East Colfax Avenue Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)

Community Webinar
November 16, 2023
Rules of Engagement

• Submit your questions via the Q&A function

• Facilitators will monitor the Q&A and choose questions to answer live at the end of the presentation

• Please be constructive and respectful

• If your question isn’t answered, submit it via the form on the website, and we will get back to you.

DenverGov.org/ColfaxBRT
East Colfax Avenue BRT Project Partners

Denver & Aurora City Council Representatives

Equity & Accessibility Partners
Meeting Objectives and Agenda

- Welcome & Objectives
- Project Update
- Design Update: Branding, Stations & Streetscape
- Update on Curbside Access Plan (CAP) & Safety Analyses
- Preliminary Construction Plan & Principles
- Small Business Support
- Next Steps & Stay Engaged (Q&A)

Photo Credit: Zach Kotel
Project Team Introductions

Jon Stewart  
**Project Director**  
Denver Department of Transportation & Infrastructure

James Moore  
**Design Lead**  
Parsons

Nick Vanderkwaak  
**Curbside Access Plan Lead**  
Fehr & Peers

Charlie Alexander  
**Safety Analyses Lead**  
Fehr & Peers

Marcy Loughran  
**Construction Communications Lead**  
Kraemer North America

Joanne Greek  
**Small Business Program Manager**  
Denver Economic Development & Opportunity

Elena Vasconez  
**Business & Economic Development Supervisor**  
City of Aurora
OUR VISION

Move people more efficiently, safely and sustainably along East Colfax Avenue
East Colfax Avenue BRT Purpose & Benefits

Social
- Provide reliable, sustainable travel options
- Improve safety, comfort and convenience
- Support vibrant, walkable & connected neighborhoods

Economic
- Deliver bus travel time savings
- Lower household transportation burden
- Enhance access to jobs & services

Environmental
- Reduce GHG emissions from vehicles
- Improve air quality and noise
- Promote greener streets
East Colfax Ave BRT Project Timeline: Where We Are Now

2020

2020 - 2022
Preliminary Design & NEPA Review

2022

Aug. ‘22
FTA Small Starts Project Rating Application

Sept. ‘22
30% design

City of Aurora & CCD IGA

2023

2023 - 2024
Final Design

✓ March ‘23: Receive FTA Small Starts Rating

✓ July ‘23: Submit Categorical Exclusion as part of NEPA review

✓ July/Aug. ‘23: Onboard Construction Manager General Contractor; submit 60% design

✓ Fall ‘23: Submit materials for FTA Small Starts Construction Grant

• January ‘24: Anticipated FTA approval of Categorical Exclusion

Public Engagement continuous through design & construction phases
East Colfax Ave BRT Project Timeline: Where We’re Headed

2020

2020 - 2022
Preliminary Design & NEPA Review

2022

Aug. ‘22
FTA Small Starts Project Rating Application

Sept. ‘22
30% design

City of Aurora & CCD IGA

2023

2023 – 2024
Final Design

2024

2024 – 2026
Construction, Testing & Commissioning

• Feb. ‘24: 90% design; request for final FTA funding approval

• May ‘24: 100% design

• Q3 ‘24: Construction begins

2027

Revenue Operations

Public Engagement continuous through design & construction phases
Design Update:
Branding, Stations & Streetscape
Where We Are: Station and Streetscape Enhancements

**Safety**
- Added area of rescue assistance to center platforms
- **Enhanced crossings** for pedestrians and cyclists
- Added **protected left-turn lane** locations

**Accessibility**
- **Widened curb ramps** leading to BRT platforms
- Added **secondary egress** to center platforms
- Added **traffic signal at Jackson Street** for access to National Jewish
- Improved **bikeway crossings**

**Comfort**
- Enhanced **tree canopy** and soil cell system
- New pedestrian **lighting**
Refined Station Design
Refined Station Design
Where We Are: Station and Streetscape Enhancements

**Safety**
- Added area of rescue assistance to center platforms
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**Comfort**
- Enhanced tree canopy and soil cell system
- New pedestrian lighting
New Streetscape Enhancements

Toucan crossings
New Streetscape Enhancements

Curb extensions at crossings

Enhanced lighting
New Streetscape Enhancements

Enhanced tree canopy and soil cell system
Curbside Access Plan & Safety Analyses Update
Curbside Access Plan Update

**Purpose:** To study parking utilization and recommend curb regulations that address an area’s changing conditions and the needs of various users

**Geographic Boundaries:** Between Broadway, Colorado Blvd., 13th and 17th Avenues
Give Input on the Curbside Access Plan by November 30!

Preliminary Recommendations

• Metered parking on Colfax

• Time limited parking on many side streets (residents exempted)

• Standardized time periods

• Flex Zones for loading

[Image: Proposed Parking Restriction Mapping Activity]

[Small text at the bottom of the slide: tinyurl.com/ColfaxCAP]
**Safety Analysis: East Colfax Avenue**

**What:** Quantitative analysis of high-crash locations on East Colfax Ave.

**How:** Field audits during peak travel times

**Results:** Found significant benefit to elements of the project design

- Left-turn arrows at signals
- Medians
- Shortened crossings
- Bus lanes
- Lighting

**New Recommendations**

- **Additional turn arrows** to mitigate vehicle-pedestrian crashes
- **Signal design elements** to mitigate wrong-way and red light running crashes
- **Signal timing** to manage travel speeds, minimize pedestrian delay, and reduce red light running
Safety Analysis: 13th/14th/16th/17th/18th Avenues

**What:** Analysis of high-crash locations on parallel streets from Broadway to Yosemite St.

**How**
- Field audits during peak travel times
- Travel speed data collection
- Quantitative crash analysis

**Timeline**
- 2023: Data collection
- Q2 2024: Recommendations
- Forthcoming: Funding & Implementation Strategy
Preliminary Construction Plan
About Kraemer North America

**About**

- Established in 1911
- Offices in Colorado, Wisconsin, Minnesota and Washington
- Full-service heavy civil contractor focused on transportation, rail and marine markets
- More than 40 years of experience working with Denver, RTD, the City of Aurora and CDOT

**Recent Projects**

- I-25 North Express Lanes
- I-25 South Gap
- 18th, 19th and Lincoln Street Bike/Transit lanes
- Havana Street Priority Signal Improvements
### Preliminary Construction Segments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Segment</th>
<th>2024</th>
<th>2025</th>
<th>2026</th>
<th>2027</th>
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<td><img src="image" alt="Green Bar" /></td>
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<td>2 Williams to Monroe</td>
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<td></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Blue Bar" /></td>
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<tr>
<td>5 Yosemite to I-225</td>
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<td><img src="image" alt="2027: Revenue Operations" /></td>
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</tbody>
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**DRAFT: PRELIMINARY AND DELIBERATIVE**
Preliminary Construction Phasing

PHASE 1

PHASE 2

PHASE 3

DRAFT: PRELIMINARY AND DELIBERATIVE
Construction Plan Principles

What to Expect During Construction

- Maintain **access to all businesses** throughout construction
- **One lane of traffic in each direction** will be maintained along Colfax during construction
- RTD will **maintain 15/15L service** with detours and temporary stops as needed
- **Safety measures** to separate construction activities from the public
- **Signage and wayfinding**
- **Defined delivery and haul routes**
- **Parking policies**
- **Designated point of contact**

Construction Resources
- Project Website
- Website Inquiry/Comment Form
- Email Communication
- Community Meetings
- One-on-One Meetings
Preconstruction Services & Next Steps

- Refine plan
- Engage community
- Gather feedback
- Communicate clearly
Complete the Preconstruction Survey!

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/brtsurvey
Small Business Support
Small Business Resources: Before & During Construction

City of Denver (Broadway to Yosemite)

✓ **Tips and tools** for thriving in the construction zone
✓ An **online assessment** to prepare your business for construction
✓ Business **advising and consultation**
✓ **Multiple resources** for loans, tax credits, business plan reviews, small business loans, workforce services including help with finding and screening job applicants

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**Denver Resources**

Scan the QR code for more information about business support in Denver!
Small Business Resources: Before & During Construction

City of Aurora (Yosemite to I-225)

- **Tips and tools** for thriving in the construction zone
- Business **advising and consultation**
- **Multiple resources** for business plan reviews, small business loans, training opportunities, retail strategies and more

Scan the QR code for more information about business support in Aurora!

https://www.aurora-southmetrosbdc.com/
Next Steps & Stay Engaged
Next Steps & Stay Engaged!

**Public Art**
Selection Panel convening in December

**Environmental Review**
NEPA documents available next spring

**Open House**
Join us in the new year to explore the material you saw tonight!

**Learn More**
Visit the project website: DenverGov.org/ColfaxBRT
Q&A Instructions

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