

MEETING SUMMARY
ConnectCOS
Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting #1
June 24, 2020

Meeting Purpose

- Establish the group's charter - CAC role and responsibilities
- Develop a common project understanding
- Provide a look ahead - major technical milestones
- Discuss and refine the draft project goals

Welcome and Introductions

Meeting facilitator, Angela Jo Woolcott, welcomed attendees and explained her role on the team before conducting introductions. City of Colorado Springs Principal Transportation Planner, Tim Roberts, provided opening remarks and introductions for ConnectCOS and thanked the group for attending.

CAC Role and Responsibilities

After explaining each of the points outlined below, the group agreed upon the role and responsibilities of the CAC.

- Act as a representative of the community
- Share the perspective of your organization and not your individual interests
- Be available to participate throughout the entire process
- Bring concerns back to the group
- Stay engaged in-between meetings
- Serve as a project partner and share information to your networks

Project Overview

Ted Ritschard, Project Manager, provided an overview of ConnectCOS, which is a city-wide multimodal transportation plan. The last city transportation plan was created in 2001 to identify the facilities, programs, and policies to serve the long-term mobility transportation needs of the community and help guide capital investment decisions. ConnectCOS will follow this same framework to address the next 20 years of transportation in Colorado Springs.

The group discussed the various transportation projects that are currently ongoing or recently completed as potential resources to help inform ConnectCOS. These projects included PlanCOS, BikeCOS, and many more.

Project Timeline

ConnectCOS launched in Spring 2020. There are three phases for this project, starting with an in-depth technical analysis that will be used to identify the current conditions: 'State of the System'. As part of this phase, the project team will evaluate existing transportation systems, travel patterns and demand,

and programs and policies to identify strengths and weaknesses in Colorado Springs. This phase is anticipated to last through the Summer of 2020, before moving into phase two, where initial transportation scenarios will be identified, followed by phase three, where the draft plan will be created for public input.

Public input will be gathered throughout the process and will help guide the technical analysis over the summer using an online mapping and survey tool. For the duration of the project, the CAC will serve an integral role by helping disseminate project information to their networks and by providing key insights at major technical milestones to assist the city in decision-making.

Goal Setting

Ted Ritschard explained the importance of establishing goals for ConnectCOS that support the community values as identified in PlanCOS. These goals will establish a tangible framework to guide data analysis conducted during the ‘State of the System’ and will help the project team identify transportation improvements that will serve the needs of the community. These initial goals will be finalized with public input gathered from the online survey and mapping tool launching later this summer.

Breakout Group Activity

The CAC broke out into three groups to discuss potential goal areas, including safety, reliability, accessibility, sustainability, and connectivity. Groups were also encouraged to suggest additional goal areas not represented. The following themes emerged from this discussion:

Safety

With ongoing growth and development, increased traffic can lead to people cutting through neighborhoods to avoid congestion on arterials. By addressing congestion on the main roads, pressure on local streets can be alleviated. Committee members also identified the importance of multiple ingress and egress points in neighborhoods to aid with evacuation protocols and emergency responders.

Tourism

Committee members highlighted the importance of tourism for Colorado Springs. Since tourism is a critical element of the city’s economic vitality, addressing the needs of the local community while balancing visitor needs will be an important facet of ConnectCOS.

Connectivity and Accessibility

Equitable access to public services was identified as a growing concern to address in ConnectCOS. Specifically, ensuring there are ample connections from all neighborhoods and surrounding areas of the city, and accessibility for all users, was echoed in discussions.

Efficiency

Committee members discussed the various elements of transportation efficiency which included the reliability and timeliness of the transportation network, the reduction of congestion, and the affordability of public transit.

Next Steps

Angela discussed the next steps following the CAC meeting, which include refining the draft goals discussed in the breakout activity, continuing the ‘State of the System’ analysis, and publishing the online public survey and mapping tool.

The next CAC meeting will take place later this summer/early fall. The results of the ‘State of the System’ and draft investment strategies for ConnectCOS will be discussed.

Project Team Attendees

Angela	Woolcott	GBSM, Inc.
Annie	McFarland	Felsburg Holt & Ullevig (FHU)
Carol	Sammons	FHU
Crissy	Fanganello	City Buildher, LLC
Karen	Aspelin	MaxGreen Engineers
Kim	Melchor	City of Colorado Springs
Kyle	McLaughlin	Kimley Horn
Ollie	Johnson	GBSM, Inc.
Ted	Ritschard	FHU
Tim	Roberts	City of Colorado Springs
Todd	Frisbie	City of Colorado Springs

Committee Attendees

Anton	Ramage	El Paso County Public Works
Brett	Lacey	City of Colorado Springs (COS) Fire Department
Brian	Potts	Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments (PPACG) Department of Defense (DoD) Liaison
Carrie	Bartow	Housing and Building Association of Colorado Springs
Cindy	Aubrey	Pikes Peak United Way
Elena	Nunez	Colorado Springs Utilities
Jen	Furda	University of Colorado at Colorado Springs
Jill	Gaebler	City Council District 5
Jim	Godfrey	Pikes Peak Rural Transportation Authority (PPRTA)
John	Liosatos	PPACG
John	Lauer	Colorado College
Kate	Brady	COS Planning/Bicycle
Kurt	Schroeder	Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services
Len	Kendall	Downtown Partnership
Liz	Robertson	Transit Passenger Advisory Committee
Mark	Hopewell	Active Transportation Advisory Committee
Nicole	Odell	Bike Colorado Springs



Pat	Rigdon	COS Police Department
Rachel	Beck	Colorado Springs Chamber & EDC
Richard	Strasbaugh	Council of Neighborhood Organizations
Scott	Lee	COS Parking Enterprise
Shane	Ferguson	Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT)
Susan	Davies	Trails and Open Space Coalition
Tim	Seibert	Nor'wood
Victoria	Chavez	El Paso County Public Works
William	Harrell	Citizen Transportation Advisory Board (CTAB)