



**Transit Strategic Plan
Financial Advisory Committee**

Oct 23, 2008

5:00 – 6:30

Poudre Fire Authority Station 14
2109 Westchase Drive, Fort Collins

Committee Members:

Present: Gary Thomas, Robert Heath, Dan Gould, Donna Chapel, Kitty Wild, and Mary Atchison

Absent: Dan Hill, Doug Johnson

Others Present:

Facilitator: Tess Heffernan

Staff: Kurt Ravenschlag (City of Fort Collins), Denise Weston (City of Fort Collins), Nicole Hahn (City of Fort Collins) and Marcy Abreo (City of Loveland)

Proceedings:

Meeting called to order at 5:00 p.m. by facilitator, Tess Heffernan.

1. *Introductions and agenda review:* The group was notified that Dave Edwards has decided to decline the opportunity to participate in the Committee because of schedule conflicts.
2. *Principles of the Strategic Plan:* Gary Thomas led the discussion on the benefits of Transit by reviewing his report “*The Perfect Storm.*” He discussed how many elements are coming together in favor of transit. The price of fuel, the environmental issues, traffic congestion and the aging population will all make way for the success of transit.

Kurt then presented research on the benefits of transit. He discussed how transit impacts energy and the environment, the economy, the social responsibility, and the positive impacts on the transportation network as a whole. Related information can be found in the *Public Transportation: Benefits for the 21st Century* publication from American Public Transportation Association (APTA).

3. *Where to go next:* At this point members discussed how they want to approach the task and talked about concerns and potential directions. One topic discussed was the regional nature of this group. One member mentioned the necessity that the outcome could be applied to either of the communities independently, pointing out the possibility that the Plan might not be accepted in both

communities. The group agreed that the Plan would need to be able to work for both independently, but still wanted to keep the regional aspect an option because it could actually provide mutual benefit and financial efficiencies for the similar systems.

Members requested more information on the planning effort and on financing mechanisms. It was requested that staff provide incremental costs for the different phases of the Plan, and a clear view of the cost-benefit ratio. The group also asked for more information on what other communities are doing. Members decided that future meetings should follow a “parallel track” and include both information on the Plan and how it is progressing, and information on the various financing mechanisms. This will enable Committee members to stay abreast of what it is that will need to be funded, while they simultaneously explore different funding options.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Follow-up Actions

1. Staff will provide more information on the Plan, and break out phased costs.
2. Staff will provide more information on financing mechanisms.
3. Staff will provide more information about how other communities fund transit.

Next Meeting :

November 6, 2008

5:00 – 6:30 pm

Poudre Fire Authority Station 14

2109 Westchase Drive, Fort Collins