

ConnectCOS Virtual Community Office Hours

The ConnectCOS project team hosted a series of Virtual Community Office Hours in April. Each session was an hour long, and similar to in-person office hours, our “door” was open the whole time. People were encouraged to drop by at their convenience to speak directly with members of the project team. During these Virtual Community Office Hours there was no formal presentation. The office hours were meant to be conversational and allow everyone to ask questions and share thoughts. The following comments and questions were captured during the multiple office hour sessions. Comments have been transcribed exactly as they were shared to preserve their original meaning and intent.

Enhanced Transit



Transit corridor serving the entire northern part of the City - Nevada becomes the trunk of the network. It is no longer something that serves the needs of the area. Brings many riders to the neighborhood = burden.

Transportation should be focused on proving options and moving people. Want to make options widely available for all residents.

Need to consider an intermodal transportation hub, use things that we already have, thinking if these old stations. This could help with the larger connectivity.

Concerns over transit modes that are reliant on grant funding, projects life can be dictated by life of grant funding.

Wants encouragement of other modes.

With the expansion that is occurring in the county, what is the City doing to accommodate the growth. Would like improved access of transit that is also not reliant on grants.

There is a need for improved transit time, need to consider access to mass transit (make it more accessible to more people).

Make bus system so people can go from place to place, new developments (Affordable senior housing) these developments are not connected to transit options.

Interest in the integrated transportation system (combination of systems).

Rail



Concerns for access to rail stations, how many stations would be needed and can be accommodated in Colorado Springs

Train from Santa Fe - Albuquerque could be a model to look at for Colorado Spring.

The growth and building of Amazon, increase delivery traffic from Amazon in neighborhoods.

How many people go from La Junta to COS? (Not a destination but allows you to connect to Amtrak)

There is a lack of citizen's will for rail, there is a need for examples of successful rails that have been completed and cost of development.

High speed rail does not need to be fast, just faster than car traffic. We might be able to run on the current infrastructure. A need for something in the middle.

Interest in all rail projects that include local and regional rail.

3-4 years ago, there was a high-speed rail study, the current effort includes Amtrak; frustration over funding.

Interest in front range rail to connect to Denver & Pueblo.

Project Process



Important that transportation plan is integrated with the development plan. Need for development that fits the transportation goals.

One of the goals is accessing transportation funding; there is a need to identify projects that resolve current problems.

Goals align with the downtown masterplan. Cycling safety is important, interested in hearing actionable items to reach out to those most impacted by accessibility.

ConnectCOS, what is the time frame of the project?

Do you have a technical committee and citizen committee? Yes, we do, but there is also a comprehensive public input phase coming in May.

There is a need to make livability more apparent in our goals.

How do we know what topics are discussed and where these conversations are happening and where to participate?

There is an interest in providing insight from population with disabilities.

Appreciate involvement and interested in continuing to support the effort.

Would like to continue to stay involved, would like to develop a culture of multimodal use in the City.

Enjoyed the smaller meeting format, would like to promote these types of meetings for those that are not represented.

<p>Both Nevada studies will impact our neighborhood. Question of how these will be folded into ConnectCOS.</p>	<p>Will the progress of implementing other studies be highlighted during the ConnectCOS process so the neighborhoods can accurately participate?</p>	<p>How will neighborhoods be heard during all these planning processes?</p>	<p>Interested in the implications of ConnectCOS (PlanCOS and HistoricCOS) on neighborhoods.</p>
<p>With so many plans, where and how do these plans come together? Specifically, how will the impacts be integrated?</p>	<p>Would like to see a model of how transit corridors have been implemented in other cities. Specifically, where a trunk of the system goes through neighborhood.</p>	<p>Need for balance of values, priorities, and communities; sometimes our communities are at odds, we must strive for balance; hope we can strive for collaboration.</p>	<p>Neighborhood watch (could be used to broadcast message and seek to gather more participants.</p>
<p>It is essential to broaden the participation audience.</p>	<p>How do we meet the values that everyone wants? There is a tension that we must address.</p>	<p>What is the accountability to carry out specific plans? Who at the core drives these plans?</p>	<p>Should have the City done ReToolCOS and then ConnectCOS; there is a role for both efforts; There will be a need for additional coordination with ReToolCOS.</p>
<p>Question about what the City values the most. How do the values translate to the plans? Are there conflicting values?</p>	<p>Is ConnectCOS out of timing with ReToolCOS; will zoning changes affect the development of ConnectCOS?</p>	<p>There is a need to do relationship building with specific communities.</p>	<p>Need to get creative in the way that we involve community and involve others.</p>
<p>We need to provide clarity and share information that makes the process clear.</p>	<p>There is a need for long term planning, developing a connection to PlanCOS.</p>	<p>There are many plans; how do these plans relate? How does PlanCOS relate to other planning efforts including zoning, annexations, etc.</p>	<p>Previous survey, most responses came from organized neighborhoods; how do we reach out to churches, school, to explain the purpose and role people's input.</p>

Concerns over citizen input in this process? How do we get broader community input on transportation efforts?	Important to bring all parties to the table, how do we conduct public engagement that involves all parties? Need to consider innovative ways of engagement. How do we keep people engaged?	Wants to understand the direction of the study; what is happening with east-west corridor? Previous presentation showed a priority on east-west mobility. What corridors are being examined?	There is lots of energy and interest from community members.
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Both Nevada Ave studies suffered a bit from not being able to look at the regional needs or City-wide needs.	Curious to see the results of this detailed analysis.	Neighborhoods have heard that CONO is not going to represent neighborhood interest on CAC, but they do want to empower neighborhoods to represent themselves.	Wonder how many know what PlanCOS proposes?
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Rate of change of City outpaces the implementation of these plans; how do you prioritize these efforts.	Bicycling →	If people drive efficiently, they can help air quality, elevated bike lanes, there are safety concerns as a biker.	Thinking about bicycles and connecting areas, safety, and perception of safety, how is safety included in the planning. Feeling of seclusion on specific trails.
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Do not feel threat on on-street, concerns are over off-street (Bicycle).	Would be useful to have clarity on how cyclist should behave on the road.	Accessibility →	Interest in talking about transportation for the population with disabilities, what efforts are being doing to improve access for this population.
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Recently bought bikes but some of the sidewalks are not kept up and many of the curves are not ADA compliant.	ADA ramps at corners always fill with mud, which must inconvenience wheelchair users as it does pedestrians.	Connectivity →	There is a need for a strong connections framework: think beyond cars, think of rail? Think of modes that are better for our air quality.
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Does connectivity mean car access? Would like better transit access and some land use that supports improved transit options. Want a better integration of other modes into future development.

Concerns over connectivity with growth and developments becoming isolated. Wants City to be more integrated.

Been long-time resident and has had issues with east-west corridors and their impact on existing neighborhoods.

There is a need for interstate connection.

Sustainability & Equity



Interest in thinking of sustainability in a regional context.

Concerns over urban heat island, increasing roads increases effects.

How to sustain a neighborhood into the future?

Hope for increased options, and equity distribution of tools. Some neighborhoods do not have the same options.

Traffic



Need to address congestion, further annexation will increase traffic volumes (North and East)

The growth and building of Amazon, increase delivery traffic from Amazon in neighborhoods.

Colorado Springs is car-dependent, people feel frustrated on east-west corridors; would love to see better signal timing.

Livability, retired residents are home at most times; there is a need for housing livability and traffic improvements.

Is it better to condense (infill) or sprawl growth?

Traffic calming could be used as a tool to improve transportation.

There is interest from people who want to avoid traffic, find places that make sense for people that do not want to drive.

Interest in use of zipper approach on I-25

Cascade road diet really cut off the high end of the speed distribution. Success! Would like to see traffic calming to all streets.

Safety



If the project is looking at improving access and participation, going under roads is probably not the best option (mud & safety).

Recently bought bikes but some of the sidewalks are not kept up and many of the curves are not ADA compliant.

Site specific concern: conditions on some of the streets are deteriorating, including speeding. Multiple accidents have on neighborhood streets and it is getting worse.

Interest in traffic & personal safety.

Would love a system that rewards safe drivers.

Concerns over increase in neighborhood traffic and safety.

Interested in HOV lanes on I-25; complete streets and safety sizing.