



---

## Land Use, Transportation & Infrastructure Committee Summary Minutes

---

**Tuesday, December 14, 2010 11:00 AM City & County Building, Room 391**

**Members Present:** Madison, Montero, Robb, Sandoval

**Members Absent:** Hancock, Johnson

**Other Council Present:** Lehmann

**Committee Staff:** Gretchen Williams

---

### Bill Requests

**BR10-1109 Approves an Intergovernmental Agreement with Cherry Creek North Business Improvement District regarding reconfiguration of Fillmore Street through Fillmore Plaza between 1st and 2nd avenues.**

*Councilwoman Robb and Rob Duncanson, Public Works*

Councilwoman Robb announced that this item has been rescheduled for the Committee meeting on Dec. 21 because the neighborhood representatives want a while longer to review some details of the plan and the agreement.

### Presentations

#### **Northeast Greenway Corridor Project**

*Gordon Robertson, Parks & Recreation*

The Northeast Greenway Corridor (NGC) was created in 2003 by then-Colorado Attorney General Ken Salazar in anticipation of a settlement agreement regarding natural resource damage at and around the Rocky Mt. Arsenal. The goal of the NGC is to restore, develop and preserve a "world-class, urban greenway and open space network" for the preservation of a "system of stream and river corridors, riparian ecosystems, wildlife movement routes, and recreational trails by establishing an integrated greenway network". The partner jurisdictions in the Corridor are Adams County, Aurora, Brighton, Commerce City, Denver, Thornton

and the Sand Creek Regional Greenway Partnership.

The partners were to prepare a regional plan of inter-connected trails and open spaces and remediation project concepts for which settlement funds could be used, meaning that they would fulfill the NGC goals. A cooperative agreement among the partners was completed and adopted by each jurisdiction.

In June 2008, Colorado, Shell Oil and the US Army entered into separate consent decrees that settled all claims related to natural resource damages associated with the Arsenal Superfund site.

The settlement sets aside \$10 million for NGC partners for projects identified on the plan. An additional \$17 million was set aside for any entities proposing projects to restore natural resources in proximity to the Arsenal, including any of the NGC partners.

The NGC Trustees, including the Attorney General and the Director of the State Natural Resources, may only use funds from the settlement "...to restore, replace or acquire the equivalent of the Natural Resources injured by release of hazardous substances at or from the Arsenal". Wildlife habitat and water quantity are the major focuses for remediation projects.

This past September, the NGC issued a Request for Proposals for a consultant team to prepare the Restoration Plan, which is to include a comprehensive, integrated and prioritized set of projects drawn from existing and new projects. The NGC is currently working through the consultant selection process.

Information on projects of interest to the NGC may be found on-line at [http://www.sandcreekgreenway.org/ngc\\_rfp.html](http://www.sandcreekgreenway.org/ngc_rfp.html).

Councilwoman Lehmann asked if connecting Westerly Creek and Sand Creek, including the connection needed at E. 11th Ave, could be funded. Mr. Robertson said one of the top projects on the draft list is restoration of the wetlands at the intersection of those two creeks, and potentially the Westerly Creek improvements at 11th Ave. can be included.

Councilwoman Robb asked about a regional plan to complete a bike trail encircling the metro area. Mr. Robertson said the NGC means to create that type of connection, although it is focused on the northeast quadrant. Along with the Platte River trails on the west, a loop will be completed.

Councilwoman Lehmann asked if the River Vision Implementation Plan projects could be funded with this money. Mr. Robertson said yes, especially the wildlife habitat restorations portions.

Councilwoman Montero asked about connecting existing bike trails. Mr. Robertson said there are existing bike trails in the area, including along the Platte and Sand

Creek, but it is not an interconnected system. That is a goal of the NGC plan.

Sand Creek flows into the S. Platte River in Commerce City, which plans to construct a large "Confluence-like" park at that confluence.

Mr. Robertson said he would update the Committee on the project list before it is submitted to the Trustees. One of the goals is to create more leverage for funding applications submitted to Great Outdoor Colorado (GOCO) by joining the NGC wetlands and wildlife projects with GOCO trail applications since the NEC money can not be used for trails.