

East Boulder Subcommunity – Working Group #8

Working Group Member Input Organized

Wednesday, January 22 at 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Working Group member ideas staff can take immediate action on:

- Add working group information to the timeline that shows the merging of the 55th & Arapahoe STAMP and the EBSP projects (the Gantt chart Jim used in his presentation), so that members know their milestones / deadlines, i.e. around scenario testing.
- Provide lanyards name tags for all attendees, instead of name tents, so members can get to know each other's names even when in small groups.
- Provide a hard copy Inventory and Analysis report for each working group member.
- Take steps to ensure all members have a voice in group discussions by minimalizing staff's involvement, encouraging equitable conversations, and by using a rain stick or by round robin per question.
- Reduce the number of topics and/or complexity of any one topic, so that members can digest the information.
- Increase the amount of time working group members have to discuss a topic and provide input.
- Revisit the meeting time.
- Plan for a working group meeting to focus the topic of consensus building and decision making to end up in the form of recommendations from the group (may mid-year).
- Clarify that this working group's role is to make recommendations that are heavily considered by decision-making bodies who would approve and adopt the recommendations as policy. Confirming that the members are not necessarily an elected or appointed decision-making body, even though they make decisions about key topics.
- Increase awareness of the East Boulder Working Group meetings, and that they are PUBLIC, by making that more evident on the city calendars and the project webpage.

Working Group member general thoughts about what's working:

- Members were ok, if not relieved, by the extended schedule of merging the 55th & Arapahoe STAMP project.
- It was comforting to learn and understand that the working group has been and is in information gathering mode.
- The contextualized meeting locations when the site relates to the topic.
- The small group presentations / discussions. Caution about presentation style and big voices dominating large group conversations while also allowing for large group debates.
- The snacks and drinks.

Working Group member ideas staff can consider in the near future:

Content

- Provide examples of indicator and metrics that will be used in upcoming scenario testing.
- Provide examples of subcommunity plan recommendations, so members know what they are trying to accomplish.
- Clarify how STAMP (area plan) and EBSC (subcommunity plan) projects are similar and different.
- Consider sub-topic group meetings or focus groups on things like (i.e. housing, transportation, resilience) to broach inter-relationship of topics.
- Address concerns about hot topics of the Airport, Valmont Power Plant (and consideration of its future), and Vista Village.

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Application of Recommendations

- Clarify how the recommendations (if adopted) will be executed and funded by the community and property owners.
- Reiterate how this relates to city code, broader city rules, regs, land-use, zoning.

Decision Making

- Provide ways to identify the knowledge gaps, does each working group member need to be an expert on all things?
- Provide way to identify working group member alignment and/or non-alignment on topics, so they can problem solve on topics of disagreement.
- Create ways for members to get to know each other by making sure they work with everyone and by offering icebreakers.
- Request homework for 4 to 10 items list on what each working group member wants to see happen and what their concerns are about that goal.

Logistics

- Try different facilitation styles for different learning styles.
- Offer experiential homework requesting members to participate in activities in East Boulder like B-Cycle, Bus, and Bike.

Advertising

- Provide communication to members on East Boulder events and news, like the Focus Group and Neighborhood Liaison events.
- Make it clear and easy for working group members to share East Boulder information with the community, either by re-sharing a message on social media, or email or key takeaways to talk with people in person.
- Increase awareness of the East Boulder Subcommunity Plan by advertising the plan to the city at large either in the Boulder Planning newsletter, neighborhood messaging from Brenda Ritenour or many other ways.

Engagement

- Capture the voices of people who work in East Boulder – not just the employers or professionals, but also the service industry workers (how they commute, where they live?).
- Bring in more folks representing key impact areas/viewpoints.

Working Group member ideas Working Group members may consider in the near future:

- Creating more social events to get to know each other. A note on these meetings:
 - These social gatherings are intended to be social and not meetings to discuss business. You can talk about a lot. However, the intent of the Colorado Open Meetings Law, you cannot discuss public business, which includes the of East Boulder Subcommunity Plan or the 55th & Arapahoe STAMP projects nor the working group process.
 - These gatherings are not officially “Publicly Noticed” by placing an ad in the paper, like is done for these working group monthly meetings. However, they are open to the public and the location and time (and your welcoming attitudes) are posted on the city website calendar and the project webpage by letting staff know more than 48 hours in advance of any gathering.

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Working Group member ideas staff cannot change and/or is not easily amenable to change:

- Reconsidering the City's subcommunity boundaries.
 - These boundaries were approved by Council in 2018 and would require going back on decisions already made and another round of approvals which could take a lot of time, losing out on the opportunities to make positive impacts in the present.
- Offering a complimentary EcoPass to members.
 - The City's 21 boards and commissions' members are eligible to receive an EcoPass based on the council appointed role and term they serve. Currently there is no precedent for all working group members to be eligible to receive an EcoPass. The rate of a board and commission member EcoPass is over \$500 each because of their appointment and multi-year service role. Shifting this eligibility to all working group members throughout the City would entail a substantial approval process.