



MEETING NOTES

PROJECT:	WestConnect Coalition PEL Study
PURPOSE:	Technical Working Group (TWG) Meeting #8
DATE HELD:	12/15/16
LOCATION:	Jefferson County Admin Building
ATTENDING:	Neil Ogden, Jana Spiker, Jordan Rudel, Lindsay Edgar (CDOT); Dan Hartman (Golden); Steve Durian, Derek Schuler (Jefferson County); Dave Baskett (Lakewood); Alex Ariniello (Superior); Kevin Standbridge (Broomfield); Kelly Larson (FHWA); Joe Hart, Stacy Tschuor, Leah Langerman (DEA); Jonathan Bartsch, Taber Ward (CDR)
COPIES:	TWG and PMT Members

Summary of Discussion:

1. Updates

- Golden and CDOT were recently awarded a TAP grant for design of two wildlife crossings near Kenney Run/6th Avenue. The trail will likely be enhanced at the same time. Design will begin in early 2017. Funding has yet to be identified for construction.

2. Public Outreach Summary

- Participation for November’s telephone town hall and open house meetings included:
 - Telephone Town Hall, November 9: 50,000 calls made, nearly 800 participants during peak attendance, and over 150 participants engaged for duration of the call
 - Open house at Rocky Mountain Metro Airport, November 15: approximately 15 members of the public attended (low attendance, but Superior Trustee Pennington commented this was a worthwhile meeting)
 - Open house at Ken Caryl Ranch House, November 16: approximately 30 members of the public attended
 - Open house at Golden Community Center, November 17: approximately 85 members of the public attended
- A public meeting location closer to the north end of the study corridor will be pursued instead of the airport location for the next round of public meetings. The meeting may fall in the summer, which could open the possibility of holding a meeting at a school. However, attendance at public meetings generally declines during summer break.
- In addition to the involvement opportunities listed above, all meeting graphic displays were made available online in a video with explanatory text/audio.
- Comments received at the meetings, during phone conversations, and through email and the web page were compiled and distributed (see handout).
 - The public meeting comment form questioned agreement with the draft Purpose and Need. Many people mentioned safety as the top priority. The majority of comments stated agreement with what was presented, so no changes are required to the Purpose and Need based on public comments.
 - Concerns with existing conditions included aggressive driving, truck traffic/operations, wildlife, bicycle safety, congestion points, geometric conditions, lack of lighting, limited transit, weather, and noise.

- Ideas for improvements:
 - C-470 Segment: widening, eliminate weaves, trail grade separations and wayfinding, light rail service, park-n-Ride enhancements
 - Golden Segment: implement Golden Plan, improve other intersections similar to US 6/19th, bike connections, mitigate existing noise
 - US 93: median, widening (although Boulder County Commissioners focused on transit, safety, and intersection improvements rather than widening), safety improvements, intersection improvements, preserve open space/views
- Overall, very few comments were received regarding Jefferson Parkway. However, Town of Superior Trustees mentioned at the public meeting that they were surprised to see Jefferson Parkway shown on the public meeting maps. TWG members agreed it was appropriate to show the Parkway on graphics, consistent with the intent of the study to look at improvements needed with and without implementation of the Jefferson Parkway.
 - Jefferson Parkway is on the DRCOG plan.
 - Federal District Court ruled against Superior’s litigation regarding use of 300-feet of Rocky Flats for Jefferson Parkway.
- A presentation was made to the Boulder County Commissioners on December 8th (see handout).
 - The intent of this presentation was to provide an additional opportunity for involvement of northern corridor users. The presentation was made at a public hearing and open to the public, but no members of the public attended. The meeting was recorded and placed on the Boulder County web page consistent with their standard practice.
 - Concern was noted that similar outreach was not offered to other elected officials.
 - Golden City Council was updated (Dan Hartman presented).
 - Briefings to other agencies can occur upon request, however, Steering Committee meetings are intended to keep elected officials informed.

3. Draft Concept Development (see handouts)

- The draft concept development list includes the ideas suggested during the alternatives workshop brainstorming session and additional ideas provided in public comments.
- As a result of the public comments, “TDM strategies” was added for all segments, and “enhanced maintenance program” was added for the Golden and CO 93 segments.
 - Maintenance would include a variety of things, including staff, communications, and normal maintenance and snow plow/weather operations.
 - ACTION: Change to “enhanced maintenance and operations program”.
- In addition to the alternative concept development list, a separate list was created to document improvements suggested by the public or agency staff that will not be evaluated because they do not meet the Purpose and Need, would require programmatic or policy decisions, or they are outside CDOT and local agency control.
 - Noise barrier for existing noise issues will not be addressed in the PEL study. This is different from noise mitigation that may be required for study recommendations, which will be considered if needed.
 - These concepts could be considered outside of the PEL Study.

4. The Draft Level 1 Screening Matrix was reviewed (see handout).

- Results were summarized as “retained” or “eliminated”, with comments explaining reasons for retaining or eliminating each improvement concept.
- Lakewood may be completing a study of the Bear Creek trail.
- ACTION: Page 2 – “Improved C-470 Trail Continuity through Bear Creek Lake Park” was eliminated, so change all cells to “No” in that row.
- Corridor management and technology improvements will be evaluated parallel to the infrastructure alternatives (highway, intersection and multimodal). They need to be further defined as programs, and then discussion can occur to determine how they would dovetail with the infrastructure improvements.
- ACTION: Consider changing corridor management and technology result summaries to “retained as an element”.
- This study is focusing on corridor improvements, rather than parallel alternate routes. The study is intended to include consideration of multimodal trail improvements along the corridor. It is important to consider multimodal improvements as part of the infrastructure improvements, because they are interrelated.
- Could there be improvements that are part of other agency’s plans that the PEL is not screening?
 - A review of the Golden Plan was conducted to make sure that elements of the Plan are included in Level 1 concepts.
 - When phased implementation is considered, the PEL could recommend project phasing and prioritization that is different than an individual agency’s plan, but this process would involve discussions with the TWG and Steering Committee before recommendations are finalized.
- In Level 1, concepts are evaluated. In Level 2, concepts are packaged into alternatives. Highway alternatives in Level 2 may include intersection/interchange options (types of configurations to be evaluated). Once the study recommendations are identified, phasing of separate projects within that recommendation can be discussed.
- Public comments suggesting light rail service are intended to be covered in “improved transit service”.
- The Level 1 questions are based on the purpose and need, and were agreed upon by the TWG. Level 2 will include consideration of environmental impacts and other project goals.
- ACTION: A comment was made that there are a few concepts that have one yes, so change the intro text to “if a concept was able to meet a need, it was retained for further consideration” (eliminate “most”).

5. Steering Committee Preparation

- Steering Committee members have not yet seen the concept development list, so description of the alternatives development and screening process, and improvement concepts is needed.
- Travel forecast model results have not yet been shared with this group. 2040 traffic volumes will be presented.
- Meeting materials will be distributed to the Steering Committee today.

6. Draft Environmental Scan Report

- The draft report has been reviewed by CDOT, and was distributed yesterday to TWG and resource agency staff for review.
- ACTION: The TWG comment deadline was extended to Friday, January 6th.

- After this report is finalized, Level 2 screening criteria will be established.
- ACTION: A comment was made during the meeting that the Department of Energy central operating unit on Rocky Flats site needs mentioned in the report, or explain why it wasn't included.
- This is the first time visual resources have been documented to this level in a PEL Study. This report will set a precedent for PEL visual assessments. Close coordination occurred with CDOT on this section.