

Land Use & Transportation on September Meeting's Agenda

*By Dick Bjurstrom
and Mike Henry*

of Denver over the coming years. It is comprised of 48 citizens from around the city. This plan is now nearing its final stages which hopefully result in passage by City Council in late fall or early winter of this year. I know that many of you have been following the progress of this committee very closely but in order to facilitate the discussion let me give you a short synopsis of our progress so far.

Early on in this process members of the committee were asked to describe their visions of what Denver should look like in the future by placing different land use chips on a map of Denver. These maps were then combined and discussed and a general agreed-upon map was developed. It turned out that consensus was rather easily attained. This surprised the consultant to the committee, Calthorpe and Associates, a nationally recognized leader in this field. It seems that their usual procedure does not go this smoothly, but the process was not totally without controversy. It became apparent that Denver had two distinct problems that needed to be addressed. The first was where to put the anticipated growth that will occur and how to support that growth. The second was how to protect the already existing neighborhoods from some of the unwanted results that growth brings with it. At the urging of several members of the committee it was decided to split areas of Denver into two groups. One would be called Areas of Change, where growth was to be encouraged, and the other called Areas of Stability, where growth was to be controlled. Moving forward under this scenario, small workshops were conducted in six areas of change and two areas of stability. These workshops brought together people for the area under study to define what they wanted their neighborhood wanted to become. A toolbox was then developed to attain these goals. These toolboxes will be announced and debated at our next committee meeting in September.

Concurrently with this effort the transportation consultant was identifying and categorizing all the streets and transit corridors in Denver. This process will be folded into the area plans to help make sure that the proper infrastructures are in place to support development and to ease the congestion problems we are currently facing.

There are two other important tasks that LUTAC has been discussing. The first is an attempt to create a new and better neighborhood planning process. The second is to create some "Quick Wins" zoning solutions to problems Denver neighborhoods currently face. Both these topic will be discussed at our September meeting.

This committee's work is critical to the future of Denver and your neighborhood. The panel discussion at the INC meeting on the 8th will hopefully help you get your hands around these important topics. Please bring all your insightful questions and concerns with you on September 8.

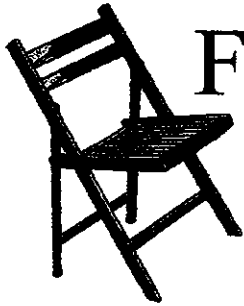
This month's INC General Meeting feature presentation will center on Denver's Land Use and Transportation Advisory Committee (LUTAC). This committee, which was mandated by Comprehensive Plan 2000, has been meeting for a little over one year. Its charge was to develop a strategy that will guide the growth patterns for the City

The Newsletter of Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation



September
2001

Denver Neighborhood
Connection



From the Chair

**By Fred Corn
INC Chair**

As always, I have many issues to discuss (including the usual suspects: the Land Use and Transportation Plan, Dollar Dictionary, Traffic, Parks, Zoning), but let me just touch briefly on a couple of topics that have been preoccupying my thoughts most recently. I'll try to stick to the point and not climb on my soap box.

First, T-REX. Ever since they stood us up at our July meeting I've been trying to find out their plans for public involvement. I finally met with Carol Diforio, Public Information Manager for the Southeast Corridor Constructors (SCC). The meeting was, well, nice, but I came away with the distinct feeling that Denver and its residents are really not going to have much to say about the next five years of construction. The company line is that there was extensive public involvement during preparation of the Environmental Impact Study, and the time for public participation is mostly past. Now we get "poster board" sessions to keep us well-informed.

On the other hand, Carol did say that in the next couple of weeks a process will be developed that will provide a structure for making design changes. The process will provide for "issue meetings" to focus on specific issues. Which issues deserve focus meetings is not clear. But here's the silver lining: SCC has hired past INC Chair Dick Bjurstrom to handle public information for the project between Broadway and Yale. I have confidence that Dick will be trying to create a process that will work for the Denver neighborhoods along that portion of the project.

Office of Neighborhood Response

Next, the Office of Neighborhood Response. On this topic I hear nothing but frustration from neighborhood folks. In particular, the brave new structure, with four part-time appointees acting as the Mayor's eyes and ears in the four quadrants of the city, just hasn't really gotten off the ground. And there still has not been an appointee for the southeast quadrant. So I have been talking with Phil Workman, the head of ONR, and I even sat in on an ONR staff meeting. As much as I believe that Mayor

Webb has abandoned his commitment to neighborhoods to refocus on things like legacies and kids taxes, I believe that Phil is moving ONR in the right direction. Slowly, but in the right direction.

Neighborhood Conference

Phil and I also met with Julius Zsako from the Community Planning and Development Agency, and Monica Perales from the Focus Neighborhoods Initiative, to discuss this year's Neighborhood Conference. Returning to the old Conference format, we have all agreed to co-sponsor the next event, which will be held in late February or early March. This is a very positive step and I would appreciate any ideas for break-out session topics.

Comprehensive Plan

Finally, my Denver Planning Board colleagues and I are completing the first annual report on Comprehensive Plan 2000. This report has been difficult to produce, in part because it is the first one. I think in the future it will be created in a more timely fashion. Copies will be available to the public soon, and I would like to see INC delegates review it and provide an opinion. For the most part I think we did a good job. We identified areas where the city has been successful in following the Comp Plan, and areas where we have not. And we have identified priorities for the coming year. For the Neighborhoods chapter we set priorities like finish the Land Use and Transportation Plan, and create tools for neighborhood character preservation.

NIMBYism

One issue that has been controversial for the Board has been the Not In My Back Yard syndrome that plagues Denver, as it does all big cities. Some on the Board want us to state that some neighborhoods have suffered from disproportionate impacts of undesired land uses because other neighborhoods have forced those changes upon them. In my opinion, the proposed language has been divisive and seeks to pit one neighborhood against another. That is contrary to our mission at INC and I have resisted these phrasings. Seeking fair geographic distribution of undesirable uses is an important goal. But pointing fingers at one neighborhood as the cause for the siting of those uses in another neighborhood is simply Planning PC; it's not fair, it's not accurate, it's unproductive, and it's divisive.

City Targets Construction Noise Violations

Some contractors are starting work prior to 7 a.m. and working beyond 9 p.m. in violation of Denver Revised Municipal Code Chapter 36-7(3). Denver is circulating 1,800 notices to construction contractors to educate and remind contractors of the construction noise limitations within Denver, according to Denver Planning Director Jennifer Moulton.

"The noise control program in Denver was designed to protect and promote the health, safety, and quality of life of Denver residents through control and prevention of noise," Denver Public Health Director Theresa Donahue said recently.

Sometimes a simple phone call to an offending contractor is all it takes to bring noise levels down. Noise complaints are investigated by the Denver Department of Environmental Health. Residents may call 303-285-4053 to report a construction noise complaint. Information on the location, construction company, hours when noise is occurring, and types of noise is helpful to speed up the investigation.

When construction in a neighborhood takes place, residents should expect the sounds and sights of hammers, saws, trucks, dumpsters, and portable toilets. Workers' trucks and private cars may complicate the parking situation on the block. Neighbors need to recognize that noise and inconvenience is inevitable, but temporary. Contractors should try to minimize the noise and inconvenience during construction, thereby reducing the possibility of conflict with neighboring residents.

Send Us Your Newsletters!

News from your neighborhood newsletters will be re-printed in *Denver Neighborhood Connection* as space permits. Send your newsletters to the editor, Craig Eley, 3800 S. Peach Way, Denver, CO 80237

INC Member Neighborhoods

Alamo Placita NA	Mayfair Park NA
Athmar Park N.A.	North City Park Civic Assoc.
Baker Historic Neighborhood	Overland NA
Bellvue Hale NA	St. Charles NG
Berkeley NA	Sloan Lake CG
Capitol Hill United Neighbors	South Gaylord NA
Cherry Point HOA	South Jackson St. NA
Clayton NA	Sunnyside United Neighbors, Inc.
Cole NA	University Park CC
Colfax Business ID	Virginia Vale CA
Colfax on the Hill	Virginia Village/Ellis CA
College View NA	Washington Park East NA
Cook Park NA	Wellshire HOA
Cory/Merrill NA	West Highland NA
Country Club Historic Neighborhood	West University CA
Crestmoor Park HI	West Washington Park NA
Curtis Park Neighbors	
Denargo Market NC	
Downtown Denver Residents Association	
East Montclair NA	
East Village NA	
George Washington HOA	
Greater Park Hill Community	
Hampden South NA	
Harkness Heights NA	
Harman NA	
Highland United Neighbors	
Hilltop Heritage Assoc.	
Hutchinson Hills/ Willow Point NA	
Indian Creek NA	
Inspiration Point NA	
Ivy Street NA	
Lower Downtown District, Inc.	
Lynwood 7&8 HOA	

Supporting Organizations (Patrons in Bold)

Councilwoman Kathleen MacKenzie
Councilwoman Elbra Wedgeworth
 Denver Digs Trees
Denver Water
 League of Women Voters of Denver
 Metro Denver Chamber of Commerce
 Progress & Preservation Together

Associate Members

Steve Brown
 Cathie Fisher
 Bonna Gayhart
 Gertie Grant
 Marcia Johnson

17,000 Dictionaries Distributed to DPS Third Graders

*By Cathee Fisher
INC Dollar Dictionary Drive
Co-Chair*

In August, in a massive INC & community effort by over 100 people (from 8 year old third graders to an 84 year old), 17,000 books were delivered by K-Mart; unpacked, gift labeled, counted, repacked and transported to the Denver Public Schools central distribution center for final delivery to 90 DPS elementary schools. A special THANK YOU to a group of 9 male Denver County jail inmates on a special work program who did most of the heavy lifting and a group of six female inmates in the "Sisters" program who spent two days labeling book after book. Their supervisory Denver Sheriffs were also helpful to the max!

Rocky Mountain SER (service, education, redeployment) at the Pecos Community Center were gracious hosts for our labeling extravaganza for the third year and could not have been more helpful to this part of the program.

Thank you to everyone who has participated in and supported this program. In 2001 special THANK YOUS go to Steve Nissen, my co-chair, who has been there every step of the way, and Nancy Jackson, an enthusiastic supporter and hard worker since the beginning!

The Dollar Dictionary Drive has been a great program for 6 years and is greatly appreciated by the DPS principals, teachers and students. At each school is a dictionary and a thesaurus for each DPS third grade student to take home. The best way to experience the value of this gift to the students is to participate at your neighborhood school in the distribution of the dictionaries to the students either in the classroom or an assembly. This is arranged with the principal of each elementary school and all have been excited to have us as neighborhood and

community members come to the school and meet their teachers and students. Each principal has been notified by e-mail and letter as to their friendly neighborhood association.

Thanks also to all who have spread the word to friends and neighbors about our 6th annual Dollar Dictionary Drive. We are just over the 65% mark in our quest to cover the cost of this year's program. This INC program is a positive effort to reach out to a group of citizens in the spirit of our stated goal - the continuing improvement of Denver. Please keep spreading the word. Details about the dictionary drive are on the INC web site at www.neighborhoodlink.com/denver/inc.

And a big thanks to all of our 2001 donors:

US Bank Auditor's Office Employees
Baker Neighborhood Association
Bear Valley Improvement Association
Capital Hill United Neighbors
Cherry Point Neighborhood Association
College View Neighborhood Association
Congress Park Neighbors
Cory/Merrill Neighborhood Association
Denver University Chancellor
Hutchinson Hills/Willow Point Neighborhood Association
Neighborhood Inspection Services Employees
Mayfair Neighbors
Sumner Neighborhood Association
University Park Community Council
Washington Park East Neighborhood Association
Numerous Individuals

Donations (tax deductible) can be sent to: Dollar Dictionary Drive, PO Box 181009, Denver, CO 80218.

For additional information or contact information at your neighborhood school contact Cathee Fisher at 303-333-3141 or cathee@earthlink.net.

INC Web Page

Check out INC's web page at
www.neighborhoodlink.com/denver/inc.
You'll find past newsletters and other
information about INC and its activities

INC Awards Nomination Form

Each year, INC sponsors three awards which are given during the annual Presidents' Dinner in the fall. Review the criteria for each award and, if you know someone who qualifies, use this form to nominate that person for one of the awards. **Nominations are due by October 1, 2001**, and should be faxed or e-mailed to Fred Corn, fredcorn@gateway.net, 303-455-1123 (fax).

The Virginia Oredson Award

- Criteria:
1. The nominee should have encouraged Denver neighborhoods to work together in a common effort to solve community problems and in particular has supported INC.
 2. The nominee should have established a record of selfless community service in a number of different causes.
 3. The nominee should have encouraged and motivated others to volunteer their services to engage in community improvement efforts.

The Bill Gross Award

- Criteria:
1. The nominee should work in the public safety sector in the City and County of Denver.
 2. The nominee should have a strong record of working with neighborhoods to better public safety in the community.
 3. The nominee should have made Denver a safer place in which to live.

The Walt Kembel Award

- Criteria:
1. The winner must be an INC delegate or member.
 2. The award winner should have contributed to INC during the past year over and above normal expectations to develop and promote the organization or
 3. The winner should have moved INC forward or in new directions in creative or unexpected ways.

* * * * *

Award nominated for (circle one)

Virginia Oredson Award

Bill Gross Award

Walt Kembel Award

Name of Nominee: _____

Nominee's Day Phone: _____ Night Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Nominating Organization: _____ Contact Person: _____

Contact Person's Day Phone: _____ Night Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Please include a statement indicating why your nominee should win the award

**Next
Meeting
Sat., Sept. 8
2001**

**Faith Lutheran Church
4785 Elm Court
(Elm Ct. is 2 blocks east of
Federal at 47th Ave.)**

AGENDA

8:45
Coffee and Chat

9:00
Around the City

10:00
Committee Reports

10:30
Break

10:45
Land Use &
Transportation
Discussion

Noon
Adjourn

**Denver Neighborhood
Connection
Article Submission
Deadline
Is the 20th of each
month**

Articles must be submitted by
e-mail to Fred Corn at
fredcom@gateway.net

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Denver, CO 80218

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