

CBHD Traffic, Pedestrian and Bicycle Subcommittee
Related to 9th & Colorado Development

Meeting 5/4/16
Minutes

Attendees:

City Members:

Lon Breslow (Bellevue/Hale)
Merritt Pullman (Mayfair)
Bill DeMaio (Capitol Hill)
Lisa Boranger (Congress Park)
Wende Reoch and Rae Reynolds (Hilltop)
Jessie Robinson (Steck CSC and INC Safety/Education Subcommittee)
Andrea Dikeou (CBHD Board)

Officials:

Mary Beth Susman (Councilwoman)
Justin Schmitz (Denver Senior Traffic Engineer)
Frank Cannon (Continuum)
Luke Palmisano (Aide to Councilwoman Susman)

Members introduced themselves and discussed their associations and relationships into neighborhoods and related civic groups.

Highlights of the Continuum presentation include:

- Continuum has negotiated site plan elements and has approval from the City for water/utilities, storm drain, sanitary service, and roadways
- Infrastructure and street improvements have begun or will soon be beginning on Colorado Blvd, 8th, 9th and 11th
- Large parking garage on 11th and Colorado Blvd is being renovated now to include Continuum site offices
- 8th Ave will be widened to include an additional full lane from Bellaire to Colorado Blvd, designed to mitigate some of the car “stacking” that occurs on the 8th and Colorado Blvd intersection. This “right turn” lane will continue on Colorado Blvd to 9th.
- The infrastructure for a stoplight at 8th and Ash will be constructed. The pedestrian crosswalk on 8th between Albion and Ash will be eliminated.
- There will be an eastbound turn lane on 8th that will allow cars to turn north into the 9th and CO development
- The development will have a 22 ft setback from Colorado Blvd to the buildings, including the tree lining and 10 foot sidewalk

- The Colo Blvd & 9th Ave intersection's pedestrian crosswalk will be removed on the south and clearly marked and paved on the north side of the intersection to and to encourage and support pedestrian traffic and move the pedestrian flow away from the left turning lanes southbound onto Colorado Blvd from the new development at 9th Ave.
- A signal will be added on 11th allowing cars to turn southbound onto Colorado Blvd. A pedestrian crosswalk will be added here as well.
- Bus stops on Colorado Blvd will be maintained in their current location.

Frank Cannon introduced results from a baseline auto/pedestrian traffic study conducted by Kimley Horn for Continuum in March 2015. Previously, Continuum had conducted traffic studies on the streets next to the 9th and CO development. This study looked at current pedestrian and auto traffic volumes on neighborhood streets from 6th to 8th on Albion to Birch. Justin Schmitz sent the full report, which included a 6 page summary, to all committee members via e-mail. Baseline traffic volume on many of the streets is not high or problematic at this point. Justin Schmitz indicated he would assist committee members in interpreting the results at a future meeting.

Next Steps

- Committee members to identify how children and routine pedestrian traffic flows through their neighborhoods so we can identify where we need safe corridors.
- Committee members to identify and rank a few blocks within their neighborhoods to collect baseline data. Justin indicated that the City might be able to help collect data so that we can have current data.
- Committee to review bicycle plans and flow, as well as parking concerns.
- Committee to meet with Justin, and other appropriate City staff, to have a deeper discussion on traffic data and site plans, areas of neighbor concerns.
- Plan another committee meeting at end of June.