

**Denver Justice Center
Master Urban Design Architect**

**PUBLIC LISTENING SESSION
August 24, 2005**

PROCESS

What is the process the Master Urban Design Architect intends to use to coordinate all architects that is a campus and reflects to the quality that needs to be? Guidelines, standards, interaction between architects and contractors. All components must work together architecturally, compatible to each other and compatible with the Golden Triangle.

Listen session on October 17.

Meeting not well advertised.

Citizen vote: improved safety for all parties, humane solution for inmates, "suckered by sales pitch, and what did we vote for.

What role will Mint play?

Homeland Security

Minority participation women participation.

How will community feedback be handled?

Does it require zone changing? Is intention to create PUD?

How will the rezoning affect timeline?

What does City want?

TRAFFIC AND CIRCULATION

Traffic and Pedestrians

When does the traffic study fit into planning?

Concern with pedestrian and autos: speed, volume, pedestrian crossing and turn lanes.

Access and egress to garage: stacking into traffic, pulse and peak times, overflow and poached parking.

Pedestrian traffic conflicting with auto traffic.

Access and egress from parking garage.

Stacking lines of cars.

Accommodate pedestrians.

Diagram shows alleys opening away.

Traffic concerns – service access and another way to circulate in the neighborhood.

Continue the continuity of the boulevard with trees.

River and axis coming together bringing it back as an element, continuity and dialogue.

Hopes from the master plan: open spaces, traffic calming, pedestrian space on 14th corridor, is Gene Amole open or closed

Pedestrian traffic conflicting with auto traffic

Control vehicle and pedestrian traffic.

Maintain continuity of traffic flow

Keep an eye on the why – public safety volumes and speeds. Maleridls in the street, queues can be different.

Colfax Avenue

How you treat Colfax; it is not just the Justice Center that we should be looking at. Convention Center didn't take opportunity. New opportunities here. Colfax is important street; be careful here

Easy access to get across Colfax; now it is barrier rather than glue.
How do you get to 16th Street? How to make Colfax glue?

Need bus link to mall.

How do we make Colfax less of a barrier and more of a connection with downtown and 14th street.

Is the City committed to the redevelopment of Colfax Avenue?

When you come off Speer it should be made clear it is time to slow down.

Go out and cross Colfax at proposed Justice Center site. (It is very dangerous)

Speed of streets

Colfax – walking? Driving? More pedestrian friendly

Let Colfax be Colfax

Pedestrian access across Colfax

Can open triangles to north be mirrored on south

Is access really important on pedestrian level?

14th Avenue

14th is now important to Silver and Golden Triangle;

Are we committed to 14th Street?

14th Avenue side most important side

Gene Amole/Elati

Will you shut down Amole? I struggle with both open and closed.

Do you make a superblock?

Close Amole Street? If you close it you lose other opportunities. What do you do with the street? Do you leave open and have activity; do have drop off vs. parking.

What are opportunities here? How do you make Elati Street active?

Should Elati stay open or closed? Stay open and force cars and pedestrians to mingle.

Parking

Parking: not enough on Colfax; how to design parking with easy access, public parking, vs. street parking.

Poses question of parking on that site; don't have parking for south of Justice Center
South parking entrance is not good. Most burglaries happen on south side.

Do you have a roof? Do not want roof.

Will you allow curbside parking?

How will parking be designed to facilitate easy access, with a variety of users, time of day, weekdays, weekends, and good aesthetics?

Is the garage adequate for parking for the Justice Center? Will there be shared use parking?

People using "assigned to others" parking.

Joint use of parking with other facilities

How was size of Parking Structure Determined?

Parking – All weather connection.

ARCHITECTURE/URBAN DESIGN

Siting of Programs

Why is the garage located where it is? Is this the best?

Don't put downtown.

Public Space/Open Space

Forty percent has been allocated for open space. What is the program? Is it the right amount and is there money to appropriately create it?

I assume there will be public plazas. If so, new plazas should be related but secondary to the main Civic Center.

I heard 40% of the proposed Justice Center will be open space.

Location of open space.

Green spaces now great how do we carry that through?

Shade is important

Percent program to Open space? Space left?

Make another reason to go there other than picking person up from jail

Should it have variety of spaces, nodes, discovery spaces

Pushing and pulling of the edges, maybe 14th Ave. is an opportunity

How do you control where people congregate?

Open an introverted building to interact with its neighbors. (People, Spaces, Building)
Make it a welcoming facility

Water feature?

Architecture

Image/Character

How do you keep integrity of original Bennett Plan?

Is architecture cohesively designed with traditional civic center or contemporary?

How do you determine height of buildings based on existing buildings?

Will 3 buildings have cohesive feel on separate sites? How do we get signature architects to work within Bennett Plan without getting Library?

Coordination with Avenue of the Arts.

Can't be too sterile

With all these buildings that require security how do you make these building feel human?

If we want cohesive design, why are we doing 3 juries and 3 different designs?
Also relates to landscaping.

How do you treat the building aesthetically so it does not look like a jail?

Do not want two disparate buildings designed by architects bent on their own individual works of art.

Use the same or similar construction materials on both buildings.

Elements of design from one building carry over to the other.

The external feel of the buildings should have a “campus” or “center” look.

Strong classical order presented by Civic Center must be respected but building and site must be of the twenty first century.

First impressions program.

Dignity

Stalin like buildings (Police Administration).

Security is respected but open.

Buildings are isolated from the street.

I like the dignity of the public buildings.

Should it look institutional, secure or corporate?

Not like Canyon City

Definitely civic not ominous

Architecture that attracts signature building.

Why not local firms for signature buildings

We would like observation deck

How is it more campus like, unlike freestanding buildings around it?

Challenges of design to not look like a jail or a Hilton.

Design sends message to public for use and fit in with Civic Center.

Thematic with existing Civic Center plan of buildings.

Image of Justice – What is it here?

Cohesive development of Civic Center

Entrance/Orientation

Where is the front door?

Don't have the front door facing the fence of the Mint or the parking garage. What is the next step?

Concerned about the north exposures "dogs go to die."

Gateways/Views

Terminus at end of corridor important destination

Preserving views, capital and mountain

How do these buildings present themselves from Downtown? What is the vista when you are coming down Tremont?

Massing/Height/Bulk

Continuous building instead of breaking up including parking.

If could change one thing it would be size.

How many floors are proposed?

If massing is more connected can we have more open spaces around it

Is a more perforated mass better for public interaction?

Setbacks/Build-To Lines

Disconnect between elements in the diagram and the presentation. Mint has different street wall/build-to lines than other buildings, which keeps it interesting.

Ground Floor Retail/Active street

Want retail at ground level; helps with what they are already trying to do.

Is the street friendly to the street? Shouldn't be fortress like.

Alive after five?

Where's the front door?

First impressions.

Are there store front opportunities at the edges?

Neighborhood

How do you address safety when you have 500 foot condominiums?

How do we ensure that property value do not decrease?

Transition between 13th and triangle (much different than prison/inside)

How does future development happen outside campus north and south?

Color of bond houses a plus

How do we make new bail bonds houses more pleasing?

Future Expansion

Will the need for expansion be addressed in this 100 year plan and construction?

How do you expand the facility? Are you going to expand?

What is 25 – 50 year plans. Is this a long term plan or first phase of future plans?

Lighting

Building Lighting. Art museum is bold; stands out on its own; or do we want it to blend in or stick out?

Stormwater

Storm water guidelines are not adequate for detention in urban setting, LEED opportunity, example of good management is Potsdammer Platz, Berlin. This needs to be simple but a demonstration of how to do it right.

Storm water requirements conflict. Example of DAM detention pond--appropriate behind a Home Depot. LEEDS provides an opportunity to require development to do something better than Art Museum.

Storm water requirements conflict

Security

Public safety needs to be addressed in ways to visually control.

How do we make public spaces accessible?

Public spaces security with accessibility approachable to public

Environmental Sustainability

What level of LEED for buildings?

Will it be environmentally friendly?

Signage

What kind of signage to direct people around the campus? Wayfinding?

Maintenance

Is this in the downtown BID?

Who is the authority of that should take care of the open space?

Anticipate the maintenance in the design.

BID and who maintenance?

BUDGET AND FINANCE

Is the City committed to funding all components necessary and creating a campus?
This includes landscape and street improvements.

Is the City committed to establishing budgets for all these components and what is the mechanism to do so? Parking is already a challenge.

OPERATIONS/PROGRAMS

Support Services

Is there a consideration for food service for regulars who use the building?

How will new Justice Center be loaded and unloaded?

Public Art/Youth Programs

Is City willing to take Public Art dollars to use for youth art programs?

Relationship between Detention and Courts

What are the operations considerations of the jail that affect ___to improve life?

How will you move from one Justice building to another? Private vs. public? Where do you put service? Is there an underground service entry?

Tunnels between different buildings.

Tunnels: how do they work technical aspects.

Will new courts replace old courts?

Relationship between Interior and Exterior

What does campus feel like?

Tangibles of building meets intangibles

How does operation affect design?

Operations

We have Denver detox downtown now. How and when will you release into our neighborhoods?

Will JC have space for bail bonds in new facility? Some own some rent; they might want to stay.

What is the process for inmate release?

Validation of program in present actions: secure yet inviting, consolidation of functions, what percentage of functions are moving from City and County Building, population accommodated, courtyards, gardens and forty percent open space.

Would city consider giving out programs to at-risk youth; rather than doing big gestures that cost \$300 million?

Citizens voted for project because of safety.

How inmates are treated out at Smith Road was another reason citizens voted for it.

How inmates are transferred between court and the jail is a safety issue.

Satisfy safety and human conditions for the project to be successful.

The Justice Center will and should consolidate the services that must be conducted with the in-custody defendant.

Dignity and movement through the process are central/.

Programmatic requirements are satisfied.

How many functions will be moved to new building?

How many people will work in the building?

Reaffirm what projects were approved.

The voters were told in TV ads the Federal Government would take over if the bond wasn't passed.

Voted for bond also because of preventative programs.

Questioned funding of diversion programs.

Current population of both facilities now?

Where are inmates housed? Security?

Plans to contain bail bonds

How do inmates move in and out?

Can prison be underground?

Recreation area? Where?

Access to prison – underground, transition from surface?

How are different parts connected functionally?

How do we compare to other Urban Justice Centers?

Are population projections accurate?

What are the impacts of Alternative Sentencing?

What about outdoor recreation? What facilities?

Are they going to do work release?

Address family friendly visiting?

Are there classrooms for education?

Dorm and single cells, what are the sizes?

Quality of life for inmates and visitors.

Challenges for access.

Would function of courts be removed from existing facility.

Can you stage construction (phasing) to accommodate needs in future. Don't overbuild number of beds.

What extent will pre-trial services be located at intake?

Is the detention long-term? How long is long term?

Jail visits – contact or non-contact?

Technology/Alternative Programs/Future Justice Systems

Is there accommodation in buildings to allow new technology and ideas? Particularly information technology.

What is the plan for prisoner spaces? What are the most advanced standards? Want to look for cutting edge, so not bleeding edge.

What kind of planning is being done to insure they are relevant in 200 years?

What is the life expectancy of the buildings? Courthouse can last longer than the jail.

Rationale: new program for prevention, different ways of with inmate population?

How do facilities affect sense of Justice for the future?

Intangibles of the system; how they fit with the new building?

County Jail at Smith Road/Havana Street

On the tour they were told what the different phases of Smith Road.

Smith Road may not have additional facilities built. (Beds for prisoners)

What's happening at Smith Road: improvements?