



City of Arvada
ARVADA GOLD LINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
December 7, 2005
6:00 – 7:30
Council Conference Room

Members Present

Kip Davis
Georg Ek
Bernard Kionka
Mike Maus
Anthony McEahern
Mark Schaefer
Jane Schnabel
Greg Thomason
Bob Wilson

Staff Present

Edward Stafford

Guests Present

Don Ulrich – CH2M Hill
Larry Schulz – Wheat Ridge City Council Member

I. Introductions

Members introduced themselves and welcomed guest speaker Don Ulrich.

II. Comments on Minutes from October 26, 2005

The minutes were accepted by the committee as presented.

III. Presentation on Environmental Process

Don Ulrich, Vice President and Denver Area Office Manager with CH2M Hill, provided a presentation about the environmental clearance process and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). His presentation discussed some of the modifications that have been proposed for the Gold Line since the Major Investment Study (MIS) was completed. The major change is the proposal for the line to be on the north side of the existing tracks, which will impact the rail yards as the corridor leaves the Denver Union Station (DUS) and also the area east of Sheridan that will be in the Union Pacific (UP) right-of-way.

The committee discussed some of the concerns that may be raised during the environmental study for the Gold Line. These included:

- Noise mitigation and the impacts of sound walls that may be built with the project, including visual impacts and possible graffiti problems.
- Possible impacts to homes along the line. Since the alignment has not been finalized these impacts are not currently known, but the committee asked to be kept informed about this topic. Areas where the freight line could be relocated closer to residential may also have impacts.
- Vibration could be a concern along the corridor.

- The visual impacts of the movement of the trains and light from the trains may be an issue for the residential areas. Fencing along the right-of-way may also create visual concerns.
- Historic preservation along the corridor will also be a concern. This will be true for the bank and the Flour Mill, and also along the corridor between Lamar and Olde Town.

The committee asked how the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) will be involved in the EIS. The FRA is anticipated be a participating agency in the process, while the FTA will be the lead agency for the EIS.

IV. Report on Committee Corridor Tour

Several members of the committee toured the Gold Line corridor on November 12, 2005. Items that the committee noted from the tour included:

- The limited space between the Flour Mill and the bank in Olde Town, and also the area east of the bank in Olde Town.
- The committee wants to insure that the final product is attractive and exciting for the community, especially in the Olde Town area.
- The Ralston Road bridge should be reexamined to see if the bridge can remain until and unless the railroad needs to add an additional track.

V. Update on Gold Line and FasTracks Program

The Regional Transportation District (RTD) is expected to release the Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Gold Line Corridor Environmental Impact Study (EIS) in late 2005.

VI. Other Items

Wheat Ridge Councilmember Schultz reported that they are working with IBC Holdings, which purchased the Jolly Rancher site, on development opportunities for the location. A development proposal was made for this site and the Wheat Ridge City Council denied it. Wheat Ridge is considering a temporary suspension of permits for certain uses in the area, and has started a neighborhood planning process. It has hosted two meetings with the community, and have heard that some of the land owners in the area have been contacted by realtors looking to purchase land for development around the station.

Staff provided the committee with an update on the Wadsworth-Grandview Underpass project. The committee indicated that they were impressed with and liked the design.

Mark Shaefer provided a list of transportation acronyms was provided to the committee for its use. Kip Davis provided the committee with a copy of the track chart for the Burlington Northern Railroad (BNRR) line. The committee thanked both members for these documents.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, January 25, 2006 at 6:00 PM. A presentation on Transit Orientated Development (TOD) will be part of this meeting.