



City of Colorado Springs

Regional Development
Center
2880 International Circle
Colorado Springs, CO
80910

Meeting Minutes - Draft Planning Commission

Wednesday, February 8, 2023

9:00 AM

Regional Development Center (Hearing Room)
2880 International Circle

7.B. MAPN-22-00 ConnectCOS-Colorado Springs Transportation Master Plan Update
06

Presenter:

Ted Ritschard, P.E., Olsson

Todd Frisbie, P.E., PTOE, City Traffic Engineer, Public Works
Department

Tim Roberts, Transportation Planning Program Manager, Public
Works Department

Travis Easton, P.E., Public Works Director, Public Works Department

Mr. Wysocki stated for the record there are three types of master plans that include the city-wide systems plan, the facilities master plan and the private land-use master plan. Per city code, the Planning Commission is responsible for holding a public hearing and providing their recommendations to City Council for each of these types of master plans. This transportation master plan falls under the category of a city-wide systems plan and today is the first step in the public hearing process.

Staff Presentation:

Tim Roberts, Transportation Planning Manager, and Ted Ritschard with Olsson Engineering, gave a presentation on the scope and intent of the ConnectCOS Master Transportation Plan. Creation and adoption of this plan is a key recommended initiative of PlanCOS. Upon adoption, ConnectCOS will replace the 2001 City of Colorado Springs Intermodal Transportation Plan and will serve as a further articulation of the city-wide multi-modal transportation strategies in support of the PlanCOS vision and goals.

Questions from Commissioners:

Commissioner Briggs asked how a document like this takes into account all the development that might occur that would fundamentally change transportation and how does that factor in. He also asked what role does CPC play when looking at proposed projects that may affect transportation. Mr. Roberts said that is not an easy answer. The studies within the plan do try to anticipate future development, but they recognize this is a concern and something that needs to be addressed. Commissioner Briggs asked that going forward that commissioners be updated by staff of any potential impacts of future development.

Commissioner Briggs was also curious about any data or studies that show the take rate of multi-modal transportation projects. Mr. Ritschard said there are studies, but they depend on context. Mr. Roberts added that our enhanced transit network is very important and relies on proper land-use densities to be successful.

Commissioner Briggs asked about the Citizen Transportation Advisory Board (CTAB) meeting last night and some proposed language changes and wanted to know why they are limiting options in a study, specifically regarding motorized vehicles. Mr. Roberts said there is still an option for electric bikes and scooters.

Commissioner Foos asked if there are any projects that would require the use of eminent domain. Mr. Ritschard answered that, first and foremost, they explored how they could use the available space that exists in the current right-of-way and none of the projects would require the use of eminent domain. Mr. Roberts added that the intent of the plan is to avoid forced eminent domain and they will work with citizens for any situations that are necessary.

Commissioner Rickett asked if the discussion from the CTAB meeting last night will be included in ConnectCOS. He would like to include that proposal in a motion to exclude cars and trucks from the Constitution concept. Commissioner Rickett asked if there were any other proposals from the meeting. Mr. Roberts said there were not and that CTAB has already approved ConnectCOS, excluding Constitution.

Commissioner Slattery had questions regarding transit-oriented design (TOD). If ConnectCOS truly is dependent on density, will city code be amended to accept and encourage densities along such corridors? Mr. Wysocki said that transit-oriented design has been retained in Retool as an incentive-based overlay. He said that, generally speaking, TOD works best with fixed-route transit and the concept revolves around hubs that are unlikely to change and hubs work best in high-density development.

Chair Hente was curious about how these projects will be funded. Mr. Roberts said that when the 2001 Intermodal Transportation Plan was adopted, there was no PPRTA (Pikes Peak Rural Transit Authority), but the recommendations from the plan helped create the PPRTA. Through those funds, almost every capital improvement through that study has been implemented. They have also used some federal grants. This new study is simply to identify the needs and then staff can start pursuing funding mechanisms.

Public discussion:

Tom Murawski, Vice-President of the 2400 Wood Avenue HOA, said they favor the study that addresses improvements to east-west mobility, except for the Constitution Avenue extension study. They also support the recommendation from CTAB to exclude cars and trucks from that study.

Juice Ortiz, North Tejon resident, does not believe that the City addresses the current traffic issues.

Joe Hammock, believes the problem with congestion is caused by human behavior and supports the CTAB proposal.

Bill Wysong said that evacuation is missing from this study.

Cody Burket commended CTAB for listening to the public. He is concerned with the spending that will be required by the projects in this study.

Linda Yost, Old North End resident, is concerned about use of rail spur behind her neighborhood. She supports multi-modal options and said the developers should be responsible for bolstering infrastructure.

Dana Duggan, Broadmoor resident and founder of Westside Watch, is concerned about evacuation modeling and degradation in level of service.

Joel Schott suggested the City look at a light-rail system.

DISCUSSION OF PLANNING COMMISSION:

Commissioner Rickett would like to add a couple of items to a motion, to include the CTAB motion to exclude cars and trucks from Constitution, and to add a study for evacuation.

Commissioner Almy agreed there needs to be some gross level planning for evacuation.

Commissioner Briggs agreed with evacuation planning. He is sympathetic to the idea of the Constitution proposal, but is unsympathetic to the idea of "putting our thumb on the scale" before a study is done. The purpose of any study is to propose and evaluate options and not to put conditions on them that would hinder the results.

Commissioner Raughton supported Commissioner Briggs' position to see all the options considered for Constitution.

Commissioner McMurray agreed with evacuation planning and would also like an objective study of Constitution.

Commissioner Hensler agrees with most of the previous statements. She believes funding should be for all east-west studies, not just Constitution. She also believes that evacuation planning is not part of this proposal and that it should be addressed separately.

Commissioner Slattery agreed with the CTAB proposal being part of the motion, but does not believe this is the place to include evacuation planning.

Chair Hente referred to Commissioner Briggs' "thumb on the scale" comment and that this commission votes on every project separately and they can choose to take their thumb off the scale and City Council can do the same. He thought it might be better to make a separate recommendation in regard to evacuation planning.

Commissioner Almy said that CTAB shows that the process works and that community involvement affected the results.

Chair Hente asked and Mr. Wysocki confirmed that the CTAB recommendation will go to City Council regardless of what is decided here today.

Motion by Commissioner Rickett that this Resolution be accepted Recommend approval to City Council an ordinance adopting the ConnectCOS Master Transportation Plan, the City of Colorado Springs 2023 Intermodal Transportation Plan, and include:

- 1. CTAB's recommendation of no cars and trucks for an extension of Constitution**
- 2. Recommend evacuation plan study for natural disasters.**

The motion failed for lack of a second.

Motion by Vice Chair McMurray, seconded by Commissioner Slattery, to recommend approval to City Council an ordinance adopting the ConnectCOS Master Transportation Plan, the City of Colorado Springs 2023 Intermodal Transportation Plan. The motion passed by a vote of 9:0:0:0