



Meeting Notes

Meeting: RMRA Feasibility Study Steering Committee
Date/Time: August 22, 2008/10:00a.m.
Location: Golden
Attendees:

Committee Members

Charles Choi, RTD	Richard Morton, Castle Rock PW	Bill Moore, City of Pueblo
Gene Putman, City of Thornton	Harry Dale, CCC	Janice Finch, Denver Public Works
George Scheuernstuhl, DRCOG	Will Kerns, Jefferson County	Terence Quinn, Douglas County
Tom Mauser, CDOT	Greg Schroeder, Eagle County	Sandi Kohrs, CDOT
Diane Mitsch Busch, Routt County	Doug Lehnen, Castle Rock	Tracey McCoy, Timnath
David Menter, City of Colorado Springs	Kirk Strand, RTD	Wayne Williams, Pikes Peak RTA

Others

Dave Evans, Bike JeffCo	Greg Hall, Vail	Diane Kielty, CC Watershed Found.
Dorothea Farris, Pitkin Co.	Lisa Streisfeld, Castle Rock	Rick Barnes, Barnes Arch, Inc.
Tammy Lang, CDOT	Gale Drum, Monument	Mark Boggs, PBS&J
Charlie Quandel, Quandel Consultants	Alex Metcalf, TEMS	Andy Mountain, GBSM
Cody Wertz, GBSM		

Agenda Items:

1. Introductions & Roll Call
2. Chairman's Report
3. R2C2 and Rail Governance reports – Tammy Lang
4. Peer Panel
5. Feasibility Study Report – Alex Metcalf, TEMS team
 - a. Schedule
 - b. Public Involvement/Outreach
 - i. Scoping Workshops
 - ii. Other outreach activities
 - c. Data Collection Status – Engineering Report on Existing Conditions findings
 - d. Technology Survey
 - e. Market Analysis – Status of survey development and deployment
 - f. Coordination with other studies
6. Upcoming Meetings and Presentations
 - a. Scoping Meetings
 - b. DRCOG TAC – Sept. 22
 - c. Alternatives Workshop – Oct. 28, 29, or 30, all day
7. Other Business
 - a. Web site
8. Next Steering Committee Meeting: September 26, 10:00 am, JeffCo

1. Introductions & Roll Call

Self-introductions were made. Attendees are noted above.

2. Chairman's Report

No report was given.

3. R2C2 and Rail Governance reports – Tammy Lang

Tammy Lang provided an update of CDOT's ongoing railroad efforts, including the Rail Relocation for Colorado Communities and the rail governance report. She reported that a relocation opposition group has formed and is active, and that the study team was conducting outreach activities through October. The first draft of the final report is due in November.

A request was made to provide the link to the study web site; the link is <http://www.dot.state.co.us/RailroadStudy/default.asp>.

The suggestion was made that the R2C2 study team should seek time on the agenda of CCI's Transportation Committee, to ensure that commissioners are aware of this important study. Harry Dale and Wayne Williams committed to make this happen.

4. Peer Panel

Mark Boggs reported on his proposal for development of the peer panels. He is recommending that, because of budget constraints, a single, multi-dimensional panel be created, rather than the three separate, single-topic panels defined in the scope of services. Concern was raised that this would not give ample time or attention to ridership/revenue modeling, which is seen as critical to an acceptable feasibility study. The suggestion was made, and was strongly endorsed, to include Colorado MPO modelers as local panel members for review of the model. Mark committed to distribute the panel proposal to the FSSC for comments (this was done, and an ad hoc work group was created to work with Mark to refine the panel plan).

Sandi Kohrs requested that a meeting be arranged between panelists representing agencies and CDOT's management team, to allow CDOT to inquire as to ongoing rail activities in those agencies.

5. Feasibility Study Report

Alex Metcalf presented an update of ongoing study activities. He distributed a handout of presentation material. The request was made that presentation material should be made available to FSSC members in advance of the meeting, to allow those attending via teleconferencing would also have the materials. TEMS also distributed a study notebook to all members in attendance, and indicated that the notebooks would be mailed to those not in physical attendance.

- a. Alex provided an update on the schedule, indicating that the study is generally on schedule. The schedule will be updated monthly for inclusion in the FSSC notebooks.
- b. Andy Mountain reported on outreach activities. Three scoping meetings are scheduled, for September 10, 11, and 9 or 16 in Denver, Frisco, and Colorado Springs/Ft. Collins, respectively. The objective of these meetings is to seek input from elected officials and senior transportation professionals of local government agencies along the corridors on perceived opportunities and constraints regarding rail technology, alignment, and station location.

Andy described the parallel outreach activities:

- Community Partners Program – lists are being developed; Andy will be circulating the lists for additional suggestions; an introduction letter will be mailed to introduce the project
- A successful media launch was rolled out in early August

- Meetings with major newspaper editorial boards will be sought in the coming months

The suggestion was made that the outreach team coordinate activities with the numerous Blue Ribbon Panel meetings that are being scheduled this fall.

- c. Charlie Quandel reported on railroad data collection and existing conditions. Slides of conditions along the two corridors were presented. The full presentation has been posted to Rockymountainrail.org. For the I-70 corridor, Charlie reported on the transit alignments developed for the I-70 PEIS, which showed rail as part of a combined highway/rail cross-section through Clear Creek County. Comments from the FSSC included:
 - The PEIS alternatives described by Charlie are not viable, as they are not consistent with the findings of the I-70 Collaborative Effort, and that the team would need to look beyond the I-70 right-of-way.
 - It will be important that all alternatives that move beyond the Alternatives Workshop are seen as having no environmental fatal flaws.
 - Similarly, alternatives must recognize the work of agencies such as RTD (FasTracks) and the I-70 Coalition.
- d. Chip Kraft reported on development of technology options. He noted that the study team is considering a broad range of technology options. For novel or untested technologies, the TEMS team will be developing a list of technology screening criteria. Potential vendors hoping to have new technology considered by the study will be requested to provide a standard set of data and to respond to a common set of questions. It was noted that technology assessment must recognize and be consistent with the criteria established through the I-70 Coalition Collaborative Effort.
- e. Alex reported on initial efforts to develop and conduct that stated preference survey as part of the ridership and revenue forecast task. The survey will be very similar to surveys developed and applied by TEMS in other, similar studies. TEMS intends to conduct the surveys in September/October and again during the winter. It was observed that the fall application misses the heavy summer travel period for the I-70 corridor. TEMS intends to conduct the survey in waiting areas of DIA, on Amtrak trains and FREX buses, and at one or more of the I-70 resorts. The survey will be presented in greater detail to the RFFS prior to its application.

6. Upcoming Meetings and Presentations

- a. Scoping Meetings – As announced by Andy Mountain earlier in the meeting, Scoping Meetings will be held on Sept. 10, 11, and either 9 or 16 in Denver, Frisco, and Colorado Springs, respectively.
- b. DRCOG TAC – Harry Dale will provide a status briefing to the DRCOG TAC on Sept. 22
- c. Alternatives Workshop – The full-day alternatives workshop is tentatively scheduled for October 30, location yet to be determined; all FSSC members were asked to reserve the date.

7. Other Business

The web site discussion was deferred due to need to end the meeting.

No Other Business was discussed.

8. Next RMRA Steering Committee Meeting

The next Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for September 16, 2008. The FSSC was advised that the meeting might begin earlier than 10:00 a.m.

Action Item	Responsibility	Deadline/Status
Post all presentations to study web site in advance of meetings	TEMS	Immediate
Finalize date of Alternatives Workshop and advise FSSC	PBS&J	ASAP (done 9/19)
Provide Peer Panel proposal to FSSC for comment	PBS&J	Created ad hoc work group to work w. Boggs

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Please contact **Mark Boggs** with **PBS&J** at **303-221-7275** if there are any changes or questions with these meeting notes. These notes will be considered final unless comments are received within seven days of distribution. Although comments will be incorporated, as appropriate, only major revisions will be redistributed.