# North Area Transportation Corridor Work Group

Opportunities: Recommendations, Challenges: Recommendations & Map Exercise 2.0

Denver Regional Council of Governments Advanced Strategy Lab® Session Document

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# Introduction to the Denver Regional Council of Governments' Advanced Strategy Lab

Instructions: Welcome again to the DRCOG Advanced Strategy Lab. The following points will introduce you to the system and the process we will be using for our session today:

Ideas Results
14/17 fully contributed

- 1. Thanks in advanced for your insights on these critical questions.
- 2. The DRCOG Advanced Strategy Lab is enabled over the internet and is generally very stable. If you encounter any problem on your system, try pressing the 'F5' key on the top row to refresh the screen. If there is anything else, just let us know and we'll come over and assist.
- 3. For today's session we'll be using a concept called 'lockstep' that allows everyone to be on the same electronic page at the same time. We'll move you to each activity on the agenda and will let you know when we are making the transition to the activity. Let's move to our first interactive activity . . .

#### **Intro: Opportunities**

Instructions: In the previous work session we addressed both Opportunities and Challenges for the North Metro and I25 Corridors. Now we will list out next steps for the working group to take to take advantage of the existing Opportunities and navigate around potential Challenges. The top 4 Opportunities from the last session are as follows: Economic Development, Stronger Transportation,Infrastructure Intelligently, Planned Communities, and Water Conservation

Ideas Results 15/18 fully contributed

### **Economic Development**

Instructions: As you think about the future of North Metro & I25 Corridor, what are some concrete steps that the working group can do now to address and improve on the Economic Development of the area. (multiple responses)

Ideas Results 16/18 fully contributed

- 1. Land Banking
- 2. Collaborate with surrounding municipalities
- 3. Pursue funding strategies
- 4. strategic area plans
- 5. Intergovernment cooperation
- 6. Develop private/business partnerships
- 7. efficient review times (land use and building permits)
- 8. Work with CDOT and RTD
- 9. Developing tool box for incentivizing redevelopment
- 10. Refocus existing funding streams
- 11. joint planning
- 12. Look for transportation needs of local businesses and development
- 13. equipped work force
- 14. Improve transportation access and multimodal opportunities, have some ready to move in buildings and sites, review codes
- 15. Focused economic development strategies
- 16. sustainable extension of infrastructure

- 17. Streamline development processess
- 18. Have communities work together to promote area
- 19. fund transportation projects that may be cost prohibitive for private developers within 1/4 mile of platforms

### **Transportation Infrastructure**

Instructions: As you think about the future of North Metro & I25 Corridor, what are some concrete steps that the working group can do now to address and improve on the Transportation Infrastructure of the area. (multiple responses)

Ideas Results 16/18 fully contributed

- 1. Tell CDOT and RTD the north area needs to be a priority
- 2. Implement the I25 PEL
- 3. Fund environmental clearances for projects
- 4. corridor planning near transit stops/stations
- 5. create complete streets
- 6. pursue grant funding
- 7. Tell us the 'real' funding gap so we can help
- 8. prioritize north metro
- 9. Finish FasTracks to 162nd Station
- 10. update standards and specs for capital improvement projects
- 11. Consider alternative funding resources such as RTAs, districts, etc.
- 12. corridor planning between jurisdictions
- 13. Travelshed analysis to highlight missing links in the multimodal network
- 14. pursue public/private funding sources
- 15. Add Bus transit north of 120th throughout the area
- 16. focus on bicycle and pedestrian connections
- 17. Add bustang stop at Highway 7
- 18. Add RTD stop at Highway 7

## **Intelligently Planned Communities**

Instructions: As you think about the future of North Metro & I25 Corridor, what are some concrete steps that the working group can do now to address and improve on the practice of Intelligently Planned Communities of the area. (multiple responses)

Ideas Results 16/18 fully contributed

#### No. Idea

- 1. include other jurisdictions in master plans
- 2. resolve construction litigation
- 3. strategic plans for new development
- 4. Update Comprehensive and Transportation Plans
- 5. Update standards and codes to incorporate smart planning techniques and best practices
- 6. plan for people not vehicles
- 7. proactive about development vs. reactive
- 8. More coordinated process for connections
- 9. Look at corridor for realistic development
- 10. Political will to implement smart strategies
- 11. create master plans for water and other natural resources
- 12. Buyin from development community
- 13. engage land owners
- 14. Complete a series of station area plans
- 15. Provide business case for why intelligently planned communities matter
- 16. provide transit options, but realize cars are not going away
- 17. intelligent incentives for private sector
- 18. Integrate transit into development of plans
- 19. create environmental plans

#### **Water Conservation**

Instructions: As you think about the future of North Metro & I25 Corridor, what are some concrete steps that the working group can do now to address and improve on the Water Conservation of the area. (multiple responses)

Ideas Results 16/18 fully contributed

No. Idea

- 1. encourage xericscape
- 2. incentivize efficient fixtures
- 3. Partner with NREL and DOE to design and build net zero stations
- 4. Integrate water saving plants and irrigation into design
- 5. evaluate landscape ordinances
- 6. xeriscapes
- 7. create regional marketing campaign
- 8. monitor legislation so water is not taken from Colorado
- 9. Promote large scale northern water projects (NISP)
- 10. permeable paving and drainage to irrigate landscaping
- 11. work with other jurisdictions for sustainable conservation practices
- 12. create water conservation plans
- 13. Change standards and codes to be more sustainable in development practices
- 14. work to change water rights to allow residents to capture water to use on yards and gardens

## S1 Survey: Priority Allocation Exercise for OPPORTUNITIES

Instructions: Please respond to the following survey question. There will be an instruction at the end of the survey on how to submit your response:

Questionnaire Results 7/18 fully contributed

#### **Priority Allocation Exercise**

1. Now, please allocate 100 points of priority across the following opportunity areas. Think of priority as where you should focus leadership time, funding and resources. Please use whole numbers only and allocate all 100 points:

No.	Idea	High	Low	Avg.
1.	Stronger transportation infrastructure	70	25	40
2.	Economic development	45	15	26

3.	Intelligently planned communities	50	5	21
4.	Water conservation	25	5	12

Intro: Challenges

Instructions: In the previous work session we addressed both Opportunities and Challenges for the North Metro and I25 Corridors. Now we will list out next steps for the working group to take to take advantage of the existing Opportunities and navigate around potential Challenges. The top 3 Challenges from the last session are as follows: Aging, Infrastructure Transportation, Funding Water, and Availability.

Ideas Results 16/18 fully contributed

## **Aging Infrastructure**

Instructions: As you think about the future of North Metro & I25 Corridor, what are some concrete steps that the working group can do now to navigate around the challenges presented by Aging Infrastructure. (multiple responses)

Ideas Results 16/18 fully contributed

- 1. identify funding
- 2. coordinate grant applications
- 3. Provide/Prioritize funding
- 4. appropriate budgeting in light of limited funding
- 5. Work with CDOT to environmentally clear entire I25 corridor.
- 6. Educate the public
- 7. cost sharing
- 8. find ways to share cost with surrounding communities
- 9. alternative funding sources needed
- 10. Triage/prioritize infrastructure improvements based on "intelligent" planning
- 11. coordinate improvements with other projects

- 12. determine the infrastructure priorities
- 13. Local elected officials must speak with one voice on what top priorities are
- 14. phasing options
- 15. Use partnering with other agencies and private
- 16. Look at phasing options
- 17. create master plans for infrastructure replacement
- 18. Bring RTD, CDOT and DRCOG together on funding strategies
- 19. plan for joint infrastructure to share cost (water/wastewater treatment)

## **Transportation Funding**

Instructions: As you think about the future of North Metro & I25 Corridor, what are some concrete steps that the working group can do now to navigate around the challenges presented with Transportation Funding. (multiple responses)

Ideas Results 16/18 fully contributed

- No. Idea
- 1. explore funding partnerships
- 2. Private sector dollars
- 3. coordinated grant opportunities
- 4. cost sharing
- Streamlining DRCOG process
- 6. If you live in Denver VOTE YES for extending the lodger's tax
- 7. cooperation
- 8. private investment
- 9. Strongly encourage the Federal and State legislature to pass a long term transportation funding solution
- 10. Work with CDOT on finding alternative means of funding
- 11. promote public/private partnerships
- 12. Encourage local bond issues
- 13. Need reauthorization of transportation bill
- 14. encourage districts, RTAs, etc.
- 15. Encourage locals to find money, dedicated sales tax

## **Water Availability**

Instructions: As you think about the future of North Metro & I25 Corridor, what are some concrete steps that the working group can do now to navigate around the challenges presented by Water Availability. (multiple responses)

Ideas Results 16/18 fully contributed

#### No. Idea

- 1. educate educate educate
- 2. do rain dances
- 3. acquiring water rights
- 4. Work on regional water availability plans
- 5. policies that conserve existing water
- 6. promote/educate large scale water projects.
- 7. low impact development
- 8. national pressure to take Colorado water
- 9. look for regional solutions
- 10. Review outdated regulation preventing the use of grey water
- 11. Promote water conservation statewide
- 12. promote use of nonpotable water
- 13. water recycling programs
- 14. desalinization

## S2 Survey: Priority Allocation Exercise for CHALLENGES

Instructions: Please respond to the following survey question. There will be an instruction at the end of the survey on how to submit your response:

Questionnaire Results 7/18 fully contributed

#### **Priority Allocation Exercise**

1. Now, please allocate 100 points of priority across the following challenge areas. Think of priority as where you should focus leadership

## time, funding and resources. Please use whole numbers only and allocate all 100 points:

No.	Idea	High	Low	Avg.
1.	Aging infrastructure	60	20	43
2.	Transportation funding	75	20	41
3.	Water availability	20	5	15

## **Zone 1 Opportunities and Challenges**

Instructions: Looking at Zone 1 on your map handout. What are some unique opportunities and challenges for this zone that will need to be taken into consideration in future corridor work? (multiple answers)

Ideas Results 16/18 fully contributed

- 1. connecting to the existing community
- 2. natural and manmade physical barriers
- 3. industrial complex
- 4. Redevelopment of National Western Station area
- 5. Hazmat
- 6. industrial base
- 7. infrastructure improvements
- 8. literally 'stinks' Purina...
- 9. redevelopment oppertunities
- 10. stable residential neighborhoods
- 11. Economic opportunities with stock show
- 12. Buffalo beats moose
- 13. Parking management corridorwide, especially as it relates to event parking at the NWC
- 14. aging infrastructure
- 15. redevelopment opportunities at 72nd station
- 16. lack of existing mass transit
- 17. south platte river

- 18. connectivity for some communities I70 barrier
- 19. bad transportation connectivity
- 20. Density that might support NewStarts grants
- 21. Maintain housing affordability in Elyria, Swansea, and Globeville Denver neighborhoods.
- 22. incomplete street network

### **Zone 2 Opportunities and Challenges**

Instructions: Looking at Zone 2 on your map handout. What are some unique opportunities and challenges for this zone that will need to be taken into consideration in future corridor work? (multiple answers)

Ideas Results
16/18 fully contributed

- No. Idea
- 1. Well established neighborhoods
- 2. Infill
- 3. existing population
- 4. redevelopment and new development opportunities
- 5. revelopemnt
- 6. well known cooridors
- 7. connectivity many physical barriers (I25)
- 8. Good eastwest connectivity
- 9. Not much greenfield development
- 10. existing populations
- 11. opportunities to connect to NATE transit in Brighton area
- 12. transportation network feeding stations
- 13. highway congestion
- 14. Write/implement station area plans
- 15. connectivity to the region
- 16. need coordinated station area plans to optimize economic and job

#### opportunities

- 17. Political backing of STAMPs, other plans
- 18. ped/bike network
- 19. Need good ped/bike connections

20. opportunities to tie corridors together for example Wagon Road and Eastlake along with 120th BRT

## **Zone 3: Opportunities and Challenges**

Instructions: Looking at Zone 3 on your map handout. What are some unique opportunities and challenges for this zone that will need to be taken into consideration in future corridor work? (multiple answers)

Ideas Results 16/18 fully contributed

- 1. funding
- 2. Significant housing development yet to come
- 3. new development
- 4. master plan opportunities
- 5. Opportunities to connect North metro to I25
- 6. people usually fill all those houses
- 7. not as much existing development
- 8. encouraging transit use by residents
- 9. Ability to proactively plan for transportation improvements ahead of congestion
- 10. E470/ Northwest Parkway connection
- 11. development opportunities
- 12. need new urban centers
- 13. connections to the northern front range
- 14. Opportunity to tie I25 and rail line together with multimodal systems
- 15. Provide eastwest transit connections between North Metro and I25
- 16. high speed rail interconnect?
- 17. Development opportunities
- 18. Making mass transit work with future development
- 19. efficient layout of station parking areas to not preclude future development
- 20. density near transit
- 21. alternate Boulder connection
- 22. Highway 7 at I25 and North Thornton
- 23. alleviate vehicle congestion

- 24. Make sure to include connections north on I25 to TriTowns and Longmont, points beyond
- 25. High speed rail

## **Zone 4: Opportunities and Challenges**

Instructions: Looking at Zone 4 on your map handout. What are some unique opportunities and challenges for this zone that will need to be taken into consideration in future corridor work? (multiple answers)

Ideas Results 16/18 fully contributed

- 1. land availability
- 2. appropriate densities in new subdivs
- 3. Economic development
- 4. clean slate for development
- 5. Extension of commuter rail/transit north from Denver metro area
- 6. Extension of rail
- 7. newer infrastructure
- 8. Ability to work with CDOT to include mass transit within existing I25 ROW
- 9. lower land prices
- 10. connections to denver
- 11. balanced approach to setting aside lands for parks and open space
- 12. expense to serve?
- 13. Implement PEL study
- 14. Can plan communities and economic strategies for these future stations be proactive
- 15. Denver/Boulder/Ft. Collins connections
- 16. encourage RTD and CDOT to work together on transit opportunities