

I-70 Highway Cover Study

JUNE 9, 2015 COMMUNITY WORKSHOP SUMMARY



JULY 2015

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

CDOT and the City and County of Denver joined together to engage the community and gather input on two different design alternatives for the I-70 East Highway Cover. Five key elements of each design were discussed, including:

- Non-School Program
- Circulation
- Field and School Yard Configuration
- School Fencing Style
- Clayton + Columbine Street Cover Extensions

The community workshop was held on June 9, 2015 at the Swansea Recreation Center as part of this effort. Approximately 50 people attended the workshop. The results of this community workshop will be used to develop the preferred concept for the highway cover.

The meeting was held from 5:30 to 7:30 and consisted of a 25 minute presentation to explain the elements of design alternatives followed by a facilitated small group exercise. Each participant was given a "score card" and was asked to rank the elements of the two plans from 1-3 (3 being the best use of the site). Participants were also encouraged to ask questions to the facilitator and explain the reasoning for their responses. Based on the feedback provided by the community members, the design team will develop a preferred plan including the elements most desired by the community.



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS EXPLORED...

Two design alternatives and the five elements within each design: Non-School Program, Circulation, Field and School Yard Configuration, School Fencing Style, Clayton + Columbine Street Cover Extensions

THE TWO ALTERNATIVES

ALTERNATIVE 1



ALTERNATIVE 2

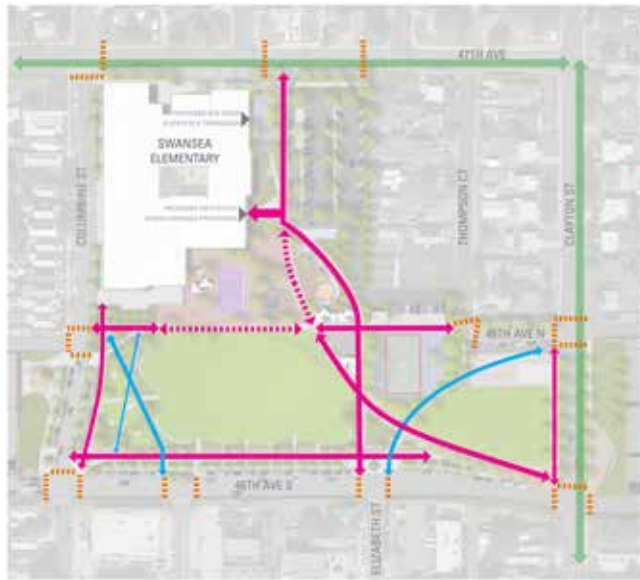


NON-SCHOOL PROGRAM



The key differences between Alternative 1 and Alternative 2 were in the user groups that they would attract. Alternative 1 provided a large area for court sports that could include basketball, futsal, and other courts. Alternative 2 was more focused on program for younger children. A “tot-lot” for non-school age children and a series of play hills were provided next to the water feature. Both Alternatives provided formal gardens, flexible plaza space, and an informal lawn in various configurations.

CIRCULATION



- ALTERNATIVE 1**
- ENHANCED INTERSECTION
Intersección Mejorada
 - BIKE ROUTE
Ciclismo
 - PRIMARY CIRCULATION
Circulación Principal
 - SECONDARY CIRCULATION
Circulación Secundaria
 - LIMITED CIRCULATION
Circulación Limitada



- ALTERNATIVE 2**
- ENHANCED INTERSECTION
Intersección Mejorada
 - BIKE ROUTE
Ciclismo
 - PRIMARY CIRCULATION
Circulación Principal
 - SECONDARY CIRCULATION
Circulación Secundaria
 - LIMITED CIRCULATION
Circulación Limitada

Both Alternatives 1 and 2 utilized the same configuration for parking, drop-off, and circulation for school and non-school vehicular and bike facilities. Alternative 1 provided strong and direct north-south and east-west pedestrian circulation link while Alternative 2 provided a more sweeping and experiential circulation pattern. In Alternative 2 the main East-West connection is situated to the south of the multi-purpose field.

FIELD AND SCHOOL YARD CONFIGURATION



Alternative 1 and 2 differed in their field orientation by Alternative 1 providing an east-west orientation and Alternative 2 providing a north-south configuration. The field size remained roughly the same in both sceneries to provide adequate space for the school. Alternative 2 brought lawn closer to the school and pushed the playground onto the cover above the interstate while Alternative 1 kept the school yard closer to the school and off the cover.

SCHOOL FENCING STYLE

ALTERNATIVE 1



ALTERNATIVE 2



Both Alternatives provided the same fenced area and offered large gateways on to the multi-purpose field for the community as well as a secondary fence around the school yard. Alternative 1 provides a very vibrant and playful fence style that became part of the landscape while Alternative 2 provided a more traditional brick and iron fence style. Both of these alternatives provided a vertical gateway structure to mark major entrances into the school yard and a more subdued opening into the multi-purpose fields.

CLAYTON AND COLUMBINE STREET EXTENSIONS

ALTERNATIVE 1



ALTERNATIVE 2



The cover extensions on either side of Clayton and Columbine differ in each alternative in that Alternative 1 provides programed community space and a western overlook while Alternative 2 provides only an enhanced landscape buffer between the highway and the sidewalk. Both alternatives provide a buffer for sound and a space for tree planting to along the edges.

THE “SCORE CARD”

	Alternative 1 Rate 1 to 3 (1 lowest, 3 highest)	Alternative 2 Rate 1 to 3 (1 lowest, 3 highest)	Explanation (Optional)
New School Program Elements			
Circulation			
Field & School Yard Configuration			
School Fencing Style			
Cleveland & Columbus St Corridor Extensions			

Did we miss anything (write it)

INVOLVE CONNECTIONS COMMUNITY CORE RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES SAFE, LOBBLE, COMFORTABLE

The “Score Card” was a way for the design team to quantify the opinions of the community members. Each table had the two plan alternatives as well as a packet of visualizations that depicted the differences between the two alternatives.



The goal was not to pick one design or the other but to identify and clarify the elements from each design that the community liked.

Individuals had 45 minutes to tally their thoughts about which elements were the best from each design. After the game was complete, four representatives presented key take aways how their table’s discussion.

OUTCOMES OF GROUP EXERCISE

I-70 COVER COMMUNITY WORKSHOP # 2 ALTERNATIVES SCORE CARD			
	Alternative 1 Rate 1 to 3 (1 lowest, 3 highest)	Alternative 2 Rate 1 to 3 (1 lowest, 3 highest)	Explanation (Optional)
Non-School Program Elements	47	47	
Circulation	47	39	
Field & School Yard Configuration	54	41	
School Fencing Style	55	49	
Clayton & Columbine St Cover Extensions	60	34	
Did we miss anything? (write in)			



INVOLVE



CONNECTIONS



COMMUNITY CORE



RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES



SAFE, LIVABLE, COMFORTABLE

ALTERNATIVE 1 | BASIS OF THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE



Overall Alternative 1 ranked higher between the two. It will serve as a base for the development of the preferred concept. The score card also allowed for people to comment freely. That, as well as the open discussion and notes gathered from the public meeting, provided insight that will help take elements from each plan and bring them forward into the preferred concept. Two major elements that the community desired was that the space accommodate both young children's programming as well as teen and young adult programming. There was also a desire for a "softer" more inviting circulation pattern.

SNAPSHOT OF COMMENTS

“The tot-lot needs to be bigger. We need more activities for kids around here.”

“We should use renewable materials. Provide recycling as well as trash cans.”

“This needs to be the flavor of the community.”

“Move the tot-lot and play hills from Alternative 2 into Alternative 1.”

“We need more than one drinking fountain.”

SNAP SHOT OF COMMENTS

“The elderly population needs space as well. Provide more shade for walking.”

“What about wall ball? Provide plenty of Shade and more restrooms.”

“I like the staging area for food carts.”

“Provide spaces for art throughout the park, not just on the ends”

“I like the over look in Option 1 and the tower in Option 2, views to the mountains and the city would be great.”

MAJOR WORDS USED THROUGHOUT

tot playground

handball

bike parking

picnic areas

bathrooms

trees

drinking fountains

multi-generational

lighting

bike facilities

shade

walking trails

safety

COMMON THEMES

- Desire for East-West orientation of the multi-use field
- The circulation for Alternative 1 is more inviting for the community
- Provide activities for people of all ages. Activities for children, seniors, and teens
- Shade for walking paths and play areas is very important
- Integrate community art into the entire design
- Views to the city and the mountains are important
- Integrate bike facilities into the design
- Provide a multifunctional recreation space
- The design should have as much program as it can to best use the space

NEXT STEPS

The design team will take the suggestions and comments from this community workshop and develop a preferred concept. We will be developing one preferred plan to reflect what we heard from you!

THANK **YOU** FOR YOUR INPUT!