

**STUDY SESSION NOTES
CITY OF WHEAT RIDGE, COLORADO**

May 2, 2011

Mayor Pro-Tem Langworthy called the Study Session to order at 6:35 p.m. Council Members present: Davis Reinhart, Karen Adams, Karen Berry, Wanda Sang, Mike Stites and Joyce Jay. Also present: City Clerk, Michael Snow; City Manager, Patrick Goff; Police Chief, Dan Brennan; Administrative Services Director, Heather Geyer; Community Development Director, Kenneth Johnstone; Public Works Director, Tim Paranto; City Attorney, Gerald Dahl; Planner, Sarah Showalter; Staff and interested citizens.

Council Member Joseph DeMott and Mayor Jerry DiTullio were absent.

1. Staff Report(s)
2. RTD Presentation – FasTracks Update

Kevin Flynn and Matt Cohen from the RTD Board of Directors provided an update to Council regarding Eagle Project 3 (the Gold Line) and the west corridor status. The following information was provided:

- The existing 2004 plan would not be completed until 2042, if based on existing funding.
- The RTD Board voted last week to postpone the referral of a ballot question approving a sales tax increase until the 2012 election.
- A grant from the Federal Transit Administration is expected to RTD Denver. If awarded, it will trigger and assure full construction of the Gold Line through Wheat Ridge with an anticipated completion in July, 2016.
- The West Corridor, currently under construction, will open in May of 2013.

3. Presentation on Wheat Ridge Middle School - Jose Martinez, Jefferson County Schools

Jose Martinez, Jefferson County Community Superintendant for Jeffco School led a presentation to the Council with the school district's plans for effected Wheat Ridge Schools. The following is a summary of key points in the area's new school plan:

- He explained why there is a new plan for Wheat Ridge Middle School, the closing of Martensen Elementary School and changes to the articulation area maps.
- 5th graders at Molholm, Edgewater and Lumberg Elementary Schools will move to Wheat Ridge Middle School in the fall which will thereafter serve all grades 5 through 8.
- Stevens Elementary School's current 4th graders will also start 5th grade at Wheat Ridge Middle School in the fall.

- For the 2011-2012 school year there will be no bussing fee for current Martensen ES students that will be moved to Stevens ES upon its closing.
- Wheat Ridge Middle School hours will be 8:55 am until 3:55 pm.
- Stevens ES will have 4 new preschool sessions and 2 full day kindergarten classes.
- There will be an open house May 18th at Stevens Elementary School to present the new school plans.

Warren Blair with Jeffco Schools requested Council Members and other city officials to participate in a program designed to connect students to leaders in the community. Interested participants would volunteer once a month to build relationships with four children through the new program.

4. Wadsworth Corridor Mixed Use Commercial Rezoning

Mr. Johnstone updated Council on the process to initiate a rezoning of the Wadsworth Corridor area. He noted that although most property owners contacted in the area were in support of the rezoning, most of them had not been reached yet nor return efforts to be contacted by the City. Council directed staff to again notify owners of the intent to rezone and ask for their contact information as well as their level of support before initiating the rezoning actions.

5. Public Works Appeal Process

Mr. Dahl reviewed the appeals process for the appeal of Public Works decisions. Council discussed issues surrounding the scope of such appeals and the initial intent of designing the new appeals process. Council agreed for a subcommittee including Mr. Reinhart, Mr. Paranto, Ms. Berry and Mayor DiTullio to meet and refine the appeal process before further consideration.