

Colorado Springs Intermodal Mobility Plan: Connect COS

Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting # 7

April 14, 2022

Meeting Summary

Meeting Purpose

- Provide a project status update.
- Report on previous feedback collected.
- Provide an overview of the next round of public engagement.
- Provide next steps and project schedule.

Welcome and Introductions

The ConnectCOS CAC Meeting opened with a brief welcome from Tim Roberts (City of Colorado Springs), who thanked CAC members for their continued participation in the project's process. Angela Jo Woolcott (Kearns & West) then reviews the agenda for the CAC's seventh meeting with the primary goal of informing the CAC of the project's status.

Public Engagement

The project team has continued to engage with the public through various forums since November of 2021. These engagements have included a public meeting, a public comment period, and small group discussions. In an effort to promote these events, the project team utilized social media and media advisories to local media outlets. Additionally, a joint-bilingual public meeting flyer was distributed to approximately 1,600 people through the project's email database and posted on all Mountain Metro Transit (MMT) buses.

The project team has summarized what they heard during this period of engagement including the following:

- Participants were evenly split between agreeing and disagreeing that the proposed projects would meet their mobility needs.
- Projects related to traffic calming and lane reconfiguration were well-received by many participants.
- Projects to improve east-west travel for all modes, such as along Platte Avenue, were well received by participants.
- Some participants expressed concern about expanding transit service; others expressed a desire for a greater focus on transit and other multimodal projects.
- Participants were split between agreeing and disagreeing that the proposed projects would impact how they travel around the city.
- Participants include passionate supporters of both focusing on automobile investments and making our system more multimodal, and this tension is likely to continue.

Based on public feedback, the project team understood the need for greater education around elements of the ConnectCOS plan, including how the projects are categorized and prioritized to meet the plan's programmatic goals. Additionally, the project team understood the need for consistent messaging and the need to build a coalition of support for the ConnectCOS plan.

CAC members asked if feedback incorporated climate change transportation considerations during the open discussion portion. The project team has not had specific conversations directly related to climate change. Although climate change has not come up directly, the project team has heard more about transportation's role in emergency evacuations following the Marshall Fires in Louisville and Lafayette. Additionally, feedback acknowledges the return to work post-Covid has increased traffic, noise, and pollution.

Pikes Peak Rural Transit Authority (PPRTA) Update

Ted Ritschard (Olsson) then describes the development of the project categories to include a ConnectCOS project list and a PPRTA project list. ConnectCOS projects respond to the needs specifically within the plan and are tiered based on their relevancy to the ConnectCOS goal framework. PPRTA projects respond to a 10-year constrained program appropriate for PPRTA funding, scored and ranked by Citizen Transportation Advisory Board (CTAB), and supported by voters.

Gayle Sturdivant (City of Colorado Springs) discussed the proposed PPRTA project list more in-depth. The ConnectCOS plan produced a subset of 62 projects that fall into four categories: non-motorized, modernization and safety, preservation- roadway, and expansion and enhancement. Figure 1: Map of Proposed PPRTA3 Projects demonstrates the locations of the 62 projects as they relate to the larger Colorado Springs network.

The PPRTA process has involved CTAB's input, additional project considerations, and scores based on many citizen inquiries. Other considerations incorporated into the PPRTA determination include how these projects could address regional growth and economic development. This process has also hoped to work across jurisdictions to create more collaborative future projects.

Gayle closed the conversation regarding PPRTA by discussing the upcoming schedule. The project ranking has previously been presented to City Council to get their endorsement without fiscal considerations. Next steps in the PPRTA process include continuing refinement of the project list based on budgetary constraints and project prioritization. The City also looks to work with CTAB and the PPRTA CAC to finalize the project list and draft ballot language with a deadline of July 2022.

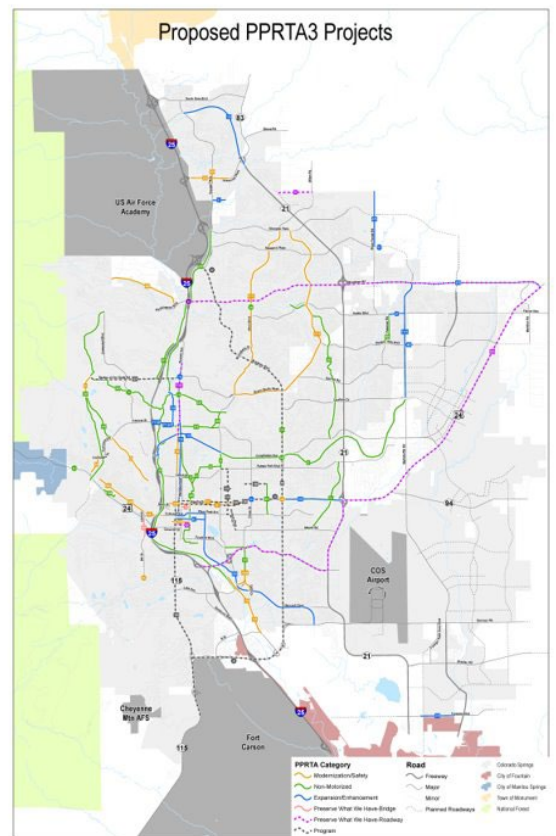


Figure 1: Map of Proposed PPRTA3 Projects

Next Round of Public Engagement: District Open Houses

The project team then reviewed the next round of public engagement, including six in-person public meetings in each council district. This round of public meetings looks to address the following two goals:

- Provide an opportunity for the community to gather in-person to learn more about the project in a convenient location while prioritizing individual health.
- Provide an opportunity for residents and community members to provide feedback and ask direct questions of project staff.

The project team then elaborated on the format of these open houses to include stations that allow the public to "choose their own adventure." Project team members will be stationed at each exhibit to answer questions and provide additional information. For council districts 3, 4, and 5, the open house will incorporate information on the Platte Avenue Corridor Study, a ConnectCOS community corridor identified for further analysis.¹ Table 1: ConnectCOS Open House Sample Station Content below previews the open house's station content.

Table 1: ConnectCOS Open House Sample Station Content

Title	Purpose
Sign-in/Welcome	Capture attendance and give attendees an orientation of the stations.
Introductory Video	Provide background information on the project.
Technical Process and Analysis	Provide an overview of the project screening process; share data collection and analysis.
PPRTA	Provide an overview of the PPRTA process, timing, and list of projects.
Engagement	Provide a summary of public and community engagement over the course of the project and how it shaped recommendations and projects.
Next Steps	Share other plan components, what's next for the project, and the approval process.
Comment Card	Provide participants with a comment card and a "dropbox" for their completed comment card.
Mapping of Corridors and Projects	Large aerial maps by district with other relevant handouts for participants to see the scope and breadth of the projects in the plan.

In addition to reviewing the goals and stations, the project team previewed the upcoming dates and locations for the upcoming public meetings (see Table 2: Open House Schedule).

¹ More information regarding the Platte Avenue Corridor Study can be found on the project website here: <https://coloradosprings.gov/platteavenue>.

Table 2: Open House Schedule

#	Date	Time	Venue (in progress/ TBD)	Council District
1	Monday, May 16th, 2022	4 – 6 pm	Roy J. Wasson Academic Campus Cafeteria	Council District 5, Nancy Henjum
2	Tuesday, May 17th, 2022	4 – 6 pm	Carmel Community School	Council District 4, Yolanda Avila
3	Wednesday, May 25th, 2022	4 – 6 pm	City Administration Building, room 102	Council District 3, Stephanie Fortune
4	Thursday, May 26th, 2022	4 – 6 pm	Fire Station 18, Community Room	Council District 1, Dave Donelson
5	Tuesday, May 31st, 2022	4 – 6 pm	Library 21c, "Venue" room	Council District 2, Randy Helms
6	Tuesday, June 7 th , 2022	4 – 6 pm	Colorado Springs Police Department, Stetson Hills Division	Council District 6, Mike O'Malley

The project team plans to promote and advertise the upcoming public meetings through social media posts, flyers (electronic and physical distribution), e-blasts to project listservs, and a CAC promotional toolkit. The toolkit's goal is to employ CAC members with the necessary tools to promote the public meetings within their networks and with their constituents.

CAC members added additional promotional considerations to include working with local television stations for an extended interview, radio advertisements, and promotional materials for City leadership programs and various economic, social, and City organizations. CAC members raised additional considerations to engage youth due to ConnectCOS being a 20-year plan and vision for the City.

The project team also shared sample comment card questions for CAC feedback and prompted discussion around how to hear what people like about the ConnectCOS plan. Discussion included asking specific questions about what people want and are excited to see as a future project in their community. Additionally, CAC members expressed that since this public meeting is in person, it presents real opportunities to engage with people and understand the depth of their opinions regarding the ConnectCOS plan.

Plan Status

Following the Open House discussion, Ted gave a brief status update regarding the ConnectCOS planning document. In addition to the project list and public engagement, the project team is developing a planning document that would outline the needs for a transportation master plan, summary of engagement, vision and goals, a network assessment, city strategies and regional mobility, and implementation guidance. Implementation guidance

includes additional plans, such as the Major Thoroughfare Plan (MTP) and Transit Vision Network (TVN), which are still under development.

Next Steps

As the meeting closed, the project team reminded CAC members of the project schedule. The project team then asked the CAC about their plans to attend the upcoming open houses and expressed excitement about having the project's first in-person gathering. Tim Roberts closed the meeting by thanking the CAC members for attending and their continued participation in the ConnectCOS project.

Participants

Project Team Attendees

Name	Organization
Ted Ritschard	Olsson
Karen Aspelin	Olsson
Matthew Downey	Felsburg Holt, & Ullevig (FHU)
Carol Sammons	FHU
Amy Garinger	Kimley Horn
Angela Woolcott	Kearns & West
Zach Barr	Kearns & West
Caitlin Sheridan	Kearns & West
Travis Easton	City of Colorado Springs
Todd Frisbee	City of Colorado Springs
Tim Roberts	City of Colorado Springs
Gayle Sturdivant	City of Colorado Springs
Brian Vitulli	City of Colorado Springs
Carl Schueler	City of Colorado Springs
Max D'Onofrio	City of Colorado Springs
Peter Wysocki	City of Colorado Springs
Mark Trudell	City of Colorado Springs

Committee Attendees

Name	Organization
Tyler Hardman	COS Airport
Nancy Henjum	COS City Council
Jim Godfrey	PPRTA
Victoria Chavez	El Paso County Public Works
John Liosatos	Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments (PPACG)
Kate Brady	COS Planning/Bicycle
Nicole Odell	Bike Colorado Springs
Cindy Aubrey	Pikes Peak United Way
Ann Werner	PPACG DoD Liaison
Paul Spotts	The Independence Center & Community Transit Coalition