



Land Use, Transportation & Infrastructure Committee Summary Minutes

Tuesday, January 04, 2011 11:00 AM City & County Building, Room 391

Members Present: Hancock, Johnson, Madison, Montero, Robb, Sandoval

Members Absent: None

**Other Council
Present:**

Committee Staff: Gretchen Williams

Bill Requests

BR10-1149 Approves a park building plan, per DRMC Article X, Chapter 39, for an addition on the south side of Denver Museum of Nature and Science for the Education and Collection Facility, a Better Denver Bond Program project in Council District 8.
*Gordon Robertson, Parks & Recreation, and Bridget Coughlin,
Denver Museum of Nature & Science*

A motion offered by Councilmember Hancock, duly seconded by Councilmember Madison to file a bill approving the City Park Building Plan carried by the following vote:

AYES: Hancock, Johnson, Madison, Montero, Robb, Sandoval(6)

NAYS: (None)

ABSENT: (None)

ABSTAIN: (None)

Councilwoman Robb explained this is the first use of the new Parks Building Plan ordinance that was developed along with the new zoning code to address some open space, park and zoning concerns of the community. The ordinance requires a park building plan be approved for any structure or addition with a footprint of over 3,000 square feet. The presentation included the following points:

*Parks & Recreation Dept. views this not only as an expansion of the museum but an enhancement of the park and the inter-relationship between the two.

*The addition will allow the museum to exhibit more of its collection, to improve the area where groups, particularly school groups (approx. 2,000 annually), enter the museum, improve the 360-degree nature of the building by eliminating the "back door"; and connect the museum more seamlessly with the park.

*Parks & Recreation's City Park road plan is designed to enhance the southeastern meadow by eliminating the cut-through traffic. This works well with the addition and re-configuration of the south side of the museum building.

*The addition will be built on what is currently hardscape for roadway, bus parking, deliveries and dumpsters.

*Better Denver Bond funds identified for deferred maintenance regarding life and safety issues were used to construct the new fire escape stairway on the southeast corner of the building. The new addition will extend only a bit south of the new stairway extension.

*The 70,000 square foot Education and Collections facility addition will be comprised of the 56,000 square foot Science Engagement Center on three floors above ground and the 70,000 square foot Rocky Mountain Collections Center on two floors below ground. The addition's footprint will be between 3,500 and 4,000 square feet.

*Surveys of school groups indicated the visiting students did not realize they were in a park, so the new drop off point will be further away so they have a park experience as they walk to the building.

*All of the trees and their root canals have been surveyed for their protection both during and after construction. Parks & Recreation is working closely with the Museum on landscape plans to make it truly a museum in a park.

*Preliminary utility work should begin in June or July; excavation should begin in September. The schedule ties in with Parks & Recreation's road demolition and construction.

*The new facility will open in January 2014.

*The architect on the project is Klipp Architecture, and the project is about half-way through design development.

*The 1% for the Arts will be used on the southwestern terrace outside of the building so that park users may enjoy it. The narrative for the art is being developed by a variety of user and community groups. It will be interactive and reflect the mission of the museum regarding nature and science.

*The road demolition and construction should not impact any events or activities. It will not be underway until late 2011 and completed in early 2012. The existing

road will be available for traffic and parking until the new road is open. The new configuration will close the eastern-most entrance from 17th Ave.

*The boiler building north of the museum will be converted to serve as the service area for all deliveries (food, mail, exhibits) and removal of trash, recycling and compost. The existing tunnels between that building and the museum can be utilized for these movements.

*The neighborhood organizations have been fully briefed and have seen the plans for both buildings. The Museum also facilitated a community "walk-through" of the site with the plans.

*Council will hold a public hearing on the plan on January 24, not February 7, as stated at the meeting.