

A banner for the Denver Region Sustainable Communities Initiative. It features a background image of a modern multi-story apartment building and a paved walkway with a fence. The text "Denver Region Sustainable Communities Initiative" is written in a white, cursive font over a dark blue background.

Denver Region Sustainable Communities Initiative



SCI Gold Corridor Working Group – Meeting #1

Anne Campbell Room at Arvada City Hall, 8101 Ralston Road, Arvada

9:30 am – 12:00 pm, May 29, 2013

Draft Meeting Summary (As of 6/6/13)

Attendees

CWG Members

- Adams County - Deputy County Administrator Unit: Jeanne Shreve
- Adams County – Planning: Jay Garcia and Joelle Greenland
- Adams County Housing Authority: Don May
- Arvada - Community Development: Mike Elms and Kevin Nichols
- Arvada Urban Renewal Authority: Clark Walker
- Jefferson County Economic Development Corporation (Jeffco EDC): Michelle Claymore
- Jefferson County Housing Authority: Alan Feinstein
- RTD: Patrick McLaughlin
- Wheat Ridge - Community Development: Ken Johnstone
- Wheat Ridge - Economic Development/ Urban Renewal Authority: Steve Art
- Wheat Ridge - Planning and Housing Authority: Sally Payne

Others

- CDR Associates: Laura Sneeringer
- DRCOG: Paul Aldretti and Ashley Kaade
- Jefferson County Public Health: Molly Hanson
- Reconnecting America: Catherine Cox Blair, Bill Sadler and Mike Madrid

Absent CWG Member Organizations

- Adams County Economic Development
- Denver – Community Planning and Development
- Denver – Public Works



Agenda

- Welcome, Introductions and Agenda Overview
- Overview of the Sustainable Communities Initiative (SCI) and CWGs Purpose
- Review and Refine CWG Expectations
- Review Themes from the Pre-Meeting Interviews and Initial Corridor Reconnaissance and Discuss Desired Outcomes and Goals for the CWG Process
- Review Action Items/ Next Steps

Meeting Materials

- Agenda
- Overview Presentation on the Sustainable Communities Initiative
- Operating Protocol
- Work Plan
- Process Timeline
- Interview Summary
- Initial Corridor Reconnaissance

Action Items

Action item responses should be sent to Laura Sneeringer (lsneeringer@mediate.org; 303.442.7367 ext. 214). Technical data responses and questions should also be sent to Reconnecting America (ccooblair@reconnectingamerica.org; bsadler@reconnectingamerica.org; mmadrid@reconnectingamerica.org, 303.861.1420).

- CWG members will review the Meeting #1 Summary, Operating Protocol and Interview Summary and send any suggested modifications.
- CWG jurisdiction representatives will provide parcel data to determine current development and development potential.
- CWG members will review the Draft Corridor Reconnaissance and Baseline Data and Mapping, which will be provided approximately a week before meeting #2.
- Paul Aldretti, DRCOG, will acquire information about how Corridor Working Group efforts will fit into the 2040 Transportation Plan and report back at the July 2nd meeting.
- Paul Aldretti, DRCOG, will begin planning for a forum for large property owners, developers and employers who may be impacted by the Gold Rail Line. The purpose is to inform the Corridor Vision and Goals and Recommendations for Implementation.

Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Goals for the Gold Corridor

As part of their introductions, participants were asked to identify a TOD-related outcome or goal they would like to see completed along the Gold Corridor in the next 3-years as part of Gold CWG efforts. The goals/outcomes included:

- Establishing a precedent for the future of the Gold Corridor and setting a model for other corridors to follow.
- Building success and replicating that success at other rail lines.
- Optimizing development opportunities that are available along the corridor.
- Creating a model station or two representing “well connected pedestrian access”.
- Creating continuity between stations, bringing different themes, but also working together.



- Developing long term solutions, last-mile connections, and bike/pedestrian improvements.
- Promoting development around the Sheridan station, an industrial area, creating a unique and inviting station.
- Creating bike/pedestrian connections, food access, and positive impacts.
- Creating a good case study for national projects.
- Capitalizing on resident excitement by building around the corridor.
- Working as a corridor, rather than individual station areas.
- Not re-inventing the wheel at every station, but using best practices and case studies from other stations along the corridor.

Overview of the Sustainable Communities Initiative (SCI) and CWGs Purpose

Paul Aldretti, DRCOG, provided an overview of the Sustainable Communities Initiative and highlighted the mandate of the CWG. His presentation is available on the Website.

The CWG's primary tasks are the following, and are described in the Work Plan. All activities need to be completed by January 15, 2015 at the latest.

- Develop a TOD Gold Corridor Vision and Goals
- Identify challenges and opportunities related to implementing the vision
- Develop detailed Corridor-Wide Recommendations for Implementation, focused primarily on cross jurisdictional TOD challenges and opportunities
- Identify a catalytic project site with redevelopment potential and conduct pre-development planning work for this site

The CWG will utilize input from a parallel Stakeholder Committee made up of community and business leaders. This is an advisory, non-decision-making group that will provide input to the CWG. Technical resources are available through the SCI Resource Group, SCI Outcome Assessment and Knowledge Sharing (OAKS) Group and funding is available to hire technical consultants.

The Committee discussed the following questions:

Is there a business piece involved in this process? How do employers fit in with this process?

DRCOG will plan a forum for large property owners, developers and employers who may be impacted by the Gold Rail Line. The purpose is to provide feedback on the Vision and Goals and Recommendation for Implementation.

Will the CWG's feedback be incorporated into the 2040 Transportation Plan as it may inform scenario planning, TIP planning and other efforts? If so, how?

Paul Aldretti will discuss this question with others at DRCOG and respond to this question at the next meeting.

Review of CWG Expectations

Laura Sneeringer, CDR Associates, gave a brief overview of the CWG Operating Protocol, Work Plan and Process Timeline. The group agreed that they could meet the outlined expectations.



As described in the Work Plan and Process Timeline, the CWG is expected to have 12 meetings over the next 15 months. The schedule can be modified as needed to meet the needs of the group. Key points include:

- Stakeholder Committee's input for the Vision and Goals will be provided to the CWG in advance of the CWG's conversation on Vision and Goals to ensure their feedback is fully considered. The Stakeholder Committee will also provide feedback on the draft Vision and Goals and draft Recommendations for Implementation.
- A public meeting will be held to obtain input on the draft Vision and Goals and initial Recommendations for Implementation. This is anticipated to occur in October.
- The Gold CWG will meet every first Tuesday of the month, in the afternoon. An Outlook meeting was sent to all CWG members.

The Committee discussed the following questions:

Has the SCI Grant determined the different areas of study that will be addressed under the Catalytic Site program?

The Catalytic Site must be related to any of the six Federal Livability Principles that the HUD-DOT-EPA partnership uses to evaluate its activities. These principles are:

- Provide more transportation choices
- Promote equitable, affordable housing
- Enhance economic competitiveness
- Support existing communities
- Coordinate and leverage federal policies and investment
- Value communities and neighborhoods

How much and what can the money be used for the Catalytic Site?

\$200,000 is available for the catalytic site efforts. Funding for technical assistance along the corridor is from a different fund. The \$600,000 set aside for the Catalytic Sites is divided by the three rail lines: East, Gold, and Northwest. The catalytic site planning efforts must be connected to any of the 5 livability principles (see above). The technical assistance can be used for broader subjects depending on what the CWG sees as fit for the corridor. The SCI efforts will be in conjunction with existing plans in the area, pulling together work done previously along the Gold Corridor.

Are there any suggested Catalytic Sites for the Gold Corridor?

No, there are currently no suggested sites. The process is designed to drive conversations leading up to the selection of a catalytic site. Meeting summaries will track any potential sites that are highlighted before the actual selection process.

What is the final deliverable? Will it be available to the public?

The ultimate goal of the process is to look at the corridor as a whole and to develop strategies to spur TOD development along the corridor that CWG members will implement. As far as formal deliverables, a Corridor Profile will be developed by Reconnecting America. This report will be a compilation of 1) Introduction and overview of the project purpose and study area; 2) Summary of the evaluation process; 3) CWG's Vision and objectives or guiding principles for the corridor; 4) Baseline maps; 5) Station area typologies – general description and application to each station area (or groups of station areas); and 6) recommendations for implementation or next steps.



Will the CWG and the Stakeholder Committee ever meet together?

There are not any meetings planned for this, but CWG members are welcome to attend Stakeholder Committee meetings. A few CWG members expressed interest in wanting to meet with the Stakeholder Committee members through a joint meeting. One idea was to meet during the development of the vision and goals in order to create a dialogue rather than responding at separate meetings. Others expressed that the Work Plan expectations may become confused in a joint meeting. This topic will be considered at future meetings.

Overview of the Interview Summary and Baseline Data and Background Context of the Gold Corridor

Laura Sneeringer, CDR Associates, provided a brief overview of context notes from the Interview Summary. Bill Sadler, Reconnecting America, presented an initial data summary of the Gold Corridor, including demographic, economic, and existing visions and goals summaries. Reconnecting America will provide more in-depth information prior to the next meeting, including mapping of the entire corridor highlighting different subjects, such as affordable housing, commuting patterns, demographics, and jobs.

Is there additional information that the CWG would like to have Reconnecting America add to the Baseline Data and Mapping to be presented at the next meeting?

The group was interested in understanding development potential. In order to provide this information, the jurisdictions need to provide parcel data to Reconnecting America. Other topics included information on where people work and their commuting patterns and walksheds (only Denver has walkshed data available).

Comment: The formatting of the Interview Summaries for the 41st and Fox station could be mirrored for other stations in order to see similarities and differences between the stations.

