

5.0 COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND AGENCY INVOLVEMENT

The Community Outreach and Agency Involvement program was developed to build community awareness of the study, identify the issues and concerns of businesses, residents, community groups, resource agencies and other stakeholders; and engage the stakeholders in the development and screening of ideas for corridor improvements.

5.1 Public Outreach

The project team held a series of meetings with individuals, businesses, business organizations, neighborhood groups, homeowners associations and the community. The most comprehensive method for communicating with the public at-large was through public meetings using an open house format followed

PUBLIC OUTREACH

- Open House
- Neighborhood Groups
- Business Community

by a formal presentation. The public meetings were held at key milestone dates that coordinated with the environmental study process. In addition, one town hall meeting was attended to provide the Stapleton neighbors with an update of the project's progress. One-on-one meetings were held with representatives of the various organizations within Stapleton, including businesses and residents. Meetings are described in the following sections.

5.2 Agency and Public Scoping Meetings

Agency and Public Scoping meetings were held on June 26, 2008 to kick-off the project and to discuss the need for the I-70/CPB Interchange.

The Scoping meetings were held at the Renaissance Denver Hotel located at 3801 Quebec Street, Denver, Colorado 80207 on Thursday, June 26, 2008. The Agency Scoping meeting was held from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. with CDOT and FHWA in attendance. The Public Scoping meeting began at 5:30 p.m. Registration was set up at the entrance of the meeting room with sign-in sheets. Attendance for the meeting included 34 citizens, one elected official, and 12 project staff and consultants.

The meeting started with an open house format allowing attendees the opportunity to view various project renderings, exhibits and maps and ask questions of the project team. Mr. Jess

Ortiz, CCD project manager, and Mr. Marc Devos, URS project manager, conducted a formal presentation consisting of a project background briefing, proposed direction of the project, schedule, purpose and need, and cumulative effects.

The presentation was immediately followed with a question/comment and answer session, allowing attendees to further discuss and ask specific questions about the proposed project.

Comments received at the meeting focused on:

- The need for access to Northfield
- Making the project a “high priority”
- Bike and pedestrian accommodations
- Increased traffic

Public comments were heard and responded to at the meeting.

Legal notices for the Public Scoping meeting were published in the two local major daily newspapers, the Rocky Mountain News and Denver Post, on June 12, 2008. An announcement advertising the meeting was emailed to the Stapleton community using the network that reaches every home sold in the area with an internet connection. Flyers were distributed door-to-door to the businesses of Stapleton, Northfield at Stapleton, business parks east to Havana, and the business park west of Quebec Street.

5.2.1 Public Meeting

A Public Meeting was held at the Radisson Hotel Denver Stapleton Plaza, 3333 Quebec Street, Denver, Colorado 80207, on Tuesday, December 2, 2008. The purpose of this meeting was to present the alternatives for the proposed I-70/CPB Interchange.

An open house format was conducted from 5:30 to 6:15 pm. Registration was set up at the entrance of the meeting room with sign-in sheets. Attendance for the meeting included 36 citizens, one elected official, and 15 project staff and consultants. Attendees were provided the opportunity to view various project exhibits and maps. Sixteen display boards provided information on project location, alternatives, typical section views, and project schedule.

Attendees were encouraged to view the exhibits, discuss alternatives, and ask questions concerning the proposed project with the project team.

A formal presentation started at 6:15 pm. The project team presented the project purpose and need and described the alternatives:

- Alternative 1 - No Action
- Alternative 2 - Transportation System Management
- Alternative 3A - Braided Ramp Interchange Concept:
Single east-bound on-ramp, single west-bound off-ramp
- Alternative 3B - Braided Ramp Interchange Concept:
Consecutive east-bound on-ramp, consecutive west-bound off-ramp
- Alternative 4A - Cargo Bridge Braided Ramp Interchange Concept:
Single east-bound on-ramp, single west-bound off-ramp
- Alternative 4B - Cargo Bridge Braided Ramp Interchange Concept:
Consecutive east-bound on-ramps, consecutive west-bound off-ramps
- Alternative X - Others as defined by the public

The presentation concluded by outlining the alternatives screening process and the next steps of identifying a Preferred Alternative, preparing the EA, and holding a formal public hearing. Construction of the Preferred Alternative is proposed to be completed late in the fourth quarter of 2010.

The presentation was immediately followed with a question/comment and answer session, allowing attendees to further discuss and ask specific questions about the proposed project.

Comments received at the meeting focused on:

- Options for the cargo bridge
- Bike and Pedestrian accommodations

- Construction timeframe
- Coordination with RTD
- Improvements to adjacent interchanges

Public comments were heard and responded to at the meeting. In addition to answering questions at the meeting, a “Frequently Asked Questions” list was posted to the I-70/CPB Interchange website at http://www.denvergov.org/Capital_Projects_Center.

5.2.2 Neighborhood Outreach

In addition to the public meetings, the project team provided updates to the neighborhood associations, Forest City, and the Stapleton community.

The following organizations were included in all outreach:

- Forest City Stapleton
- Forest City Foundation
- Stapleton Transportation Management Agency
- City Council District 11
- Stapleton United Neighbors
- Stapleton Visitor’s Center
- Community Director at Stapleton
- City of Commerce City
- City of Aurora

5.2.3 Stapleton Town Hall Meeting

Members of the EA team attended a Stapleton Town Hall meeting on October 14, 2008 to update the attendees of the project status and to announce an upcoming public meeting in

December. There were an estimated 70-80 residents in attendance. Comment sheets and a map of the affected area were distributed.

5.2.4 Business Outreach

One-on-one meetings with representatives of the business community were conducted. Presentations were made to City Council District 11 and the Greater Stapleton Business Association. The Shops at Northfield were contacted through their electronic network. Other outreach included flyer delivery to the businesses of Northfield, business parks east to Havana and on the west side of Quebec. Approximately 127 businesses received a flyer.

5.3 Agency Outreach

Agencies in the scoping and outreach process included:

- City and County of Denver
- Colorado Department of Transportation, Region 6
- Federal Highway Administration
- Environmental Protection Agency, Region 8
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- City of Aurora
- City of Commerce City
- U.S. Postal Service
- Stapleton Transportation Management Agency

5.4 Public Information Outreach Techniques

The public outreach team used several targeted methods to reach the corridor stakeholders including door-to-door flyers, paid media, and web site announcements on the Stapleton network, CCD web site link as well as mass e-mails to every resident of Stapleton.

5.4.1 Flyer/Meeting Announcement

The project team produced and distributed a flyer to invite interested residents and businesses to attend the agency/public scoping meeting and public meeting. Flyers were distributed door-to-door to 127 businesses. Flyers were sent electronically to approximately 35,000 residents. Meeting notices were also placed at schools, retail establishments, government offices, and Forest City Stapleton offices.

5.4.2 Web Page

The project team has created and maintained a project web page on CCD's website. The web page (http://www.denvergov.org/Capital_Projects_Center) was updated with current project information. Information available on the web page includes project overview, project updates, announcements, project area, public involvement, project schedule, and provided the ability to leave a comment.

5.4.3 Paid Media

Agency and Public Scoping Meetings

The project team placed a paid announcement in the legal section of the Rocky Mountain News and Denver Post. Announcements ran Thursday, June 12, 2008.

Public Meeting

For the public meeting, 4x5 inch display ads were placed in the Denver Daily News on November 3 and 17, 2008 and in YourHub on November 13 and 27, 2008 for the meeting held on December 2, 2008.

5.4.4 Neighborhood Outreach Strategy

The Forest City Stapleton community has an extensive electronic e-mail network that reaches every resident that bought a home. The project team utilized this network. Additionally, a neighborhood organization, Stapleton United Neighbors, e-mailed the announcement to over 35,000 individuals. Flyers were also left in retail establishments, schools, and other public places.

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