



**Transit Strategic Plan  
Financial Advisory Committee**

January 8, 2009

5:00 – 6:30

Poudre Fire Authority Station 14  
2109 Westchase Drive, Fort Collins

**Committee Members:**

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

*Absent:* Doug Johnson and Dan Hill

*Others Present:*

Facilitator: Tess Heffernan

Staff: Kurt Ravenschlag (City of Fort Collins), Nicole Hahn (City of Fort Collins), Kathleen Bracke (City of Fort Collins), Marcy Abreo (City of Loveland)

**Proceedings:**

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

1. *Agenda review and group comments:*
  - a. Final recommendation will be presented to the Fort Collins City Council on April 28<sup>th</sup>. The package needs to be finished by April 18<sup>th</sup>. There will be work sessions with City Councils of both Fort Collins and Loveland.
2. Review matrix of potential financing mechanisms
  - a. The group developed criteria that they will use to evaluate the financing mechanisms:
    - Reliable source
    - Dedicated source
    - Likely success with voters, people
    - Transparent
    - Fair: the burden of payment is borne by those who benefit from the service (whether they use it or not)
    - Fair: there is not an undue burden on those who can least afford it
    - Ease of administration
    - Ease of implementation
    - Revenue grows with the community
    - Differentiation by community (could be a regional mechanism, but doesn't have to be)

- b. The group then discussed whether, based on the criteria, any of the mechanisms listed would be unacceptable. Two were discussed: a) Property tax, because given the current taxing structure there would be a significant burden to and opposition from the business community and b) Congestion fee, because this has not been used in the United States and would better fit a more urban area.
  - c. Some additional mechanisms that the group wanted to look into were a value added tax and PIF sales tax like the ones at Centerra and Front Range Village.
  - d. The group discussed expanding on negotiated agreements, and staff indicated that they will continue to peruse and expand all of the funding mechanisms that are in existing revenues. The group will focus more energy on new potential revenues.
3. *Mobility Presentation:* Dan Gould made a presentation on the financial impacts that transit could have on a household. In the presentation he demonstrated the potential cost and benefit of funding a functional transit system based on the level of usage of a particular household.
4. *Citizen Comment:* Citizen Vivian Armendarez came to speak about the struggle of using transit that does not have enough resources. She spoke of long trips due to the infrequent service, and how finding a funding mechanism will help to provide more frequent service for users.
5. *Next Steps:* The group will continue to focus on the matrix of funding options. Members are asked to come prepared to assess each mechanism against the set criteria, starting with the first mechanism listed and moving through the matrix. Once an initial set of potential mechanisms is decided on, staff will calculate the amount of money that can be raised (both in terms of ongoing and capital/one time) to see if it meets the need.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

**Next Meeting :**

January 22, 2009

5:00 – 6:30 pm

Poudre Fire Authority Station 14

2109 Westchase Drive, Fort Collins

1. Staff will provide more information on a value added tax and a PIFF