



US 6 / Wadsworth Environmental Assessment Including Improvements from 3rd to 13th Avenues

Purpose:	Meeting with Jefferson County Open School principal to gather information on school and introduce project		
Day:	Monday	Date:	June 18, 2007, 9:30 a.m.

Location:	Jefferson County Open School	
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Participants:

Attendee	Representing
Wendy Wheaton	Jefferson County Open School principal
Colleen Kirby Roberts	CH2M HILL

Discussion Items

The purpose of the meeting was to gather information on the school, primarily in regards to traffic patterns and bus and transit use, and to introduce the project.

Plans for school

At one time, the school was possibly planning to move west to the Red Rocks Community College campus. The school community did not support this suggestion, and the school now plans to remain in its current location. The school is waiting for the next bond to pass in hopes of obtaining funds to build a new school building north of the existing school.

The new building would be accessed from 12th Avenue, and the existing building would be replaced by athletic fields. 10th Avenue would no longer be a primary access to the school. Slater Paull architects has designed the new building; the school is waiting on funding to build it.

School traffic patterns and transit use

The elementary school, housed in the east wing of the school building, uses the dirt lot at 12th Avenue and Wadsworth for pickup. Wendy said the pickup area is very congested, but the cars are on 12th Avenue rather than Wadsworth.

The secondary school, housed in the west wing, uses the west lot for pickup.

Five buses serve the school, and they unload in front of the school on 10th Avenue. The buses come from areas served by all of Lakewood's bus terminals, so the team needs to call each bus terminal for bus schedules (not just the Central Area Terminal). The school also serves as a transfer point for students being bused to Dennison Elementary. Those students ride the same buses as the JeffCo Open School students, but transfer onto or off of another bus that transports them to or from Dennison.

Wendy feels that the school uses public transit more than most schools. About two dozen students use RTD, primarily Route 76, to come to school. Students use Routes 76 and 15 for field trips to other places in Lakewood and to downtown Denver. This doesn't happen every month, but occurs multiple times throughout the year.

Students in the secondary school also complete apprenticeships with area businesses. Some students walk or ride transit from the school to businesses along Wadsworth and Colfax.

School information

The school enrolls approximately 540 students. The secondary school enrollment (grades 7 - 12) is about double the elementary school enrollment (pre-kindergarten - grade 6). The school uses experiential and self-directed learning; there are no grades and no required classes. Students largely direct their learning experiences, and are required to do six independent projects prior to graduation. These projects include the apprenticeships with area businesses.

The approximate school hours are 8:40 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Wendy gave me a brochure detailing the school's philosophy and a business card with her contact information.