



Land Use, Transportation & Infrastructure Committee Summary Minutes

Tuesday, April 02, 2013

10:30 AM City & County Building, Room 391

Committee Members: Robb, Chair; Montero, Vice-Chair; Brown; Lehmann; López; Shepherd

Committee Staff: Gretchen Williams

Council Members Present: Brown, Lehmann, Lopez, Montero, Robb, Shepherd

Members Absent: None

Bill Requests

BR13-0223 Adopts the Decatur-Federal Station Area Plan as a supplement to Denver Comprehensive Plan 2000.

Barbara Frommell, Community Planning & Development; Chris Parr, Denver Housing Authority

The PowerPoint presentation and the plan document are attached to this meeting.

The West Line of FasTracks opens April 26, which will have a transformative impact on the area. The Station Area Plan is meant to help guide and inform that redevelopment.

The study area southwest of downtown is roughly bounded by I-25 on the east; 18th Ave. on the north; 6th Ave. on the south; and Federal and Irving on the west. The area encompasses the Sun Valley neighborhood; Rude Recreation Center; Lakewood Gulch; Weir Gulch; Fairview Elementary School; Sports Authority Field at Mile High; and, of course, the RTD West rail line and Decatur-Federal station.

Property ownership in the study area is unique, with approximately 80 to 100 acres under government control, which presents both opportunity and responsibility.

The plan process had a large steering committee comprised of people representing neighborhoods, businesses and organizations. Extensive public outreach and engagement

was part of the process, and many people participated. Public meetings were translated into five languages. An Assistance Panel from the Urban Land Institute contributed to the process.

The plan process identified accomplishments, challenges and opportunities for the neighborhood. The vision the participants have for their neighborhood is to celebrate a connected, innovative and healthy Sun Valley. Some of the transformative projects identified include:

- Opening of the rail line and station.
- Realign/reconstruct 13th Ave. for safer passage and connectivity
- Riverfront Park - expand on earlier plans for this 10 acre-park and Riverfront Drive.
- Stadium area - RTD estimates 14,000 people will come by rail to every event. The walk between the station and the stadium needs to be improved.
- Create key public spaces.
- Bring back Lower Colfax.
- Create job training and jobs for Sun Valley residents

Later phases propose extension of 10th Ave. through Sun Valley to Riverfront Park with a unique type of Main Street with more employment; and Federal/Colfax Interchange improvements to provide for pedestrians and bikes.

The existing industrial area and the Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) area around the station should provide new business and job opportunities for residents.

Councilwoman Montero said the community has been working on this plan for a long time. It is a key and pivotal time for the Sun Valley neighborhood. The timing is just right for the health aspects of the plan. Partnership with Denver Housing Authority has been a key to developing plans for redevelopment at the 10th and Osage station, and that same partnership will be important here as well.

Councilwoman Robb said that the people directly involved in the plan process should be acknowledged.

A motion offered by Councilmember Montero, duly seconded by Councilmember Lopez, to file the bill carried by the following vote:

AYES: Lehmann, Lopez, Montero, Robb(4)
NAYS: (None)

ABSENT: (None)
ABSTAIN: (None)

Presentations

1 **Denver Car Share Permit Program**
Matt Wager, Robert Ferrin, Cindy Patton & Sean Mackin, Public Works

Matt Wager, Robert Ferrin, Sean Mackin and Crissy Fanganello of Denver Public Works presented information on car sharing. Companies that operate car sharing began to approach the City about 5 years ago. A couple have been operating in Denver for awhile on a small scale, but now it is time to prepare a full permit program for the growth in these business.

Public Works has developed permitting policies and procedures to be adopted rules and regulations by the Manager of Public Works. No Council action is required.

Public Works goals that car sharing will help the City reach are: 1. Reduce vehicle miles traveled; and 2. Reduce on-street parking demand. Another goal is that the program be revenue neutral for the City.

The plan is to provide 30 dedicated on-street parking spaces downtown. Most of these will be new "found" spaces that not large enough for regular cars. Car share cars are generally small, requiring about three quarters the space of regular parking spots. There are 3000 metered spaces in downtown; these 30 will be a small percentage. Some number of cars of each company will have to be parked off-street on surface or structured parking.

The City will offer incentives to put at least two vehicles in neighborhoods around downtown, such as W. Colfax, Lincoln Park, Baker, and Cole. The car share vehicles will be allowed to park in Residential Parking Permit areas.

Program models vary. One model allows user to park at meters without paying (the company pays the City an amount that covers the lost meter revenue). Another model does not let the user park at meters unless they pay the meter or must pay.

Public Works looked at operations in Portland, OR; Washington, DC; and Vancouver.

The City will collect the special rental car tax of 11% on each transaction. The vehicles will be registered in Denver and pay registration fees.

Vender representatives from Car-to-Go, e-go car share, and Hertz briefly spoke.

Councilwoman Shepherd said she would like to see the tax revenue generated by the program to go bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure improvements.

Councilwoman Lehmann said it will be important to provide for these cars at light rail

stations. Mr. Ferrin said he is meeting with RTD on that topic, and one operator already has cars at some of the stations.

Councilman Lopez thinks this is a great idea, but he does share concerns on availability of parking downtown.

Councilwoman Robb said that the items for a follow-up discussion at Committee include public outreach and neighborhood involvement. She encouraged Public Works to post good information about the program on its website, and to send council members information they can put in their newsletters.

More cars from vendors could be seen on the streets as early as June.