

Open House Summary

A public open house was held at the Fort Collins Senior Center, 1200 Raintree Drive in Fort Collins from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. The purpose of this open house was to receive input on:

- the updated design of the Mason Trail Extension to CSU,
- draft plans for the Mason Trail and Rail Crossing between University Mall and the Natural Resources Research Center (NRRC), and
- Mason Express “MAX” Bus Rapid Transit project: Linking Community, Lifestyle and Business.

It was attended by 82 people. There were 8 project team members and staff present to answer questions.

The room layout facilitated guests in reviewing project graphics and asking questions of project staff and consultants. An aerial map showing the Mason Trail and the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) route and stations from Drake to Laurel was posted. The proposed station stops were also displayed. There were images representing the proposed Burlington Northern & Santa Fe (BNSF) rail and trail crossing between the NRRC and Whole Foods/University Shopping Mall. These depicted the overpass option. The five minute Mason Corridor DVD was projected throughout the open house. The Mason Corridor brochure, CD, and three handouts on: the Mason Trail Extension, the Rail and Trail Crossing, and the MAX were available. The comment sheets were color coded: yellow for the bicycle and pedestrian trail, pink for the rail and trail crossing and green for the MAX project.

The City’s website will be updated to contain much of this information: <http://www.fcgov.com/mason>

There were 37 comment sheets submitted. Project team members and City staff-relayed additional comments are also included. These are combined and summarized below:

(Please note []’s are used when a clarification was required or if there is an editorial request or comment.)

Did this Open House answer your questions?

All but 2 of the 25 (who responded) appreciated the open house. One person was concerned that the newspaper published the wrong time. [She did not see the correction printed in the paper the next day.]

What aspects of the Mason Trail Extension are most important to you?

The ability to walk or bike safely along the entire trail. The trail provides good north-south access and good connections to other existing trails. Need to be able to cross Prospect, Horsetooth and the BNSF. Desire to see continuation across CSU and the Bay Farm overpass.

What aspects of the Rail and Trail Crossing are most important to you?

Easy access for bicycles. A safe rail crossing for pedestrians between NRRC and University Mall (Whole Foods, etc.). There needs to be reliability, psychological comfort (safety) and convenience. Safety and accessibility for recumbent bicycles, tricycles and bikes with trailers.

What aspects of the Mason Express (MAX) Bus Rapid Transit System are most important to you?

Access to shopping on west side of College without having to drive. Connections to gridded Transport and other trails will make system more efficient for bus and bike riders. North south commuter option with connection to CSU. Need more student housing alternatives along Mason.

How will you use the Mason Trail?

Bicycling, walking and bus (MAX) for commuting, recreation and errands. For travel from south to CSU and downtown.

How will you use the Crossing?

On my bike or walking. I cross several times a week and would welcome something more convenient. For commuting.

How will you use MAX?

Instead of driving, to commute to work, for recreation and also for entertainment.
Probably not – rarely travel to Old Town. Unsure.
Look forward to future connections to Denver, Boulder and DIA

What should be the future priorities for the Mason Corridor?

Trail comment sheets:

Accommodate pedestrians as well as commuter bikers. Extend to North College and south to Loveland. Have safe crossings at major streets. Plan for future expansion. Use underground crossings at major streets. Nothing. Junk it.

Rail and Trail Crossing comment sheets:

Encourage non-motorized movement of persons efficiently and safely without inconvenience of/to motor vehicles. Don't do it.

MAX comment sheets:

Build what is planned. It will ensure quality of life in Fort Collins especially along the corridor. Assure adequate parking in fewer but bigger parking areas. Where is the development on the south end? Need to communicate the big picture – the 10, 25, 100 year picture. It isn't meant to be a stand alone system. Tie into high speed transit to Denver, DIA, and Boulder. We don't want this. Forget it.

What questions or recommendations do you have?

Trail comment sheets:

Build the trail first. Install bike lockers. The north sidewalk at Prospect is too narrow. Combining cars, buses and bikes on the north end of town sounds dangerous. Coming out of Spring Creek tunnel to the west is dangerous – widen the curve. Do nothing. Save the money.

Rail and Trail Crossing comment sheets:

Make the crossing (elevators and stairs) bicycle friendly. Accommodate 3 person bikes (with trailers and tandems). Don't use Plexiglas – easily vandalized. Overpass won't be used by bikes unless there is a ramp. Get it built. Delay building it.

MAX comment sheets:

Need balanced development along corridor – north beyond Cherry Street and south. Don't do it.

Other comments:

Trail comment sheets: Separate into three lanes: pedestrian and two way for cyclists. Need traffic light at Harmony. We can't afford it. No to Mason Corridor. Save money for more pressing needs.

MAX comment sheets: What benefit is there for people to the north to come south? The CSU master plan adapts the S. College / University Ave as the future main entrance to the campus. Link Mason Express MAX with a parking garage / station at this location.

Submitted by Katherine Woods. If you have questions, please contact her at 970-224-4944 or kwoods@cityvisions.org.