



City of Arvada
ARVADA GOLD LINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
March 29, 2006
6:00 – 7:30
Council Conference Room

Members Present

Georg Ek
Bernard Kionka
Mike Maus
Anthony McEahern
Robert Revis
Mark Schaefer
Jane Schnabel
Bob Wilson

Guests Present

Eric Anderson
Lindsey Royce
Tom Wooten

Staff Present

Edward Stafford
Kevin Nichols

I. Introductions

Committee members introduced themselves and welcomed guests Eric Anderson, Lindsey Royce and Tom Wooten from the Arvada Station Area Planning study team.

II. Comments on Minutes from January 25, 2006

Staff provided the committee with a copy of the meeting minutes from the previous meeting. Minutes were accepted as presented.

III. Arvada Station Area Planning Presentation and Discussion

Kevin Nichols, Senior Planner with the City of Arvada, introduced the project consultant team for the Station Area Planning study. The process has started and the team is currently interviewing stakeholders to learn more about each of the station sites and the ideas and issues associated with them. These stakeholder meetings will continue for several weeks.

A steering group has also been formed to provide guidance on the study. The GLAC is represented on the committee by Mike Maus. The first steering committee meeting will be held next week, and then the team will be making presentations to the Planning Commission and City Council.

Eric Anderson provided a presentation summarizing the goals of the study. He told the committee that the first community design charettes will be held on May 9 for the Kipling station, May 10 for the Olde Town station, and May 11 for the Sheridan station. A second set of public meeting is schedule for early July, probably July 11, 12, and 13.

The committee discussed a number of items about each of the stations, including:

What has changed that is good? Discussions of things that have happened in the community included the renovations that have been made to Olde town, which have created an attractive place and restored some of the old buildings; the old Ridge Home site has been cleaned up and redevelopment has begun; the Van Bibber project has created opportunities to redevelop the retail in the heart of the city; the recent passage of the police tax and the fire district tax occurred; an expansion of the Arvada Center is underway; a new public library is being constructed in Olde Town, which will have easy access to the light rail;

What are some concerns? Concerns expressed included the loss of tax dollars to surrounding cities and the impacts to the Arvada budget, which has created a need for more development to being in more sales tax. The plans need to consider the relationship of Arvada's station to other stations and the development that will occur at the same time. The stations need to be something that will attract others to Arvada, just as other stations outside of Arvada may attract people from Arvada.

What do you see at these stations as in 20 years? The discussion included: the first need of the stations is to provide transit and serve the transportation needs of the community. They should also be convenient and allow the development of a feeder bus system to bring people to the stations. Stations should be a pleasure to visit. It was recommended that the project team consider the success of the rail system and stations in Europe for ideas that may improve the Gold Line. The committee would like the stations to be of a higher quality that will look as good in 20 years as when they are first opened. Stations should provide services that people want and should attract people. Public gathering spaces are important and need to be attractive so that people will use them. The design for Olde Town should blend in so that it fits the character of the area. Parking is also critical at the stations, and there needs to be enough available to meet the demand, but it also needs to be attractive. Underground parking should be considered as a part of the new development and also a consideration for the future of surface parking lots. Surface parking can keep land available for future development to include structured parking and densification, once the market is ready. Vegetation should also be provided to create green spaces and attract wildlife.

What should be the vision for each station?

Olde Town Station: This station must fit in with the character of Olde Town. One idea would be for the design to replicate the design from the old C&S station, which would complement Olde Town Arvada. A challenge for the Olde Town station is how to incorporate the area south of the current tracks into the area. There was other discussion on issues with the design of the rail and electrification, but these will need to be addressed in the EIS process.

Arvada Ridge Station: This station should tie in with the community college, but that may require the college to be relocated closer to the station. The grades in the area could also be a challenge for creating easy access to the station. It was suggested that the team talk with some of the students at the college and see what their ideas are.

Sheridan Station: The location of this station will be a challenge for the operations of the rail and for development, which must be considered as a part of the study.

Other discussion included the opportunities and need for residential and affordable housing near the stations. One idea was for live-work style units near Sheridan. There was also concern about how to serve the Arvada Center given its distance from the Olde Town station. Suggestions included future transit service along Wadsworth between Olde Town and the Center. Transit use should be encouraged with the use of employer subsidies for transit use.

The committee asked the project team to present its findings at a future committee meeting, possibly in September.

IV. Project Updates

Staff provided an update on the Gold Line EIS. RTD has selected a consultant for this project and expects to award the contract in April and have the project start in June 2006.

Staff provided an update on the Wadsworth Grandview Underpass project, which is currently in final design and expected to start construction in the Fall of 2006.

V. Other Items

The next meeting is Wednesday, May 31 at 6:00 PM in the Council Conference Room.