
Draft Meeting Summary

Agency Working Group (AWG)

Preferred Alternative Refinement Options

Meeting # 6

Friday, March 7, 2008

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

RTD

1600 Blake Street

T&D Conference Rooms

Meeting Goals and Agenda

This was the sixth Agency Working Group meeting for the Gold Line Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The meeting goals included the following:

- Provide an understanding of the Preferred Alternative Refinement process
- Summarize the Preferred Alternative Refinement options
- Recommend one Preferred Alternative Refinement option to be evaluated in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

The meeting's agenda included a presentation and discussion of refinements to the Gold Line Preferred Alternative. The presentation began with a project update given by Liz Telford, RTD Project Manager, including an update on railroad negotiations. After the project update, Don Ulrich, consultant Project Manager, presented an overview of the purpose and process behind the Preferred Alternative Refinement options. The results of the preliminary evaluations of the Preferred Alternative options were presented, including cost, right of way and environmental criteria. Don Ulrich then presented the team's recommendation that one refinement (Option B - East Direct) be evaluated in the DEIS. Andy Mountain, Public Involvement consultant, concluded the presentation with a summary of activities, opportunities and the next steps in the public involvement process. He gave a detailed account of the outcomes, comments and themes resulting from the Public Workshops in which these options were presented.

Preliminary Items

Andy Mountain welcomed the meeting attendees, reviewed the agenda, provided a general overview of the recent public workshops and initiated the introduction process.

Presentation

Don Ulrich, consultant Project Manager, reviewed the slides of the presentation. The attendees had the following questions/comments during and after the presentation:

- Kirk Webb, Colorado Department of Transportation, asked if there were any changes to how the PA Refinement options would pass under I-70.
 - Ashland Vaughn, Lead Engineer for the Gold Line Team, replied that all options passed under I-70.
- Bill Brunskill, Union Pacific Railroad, asked if the cost figures were just for construction.
 - Liz answered that the costs listed in the PowerPoint only accounted for capital costs and did not include right of way cost estimates.

Andy Mountain then asked each municipality to provide any preliminary comments on their reactions to the recommendations.

- Crissy Fanganello, City and County of Denver, stated general agreement with the position and approach of the Gold Line Team and indicated that the City will be interested in reviewing more detailed information and updates as they become available.
- Dave Beckhouse, Federal Transit Administration, noted that the FTA concurs with the approach used to present PA Refinement options, as well as the recommended refinement option.
- Steve Nguyen, City of Wheat Ridge, stated that he is content with the approach used for the PA Refinements, but prefers the Preferred Alternative.
- Jeanne Shreve, Adams County, stressed the importance of the transfer to the NW Rail corridor being preserved and incorporated into PA Refinement options.
- David Heller, Denver Regional Council of Governments, noted that DRCOG has no formal comment at this time. He inquired as to whether the PA Refinements will need to be incorporated into DRCOG's amended Regional Transportation Plan.
 - Liz replied that she believed since the termini are identical and the general alignment is the same, there would not need to be any additional amendment to the plan beyond updating the technology mode from Light Rail Transit to Electric Multiple Unit which is currently underway.
- Vicki Vargas-Madrid, Colorado Division of Wildlife, stated that the agency was trying to stay current on the process and will continue to keep an eye out for impacts.

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- Bill Brunskill, Union Pacific, stated that the railroad had no stake in the PA Refinement, and therefore no comment.
 - Bob Manwaring, City of Arvada, reinforced the importance to Arvada of keeping a transfer to the NW Rail corridor at the Pecos Station viable.

Liz Telford mentioned that the team had met previously with SHPO regarding the PA Refinement process and project developments, and that they did not identify any objections to the recommendations.

Next Steps

Andy Mountain stated that the Agency Working Group would continue to be updated on project developments and kept informed regarding the DEIS schedule. The next Agency Working Group meeting will be scheduled pursuant to developments in the evaluation of the PA Refinement. Liz Telford discussed the approach used for station design and selection process and encouraged input from attendees. Andy Mountain adjourned the meeting.

Meeting Participants

1. Jeanne Shreve Adams County
2. Bob Manwaring City of Arvada
3. Mark McGoff City of Arvada
4. Crissy Fanganello City and County of Denver
5. Tom Hoaglund City and County of Denver
6. Teresa St. Peter City and County of Denver
7. Steve Nguyen City of Wheat Ridge
8. Kirk Webb Colorado Department of Transportation R6
9. Vicki Vargas-Madrid Colorado Division of Wildlife
10. David Heller Denver Regional Council of Governments
11. Dave Beckhouse Federal Transit Administration
12. Kevin Flynn Rocky Mountain News
13. Bill Brunskill Union Pacific Railroad
14. Margaret Langworthy United States Army Corps of Engineers
15. Jonathan Spencer RTD FasTracks Gold Line Team
16. Liz Telford RTD FasTracks Gold Line Team
17. Don Ulrich RTD FasTracks Gold Line Team
18. Ashland Vaughn RTD FasTracks Gold Line Team
19. Miles Graham RTD FasTracks Gold Line Team
20. Andy Mountain RTD FasTracks Gold Line Team
21. Terry Ruitter RTD FasTracks Gold Line Team
22. Tim Baldwin RTD FasTracks Gold Line Team
23. Angela Brand RTD FasTracks Gold Line Team
24. Jena Catiero RTD FasTracks Gold Line Team