

## Meeting Minutes

### CO 119 BRT Stakeholder Collaboration Meeting #3

July 19, 2023, 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.

Microsoft Teams Meeting

#### Participants:

**RTD: Nataly Handlos, Ali Imansepahi, Chris Quinn, Brian Thye, Greg Filkin, Pauline Haberman, Kelsie Ryan, Charlie Stanfield, Steven Brier, Brandon Figliolino**

**City of Longmont: Phil Greenwald**

**Commuting Solutions: Audrey DeBarros,**

**BTC/Boulder Chamber: Elaine C. Erb, Karen Worminghaus**

**Boulder County: Stacey Proctor**

**CDOT: Adnana Murtic**

**City of Boulder: Jean Sanson, Danny O'Connor, Sydney, Schieffer**

**CU Boulder: Clark Rider**

**1. Welcome and Introductions:** Ali welcomed participants, introduced presenters, and provided an overview of the agenda. This meeting will cover proposed timelines, shelter type (Tolar-BRT 23), station updates, system analysis scope and wayfinding brand identity.

#### **2. Project Overview**

##### **a. Slides:**

##### **i. Timelines: Ali Imansepahi and Nataly Handlos**

- **CDOT Safety and Mobility Improvements Project:** Ali said not a lot has changed since Stakeholder Collaboration Meeting #2, as CDOT has been working to select a contractor to be the Construction Management/General Contractor (CM/GC). A contractor has been selected and CDOT will announce the decision soon. The project team is hopeful that with the new contractor on board, by the end of the year, we will begin Construction Package #1 (which will be part of several construction packages for different elements of the project, including the roadway, the BRT and the bikeway).
- **Public Engagement:** Nataly said there have been a few minor adjustments to the timeline slide since Stakeholder Collaboration Meeting #2. The team has already held planning and design public outreach, and those efforts will continue through 2024. The public survey took place earlier this year and the team will use the information from the public surveys to go forward with implementation of the service development plan. RTD will have conversations with CDOT about managing schedules for the BOLT and will communicate externally with the public. Engagement schedules will remain the same. There will be another public survey in Q3 2024 which will include as much information as we can for public input. We will use the information to determine how to move forward with service implementation. We have added construction messaging to the timeline, as construction is supposed to start in late 2024. RTD will coordinate with CDOT to manage current operations for the BOLT as well as some of the local



services that cross the corridor so that everyone internally and externally is on the same page. There will be public meetings for the BRT in the latter half of 2025. Also in 2025, there will be another follow up survey to make sure that as we approach the opening in 2026, our service development plan makes sense and we are using the resources we have in the best way possible.

- **Service Development:** Nataly discussed planned analysis for Q3 and Q4 of 2023 and identification of patterns that make sense for the corridor. Along those lines, the City of Boulder is going to perform an evaluation (more to come later in this meeting). We will analyze that evaluation in late 2023 to determine what potential changes are needed for routing and stops. Operations detours coordination and construction messaging, as well as finalizing schedules and routes will occur in 2024, and into Q1 of 2025, so that by the end of Q1 of 2025, we hope to be ready for the official opening.

- **General Questions:**

**Q:** Jean Sanson: Based on the SOP, are there any plans to enhance the BOLT service prior to the grand opening?

**A: Nataly:** No, because we want to have all the services in place before we go to the new BOLT service, and we will not have the stop on the CU campus in place. Looking at the current BOLT ridership, there is not the ridership, and we would have to take equity into account with any change in service.

**ii. Shelter Type: Brian Thye**

- Brian said that based on the Shelter Type workshop that was held, we have selected the Tolar BRT-23 shelter type, which is listed in the Tolar catalog as Rail 19. The shelter features three types/sizes to match space and needs at stations and Park-n-Rides and has solar lighting in the shelter. There has been some interest in having a totem, or fancy flag to designate the stops. This may require another subcommittee meeting to decide shelter totem type.
- Shelter type can be streamlined for other BRT corridors.

**iii. Station Updates: Brian Thye**

- **Hwy 66 & US 287 Park-n-Ride:** RTD is looking to build this station in two phases. The station is not [NH1] funded through the CO 119 BRT project. The station is planned to have 156 parking spaces and five gates for local and regional routes, plus would allow other transit providers to access the station for connections, such as FLEX or CDOT.

**Q:** Phil Greenwald asked how much the cost will be out of the \$33 million budget?

**A:** Brian: We have rough cost estimates but don't have a breakdown of the budget.

- **CU East Campus Terminal:** The original plan was to construct a first phase of construction, but the new plan is to wrap this construction up into the overall corridor plan. RTD is coordinating with CU Boulder. The terminal will allow connections between the CO 119 BRT and CU Buff Transit as a shared stop.

**Q:** Elaine Erb: Are you planning to have a stop at Arapahoe?

**A:** Brian Thye: Yes – The Orange Line currently has a plan to stop at 30th and Arapahoe. The service planning is still being done.

- **47th/Foothills SB/WB:** This stop was not included in the PEL. Stop improvements will be added with the overall project. RTD will coordinate with the CDOT Safety and Mobility Project. Improvements will require ensuring they do not inhibit us getting back onto the onramp to southbound Foothills for future operations opportunities.

**iv. System Analysis: Nataly Handlos and Danny O'Connor**

- **Service Pattern Technical Study**



- Purpose and Need: Nataly Handlos  
At the beginning, the study analysis was used to best address the needs of the City of Boulder. Took a close look at the PEL route patterns – Blue (main pattern) and Orange (peak pattern) to identify opportunities to address service issues.  
**Key Scope Items:** Market assessment, identify and confirm potential alternatives, travel time analysis, service evaluation, including resource requirements, recommendations, and phasing.
- **Project Coordination: Danny O'Connor, City of Boulder Transit Program Manager**  
Danny said a lot has happened since the PEL – COVID-19, changes in local priorities over time. The City of Boulder and RTD will co-manage the study. The goal is to take stock of what is available; look at service operating provisions and requirements to see if there is an alignment with demand. Now is a good time to look at opportunities and options and take a fresh look at service provision. The study would include a market assessment, looking at the latest plans and regional studies on local service preferences and potentially identifying alternate routes. The study would include travel time analysis, service analysis, as well as resource requirements, and would make recommendations and phasing suggestions. The study is not looking at large capital needs; just minor street improvements/enhancements. Danny expressed appreciation for the support and time commitment from project stakeholders as the study looks at opportunities to optimize the large market for transit services.
  - Technical Stakeholder Representatives to include CU Boulder, City of Longmont, Boulder County
  - City to fund and procure professional consultant services contract
  - Nelson Nygaard will conduct the \$50k limited scope technical study
  - Timeline:
    - Finalize Contract
    - System Analysis
    - Finalize Analysis
    - Provide suggested alternatives based on study findings

**v. Wayfinding Brand Identity: Steven Brier, RTD Senior Manager of Marketing**

Steven said RTD sees this project as a large part of the corridor brand recognition. Commuting Solutions is hiring a consulting firm that will help with brand recognition. The wayfinding brand identity is going to require a robust outreach program to gather feedback from corridor stakeholders and the public.

- The CO 119 wayfinding brand will closely coordinate with the existing Flatiron Flyer brand identity
- A signage plan will be developed and will include wayfinding signage for each jurisdiction directing customers to:
  - Commuter bikeways
  - Transit stations
  - Park & Rides
  - Connections to/from adjacent land uses

Phil Greenwald: For a number of years, we worked on the BOLT branding. Expressed interest in seeing acknowledgement of those efforts.

Steven: Those are the types of things we are going to be looking at to develop the branding.



Jean Sanson: I understand RTD does not have money to purchase new vehicles. Will there be some type of systemwide branding for the region that would connect seamlessly to the BRT?

Steven: Yes; we recognize and have heard those concerns.

Elaine Erb: We have seen this corridor change. The BOLT identity ties in with the corridor identification. Sometimes it does not always make sense to me to wrap buses, since they move around the region.

Audrey DeBarros: I want to confirm this is a BRT brand identity, not just wayfinding.

Stacey Proctor: Question on timing: When will it start and end?

Audrey: Waiting to hear back from CDOT but the RFP should go out in the next 60-90 days. The consultant team will be selected, and we will go forward from there.

Ali: Jean, we have received your letter and we are working on an official response.

Audrey (in the Teams Chat): Requesting an itemized list

Ali: \$17 million for the Diagonal (Safety and Mobility project); \$16 million to cities of Boulder and Longmont for local improvements; we are working on the breakdown since we have just met with the cities. We are going to order some surveys, then do a cost estimate that goes along with Longmont. It is going to be a while before we know costs for each location. We have just completed the process of choosing a Construction Manager as part of the CM/GC process. First tasks will be finalizing design within packages; then we will itemize the costs. Adnana Murtic (CDOT Project Engineer, CO 119 Safety and Mobility project): We are excited to be close to the announcement of the Construction Manager. Questions will be answered once we look at the details and other elements.

Nataly: We will have more information to share at our next meeting which will be held in late October or early November. Ali will send out a Doodle Poll in September to get on everyone's calendars.

There will be a Wayfinding Subcommittee meeting once Commuting Solutions' contract is finalized and we have a contractor on Board. End of September/early October would potentially be when that next subcommittee meeting will take place.