

## Stakeholder Workshop #13

**Location:** Eagle Pointe Recreation Center

**Date/Time:** May 27, 2025 / 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

**Meeting Purpose:** The purpose of the meeting was to discuss regional transit and transportation options, discuss alternative transportation and mobility options in Commerce City, and gather stakeholder input on outreach strategies for the upcoming neighborhood pedestrian overpass meeting.

## Discussion

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### Welcome

Participants introduced themselves. New inserts to the briefing book were distributed to provide information and background for the evening's discussions.

### RTD Transit Operations and Regional Transit

Kelsie Ryan, Senior Service Planner/Scheduler, provided an overview of RTD's current service planning efforts in the Commerce City area. She emphasized RTD's coordination with various local and regional partners and noted that current ridership trends in the city are strong. Key discussion points included:

- Stakeholders inquired about potential new stops for the FF5 route. Kelsie explained that a stop in Central Park would introduce a 12-minute delay to the FF5 route.
  - The FF5 was originally designed to serve students traveling between Boulder and Anschutz Medical Campus. Adjustments to its route would require a broader regional planning study. However, the project team acknowledged recurring rerouting issues and hopes to explore improvements.
- The current project does not include a new FF5 stop but would add four new local stops to better serve nearby routes, two on Quebec Street and two on Sand Creek Drive.
- Stakeholders raised concerns about the lack of regional transit service and poor north-south connectivity within Commerce City. They also expressed that it is difficult getting to and from the Commerce City / 72<sup>nd</sup> Ave Park-n-Ride which makes regional travel more difficult.
- Stakeholders expressed concerns over route removals. Kelsie responded that RTD is working to improve route connectivity and ensure effective transfer points.
  - Susan Wood noted that RTD is still recovering from the impacts of COVID-19. A new Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) is being implemented to help guide recovery and operations.

### Transportation Options and Mobility

Representatives from the Northeast Transportation Connections (NETC), one of eight Transportation Management Associations (TMAs) in the Denver region, shared their mission to reduce congestion and improve air quality. Their work includes introducing alternative mobility options such as microtransit and community-based outreach.

- NETC discussed the successful launch of the *Denver Connector* microtransit service in other neighborhoods and expressed interest in expanding to Commerce City.
- The program is designed to offer flexibility, improve local access, and offset transportation costs for residents. Average trip times in similar programs are around 10 minutes.
- Vehicles are owned by contracted operators and undergo standard safety inspections.

- Programs are typically funded through partnerships, and include a 20% local match. Sustainable funding sources remain the largest barrier. Promotion strategies include community partnerships, resource centers, and word-of-mouth engagement.
- Stakeholders were highly supportive of the Connector model. Some noted that a lack of safe bike infrastructure and physical barriers to movement contribute to employee turnover in the area.
- NETC also offers community bike education programs to help improve safety and confidence on the road.

#### **Neighborhood Pedestrian Overpass Meeting:**

The meeting concluded with an open discussion about outreach for the upcoming June Neighborhood Pedestrian Overpass Meeting that will be held on June 25, 2025. Stakeholders offered suggestions for how and where to promote the event:

- Recreation centers, libraries, coffee shops, and the Greyhound Grounds were suggested for poster distribution.
- Stakeholders recommended several potential venues, including Volunteers of America, the library on 72nd Avenue, Rose Hill Elementary, and Kearney Middle School. The final location was confirmed to be the Greyhound Grounds.

#### **Group Debrief and Wrap-Up**

The next stakeholder workshop will focus on other projects in the area and construction coordination.