

Meeting Notes

EIS Breakout Group

January 31, 2008



Attendees:

Lindsey Royce, PB
Eric Anderson, PB
Amy Riker, PB
Reed Everett-Lee, FasTracks
Gina McAfee, FasTracks
Larry Gibson, DMJM
Jerry Nery, RTD
Lizzie Kemp, CDOT

George Scheurenstuhl, DRCOG
Jason Longsdorf, CCD
Ray Schoch, USAC
Judy Aranda, PB
Roger Sherman, CRL
Tom Anthony, USAC
Bert Melcher, USAC
Bill Roetteker, USAC

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks

Judy Aranda welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming. Judy, assisted by Eric Anderson, conducted a slide presentation to provide an update of events that have occurred since the public hearing that was held on the Draft EIS, a description of the Build Alternative currently being evaluated in the Final EIS, and the methodologies being followed for key resources being evaluated in the Final EIS. Following the presentation, the meeting was opened for public comments and discussion.

Questions and Answers

- Q. Will the public hearing be the first time we will hear about the environmental impacts of the Build Alternative?
A. No, we will hold another EIS BOG in late April 2008 to present the findings of the environmental analysis.
- Q. What is LRT's expansion capability?
A. There will be additional space for another platform and track.
- Q. What is the LRT track capacity at the tail tracks?
A. There will be space for two 4-car trains.
- Q. What are the boundaries of passenger rail?
A. The station will stub end between 16th and 17th Street. The limits of the project and tracks extend to approximately 500' +/- north of 20th Street.
- Q. Will the venting for the regional bus be at ground level?
A. This element is still in design.
- Q. Will 16th Street be open to vehicles?
A. Yes, between Wynkoop and Chestnut.
- Q. What is the City's priority on 16th Street?
A. Both the Mall shuttle and pedestrians will have equal priority.
- Q. Where will passenger pick-up, drop off, and taxi service be for the light rail station?
A. This has not been determined yet and needs to be evaluated. However, primary pick-up will be in front of DUS.

General Comment: Don't allow left turn movements at 16th and Wewatta.

Q. Will analysis of ozone be completed?

A. Yes, it will be modeled and document in the air quality section of the Final EIS.

Q. Why isn't the Area of Potential Effect (APE) the same as the Tax Increment Finance (TIF) boundary?

A. The APE is defined through the Section 106 process. It is a boundary agreed upon by the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and Consulting Parties that encompasses an area with potential historic properties that may be affected by the project. TIF is a funding mechanism that is applied on future gains in taxes to finance the current improvements that will create those gains. The TIF boundary encompasses the area in which taxes are assessed. The APE is larger than the TIF boundary at DUS, and extends to Cherry Creek, Little Raven Street, 23rd Street and Market Street.

Q. Will Greyhound be located in the planned commercial parking structure at 18th Street?

A. Greyhound's involvement in the commercial parking facility is not planned at this time. However, two bus bays for commercial carriers is planned in the below grade regional bus facility behind DUS. If a separate bus facility obtains federal funding in the future, the environmental impacts of this future facility would be evaluated under a separate environmental process.

Q. Will the shallow aquifer flood the below grade regional bus facility?

A. No.

Q. What about the visual impacts to the DUS building from the project?

A: Visual impacts of the proposed transportation improvements will be evaluated in the Final EIS. Visual impacts due to adjacent private development will be discussed generally in the cumulative impacts section of the document.

General Comment: Partner Agencies need to evaluate use of renewable resources within the project.

General Comment: Put the Cumulative Impact Analysis on the website. NOTE: The FasTracks Programmatic Cumulative Effects Analysis has been posted on the DUS website under the "What's New" page.

2. Next Meeting

The next EIS BOG is scheduled for late April. Please check the website for details.