



DRAFT

**FasTracks Citizens Advisory Committee
Meeting #8
December 13, 2007
1600 Blake Street, Rooms T & D**

MINUTES

Committee Members Present: Tom Ashburn, Julie Bender, Tom Burns, Melvin Bush, Charles Choi, Jim Hall, Anne Hayes, Jeff Holwell, Ken Hotard, Angie Malpiede and Steve Ormiston. **RTD Board of Directors Present:** Bill Elfenbein, Bruce Daly, Chris Martinez, Bill McMullen and Dave Ruchman. **RTD Staff Present:** Cal Marsella, Jerry Nery, Dennis Cole, Stan Szabelak, John Shonsey, Henry Stopplecamp, Karen Morales and Roger Sherman. **Others Present:** None.

Call to Order and Introductions

Melvin Bush called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes from September 13, 2007 Meeting

Motion by Ken Hotard, seconded by Jim Hall to approve minutes as written. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Participation

None.

"Connecting Communities" Year-in-Review Video

Karen Morales introduced the "Connecting Communities" year-in-review video recently completed. The video is being distributed to elected officials, TMO's, municipalities, etc. Individual corridor-specific videos will be completed soon that can be used for presentations to local groups.

FasTracks Baseline Survey

Karen Morales presented the findings from the first public opinion poll on FasTracks conducted since voters approved the plan three years ago. 79 percent of metro-area residents say that approving FasTracks funding in 2004 was a good decision. Seventy-five percent are confident that RTD will complete the voter-approved FasTracks plan.

Transportation and transit-related issues ranked as the No. 1 issue facing the Denver-metro area, with 34 percent of survey participants citing transportation and transit as the top issue. Overall, the results of the survey showed high levels of support and confidence in the progress of the nation's largest transit build-out program.

Following is a summary of other key survey findings:

- 72 percent of metro residents have a favorable impression of RTD in general
- 68 percent of metro residents have a favorable impression of FasTracks
- Familiarity with FasTracks is moderately high, with 53 percent of residents classifying themselves as "very" or "somewhat" familiar with the program
- 49 percent of residents consider themselves as "informed" about FasTracks; 49 percent consider themselves "uninformed"
- More than 80 percent of respondents look to the news media for FasTracks information and education
- High level of overall confidence in RTD to implement FasTracks plan approved by voters.

- Public confidence and support at this stage are both strong, but also moderate in their intensity.
- Awareness is moderate of cost escalations in implementing FasTracks, and they are a significant concern. However, voters have confidence in RTD to overcome these challenges.
- Entering into public-private partnerships to complete portions of FasTracks is generally viewed favorably by area residents.
- The top criteria in evaluating FasTracks' success are on-time completion and increased ridership/ accessibility to system.
- Survey respondents' favorable view of RTD is paired with a willingness to leave the FasTracks work to RTD.

The phone survey, conducted from a random sampling of residents across the eight-county Regional Transportation District, has 95 percent statistical validity, with a 3.53 percent margin of error.

A number of questions were asked regarding various demographics of respondents. Roger was asked to email the full cross-tabulation of responses to committee members. A complete summary of the 2007 FasTracks survey can be found on the program Web site: www.RTD-FasTracks.com.

2007 CAC Annual Report to the Board of Directors

The Committee reviewed the draft 2007 Annual Report to the Board of Directors. Roger thanked Charles Choi and Anne Hayes for helping draft and edit the report. Steve Ormiston moved that the Report be approved and submitted to the Board of Directors. Ken Hotard seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

SB 208 Report to DRCOG Schedule

Roger provided a revised schedule for submitting the SB208 Annual Report to DRCOG. The RTD Board will adopt the report on January 22, 2008. The draft report will be distributed to the CAC on December 24. It will be necessary for the Committee to hold a special work session to review the draft report and provide comment to the Board prior to their January 22nd meeting. The Committee agreed to meet on January 9, 2008, from 3-5 p.m. for this purpose.

2008 Meeting Schedule and Topics

The Committee members reviewed the proposed meeting schedule for 2008 and discussed their desire to have a retreat in early January. It was agreed to meet on January 23, from 1-4 p.m. Roger will investigate possible locations. Anne Hayes suggested looking into the meeting room at Panera Bread at 13th and Grant.

The Committee agreed that a discussion about the role of the CAC should occur at the retreat. Charles stated he would like to seek approval from the RTD Board to restructure the CAC in order to give the Committee some "teeth". Ken Hotard suggested the CAC should be given enhanced oversight responsibilities. Melvin Bush stated he would like to see the Committee develop an "action plan" of its own that it can focus on while still addressing the issues brought forward by RTD.

In addition to CAC "governance" and "role/responsibilities", items to be discussed at the retreat include topics/focus for 2008 and interaction with the RTD Board. Members were asked to forward additional agenda items to Roger prior to the retreat.

2008 Co-Chair Election

Committee members expressed their gratitude to Angie and Melvin for the leadership they provided the Committee over the past two years.

The Committee discussed the process for selecting co-chairs. Charles Choi stated it might not be necessary to elect two new co-chairs and suggested a number of alternative approaches including chair/chair-elect and chair/vice-chair.

Ken Hotard nominated Jim Hall and Anne Hayes to serve as co-chairs for 2008. Tom Ashburn seconded the motion. Melvin Bush nominated Charles Choi, who declined due to other commitments. Being no further nominations, Jim Hall and Anne Hayes were elected unanimously.

Comments by Committee Members

Charles Choi suggested that revisions to the public input "funnel" be made so as not to imply that public input ends when construction ends. The public will likely expect to be involved beyond construction in a number of ways including future operations. He suggested an "hour-glass" would be more appropriate.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.