



City of Arvada
ARVADA GOLD LINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
April 26, 2007
6:00 – 7:30
Council Conference Room

Members Present

Adam Browning
Kip Davis
Georg Ek
Stephan Hannan
Bernard Kionka
Mark Schaefer
Jane Schnabel
Bill Swink
Bob Wilson

Staff Present

Edward Stafford

Guests Present

Shelley Cook
Mike Turner - RTD
Larry Schulz – Council Member City
of Wheat Ridge

I. Introductions

Committee members introduced themselves and welcomed new members Adam Browning and Stephan Hannan. Other guests present included Shelley Cook, Mike Turner RTD (East Corridor) and Larry Schultz Wheat Ridge City Council.

II. East Corridor Technology Presentation

Mike Turner presented the committee with information about RTD's East Corridor transit line. In 2003 RTD and CDOT started a joint study for the I-70 viaduct area highway and transit improvements. In the summer of 2006 the projects were split apart as they were on different schedules and the transit portion was closer to selecting an alternative than the I-70 freeway portion of the project.

The purpose and need for the transit project is to provide transit service between the Denver Union Station and DIA. In FasTracks the corridor selected was the Union Pacific Line right-of-way then connection to the Pena Boulevard Corridor to DIA. The transit project is in the Draft Environmental Impact Study (DEIS) stage the schedule is to have a Record of Decision (ROD) in 2008.

The current recommended technology for the corridor is Commuter Rail As a part of the EIS a Light Rail technology was also evaluated. The DEIS has been delayed waiting for the results of the RTD Annual Project Evaluation (APE). The current preferred technology for this corridor is Electrical Multiple Unit (EMU), but the RTD board as a part of the APE may consider requesting additional evaluation of Diesel Multiple Unit (DMU). Issues between the two technologies include:

- Air quality emission concerns

- EMU has impacts on a regional basis with the generation of electricity, while there DMU has emissions along the corridor
- Low sulfur diesel has reduced the pollution emitted from the DMU.
- Visual impact of the electric centenary line is sometimes a concern for EMU, but east corridor has not expressed this concern.
- Noise was also a concern between the two technologies
 - At higher speeds the wheel noise on either EMU or DMU is greater than the DMU engine.
 - DMU has a louder engine noise than the EMU during acceleration and deceleration as they approach the station.
- DMU has is manufactured by only one vendor (ColoRail) in the US while they are several companies that manufacture EMU vehicles.

III. Gold Line Environmental Impact Study Update

Staff provided an update on the Gold Line EIS and also presented different station platform options that RTD presented at their Issue Focused Teams meetings for the Gold Line.

IV. Officer Elections

The committee selected Bob Wilson to be the 2008 Chair and Bernie Kionka to the 2008 Vice Chair. These offices are for the next year.

V. Denver Union Station Update

Bob Wilson presented information the status of planning for the DUS. The committee discussed concerns about the location of the light rail platform. The current proposal is for the light rail platform to be 2 blocks northwest of the DUS, and commuter rail platform at DUS. Transfers between light rail and commuter rail would require a 2 block walk or bus ride.

The committee discussed if this was an issue they needed to bring to City Council's attention. The committee decided that, while it does not have a direct negative impact to the Gold Line, it does impact the regional transit system and so they should provide information to the City Council.

After discussion about the issues of platform location the committee endorsed the ColoRail Passenger Associations comments and position on the DUS plan and requested that is be forwarded to City Council for their consideration.

VI. Other Items

Members were asked to check and update their contact information on the committee roster list.

The next meeting is scheduled Thursday, June 28, 2007 at 6:00 PM in the Council Conference Room.