



SCI Northwest Corridor Working Group – Meeting #4

Louisville Library, January 8, 2014, 9:00 am – 11:00 am

Meeting Summary (As of 1/13/14)

Attendees

- Audrey DeBarros, 36 Commuting Solutions
- Debra Baskett, City & County of Broomfield
- Lesli Ellis, City of Boulder
- Kathleen Bracke, City of Boulder
- Genevieve Hutchison, RTD FasTracks
- Chris Auxier, Adams County Housing Authority
- Don May, Adams County Housing Authority
- Jeanne Shreve, Adams County
- Jared Hall, Boulder County
- Grant Penland, City of Westminster
- Aric Otzelberger, City of Westminster
- Judi Patrick, CRHDC

Project Team

- Paul Aldretti, Denver Regional Council of Governments
- Andrea Meneghel, CDR Associates
- Catherine Cox Blair, Reconnecting America
- Ken Snyder, PlaceMatters

Action Items

- 36 Commuting Solutions, RTD and representatives of the 36 Mayors and Commissioners Coalition communities agreed to draft the initial corridor-wide Technical Assistance (TA) statement of work (SOW) for the CWG.
- Representatives of the City of Westminster, Adams County Housing Authority (ACHA), Adams County and Community Resources and Housing Development Corporation (CHRDC) will draft the initial statement of work for the Catalytic Project.
- DRCOG will provide the following materials to the CWG members:
 - Example Catalytic Project and TA statements of work from other corridors
 - Statement of Work Template
 - Timeline that defines the process regarding SOW completion, RFP advertisement, the procurement, consultant work and implementation.



Agenda

Meeting Purpose: *Discuss and identify recommended corridor-wide strategies for implementation that can be supported by Technical Assistance. To explore ideas for proposed Catalytic Projects that the Corridor Working Group would like to discuss further.*

- Welcome, Introductions, Agenda Overview and Updates
- Northwest Corridor Vision and Goals
- Catalytic Project and Corridor-wide Technical Assistance Criteria
- Northwest Corridor Recommendations for Corridor Wide Implementation
- Potential Catalytic Site Ideas

Meeting Materials (available on the Website or FTP Site)

- January 8, 2014 CWG #4 Meeting Agenda
- Northwest Draft Corridor Vision and Goals
- Northwest Catalytic Project and Technical Assistance Criteria
- Northwest Corridor Recommendations for Implementation Feedback and Matrix
- Proposed Catalytic Project Ideas

Welcome, Introductions, Agenda Overview and Updates

Andrea Meneghel, CDR Associates, presented the meeting agenda and asked DRCOG to update the Corridor Working Group (CWG) about the activities of the Corridor Stakeholder Committee (CSC). Paul Aldretti, DRCOG, reported that the CSC was supportive of the corridor's vision and goals as revised by the CWG. The CSC met the evening before the CWG meeting and DRCOG will distribute meeting minutes in the coming week to CWG members.

Northwest Corridor Vision and Goals

Andrea Meneghel, CDR Associates, presented the CWG with a revised version of the Northwest Corridor Vision and Goals. He explained that the project team responded to CWG guidance and input to eliminate duplication in the goals and to extract strategy-oriented language in the list of goals. The CWG agreed that it was comfortable with moving forward with the latest iteration of the vision and goals. The group felt that the essential components are included.

Paul Aldretti, DRCOG, explained that the vision and goals can be further refined if needed. The objective is that the CWG is supportive of the vision and goals at this point so that they are reflected in the allocation of technical assistance funds and selection of a catalytic project.

Catalytic Project and Corridor-wide Technical Assistance Criteria



Andrea reviewed the input the project team received about the criteria for selecting a Catalytic Project and Corridor-wide Technical Assistance. In addition to what was presented to the group at the last meeting in the document *Northwest Catalytic Site and Technical Assistance Criteria*, the CWG felt in the context of the Northwest Corridor the following criteria should be considered. The CWG agreed with the additions and had no other comments.

- Consider equity when determining how the corridor-wide funding should be spent so that it results in an action that benefits the entire corridor.
- Focus on building consensus for what Technical Assistance projects should be selected that have region-wide benefits and then consider a Catalytic Project that complements those efforts to meet the same goals.
- The TA corridor-wide strategies and Catalytic Project should be responsive to achieving what is defined in the corridor vision and goals.

Sustainable Communities Initiative Northwest Corridor Funding:

Paul Aldretti reminded the group that the following funding amounts are available.

- \$150,000 is allocated to the Catalytic Project
 - There can be multiple components to the catalytic project, but they must be at the same geographic location.
- \$150,000 is allocated to Corridor Wide Technical Assistance
 - This funding can be applied to the implementation of multiple strategies.
- \$150,000 is available to be distributed at the CWG's discretion
 - This funding can be divided between the TA or the Catalytic Project.

Comments and Input

- There was an assumption that the CWG agreed at the last meeting to distribute \$400,000 to the TA and \$50K to the catalytic project. Per the agreement with HUD at least \$150,000 must be allocated to the Catalytic Project. Changing this will require an amendment and approval from HUD. Originally, \$300,000 was allocated to the Catalytic Project and DRCOG amended the grant to reduce the amount to \$150,000. It was understood that another change would be difficult and time consuming because it would require a full budget amendment.
- Because the NW Corridor is different than other corridors because of the multiple jurisdictions that share the transportation infrastructure, CWG members felt more benefit would be seen throughout the region if more resources go towards the Corridor-wide TA, than to one specific project.
- As examples of what is occurring in other corridors, Paul explained that the East Corridor selected a catalytic project that is a “demonstration” activity (freeing up parking land for other uses) that can be subsequently applied to other sites/stations along the East Corridor. Similarly, the site that Lakewood selected (the 20 minutes neighborhood, can be a demonstration project that to be used along other places in the West Corridor.
- Adams County Housing has been working on a draft proposal that it discussed with the City of Westminster for the catalytic project that meets the criteria and can benefit from the \$150,000.
- Paul Aldretti explained that the statements of work for the Catalytic Project and the Corridor-Wide Technical Assistance consist of four main components: overall outcomes and how they are related to the SCI goals, primary tasks (or aspects) for achieving the outcomes, sub-tasks (the detail work that will be done to achieve the tasks), and specific deliverables for the tasks such as desired reports or specific data.

Northwest Corridor Recommendations for Corridor Wide Implementation



The CWG discussed potential implementation strategies and how the technical assistance funding should be applied. The project team had requested feedback between meetings and documented the input it had received. However, the input did not reflect the response from a majority of group members, so the CWG had a discussion at the meeting about what strategies were supported and what it would like to recommend. The following input was captured about where the NW CWG would like to see technical assistance funding applied.

Comments and Input

- The NW CWG supports the funding being applied towards efforts that can further the implementation of first and final mile improvements such as way-finding, bike and pedestrian access, bicycle storage, transit stop improvements, branding the BRT stations and service uniquely, better multi-modal access around the stations and identifying implementation strategies and funding mechanisms. An integrated access plan that considers the above mentioned components is the envisioned product.
- TA initiatives can be designed to support the BRT system and helpful in identifying strategies that can help to inspire investment and Transit Oriented Development (TOD) around BRT stations.
- Audrey DeBarros, 36 Commuting Solutions, offered to lead the effort for conceptualizing how to take the top recommendations from the 36 Commuting Solutions *First and Final Mile Study* closer to implementation.
- Audrey will lead a group that will develop a scope of work that focuses on the following initiatives for the U.S. 36 BRT stations and Park-n-Rides:
 - Establishing bike shelters and parking.
 - Expanding a regional bike-share program.
 - Further defining and promoting the corridor’s identity and “brand”.
 - Developing an on-going fundraising plan.
- It was suggested that an additional action of the TA Scope of Work can be to analyze what can be done to address missing links throughout the corridor for areas such as (but not limited to) the South Westminster Rail Station to the BRT system, and areas of Broomfield to Arista.
- The NW CWG sub-group that will be drafting this scope of work will define the following:
 - What are the goals that the actual work will address?
 - How will a consultant carry out the work to be done? What is expected?
 - What are the desired final products?
 - What is the timeline for the work to be done by a consultant?
 - What is the work estimated to cost?

Potential Catalytic Project Ideas

The group discussed a preliminary concept for the Catalytic Project that was proposed by the City of Westminster in its Harris Park Neighborhood. Materials had been distributed to the group beforehand describing this project. However, the City had discussions with Adams County and Adams County Housing Authority that further refined what could be done near the South Westminster Rail Station.

Comments & Input

- The City of Westminister and Adams County Housing Authority (ACHA) shared their concept for a Catalytic Project. ACHA has significant property holdings near the South Westminister Station that can integrate housing with improvements to a new parking structure for the rail service.



- ACHA will work on a more detailed Scope of Work with the City of Westminster, Adams County and Community Housing Resources and Development Corporation.
- The City is spending about \$40M on infrastructure improvements in the area including a 1,100 parking structure. It's a qualified census tract for items like Low Income Housing Tax Credit and ACHA has been actively acquiring property in this area. While there is some remaining vacant land in the area, master plans exist for the 4.5 acre area and include provisions for mixed use development and job creation. The City is also doing a parking study and talking to some developers.
- This is a much challenged area and the catalytic project proposal leverages some other activities currently underway in this area. There are conceptual plans for this area but there are also market realities that are challenging. The Catalytic Project work can be a meaningful investment in the area that will improve the potential opportunities of the area.
- Broader region-wide benefits of this catalytic project include:
 - Being able to demonstrate an ability to address the infrastructure challenges and further develop links between systems.
 - Overcome some of the demographic challenges to attract investments and more affordable housing.
 - Provide access to regional opportunities and also provide access to the rail service.
 - Increase and improve bike and multimodal connections.
 - Use the Enterprise Green Communities funding.
 - Meet 5 out of 6 of the Federal Livability principles.
- CRHDC has invested \$6M in improving the housing stock in this area.
- The group agreed that a permanent affordable housing project along the corridor provides benefit throughout the region. The group agreed that this is a worthwhile project for the corridor as it could be a potential catalyst for private investment while addressing some of the corridor's socio-economic challenges.
- More information needs to be defined regarding details on the timing of the work for the site.
- It was asked if there something can be articulated or defined about how a catalytic project in this area can provide benefit to the BRT system and how it can aid or improve the corridor's reverse commute.
- It was expressed that there is a hope that more affordable housing units in the corridor (for workers, students or others) will benefit other communities.

Additional Comments and Next Steps

- The NW CWG felt that it has developed good concepts for a Catalytic Project and Corridor-wide Technical Assistance that will benefit the region and meet the goals of HUD and the SCI grant.
- To develop and further define the Scopes of Work for the two projects, the CWG is moving forward with the understanding that \$150K is being allocated to the catalytic project and \$300K will be allocated to the corridor-wide technical assistance.
- The NW CWG will be working on the following activities during February and March: Selecting final technical assistance strategies and finalizing the respective scopes of work for the catalytic project and corridor-wide technical assistance.

