
Meeting Summary

Gold Line Local Governments Team

Tuesday, February 19, 2008

9:00 -11 a.m.

FasTracks Regional Conference Room
1560 Broadway, 7th Floor, Denver

MEETING GOALS AND AGENDA

The meeting goals were to:

- Provide a project update and summarize the process for evaluating refinements to the Gold Line Preferred Alternative
- Review and discuss preliminary analysis of refinement options and the team's recommendation for the option to be evaluated in the DEIS

The meeting's agenda included a presentation and discussion of refinements to the Gold Line Preferred Alternative. The presentation began by providing an update on railroad negotiations and information on the purpose and process behind the Preferred Alternative Refinements. After reviewing the revised schedule, the project team described the various options for Preferred Alternative Refinements. The results of preliminary evaluations were presented, including cost, right of way and environmental criteria. The team then presented their recommendation on which option should be evaluated in the DEIS. The presentation concluded with a summary of next steps and upcoming public involvement opportunities before the project team facilitated discussion/Q&A.

MEETING HANDOUTS

- Meeting Agenda

PRELIMINARY ITEMS

Andy Mountain, Public Involvement consultant, conducted introductions and overviewed the agenda and goals for the meeting. Liz Telford, RTD Project Manager, welcomed the participants and stated that, as per usual, the LGT meeting would preview what the public will see at the March 4 and 6 workshops. Andy then reiterated to the meeting participants that despite the fact that the project team is analyzing potential refinements to the Preferred Alternative, none of the stations are going away.

PRESENTATION

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

- Kevin Nichols, City of Arvada, asked if the Gold Line Team is keeping the Preferred Alternative on the table in hopes that the railroad negotiations will work out as originally planned. Liz Telford responded that they are keeping the Preferred Alternative on the table because it is a good alternative with minimal impacts, but that given the current situation with the railroads, the project team thinks that it is also important to evaluate other options as well.
- Jeanne Shreve, Adams County, stated that refinement Option D – West appears to eliminate the Pecos East station. Liz Telford confirmed that, among the challenges and drawbacks of Option D, it would not allow for the Pecos East station option but that the team at least wanted to at least look at an alignment to the west in order to be thorough in their evaluations.
- Dave Beckhouse, FTA, asked whether Option B – East Direct has any benefits over Option A – East in terms of avoiding property acquisitions. Liz Telford replied that Option B (the shorter route) would likely require RTD to purchase several full properties. Option A (the longer route) doesn't go through as much of the actual properties, but it would cut off the properties' access points, so either way RTD may be required to purchase the properties. Therefore, the shorter route is being recommended for further evaluation since it is more cost effective.
- Crissy Fanganello, City and County of Denver, asked if the refinement routes would be the same for Northwest Rail, to which Liz Telford replied yes.
- Rick Garcia, Denver City Council, asked whether the Gold Line Team had already spoken to the community to get their input, since one of the slides is titled "Community Evaluation." Liz Telford responded that "Community Evaluation" actually refers the team's analysis to potential impacts to the community, but that the team will be gathering public input at the upcoming public workshops. She added that she would change the title of that PowerPoint slide, since it could be confusing.
- Dave Beckhouse asked whether RTD would still build the pedestrian bridge to the west at the 38th Avenue station. Liz Telford said that they would, but that the pedestrian bridge to the east would no longer be necessary, since the platform would be located on the east side of the tracks.
- Kevin Nichols commented that it's difficult to distinguish the various refinement options on a conceptual drawing. He suggested changing the graphic to an aerial map to make it more understandable. Andy Mountain stated that they will have bigger, more detailed maps of the options available at the information stations during the public workshops.
- Lorraine Anderson, Arvada City Council, commented that the public's greatest concern is having their property acquired, so it will be important to emphasize to the public that nothing is changing west of Pecos to help alleviate those fears. Liz Telford suggested

that the project team present to the public with an overall corridor map that focuses on where the Gold Line will remain the same and where the alignment could be different. This would help to show the people on the western end of the alignment that the refinements do not affect them.

- Rick Garcia asked how the issues with the Union Pacific are affecting the overall EIS budget and schedule. Liz replied that the project team is estimating a 6-9 month delay for the Gold Line.
- Rick Garcia commented that the jurisdictions need to think about weighing in on the Union Pacific issues at the local level through measures such as proclamations or resolutions. Rick added that the local governments may need to do more politically to help move things along with railroads.
- Kevin Nichols asked if Option B – East Direct would still fall within the Gold Line budget, in the case that the project team is forced to pursue it in lieu of the Preferred Alternative. Liz Telford responded that RTD is going to do another Annual Program Evaluation in the next few months and that more information is needed before the team will know exactly what the refinement options will do to the budget.
- Jeanne Shreve inquired about the status of the Penta-P and whether the refinements could impact the Gold Line’s status in the Penta-P program. Liz Telford replied that they are still on target for the Penta-P, and Don Ulrich added that the alignment must be determined before they can move forward with the program.
- Crissy Fanganello asked what the targeted business outreach (mentioned on slide 19) would entail. Andy Mountain replied that the project team plans to obtain the addresses for all properties adjacent to the alignment and to send them a specialized communication to ensure that they are up to speed on the latest developments. In addition, he indicated that meetings would be held with any businesses that request them.
- Crissy Fanganello requested that RTD provide Denver with the more detailed maps of affected properties so that they can identify potential issues and opportunities regarding station design. Liz Telford replied that she would arrange a meeting with Denver in the coming week.

After ensuring that there were no further questions, Andy Mountain mentioned that an email blast would be sent out to public later in the day to summarize the latest updates. He then adjourned the meeting.

MEETING PARTICIPANTS

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| 1. Jeanne Shreve | Adams County |
| 2. Kevin Nichols | City of Arvada |
| 3. Mark McGoff | City of Arvada |
| 4. Lorraine Anderson | Arvada City Council |
| 5. Crissy Fanganello | City and County of Denver |
| 6. Bob Kochevar | City and County of Denver |
| 7. Rick Garcia | Denver City Council |
| 8. David Heller | DRCOG |
| 9. Dave Beckhouse | FTA |
| 10. Steve Nguyen | City of Wheat Ridge |
| 11. Sally Payne | City of Wheat Ridge |
| 12. Liz Telford | RTD FasTracks Gold Line Team |
| 13. Don Ulrich | RTD FasTracks Gold Line Team |
| 14. Jonathan Spencer | RTD FasTracks Gold Line Team |
| 15. Terry Ruiter | RTD FasTracks Gold Line Team |
| 16. Bob Boot | RTD FasTracks Gold Line Team |
| 17. Ashland Vaughn | RTD FasTracks Gold Line Team |
| 18. Angela Brand | RTD FasTracks Gold Line Team |
| 19. Jena Catiero | RTD FasTracks Gold Line Team |
| 20. Tim Baldwin | RTD FasTracks Gold Line Team |
| 21. Andy Mountain | RTD FasTracks Gold Line Team |
| 22. Megan Lane | RTD FasTracks Gold Line Team |