

SPECIAL STUDY SESSION NOTES

CITY OF WHEAT RIDGE, COLORADO

City Council Chambers 7500 W. 29th Avenue

April 24, 2017

Upon adjournment of the Regular City Council Meeting

Mayor Joyce Jay called the Special Study Session to order at 9:12 p.m.

Council members present: George Pond, Janeece Hoppe, Kristi Davis, Monica Duran, Tim Fitzgerald, Zachary Urban, Genevieve Wooden

Absent: Larry Mathews (excused)

Also present: City Clerk, Janelle Shaver; City Attorney, Jerry Dahl; City Manager, Patrick Goff; other staff, guests and interested citizens.

CITIZEN COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS none

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

1. G Line Update from RTD – Natalie Menten

Natalie Menten, District M Director for RTD, updated the Council on the process that is happening related to the Gold Line. Three waivers have been filed with the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and the Colorado Public Utilities Commission (PUC).

1. Waiver for the B Line (Union Station to Westminster) to remove one flagger
2. Waiver for the A Line – (Union Station to DIA) to continue on waiver status after April 30; improvements have been made to the software (safety gates coming down too soon and staying down too long)
3. Waiver to resume the testing on the Gold Line.

Henry Stoppolecamp, Assistant General Manager of Capital Programs for RTD, reported that testing on the G Line will require 57-60 days of perfect testing. He estimates 2-3 months. He reviewed the improvements that have happened with the A Line. Approval has to come from both the FRA and the PUC.

Council questions

Councilmember Urban asked for an explanation of the difference between light rail and commuter rail, and whether the G Line will exhibit the same problems as the A Line has.

- Mr. Stoppolecamp explained that the A, B, and G Lines are commuter rail (not light rail) and have heavier equipment. The track gauge is the same, but the articulation is

different. Light rails cars pivot in the center, can make tighter turns, and can accelerate and stop faster. Commuter rail cars don't pivot in the center. They behave like a typical rail cars, which is related to sharing the track with BN&SF.

- RTD hopes not to have the same problems with the G Line as happened with the A Line. He elaborated on the change in the software, the addition of delays and quiet zones.

Councilmember Fitzgerald asked if there are problems RTD is not sharing with the City.

- Mr. Stoppolecamp stated they have solved many problems on the A Line. Those issues should not come up with the G Line. To his knowledge, RTD is not hiding anything from Wheat Ridge. The software is fixed; the hardware is ordered.

Councilmember Urban inquired about a projected opening date. Mr. Stoppolecamp stated that projection for opening is premature at this time. The goal is to finish by the end of 2017.


ADJOURNMENT The Special Study Session adjourned at 9:27 p.m.

As determined by a previous motion, the Regular City Council Meeting was reconvened for the purpose of going into Executive Session.



Janelle Shaver, City Clerk

APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL ON May 8, 2017



George Pond, Mayor pro tem