

C-470 Corridor Coalition
Technical Working Group Meeting #41
Meeting Notes
DRAFT

Thursday, April 17, 2014
1:30 pm to 4:00 pm
Douglas County Park Meadows Substation
9350 Heritage Hills Circle, Lone Tree

ADOPTED MISSION STATEMENT - “To work together to develop and implement a solution that improves safety and mobility along the C-470 Corridor and within the south metro area.”

- Enhance Quality of Life
- Promote Economic Vitality
- Support Regional Partnerships
- Achieve Public Support
- Accelerate Project Delivery

ADOPTED GOALS for the C-470 Corridor

- Develop and evaluate options that are cost effective
- Reach consensus on technical solution(s)
- Develop strategic plan for phased implementation

I. Self-Introductions

The following attended the **April 17, 2014** Technical Working Group (TWG) meeting:

Art Griffith, Douglas County	Melinda Urban, FHWA
Jerome Estes, CDOT	Steve Hersey, CDOT
Carrie DeJacommo-Wiedner, CDOT	Bruce Naylor, CDOT
Joe Mahoney, CDOT	Jon Chesser, CDOT
Leela Rajasekar, CDOT	Jocelyn Higashide, CDOT
Kari Grant, CDOT	Bryan Weimer, Arapahoe County
Chris Sheffer, City of Centennial	John Cotten, City of Lone Tree
Forrest Dykstra, HRMD	Roger Sherman, CRL Associates
Jim Brady, Wilson & Company	Scott Waterman, Wilson & Company
Chris Hopkins, Wilson & Company	

II. Review Draft Minutes from TWG Meeting #40 held on March 20, 2014

Jerome asked if anyone had any comments to the March 20, 2014 TWG draft meeting minutes. There were no comments and the meeting minutes were accepted by the TWG.

III. TIGER VI Grant Application Update

Jerome Estes provided an update on the TIGER VI grant application, noting that CDOT will be evaluating three project applications: the C-470 RAMP project, I-70 Peak Period, and US50 in Region 2. CDOT has a deadline of April 24th to provide a final copy of the grant application to the finance office and OFMB. Jim Brady stated that the C-470 Policy Committee has signed a joint letter of support, the South I-25 Urban Corridor TMA is providing a letter of support, and CDOT is obtaining legislative support. This collaboration is a real strength that will support the application along with the innovations that are part of the TIGER application. CDOT will be asking for approximately \$15 million to support the C-470 RAMP project.

IV. Highlights from the April 3, 2014 C-470 Corridor Coalition Policy Committee Meeting

- **PC decision to advance I-25 direct connect ramps**

Jerome stated that the C-470 Policy Committee is in support of the direct connect ramp concept and there was consensus to move forward with the direct connect ramp option. Since that time Cambridge Systematics (CS) has been able to provide updated revenue numbers related to the direct connect ramps. The direct connect ramps are a fundamental change to how revenue is generated along the corridor. The latest iteration with the direct connect ramps is showing \$103M available for toll revenue bonds. This combined with the \$100M in RAMP funding, \$10 in local funds, \$2M in CDOT FASTER funds, and \$15M from TIGER, would support the current \$230M project estimate.

Scott Waterman noted that the project estimate was updated to include \$18.5M for the cost of the direct connect ramps, and \$4M for the additional 2nd westbound managed lane to Colorado that is required for this configuration. The project team is now looking at how these results affect the project schedule. Jim Brady noted that the revenue numbers were an interim deliverable from CS so that we could synchronize numbers for the TIGER application. CS will be doing a more robust model to refine the revenue, but the numbers are expected to remain similar. The Level 3 Traffic & Revenue study will produce the investment grade rating.

- **Public Hearing for RAMP Projects at DRCOG**

Art Griffith provided an update from the DRCOG public hearing on April 16, 2014. All public comment were positive and DRCOG voted to take action at the May 21st meeting to adopt all of the RAMP projects in the Cycle 2 Amendments to the DRCOG 2035 plan.

- **HOV 3+ Discussion**

Art Griffith stated that there was a recent presentation to the DRCOG MVIC on HOV3+. It's clear that there is a need to vet this issue through the public and at the last C-470 Policy Committee meeting general comments where that HOV3+ could be looked at in the future once enforcement techniques are developed. There is a risk of the cost of enforcement and lost revenue with HOV3+. Art asked the TWG to talk to their elected officials about the desire to potential incorporate HOV3+ in the future.

There was discussion regarding the costs related to enforcement of HOV3+ and the risk of lost revenue, and current technologies related to enforcement. Technology may be developed in the future that will make enforcement a lot more practical. Jerome noted that CDOT understands the concerns the Coalition has with the cost of HOV3+, but wants to be sure that we follow proper protocol to address the issue. Art noted that perhaps the Coalition's constituents may look to CDOT to consider the merits of HOV3+ once the project debt has been paid off. John Cotten noted that, as we present this question to the public, we need to be careful how the question is presented. HOV is viewed as a good thing, but we need to show how the cost and risks associated with enforcement and revenue could affect the project.

- **Public Outreach Strategies Discussion**

Art Griffith introduced Roger Sherman with CLR who has been contracted by Douglas County to support the public outreach. Art noted that we had a message from the Policy Committee to have the TWG refine the public outreach program that will go through the revised EA decision document. Then CDOT has a plan for public outreach during the procurement phase. The PC understood the need to reach out to the individual neighborhoods with noise concerns before holding the proposed general public meetings.

Roger noted that the PC and TWG should have a unified message so that all local agencies are presenting the same information. Art stated that the PC made a decision to do another round of telephone town hall meetings as they considered very effective before. Roger recommended that they are held about a week before the open houses. The TWG decided to hold open house meetings in Lone Tree, Centennial, Highlands Ranch, and Jefferson County, followed by a single Public Hearing potentially at the Highlands Ranch mansion or Highlands Ranch Metro District office.

Jon Chesser stated that is has been 2-years since the last public open house and that we need to present the project now, how it is being funded, and provide visuals of the

proposed improvements. He also noted that the project team needs to leave enough time between the open houses and the Public Hearing to address any comments received during the open houses.

Roger recommended that the telephone town halls be used for information delivery and to direct people to the website for exhibits and more information. Additionally, the telephone town halls should all be held within the same week and used to encourage people to attend the open house for maximum participation. It was agreed to have three (3) telephone town halls with 2 or more elected officials at each boardcast. Bryan Weimer agreed that the three telephone town hall meetings would cover the three counties so that elected officials can speak to their constituents.

There was a discussion regarding the schedule for the public outreach, with a general consensus that the meetings would be held in late July or August. However, there are a lot of steps that need to be coordinated and the project team will look to develop a draft public outreach schedule, starting with the NEPA requirements and working backward.

- **C-470 Coalition Website and CDOT Website Discussion**

Art discussed that the Coalition's website has not been updated recently, but that CDOT now maintains a project website. The TWG consensus was to put all new updates on the CDOT project website and provide a link from the Coalition website to CDOT's website.

Joe Mahoney recommended that the Coalitions website be used to provide a brief explanation and positive message along with the link to CDOT's website.

Art suggested that CDOT's website should include an updated video simulation of the latest direct concept and other improvements between I-25 and west of Quebec, which would be similar to the one previously prepared by PB. This is a great tool to show the public how the toll lanes will operate and the TWG supported updating the simulation.

V. Schedule of upcoming C-470 Corridor Coalition Committee Meetings

- **TWG Meeting – Thursday, May 15, 2014 at 1:30 pm at Douglas County Park Meadows Substation, 9350 Heritage Hills Circle, Lone Tree**
- **PC Meeting – Thursday, June 5, 2014 at 10:00 am at Highlands Ranch Mansion**