I-270 Corridor Improvements

Community Enhancements Stakeholder Subcommittee Meeting #1

Location: CDOT North Holly 4670 Holly St, Denver, CO 80216

Date/Time: August 20, 2025 / 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

Summary

Introduction, Welcome, and Purpose
Mandy Whorton, Peak Consulting Group, opened the meeting by welcoming all attendees, and participants introduced themselves.

The purpose of this subcommittee is to review past enhancement requests and develop a package of community-supported enhancement recommendations. An initial list of ideas was compiled from past community meetings, workshops, and conversations (Attached). This list does not include any project design elements or required mitigation already captured in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The list is intended as a starting point for discussion and refinement.

Mandy emphasized that these enhancements are meant to go beyond federal EIS mitigation requirements and reflect local priorities in alignment with Colorado Revised Statute 43-1-128. She noted that CDOT has allocated a budget for community enhancements, which is separate from the project itself. The overall goal is to implement meaningful and lasting change that reflects community values. This process is community-led, with CDOT resource specialists available to answer questions and provide technical expertise. The project team expressed appreciation for the community's continued dedication and involvement in shaping the outcome of this process.

High-Level Review of List and Process
Mandy described the process that will be followed to prioritize enhancements. CDOT and the project team reviewed enhancement requests collected during earlier engagement activities, such as public meetings, stakeholder workshops, and other forums. Subcommittee members received a list of enhancements grouped into four categories: environment, community, partnerships, and mobility.

Participants were asked to prioritize the enhancements individually before breaking into two smaller groups to discuss which ideas should be advanced. Stakeholders also had the opportunity to add new ideas and to suggest combining related enhancements.

Before prioritization began, participants were invited to ask clarifying questions. One participant expressed concern about the impact of sound walls, noting that residents beyond the walls sometimes feel that noise intensifies. In response, Charles Beebe (CDOT Environmental Air Quality Specialist) shared CDOT research showing that strategically planted vegetation can help reduce sound and reduce near-road air pollution by capturing particulates and improving pollutant dispersion. Other participants expressed interest in beautifying and greening the corridor and incorporating public art. At the same time, community members emphasized that unhoused populations and encampments are a growing public health concern. Additionally, some community members voiced that they do not want the corridor enhancements to resemble those implemented on the I-70 Central project.

First-Pass Prioritization – Dot Voting

Stakeholders individually conducted an initial round of prioritization using "dot" voting. Dot voting is a participatory prioritization method where community members receive color-coded, labeled stickers (dots) and place them on a group board to indicate what they feel is most important to help visually identify the community's top priorities. The results of this activity were then explored in more depth during small group discussions.

Small Group Discussions

Environmental Enhancements
In the environmental category, all enhancement ideas received support. The following two enhancements received the most votes (with the number of votes in parentheses at the end):
- E1 – Expand tree planting in neighborhoods, parks (Monaco Park, Leyden Park, and Sand Creek Greenway trailheads. (6)
- E3 – Improve greenspaces with drought-tolerant, pollinator-friendly native plants. (6)

Additional ideas included integrating solar panels into infrastructure.

Mobility Enhancements
In the mobility category, participants expressed the greatest support for the following enhancements (with the number of votes in parentheses at the end):
- M1- Extend trail and sidewalk connections, and add localized safety improvements (e.g., curb ramps, crosswalks, pedestrian-scale lighting) beyond project boundaries to improve safety and accessibility for people walking or using mobility devices. (4)
- M2 - Implement a tow truck patrol system on the I-270 corridor to quickly clear accidents during peak hours, especially in high-incident zones near Vasquez Blvd and York St. (4)
- M3 - Provide free or subsidized transit passes to qualifying households in the study area during construction. (3)
- M4 - Implement ADA-accessible mobility shuttles during construction. (3)
- M7 - Implement freight improvements to reduce conflicts between oversized/hazmat truck needs and community travel. (2)
- M9 - Explore grants and funding opportunities for freight program improvements. (4)
- M10 - Install cameras to enhance monitoring and incident response, especially near interchanges and pedestrian access points. (3)
- M11 - Increase enforcement of speed limits on I-270. (2)

Additional ideas included establishing tow truck patrols within the community and expanding M11 to include remote enforcement tools such as drones, cameras, and dedicated speed traps.

Ideas like increased speed limit enforcement and expanded safety patrols on I-270 align with the project's federal safety objectives. If these efforts were extended into the surrounding community, they could also be considered community enhancements.

Community Enhancements
In the partnership category, the following enhancements received multiple votes (with the number of votes in parentheses at the end):

- P1 – Partner with Love my Air to expand air quality monitoring (to include ozone), additional sensors, and air quality kiosk at Eagle Pointe Rec Center. (3)

- P2 – Partner with Commerce City on city-wide tree canopy implementation. (2)
- P5 – Coordinate with Commerce City for tree planting and irrigation/soil amendment, including potential use of Commerce City water credits. (3)
- P6 – Develop or support EV infrastructure (charging and fleet) for commercial and individual use, supporting Adams County/Commerce City EV initiatives. (2)
- P8 – Partner with state, local, and community organizations to financially support ongoing or planned regional air quality improvement projects. (4)
- P9 – Host litter cleanup days near Sand Creek and the South Platte River, engaging youth and volunteer groups. (3)
- P10 – Partner with schools on youth and/or senior programming, such as tree planting days, environmental education, and health workshops in the study area. (3)
- P11 – Partner with agencies to remediate former industrial properties within and/or beyond CDOT right-of-way. (3)
- P12 – Work with RTD, Adams County, and Commerce City to evaluate/prioritize bus route changes or other transit service changes. (5)
- P13 – Work with Northeast Transportation Connections (NETC) to implement micro-transit options through the RTD Partnership Program. (2)
- P14 - Launch bicycle education and safety programs for schools and neighborhoods through NETC. (2)

Additional comments and ideas included participation in CDOT's pilot mobility wallet program, requests to ensure that promises and commitments are achievable, sharing case studies and success stories, partnering with Adams 14 School District to expand electric transportation, and collaborating with Lupitas Camino a la Esperanza Organization. There was also discussion about combining P2, P3, P5, and P10. A participant noted that safety patrol programs have been effective in the past.

Community Enhancements

In the community category, the following enhancements received multiple votes (with the number of votes in parentheses at the end):

- C1 – Install emergency call boxes along I-270, especially at the proposed pedestrian overpass and in higher crash areas. (3)
- C2 – Add traffic calming (speed bumps, roundabouts) on local streets near schools and recreation areas. (2)
- C4 – Provide free HOV transponders to qualifying local residents. (3)
- C6 – Add Greenway amenities (benches, shelters, signs, trash bins, safety lighting) and partner with the SCRGP on priority projects. (3)
- C8 – Build sound/visual barriers, add trees, or install landscaping to block views of industrial sites from neighborhoods. (4)
- C9 – Provide furnace filters, air conditioners, and air purifiers to sensitive receptors (homes, schools) near the project. (5)
- C10 – Expand bilingual workforce development programs for local residents and hold business open houses for contractor participation. (4)
- C11 – Offer coupon programs for construction workers to support local businesses. (3)
- C12 – Use locally-sourced vendors, services, and workers during construction. (2)

- C13 – Implement a community ambassador program to employ residents in sharing project updates and gathering feedback. (2)
- C14 – Create or expand a pothole repair and road maintenance program for local streets impacted by construction detours and freight traffic. (5)
- C15 - Explore strategies to discourage homeless encampments near highways and interchanges, potentially focusing on providing services and safer alternatives in partnership with local agencies. (4)

Additional comments emphasized the importance of focusing on system interchanges, including I-76, I-25, and I-70, when considering pollution reduction strategies.

Next Steps
The next workshop is tentatively planned for the week of September 15. To accommodate schedules and encourage broader participation, the team is considering holding two sessions (one during the week of September 15 and another during the week of September 22). At that meeting, the project team will present a refined list of ideas that have been reviewed for feasibility for community members to further prioritize.

Draft

Ideas for Community Enhancements

Table 1 shows an initial list of ideas collected from past community meetings, workshops, and other conversations. These ideas are **not** already part of the project design or required mitigation in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

These are community-driven enhancements—projects that go above and beyond federal EIS mitigation requirements—designed to reflect local priorities and align with Colorado Revised Statute (CRS) 43-1-128. Your feedback will help determine which ideas move forward and how they can be refined to bring the greatest benefit to the community.

How to Review the Table

Ideas in Table 1 are grouped into four categories to make them easier to review, using the ID numbers shown. The categories are for organization only; they may change based on community recommendations.

- **Community** (C#): Livability, safety, and identity
- **Environment** (E#): Health and environmental benefits
- **Mobility** (M#): Moving people and goods safely and efficiently
- **Partnerships** (P#): Working with others to bring greater benefits

These ideas are starting points—not final decisions—and we want your input. As a member of the stakeholder subcommittee, your role is to help refine the list so it reflects the needs and priorities of the community. We also encourage you to share ideas with your contacts and hear what they think. Please keep in mind that this is only an initial draft; the final recommendations will not be validated until October 2025 for release in coordination with the November Draft EIS.

When Reviewing the Table

- Does this address a real community need or priority?
- Who would benefit most from it?
- Could it be improved or combined with another idea?
- Is anything important missing?
- Are there partnerships or funding sources that could make it happen?

Your recommendations will directly shape the list of enhancements that move forward for consideration and potential funding.

Next Step: In-Person Workshop

We will review and discuss these ideas together at our upcoming in-person workshop. This will be your opportunity to share feedback, suggest changes, and help prioritize which enhancements should move forward.

ID	Potential Community Investments	High/Med/Low
C1	Install **emergency call boxes** along I-270, especially at the proposed pedestrian overpass and in higher crash areas	
C2	Add **traffic calming** (speed bumps, roundabouts) on local streets near schools and recreation areas	
C3	Provide **toll subsidies or discounts** for qualifying local residents if Express Lanes are implemented	
C4	Provide **free HOV transponders** to qualifying local residents	
C5	Enhance **local parks** (including potential upgrades to Leyden Park)	
C6	Add **Greenway amenities** (benches, shelters, signs, trash bins, safety lighting) and partner with the SCRGP on priority projects	
C7	Install **public art** by local artists on infrastructure like sound walls, overpasses, and retaining walls	
C8	Build sound/visual barriers, add trees, or install landscaping to **block views of industrial sites** from neighborhoods	
C9	Provide **furnace filters, air conditioners, and air purifiers** to sensitive receptors (homes, schools) near the project	
C10	Expand **bilingual workforce development programs** for local residents and hold business open houses for contractor participation	
C11	Offer **coupon programs** for construction workers to support local businesses	
C12	Use **locally-sourced vendors, services, and workers** during construction	
C13	Implement a **community ambassador program** to employ residents in sharing project updates and gathering feedback	
C14	Create or expand a **pothole repair and road maintenance** program for local streets impacted by construction detours and freight traffic	
C15	Explore strategies to **discourage homeless encampments** near highways and interchanges, potentially focusing on providing services and safer alternatives in partnership with local agencies	

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For internal subcommittee use

ID	Potential Environmental Investments	High/Med/Low
E1	Expand **tree planting** in neighborhoods, parks (Monaco Park, Layden Park), and Sand Creek Greenway trailheads	
E2	Install **shade shelters** or plant trees to reduce heat exposure and improve walkability in areas with limited natural shade	
E3	Improve greenspaces **with drought-tolerant, pollinator-friendly native plants**	
E4	Support **ecological benefits and expand wildlife habitat** in the Greenway through targeted restoration zones and native planting projects coordinated with local conservation groups	
E5	Improve **floodplain areas** by enhancing retention capacity using natural flood mitigation designs	
E6	Improve public access to air quality information through real-time, mobile-friendly community **air quality dashboard**	

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For internal subcommittee use

ID	Potential Mobility Investments	High/Med/Low
M1	Extend trail and sidewalk connections, and add localized safety improvements (e.g., curb ramps, crosswalks, pedestrian-scale lighting) beyond project boundaries to improve **safety and accessibility for people walking or using mobility devices**	
M2	Implement a **tow truck patrol** system on the I-270 corridor to quickly clear accidents during peak hours, especially in high-incident zones near Vasquez Blvd and York St.	
M3	Provide **free or subsidized transit passes** to qualifying households in the study area during construction	
M4	Implement **ADA-accessible mobility shuttles** during construction	
M5	Support **carpool and ridesharing incentives** through reward programs and vouchers	
M6	Upgrade Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) to provide **real-time traffic alerts** to drivers on the I-270 corridor, including truck-specific alerts (e.g., slow-down warnings)	
M7	Implement **freight improvements** to reduce conflicts between oversized/hazmat truck needs and community travel	
M8	Explore **formalized, legal truck parking** near Quebec and other suitable locations	
M9	Explore **grants and funding opportunities for freight** program improvements	
M10	**Install cameras** to enhance monitoring and incident response, especially near interchanges and pedestrian access points	
M11	Increase **enforcement** of speed limits on I-270	
M12	Upgrade **freight detour routes during construction**—such as 56th Ave and Vasquez Blvd—by improving pavement quality and signage	
M13	Provide **bilingual signage and route information** for RTD services	
M14	Work with disability advocacy groups (e.g., Atlantis Community) to identify and implement **Greenway improvements for people using mobility devices**	

Notes

For internal subcommittee use

ID	Potential Partnership Investments	High/Med/Low
P1	Partner with Love my Air to **expand air quality monitoring** (to include ozone), additional sensors, and air quality kiosk at Eagle Pointe Rec Center	
P2	Partner with Commerce City on **city-wide tree canopy** implementation	
P3	Partner with Wildlands Restoration Volunteers (WRV) **for tree planting in Adams 14 and core city parks.** Consider supplementing ARPA (COVID-19 relief) funding beyond 2025	
P4	Continue/supplement funding for **Adams County air sensor program** (EPA funding ends in 2026)	
P5	Coordinate with Commerce City for **tree planting and irrigation/soil amendment**, including potential use of Commerce City water credits	
P6	Develop or support **EV infrastructure** (charging and fleet) for commercial and individual use, supporting Adams County/Commerce City EV initiatives	
P7	Supplement or partner with Commerce City on funding for **greenhouse gas inventory and other Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) projects**	
P8	Partner with state, local, and community organizations to financially support **ongoing or planned regional air quality improvement** projects	
P9	Host **litter cleanup days** near Sand Creek and the South Platte River, engaging youth and volunteer groups	
P10	Partner with schools on youth and/or senior programming, such as **tree planting days, environmental education, and health workshops** in the study area	
P11	Partner with agencies to **remediate former industrial properties** within and/or beyond CDOT right-of-way	
P12	Work with RTD, Adams County, and Commerce City to evaluate/prioritize **bus route changes or other transit service changes**	
P13	Work with Northeast Transportation Connections (NETC) to implement **micro-transit** options through the RTD Partnership Program	
P14	Launch **bicycle education and safety programs** for schools and neighborhoods through NETC	

Notes

For internal subcommittee use