

Stakeholder Workshop #11

Location: Eagle Pointe Recreation Center

Date/Time: February 25, 2025 / 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

Meeting Purpose: Review Public Meeting #3 that took place in January/February and discuss public input and suggestions.

Discussion

Welcome

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

Public Meeting #3 Review

Mandy Whorton provided a summary of the public meetings and webinars held in January and February. There were two in-person meetings and two webinars, with approximately 60 attendees at each in-person meeting and 20 attendees at each webinar. The attendees were engaged, and many filled out comment forms and/or left comments on a post-it note.

Review and Discussion of Public Input and Suggestions

Mandy Whorton and Ashley Orellana reviewed the roll plot diagrams and highlighted key public comments. A significant portion of the feedback centered around the choice between Express Lanes and general-purpose lanes. Some attendees voiced concerns that use of Express Lanes may be limited based on affordability and accessibility, while others believed they could improve traffic flow. If implemented, the Express Lane alternative would follow an HOV 3+ model to encourage carpooling.

CDOT and FHWA will make the final decision regarding Express Lanes, with public input playing a critical role in the process. For both alternatives, all work will remain generally within CDOT's existing right-of-way, meaning no property displacements would occur. Shoulder-widening improvements are included in all alternatives to enhance safety, and all bridges will be replaced as part of the project. CDOT's maintenance team will participate in a future stakeholder workshop to discuss long-term maintenance and safety considerations.

Most construction would take place at night between 10:00 PM and 5:00 AM, with no full highway closures planned. The project's design is based on traffic modeling through 2050. Additionally, this project aligns with regional transportation plans, and DRCOG is expected to provide input in June.

Discussions also covered the proposed pedestrian bridge. Stakeholders emphasized the importance of locating the bridge in an area with existing sidewalks to ensure connectivity and usability. Further multimodal discussions will take place in June, including outreach to potential users for additional input.

Stakeholders also expressed interest in cleaning up Sand Creek Greenway, prioritizing greenery, and enhancing the surrounding environment.

Questions were raised regarding potential changes in federal administration and how they might impact project funding. Mandy explained that while the political landscape is evolving, there have been no changes in priorities from CDOT or FHWA. The project is currently funded through a

combination of state and federal funds, which are identified in CDOT's 10-Year Plan. Additional federal grants would be sought if available, and local governments are supportive of the project and actively engaging with Colorado's Congressional delegation to emphasize the project's importance as a safety initiative.

Group Debrief and Wrap-Up

Future stakeholder workshop topics will be updated based on today's discussion.