

Southeast Corridor Extension Public Meeting/Open House No. 2 – March 16, 20089

Summary of Meeting

Monday, March 16, 2009 – City of Lone Tree, Civic Center, 8527 Lone Tree Parkway, Lone Tree, CO 80124

Purpose of the Meeting

- To present Recommended Alternatives and Environmental Conditions in the study area

Presentation

- Amy Ford introduced Susan Wood, Andy Mutz, Phil Hoffmann and RTD Director Jack O'Boyle and RTD Director Kent Bagley
- Susan Wood and Andy Mutz presented the Recommended Alternatives and Station Location Presentation
 - Project Background and summary of the extension
 - Extends popular Southeast light rail for 2.3 miles from Lincoln Avenue to RidgeGate
 - A kiss-n-Ride station at Sky Ridge, which accommodates commuter drop-offs and local bus service
 - A kiss-n-Ride station at the future Lone Tree City Center
 - An end-of-line station at RidgeGate with a 2,000 space park-n-Ride facility
 - Southeast Light Rail Corridor Extension
 - T-REX Project with light rail along I-25 began 2000
 - Southeast Corridor/Lone Tree Light Rail Extension Limited Major Investment Study conducted 2003
 - Southeast Light Rail opened 2006
 - FasTracks Plan approved by voters 2004
 - SE Corridor Extension Environmental Planning began 2008
 - Project Steps
 - Confirm Purpose and Need
 - Define Study Area/Data Collection
 - Evaluate and Refine Alternatives (We are here)
 - Alignment
 - Stations
 - Operations Planning
 - Project Definition (10% design)
 - Complete Environmental Evaluation
 - Identify Preferred Alternative

- Complete Basic Engineering Plans (30% design)
 - Finalize Mitigation Commitments
- Basic Engineering
 - Alignment and Station Locations based on:
 - Purpose and Need
 - Previous work
 - Detailed Coordination with Stakeholders
- Recommended Alignment
 - Maintains a double-tracked configuration
 - Runs on west side of I-25 from Lincoln Station to Sky Ridge Avenue
 - Crosses I-25 and proceeds south along the east side past RidgeGate Parkway
- Recommended Alignment
 - Four major road crossings all grade-separated
 - At Lincoln Avenue, I-25 and Sky Ridge Avenue, light rail is elevated
 - At RidgeGate Parkway, the light rail tracks will pass under the roadway
- Station Planning Criteria
 - Projected ridership and parking availability (where applicable)
 - Access for patrons connecting via:
 - Transit
 - Automobile
 - Pedestrian and bicycle modes
 - System-wide bus and light rail service operations
 - Nearby development
- SkyRidge Station
 - Positioned adjacent to Sky Ridge Avenue immediately north of the Sky Ridge Medical Center
 - Located at-grade
 - Includes a kiss-n-Ride drop-off area.
 - Design accommodates a high share of pedestrian trips and provides good pedestrian connections to adjacent development
- Lone Tree City Center Station
 - Located in the planned City Center of the RidgeGate Planned Development
 - An intensely developed, mixed-use area where building heights are allowed to reach 30 stories
 - Station will be at-grade and integrated into urban development
 - Design provides for bicycle and pedestrian access in all directions
- RidgeGate Station
 - Proposed end-of-line station at RidgeGate Parkway
 - Only new station to include a park-n-Ride facility.
 - Parking planned to accommodate 2,000 cars

- Accessed via RidgeGate Parkway and the frontage road
- Includes kiss-n-Ride and bus transfer areas
- What is an Environmental Evaluation
 - With no federal funding, National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process not required
 - Environmental Evaluation (EE) is RTD's planning approach to include:
 - Conformance with NEPA and associated regulations
 - Ensure equal level of evaluation for all FasTracks corridors
- Resources Under Study
 - Social Impacts and Community Facilities
 - Land Use, Zoning and Economic Considerations
 - Land Acquisition, Displacements and Relocation of Existing Uses
 - Historic, Archaeological, Cultural Resources
 - Visual and Aesthetic Qualities
 - Parklands and Recreation Areas
 - Air Quality and Energy
 - Noise and Vibration
 - Biological Resources
 - Hazardous Materials
 - Safety and Security
 - Utilities
 - Transit Operations
 - Traffic Conditions
- Potential Effects
 - Historic Resources
 - Visual Aesthetic Resources
 - Recreational Facilities (Trails)
 - Wildlife (Prairie Dogs, Raptors)
 - Wetlands/Waters of the U.S.
 - Floodplains
 - Noise/Vibration
 - Air Quality
 - Traffic Circulation
- What Can You Impact
 - Purpose and Need for the Project
 - Alternative Alignments and Station Locations
 - Evaluation Process/Criteria
 - Environmental Impacts
 - Mitigation Measures
 - Schedule

- Public Involvement Process
- Other issues/Concerns
- Project Schedule
 - Fall/Winter 2008
 - Purpose and Need
 - Data Collection
 - Field Investigations
 - Public Meeting No. 1
 - Spring 2009
 - Project Definition
 - Affected Environment
 - Public Meeting No. 2
 - Conceptual Engineering (10% design)
 - Summer/Fall 2009
 - Draft EE
 - Potential Effects
 - Proposed Mitigation
 - Public Meeting No. 3
 - Final Grade Separation Plans
 - Winter 2009
 - Final EE
 - Final Mitigation Measures
 - Basic Engineering Complete (30% design)
 - Board Approval
- How to Stay Connected
 - Web site
 - www.RTD-FasTracks.com
 - E-mail
 - SE@RTD-FasTracks.com
 - RTD-FasTracks Hotline
 - 303.299.2000 and follow the prompts

Public Participation and Input

Twenty members of the community signed in with additional representatives from different agencies and organizations also present.

Comments/Questions

- What did you learn from the first meeting?
 - Residents clearly want the want the extension

- If RTD is able to resolve the funding issues, when is the SE corridor projected to begin?
 - Director O'Boyle explained the financial situation faced by RTD and explained that the RTD board will come back with a decision by April. Original schedule is the project starts in 2011/12 and will be complete by 2016.
- What is the projected cost of the SE corridor?
 - \$ 187 billion
- How does the project related to the projected development? Is there a need for the light rail?
 - John Cotten with the City of Lone Tree answered that the City Center Station will not be built up front and will wait for the development to be further along. The goal is to provide 2,000 parking spaces at RidgeGate which many feel will have easier access than those currently at Lincoln Station.
- Is Right of Way acquisition an issue?
 - ROW will not be an issue, it has been donated by property owners
- How many parking spaces are currently being used at Lincoln?
 - About 75%
- If RTD looked to the taxpayers for additional funding to meet overall FasTrack budget requirements, how much of a tax % increase would be projected?
 - .004 sales tax or 100% increase (actually an additional .4% (4/10ths of a cent) would be a 40% increase over the 1% current tax; it's just a doubling of the .4% requested/approved in 2004)
- Does the existing .004 have a sunset?
 - It will decrease as the construction bonds are paid off but will remain to fund operations and maintenance.

Materials

- Display Boards:
 - *Southeast Corridor Extension
 - *Project Background
 - *Draft Project Purpose
 - *Draft project Need
 - *Project Milestones
 - *Public Input Is Crucial
 - *Ways to Stay Involved
 - *What is an EE
 - *Steps in the EE process
 - *Contents of an EE
 - *Southeast Conceptual alignment and Station Locations
- SE Corridor Newsletter #2
- PowerPoint Presentation, Public Meeting #2 (March)

Outreach

- 100 newsletters distributed to Lone Tree Municipal Center

- 100 newsletters distributed to Lone Tree Recreation Center
- 100 newsletters distributed to Lone Tree Library
- 100 newsletters distributed to SkyRidge Medical Center
- 250 newsletters distributed door-to-door to portions of Heritage Hills
- 200 newsletters distributed door-to-door to RidgeGate businesses and residences including all single family and town homes completed in the area
- Flyers posted at City of Lone Tree Municipal Building
- Email newsletter and meeting notice to all HOAs in Lone Tree
- Email newsletter and meeting notice to Lone Tree Transportation Committee
- Email newsletter and meeting notice to CDOT representatives
- Advertisements run in weekly paper
 - Centennial Citizen- 11,660 circ
 - Englewood Herald- 1565 circ
 - Highlands Ranch Herald- 28,320 circ
 - Littleton Independent- 3970 circ
 - Lone Tree Voice- 5085 circ
- Project website updated with meeting information and notices
- Pre-public meeting briefings held with SkyRidge Hospital, Club Terrace HOA, Muir Field at Lone Tree HOA