and long-term goals.
- Policies – Consider TDM as a scenario and set forward-looking policies that anticipate changing/emerging technologies (i.e. autonomous vehicles).
- Traffic calming – Slower vehicle speeds remains a top safety priority across scenarios.
- Universal themes – Of the above topics, curbside management, green space and traffic calming were identified as themes that should be carried through all scenarios.

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*Transcribed flipchart notes taken during scenario activity are provided at the end of this document.

Closing

Angela brought attendees back together for a brief group discussion on scenario feedback. Prior to adjourning, Angela addressed key housekeeping items, noting that the next CTF workshop would likely occur in early summer. She reiterated how to stay connected to the project team, and put out another call for community meetings.

CTF Workshop Attendees**

Jordan Block	Mayor's Bicycle Advisory Committee
Rachel Bolin	CityLive
Linda Crain	Larimer Place Condominium Association
Rhys Duggan	Revesco
John Hayden	Curtis Park Neighbors
Melissa Horn	Councilman New, District 10 Aide
Sydney Ilg	Golden Triangle Creative District
Libby Kaiser	Mayor's Bicycle Advisory Committee
Anne Lindsey	Golden Triangle Creative District
Jill Locantore	Walk Denver
Joel Noble	Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation (INC)
John Riecke	The Shire at Capitol Hill
Tracy Sakaguchi	Colorado Motor Carriers Association
Ken Schroeppel	CU Denver – Department of Urban and Regional Planning
Jack Tone	Lower Downtown Neighborhood Association (LoDoNA)
Piep Van Heuven	Bicycle Colorado
James Waddell	Bike Denver

**For a complete list of organizations invited to participate in the CTF please visit the project website.

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Transcribed Scenario Activity Notes by Scenario Numbers

Scenarios: 1-3
- Definition of Grand Blvd.
- Incorporate "people" more
- To reinforce parklets, change the fencing (alcohol) rules
- Like circulators and 5280 loop
- Like slowing down vehicles
- Need transit on Speer! Also connecting across
- Connection to Highland important
- Keep in mind connection to River Mile

Scenarios: 4-6
- Enhanced curbside – short-term
- Traffic calming – speed
- Green & Healthy – overlay
- 03/04/09 – Geographic specific
- 05/07/08 – Foundation elements
  - Convenient
  - Green
  - Safe
  - Engaging
  - Vibrant
  - Interesting
- Freight Concerns:
  - Campus style transportation
  - Maintain access
  - Favor gateways
    - Which corridors?

Scenarios 7-9:
- How do we maximize focus on downtown transit? (5-mile radius people)
- Don't over focus on commute to decide street design.

Scenarios 7-9 (continued):
- Green & healthy – include noise pollution – why are electric buses so loud?
- Seattle curbside studies
- What is the typical/standard uses along the curbside?
- Signage
  - Color
  - Photos
- Alleys
  - What is the vision?
  - Activation vs access/needs/loading
- Pilot/test
  - Ensure long-term completion
  - Quick win – full-implementation
  - Structured/lot parking strategies

Report Out Flipchart Notes

- Policy to support density
- Curbside management
- Delivery & freight management – comm res
- Autonomous vehicles – fit/shape
- Alley activation
- Enhanced placemaking
- Ideal street/blue sky 6
- Tangible "how to get there" 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9
- Connectivity to/from & accessibility to River Mile
- River Mile utilizes TDM as a tool
- TDM as a scenario (e.g. Speer)
- Broader connection to transit system
- Foundational across all – 5, 7, 8,
- Geographic specific – 3, 4, 9

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