

Stakeholder Workshop #3

Location: Eagle Pointe Recreation Center

Date/Time: April 30, 2024 / 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

Meeting Purpose: Review public meeting and confirm alternative screening.

Discussion

Introductions

- Participants introduced themselves. All participants at this meeting had attended previous meetings. Participants included local residents, local business owners, environmental and transportation interest groups, Adams County, Commerce City, CDOT, South Adams County Fire Department, DRCOG, RTD, Colorado Motor Carriers, and project consultant staff. Peak Consulting Group (Mandy Whorton) facilitated the meeting, and CIG (Christian Jimenez) and FHU (Sebastian Montenegro) provided Spanish translation and facilitation. (See list of attendees attached)
- Mandy reviewed the agenda (attached) and purpose of the workshop.
- Briefing book materials for this workshop were provided to all participants. The draft materials were provided for reference and background. Any draft designs or project elements shared are subject to change as the project progresses. The materials will be updated and supplemented as the workshops progress. CDOT intends this to be an ongoing collaboration as the project evolves.

Public meetings and input review

The group discussed the recent series of public meetings held Wednesday April 17 and Saturday April 20 at the Eagle Pointe Rec Center and the webinar held Thursday April 18. The group went around the room and all participants shared their experience and impressions from the public meetings if they attended.

General Impressions

Many participants attended the public meeting and shared common thoughts:

- Information was appreciated
- Nothing was a surprise
- The public meeting materials reflected what they had seen in the stakeholder workshops but slightly more progressed.

Specific Feedback

Multiple participants noted they heard a lot of interest and conversation around what is happening at Vasquez Boulevard, both at the interchange and in the separate Vasquez Boulevard project. Specific comments from participants include:

- Love that that Vasquez interchange is being redesigned, having the truck bypa hat improvements to I-270 don't impact the homes or businesses on the north side of I-270.
- The group reviewed a summary of the comment form responses and comments, with many noting the comments and feedback generally reflect what they have been hearing.

Preliminary recommendations for alternatives

The group discussed the preliminary recommendation shared at the public meeting to move forward evaluating the Three General-Purpose Lanes Alternative and Two General-Purpose Lanes and One Express Lane that Accommodates Transit Alternative.

General Feedback on Alternatives Recommended for Detailed Evaluation

- Participants agreed with two alternatives moving forward for detailed analysis.
- There was interest in further exploring the concept of continuous auxiliary lanes.
- There was strong interest in further exploring what toll lane operations would look like including how those funds would be used, if local residents would be exempt from tolls or have a reduced fare, and if freight could have a reduced fare in times of poor air quality.

Other Comments on Alternatives

- Residents shouldn't have to pay to use the road.
- There are worries that not enough people will use the toll lane to make a difference in congestion.
- It was suggested that discounting tolls for freight in times of poor air quality could reduce emissions by improving freight travel efficiency.
- CDOT indicated that now that the alternatives have been presented and screened with input from the public they will be engaging Colorado Transportation Investment Office (CTIO) to discuss potential toll operations on this corridor.
- It was mentioned that a survey of drivers from Westminster found that many previously were using I-270 but now reroute through the community instead due to congestion.
- Would like to see an increase in transit.
- There was strong interest in detailed air quality modelling and what that will reveal about operations for the two alternatives.
 - A stakeholder workshop discussing air quality modeling is currently planned for August, dates subject to change depending on modeling progress. Mandy suggested participants should invite any other air quality experts they are working with to that meeting to engage in the conversation.
- Participants generally hear a strong desire from community members for bicycle and pedestrian improvements adjacent to I-270 to be included in the project.

Future topics and schedules

The group also discussed the upcoming schedule of topics for discussion over the next few months.

- Participants generally agreed the workshops have been valuable and expressed a desire to continue meeting through October.
 - A concern was raised that continuing meetings once per month through October might be too big of a commitment for community members. However, the community members said regular meetings were helpful.
- The group reviewed the proposed list of future topics and agreed those are the primary topics of interest they would like to discuss.