



Hancock / Academy Corridor Planning & Environmental Linkages (PEL) Team Charter

Project Focus Area:

The primary focus of the Hancock Expressway/Academy Boulevard Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) study is along the Academy Boulevard and Hancock Expressway corridors bounded by Chelton Road to the north Milton Proby Parkway to the south, Astrozon Boulevard to the west and Jet Wing Drive to the east. In this planning and design analysis and process, special attention will be given to the Hancock Expressway/Academy Boulevard intersection configuration, community development opportunities, multi-modal opportunities and feasibility evaluation of undergrounding the electric transmission lines.

Project Purpose:

This project is intended to result in an approved PEL and an agreed-upon conceptual design for reconstruction of the Hancock Expressway/Academy Boulevard intersection as a “complete streets” intermodal intersection complete with enhanced vehicular access as well as pedestrian, bicycle and transit accommodations. Alternatives will be developed with and without undergrounding of the electric transmission lines that impact this intersection in both an east-west and north-south direction. Key aspects/elements of the PEL study include:

- Identify and explore real estate inventory, mapping, disposition and communications process concerning rights-of-way, easements and adjacent property ownerships;
- Consideration of previous area planning efforts such as the Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments (PPACG) *Moving Forward 2035* Regional Transportation Plan, *Great Streets Plan* and South Academy Economic Opportunity Zone Action Plan;
- Intersection-specific traffic/turning movement/signal progression modeling and analysis;
- Intersection redesign alternatives with and without electric transmission line undergrounding;
- Provision of enhanced access to this identified mixed use redevelopment node;
- Robust public process focusing primarily on directly impacted property owners to include land use and access implications;
- Transit facilities plans and options including accommodation of future robust transit stops;
- Connections to local parks and the regional trail systems;
- Incorporation of bicycle, pedestrian, streetscape, lightening and landscape amenities with provisions for sustainable maintenance;
- Assessment of community development opportunities, and;



- Project implementation plan to include an indicative design of the recommended alternative, project phasing, cost estimates and potential funding opportunities.

Critical Success Factors

- Establish clearly defined goals and objectives for the project.
- Effective identification and communication with stakeholders and a supportive public process to gain consensus on a recommended transportation alternative.
- Effectively and efficiently work through the PEL process to gain acceptance by the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).
- Identify an actionable recommendation and funding options necessary to assure the project can be implemented.
- Evaluate the feasibility of new access on Academy Boulevard.
- Conduct enough design to reduce contingencies within the cost estimate, to determine projects of independent utility and to set up the project for future actions.
- Determine the technical and financial feasibility of transmission line undergrounding.
- Determine an effective and creative right-of-way disposition plan.

Schedule

The anticipated schedule is about a 12-month process (Sept. 2014 to Sept. 2015).

Negotiation and Agreement

- Stakeholder meetings will be facilitated to ensure interested parties have opportunities to be heard, have collaborative participation and provide input that is equally considered. Everyone's input is important and will be heard and considered.
- Meeting participants will stay on track with the goals/objectives and timeline.
- Stakeholders will have an opportunity, and an expectation, to voice their thoughts and opinions, representing their own opinions and that of their organization, group or constituents.
- Participants are encouraged to be respectful of each other's input and ideas, not interrupt or dominate discussions.
- We are working together to create an informed plan that will benefit the community as a whole; therefore, we are committed to:
 - Resolving conflicts directly, openly and honestly, without personal attack;
 - Consider the interests of the community-at-large beyond only our own agency's or individual interests; and
 - Achieve group informed consent of the plan.

Communication

- Stakeholder meeting notifications will be by email and/or e-newsletters. Public open house notifications will be by e-newsletters, news media reports, social media as appropriate and other available means. Meeting summaries will be emailed and made available on the project webpage, hosted on the City of Colorado Springs website.
- We will conduct assessments at the conclusion of stakeholder meetings to assess our effectiveness in relation to our stated objectives (example: Did we meet our goals? Are we where we need to be to complete our work on time? Do we have all the information we need?)
- Citizen input and technical expertise are both important to all discussions and in developing the final plan; therefore,
 - The lead agencies and the consultant team will lead a collaborative stakeholder process and will provide on-going updates and progress reports to each of the agencies, and;
 - Agency representatives will act as liaisons, communicating to and representing their organizations and constituents.

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