

SPECIAL STUDY SESSION NOTES

CITY OF WHEAT RIDGE, COLORADO

City Council Chambers 7500 W. 29th Avenue

January 9, 2017

Upon adjournment of Regular City Council Meeting

Mayor Joyce Jay called the Study Session to order at 7:13 p.m.

Council members present: Janeece Hoppe, Kristi Davis, Monica Duran, Tim Fitzgerald, Zachary Urban, Genevieve Wooden, and Larry Mathews

Absent: George Pond

Also present: City Clerk, Janelle Shaver; Administrative Services Director, Heather Geyer; Deputy City Clerk, Robin Eaton; guests and interested citizens.

CITIZEN COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

none

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

1. Update on G Line from RTD ~ RTD representatives

David Genova (CEO) and Henry Stopplecamp (Assistant GM for Capital Programs) from RTD were present for the update.

Mr. Genova spent considerable time giving information on seven other FastTracks lines, including:

- The status, number of stations and various travel times of the other lines in the system
- The Denver Transit Partners. This is the first P3 project of this size in the US.
- The new Commuter Rail Maintenance Facility (CRMF) at 48th & Fox - which will maintain up to 80 electric units and house the RTDC Administrative Offices
- How attendants are being used at the crossings of the A-Line so gates are not down longer than necessary
- The current waiver is good until Feb. 4. Monthly trips are being made to Washington DC to meet with the feds to report on progress on the software.

Henry Stopplecamp gave more detail about the elements related to the crossing issues with the A Line. This is all mandated by the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA). He explained how Positive Train Control (PTC) works. It is a wireless safety device.

- PTC is federally mandated.
- It predictively warns operator of speed limit changes and work zones.
- RTD is one of the first properties to fully implement PTC.

He presented general grade crossing data and explained the difference between Conventional Warning Systems and Wireless Activation systems. He highlighted important stages of the conventional and wireless testing schedules.

Information about the Gold Line

- The G Line to Wheat Ridge has 16 public grade crossings, 135 scheduled trips per day and 2,160 activations per day.
- He explained the use of conventional warning systems and wireless activation systems being implemented in the Gold Line.
- The G Line has 11.2 miles of electric commuter rail, 7 stations, 25-minute travel time to Ward Road, and shared stations at 41st & Fox and Pecos Junction.

Gold Line Status

4 of 9 components of the conformance checklist are 100% compliant. The remaining 5 components are between 90% and 97% completed. When the A Line is compliant, final work can resume on the G line.

Council questions

- Councilmember Urban asked questions about PTC and assurance of safety for at-grade crossings.
- Councilmember Mathews asked what a traditional system would cost.
 - The representative said it would add 1-2 years, but was not impossible.
 - They are doing a hybrid of traditional and wireless. The remaining items that are not finished deal with communication. They cannot be completed ahead of time, until the FRA allows them to have a train on the tracks.
 - When will it open? It comes down to the A line. They hope to fix it as soon as possible. The date range has variables and are not ready to be public. The G Line is static now; testing on it had to be stopped and cannot continue until the A Line is fixed. The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) is in control.
- Councilmember Fitzgerald asked if the BNSF system is working with the conventional system. It is.
- In response to a question from Councilmember Urban, Mr. Genova stated that the fundamental systems have been tested.
- Councilmember Mathews pressed for an estimated opening date for the G Line. RTD is hesitant to name a date – so as not to create false expectations.

Councilmember Mathews inquired about Council's interest in making a CORA request for the projected opening date. The gentlemen from RTD said that wouldn't be necessary; by week's end they will provide Council with an estimate of a time frame for completion.

2. Liquor licensing – Lodging & Entertainment

~ Mr. Dahl and Robin Eaton, Deputy City Clerk

Mr. Dahl explained that state law does not allow Liquor Licenses within 500 feet of a school. However, the City has waived that restriction for Beer & Wine, Hotel/Restaurant, and Brew Pub Licenses.

The State has created a new category of liquor license called Lodging & Entertainment. They are in the process of determining what types of businesses may hold such a license. It would be good for Council to decide if they want to allow Lodging & Entertainment licenses within 500 ft of a school. This would also be a good time to consider whether or not to allow Distillery Pubs within 500 ft of a school as they are becoming more popular.

Discussion followed. Mr. Eaton reported that at a meeting he attended earlier in the day tattoo parlors, coffee shops and event centers had been removed from the list. The list of businesses that will qualify as "entertainment" is not final. The 500 feet is measured by direct pedestrian access, not "as the crow flies".

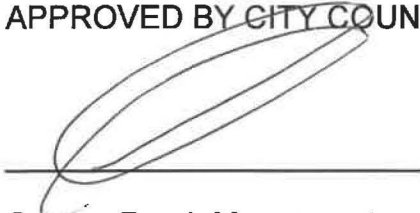
There was consensus to have Mr. Dahl bring the topic back for discussion when the state has decided what will be included in the "entertainment" category.

ADJOURNMENT The Special Study Session adjourned at 8:26 p.m.



Janelle Shaver, City Clerk

APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL ON February 13, 2017



George Pond, Mayor pro tem