

## Station Planning Meeting with Jurisdictions

In addition to the four station planning and TOD workshops conducted with the public, the project team met with representatives from the City of Boulder (2), Boulder County (2), and the City of Longmont (1) on August 11, 2004, at the Boulder County Courthouse. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the input received at the public workshops, review the preliminary station concept plans, and discuss the station evaluation process, including the evaluation criteria. At the end of the meeting, the project team asked the jurisdictions to provide comments on station evaluations by August 20, 2004. Based on input from the City of Boulder during the meeting, the candidate station east of 63<sup>rd</sup> in Gunbarrel was retained in the study.

## July and August Public Meetings

On July 29 and August 4, the project team held public meetings that provided the opportunity for the public to learn about the study and provide input into the conceptual issues and alternatives. The July 29 meeting was held at the Rocky Mountain Christian Church in Niwot and was attended by 40 members of the public. The August 4 meeting was held at the Longmont Senior Citizens Center in Longmont and was attended by 50 members of the public. Both meetings were held from 4:30-6:30 p.m.

The meetings began with an open house where members of the public reviewed information about the project and spoke with project team members. This was followed by a presentation at 5:15 p.m. about the study and a question and answer/comment period. Participant questions and comments were recorded during the discussion. Participants were also given note cards to provide written comments.

## Outreach for July and August Public Meetings

The outreach approach for the meetings consisted of directly distributing workshop announcements, placing paid advertisements in the Boulder Camera and Longmont Daily Times Call, distributing press releases, and posting the meeting announcement on the project website. CCCT members additionally distributed the meeting announcements within their own organizations, including website postings. The meeting announcements were available in both English and Spanish.

The following table summarizes the outreach conducted for the July and August public meetings, including the meeting announcements, paid advertisements, and newspaper articles:

## OUTREACH ACTIVITIES REPORT

Public Meetings 7/29/04 and 8/4/04

ACTIVITY	QTY.	DATE
<b>Public Meetings – Announcements Sent by the Project Team</b>		
Project Team (email)	20	7/16/04
CCCT (email)	28	7/16/04
CCCT Observers (email)	8	7/16/04
TOD Workshop Participants (email/mail)	27	7/16/04
Project Mailing List		7/21/04
	881	
	<i>Email 73</i>	
	<i>Mail 725</i>	
<b>Paid Advertisements (See attached)</b>		
Boulder-Daily Camera		7/25/04 and 7/28/04
Longmont-Daily Times-Call		7/28/04 and 8/1/04
<b>Distribution of Announcements by Individuals/Organizations</b>		
Nino Gallo distribution to St. Valley Coalition Meeting (Spanish version)	12	7/22/04
Nino Gallo email to Longmont Latino community contacts (Spanish version)	50	7/26/04
Karen Roney, City of Longmont, email to Longmont Multicultural Plan Task Force representatives (English & Spanish versions)	16	
Mike Rowe & Sue Anderson email to Citizens for Commuter Rail membership		Week of 7/12/04
Kathryn Ramirez-Aguilar posted meeting announcement at southern Gunbarrel community sites (English version)		
<b>Web Postings</b>		
Project Website at <a href="http://www.rtd-denver.com">www.rtd-denver.com</a>		
Press Release posted to: <a href="http://www.ci.longmont.co.us/news/pr/2004/rail.htm">http://www.ci.longmont.co.us/news/pr/2004/rail.htm</a> (Rigo Leal, PI officer)		7/20/04
Gunbarrel Community Association (a neighborhood advocacy group)		Week of 7/19/04
Placement of study information on Website: <a href="http://www.gunbarrel.net/current.shtml">http://www.gunbarrel.net/current.shtml</a>		

ACTIVITY	QTY.	DATE
(Calendar of Events)  <a href="http://www.gunbarrel.net/drfs.shtml">http://www.gunbarrel.net/drfs.shtml</a> (link to overview & jpeg of announcement)  <a href="http://www.gunbarrel.net/railfeasibility.shtml">http://www.gunbarrel.net/railfeasibility.shtml</a> (overview of study)		
<b>TV Postings and Radio Announcements</b>  City of Longmont Channel 14 – Basic Bulletin Board – Headline announcing passenger rail study with meetings information underneath (Rigo Leal, PI officer)		
Radio KGNU 88.5 (Public Service Announcement and placement on community calendar <b>requested</b> )		7/29/04
<b>Media</b>  <b>Press Release emailed to:</b> Daily Camera (Greg Avery) Daily Camera (Leah Franklin) Daily Times-Call (John Vahlenkamp) Boulder Weekly (Joel Warner) Colorado Daily (Bronson Hilliard) Boulder County Business Report (Jerry Lewis) Denver Post (Jeffrey Leib) Rocky Mountain News (Kevin Flynn) La Voz (Francisco Miraval) Left Hand Courier Radio-KGNU (Joel Edelstein) Radio-KVCU (Johnny Pass)		7/22/04 to 7/29/04
<b>Press Release Follow up phone call to Press contacts:</b> Daily Camera (Greg Avery) Daily Camera (Leah Franklin) Daily Times-Call (John Vahlenkamp) Boulder Weekly (Joel Warner) Colorado Daily (Bronson Hilliard) Boulder County Business Report (Jerry Lewis) La Voz (Francisco Miraval) Left Hand Valley Courier		7/26/04 – 7/27/04
<b>News Publications (See attached)</b>  Daily Camera – Local/Daily Digest ran meeting information and brief announcement of study “Boulder-Longmont train to be discussed”		7/26/04 7/29/04 8/3/04
Colorado Daily – News Article by Bronson Hilliard  “Will we soon take the last train to Longmont”		7/29/04

ACTIVITY	QTY.	DATE
Daily Camera – News Article by Leah Franklin “Boulder-Longmont rail line feasibility study discussed Officials gathering public comment about proposal”		7/30/04
Daily Times-Call – Briefs announcing meetings		7/22/04 7/27/04
Denver Post – Denver & The West, Regional Notes (Page 5B) “Rail line considered for Diagonal”		8/4/04
Left Hand Valley Courier articles by Tom George		August & September Editions

NEWS PUBLICATIONS:
<p><b>Daily Camera - Local Digest - July 29, 2004</b></p> <p>BOULDER COUNTY</p> <p><b>Boulder-Longmont train to be discussed</b></p> <p>The feasibility of passenger rail service between Longmont and Boulder will be discussed in public meetings today and Wednesday.</p> <p>Today's meeting is from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Rocky Mountain Christian Church, 9447 Niwot Road. Wednesday's meeting is from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Longmont Senior Center, 910 Longs Peak Ave.</p> <p>The Regional Transportation District and the city of Longmont are sponsoring a feasibility study for a passenger rail line between Longmont and Boulder.</p> <p><b>Daily Camera - Local Digest - July 26, 2004</b></p> <p>BOULDER COUNTY</p> <p><b>Boulder-Longmont train to be discussed</b></p> <p>The feasibility of passenger rail service between Longmont and Boulder will be discussed at two public meetings Thursday.</p> <p>The meetings will be from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Rocky Mountain Christian Church, 9447 Niwot Road, and at the Longmont Senior Center, 910 Longs Peak Ave.</p> <p>The Regional Transportation District and the city of Longmont are sponsoring a feasibility study for a passenger rail line between Longmont and Boulder.</p> <p>There will be a brief presentation and discussion from 5:15 to 6 p.m. The meetings will conclude with an open house from 6 to 6:30 p.m. During the evening, the public may speak with RTD staff and project team members, ask</p>

questions and offer comments.

**Colorado Daily - July 29, 2004 (Page 8)**

**Will we soon take the last train to Longmont?**

**By BRONSON HILLIARD Colorado Daily Managing Editor**

Imagine parking your car in Longmont and hopping the train to Boulder to get to work, riding along an urban-countryside interface that parallels the Boulder-Longmont Diagonal Highway, with perhaps short stops in Gunbarrel and Niwot.

If the Regional Transportation District (RTD) FasTracks proposal is approved by voters, and a U.S. 36 Environmental Impact Statement signs off on rail from Denver to Boulder, the aforementioned train ride could become a reality in the next 12 years.

RTD is conducting a feasibility study of commuter rail service along the Burlington Northern Santa Fe right-of-way, a route that would parallel State Highway 119 from 30th and Pearl Streets in Boulder to Longmont.

Beginning today, two sets of area public meetings will allow citizens to talk to the study's planners about the proposed line.

Today's meeting will be held in Niwot from 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. at the Rocky Mountain Christian Church at 9447 Niwot Road. The building is at the intersection of 95th and Niwot Road. A second meeting will be Wednesday, Aug. 4, from 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. at the Longmont Senior Citizens Center at 910 Longs Peak Avenue.

At both meetings, participants can view information about the project, ask questions and speak with RTD representatives and members of the project team.

"The meetings are really to provide information about the study, including the significant issues along the Diagonal, and then to gather input from the public on the study itself," said Julie McKay, deputy project manager for public involvement for the study.

The cities of Boulder and Longmont and Boulder County have long desired better transportation connections between the county's population centers and its growing urban communities north and east of Boulder and south and east Longmont.

The study will identify candidate stations, parking areas and conceptual station designs, and will include an examination of transit-oriented development (TOD) opportunities at station locations in Longmont, which is sharing the cost of this portion of the study with RTD.

McKay said Longmont has identified three possible areas for two station concepts - either an "end-of-the-line" station with expanded parking and maintenance facilities, or a basic commuter station. One site is at Hover Street and Pike, west of town; the second would be at 1st and Terry Streets near downtown and the third would be at the Sugar Mill site just east of downtown.

"Our study is looking at capital and operating costs and ways to minimize costs while increasing efficiency," McKay said. "We're also looking at future expansion of capacity - what might happen if more riders come."

Bill Van Meter, an RTD spokesman, said ridership models for the line have been based upon estimates compiled by the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG).

"The rail feasibility study is really just an assessment," McKay said. "It's much lower-scale than an EIS, it's simply about assessing the likelihood of rail between Boulder and Longmont and what it would look like."

Part of the early thinking about the line also envisions stops in Gunbarrel and Niwot, northeast of Boulder, McKay said.

Planners are looking at how bus service would interface with rail service in Gunbarrel, she said.

Were a rail line to run from Boulder to Longmont, Van Meter said, they would sit on commercial lines now owned by the Burlington-Northern railroad. Once the lines were purchased from BN, they would be upgraded to fit commuter rail, he said.

McKay said the rail feasibility study would be completed by the end of September, after which a second round of public meetings would occur before the plan is sent to the RTD board for review.

Spanish translation will be available at the Aug. 4 public meeting upon request.

Those needing the service should notify McKay at 303-442-7367 or [jmckay@mediate.org](mailto:jmckay@mediate.org).

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### **Daily Camera – July 30, 2004**

#### **Boulder-Longmont rail line feasibility study discussed Officials gathering public comment about proposal**

By LEAH FRANKLIN, Camera Staff Writer

NIWOT — Elizabeth Darling, who owns Le Chantecler restaurant in Niwot, envisions people from nearby cities hopping on the train to spend a day in "the hidden jewel of Boulder County."

"I'm hoping FasTracks will bring life back into the communities east of Boulder," she said.

Darling joined about 40 other Boulder County residents at a public meeting Thursday evening in Niwot where transportation officials presented a feasibility study for a Boulder-Longmont rail line.

The \$315,000 study, which will be concluded in September, is part of planning for a \$4.7 billion FasTracks project that would connect the Denver metropolitan area with 119 miles of commuter- and light-rail lines. FasTracks would be funded by a new 0.4 % Regional Transportation District sales tax that will be voted on in November.

Two public meetings have been scheduled to make sure that people living in and near the Boulder-Longmont corridor have a chance to share their opinions with the project team.

"We take into consideration all comments we get," said Dave Shelley, manager of corridor and regional planning for RTD.

He said the study is not looking at the rail line on a detailed level, but is gathering general information. Track requirements, Diagonal Highway improvements, railroad crossings, open space and historic sites are some of the issues the study is analyzing.

It is also considering six possible sites for two FasTracks stations, one to be midway between Longmont and Boulder and the other to be in Longmont.

Maj-Lis Kemper of Longmont attended the meeting but said she is still opposed to FasTracks. She said she is concerned that people will not stop driving their cars.

"The tax dollar will not be spent as wisely as it could be," Kemper said. "The expenditure is just not worth it."

Another public meeting is scheduled for next Wednesday at the Longmont Senior Citizens Center. Additional public

meetings will be held in September.

The rail to Longmont was clipped from the FasTracks plan about a year ago, when the project's budget was cut because of a slow economy. The line was reincorporated in the plan last fall after Boulder County residents argued during public meetings that Longmont needed to be included.

Longmont resident Katherine Wilson estimates that she spends about two hours a day commuting to work in Boulder and school in Westminster.

"It's a nuisance," she said. "Traffic is heavy, slow and boring."

She said the bus is too much of an inconvenience and a rail line would save her a lot of time each day.

"I could do anything — read a book, play games, write — if I didn't have to pay attention to the road."

Contact Camera Staff Writer Leah Franklin at (303) 473-1364 or [franklinl@dailycamera.com](mailto:franklinl@dailycamera.com).

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#### **Daily Times-Call – July 27, 2004**

Brief:

The Regional Transportation District will hold two public meetings as it studies the possibility of creating commuter rail service between Longmont and Boulder.

The proposed service would parallel the Diagonal Highway from 30th and Pearl streets in Boulder to downtown Longmont.

A meeting to gather community input on the plan is scheduled from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Thursday at Rocky Mountain Christian Church, 9447 Niwot Road, Niwot.

A second meeting is set for 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Aug. 4 at the Longmont Senior Citizens Center, 910 Longs Peak Ave. Both meetings will begin with an open house. A presentation and discussion is scheduled from 5:15 to 6 p.m., and the open house will resume from 6 to 6:30 p.m.

RTD will look at the demand for such service, as well as its potential economic and environmental effects. It also will examine possible stations, parking areas and station designs.

The city of Longmont is sharing the cost of the study with RTD.