

East Colfax Partners 2026 Q1 Safety Meeting Minutes

February 25th 10am-11:30am

Sarahi's Kitchen

8135 E Colfax Ave Denver CO 80220

Doors open @ 9:45am

Los Broncos - Colfax and Rosemary, James Costigan, Safe Places for Women (x3), Joe Bob Bagget, Mike Borquez, Jambo, Erin Atencio, CIG (x3) – Ryan, Evan, Raquelle, Kristin (People's Budget), Priscilla – DOTI, Colfax Liquor, Lara (Hope Communities), Jose – Brothers, Joan, Monique – ECNA, Neil Adam (East Fax Tap), Christian (East Fax Tap) Hamid (Famous Buffalo Wings), Megan (Fax Board), Amy Beres, Tiger Kim (Fax Board, Local business - Tiger Kim's Academy), Jesse Carey (Council Aide – Shontel Lewis), John Steward (BRT/DOTI), Heather (BRT), Lauren (DEDO), Paulo – RTD Riders Alliance, Chanel Simmons (Beauty School – Colfax and Ulster).

1. Introductions 10:00-10:05

2. Recap of Last Meeting 10:05-10:10

a. Alejandra covered the topics of the last meeting including:

- i. PNI efficacy and the downturn in violent crime.
- ii. DPD partnering with RTD long term to work on policing the upcoming BRT stops.
- iii. Safer Streets Grant updates

3. Denver Police Department District 2 Report Out 10:10-10:20

a. PNI Work

b. Business Watch Program

James Costigan:

-YTD there is a decline in gun related and violent crime. Property index crimes are down almost 40%. Total crime has a reduction of ~14%.

- Mike Borquez talked about the Business Watch – hoping to get greater engagement amongst businesses. Neighborhood Watch has had strong engagement. Please share the Business Watch with friends and businesses.

- James Costigan - PNI – Police Network Investigations: There have been arrests related to various crimes at Michaels Liquors, and there will be repercussions for the business forthcoming.

- Hamid inquired about graffiti removal – 311 and the city will come remove it for free

- Paolo: Was there any progress on the MOU between DPD and RTD. James: We are progressing on that, working with Sean Ferris to refine the agreement.

4. Business Support Office – Survey Findings & Key Takeaways 10:20-10:30

Monica:

- Covered the Business Survey that the Fax ran in 2025:

- Business vulnerability is up relative to 2019

- Property ownership has decreased

-Financial health has become a more pressing concern

-Many businesses are not confident that they will be open in the next 3 years

-We must be vigilant and proactive on this as the construction that is now coming to EC will further imperil businesses

-Despite all that, businesses are committed to staying in EC – businesses who are here have stuck around longer. The Fax is working to keep the businesses that are here, to still be here post BRT.

- Reported out the safety stats from our BSO survey

5. City of Denver's Department of Community Planning and Development 10:30-10:40

a. Denver People's Budget

Kristin: People's Program is the City's participatory budgeting program

- Get \$1-2mil and go through 5 phases every 2 years.

- This iteration has \$2mil, \$1 mil for Southeast Denver, and \$1mil for city-wide expenditure

- There has been funding in EC before – New Freedom Park (received about \$190k)

- Funding has to be for infrastructure

- Currently have about 500 ideas – narrow down to 4-5 ideas per \$1mil available in the summer

-Once narrowed to 10-15 it will be put out to the community for voting

-Megan inquired about costs – Kristin advised that cost is a consideration but sometimes city policies will be prohibitive regardless as well as the fact that the program won't have subsequent maintenance – that must be assumed by the recipient, so sustainability is important.

6. City of Denver's Department of Infrastructure and Transportation Report Out 10:40-10:55

a. Safer Streets

b. CPTED assessments/grants

-Priscilla: 4-1/2 months left for the grant, so moving quickly. Site assessments (CPTED) must be completed for businesses to then get the safety mini-grants (\$4000). Focus currently is on businesses from Quebec – Yosemite. If there is funding left over, there will be disbursements for businesses Monaco-Quebec.

- The Fax is available to help reach out to business property owners.

7. Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) 10:55-11:10

a. Project Updates

b. Timeline Segment 4

c. Fax Pass Program

d. BIO Fund Program

John/Heather: DOTI will be installing the lights – going in as of the 1st week of April (from Tamarac to Valentia). There will be some traffic shifting to accommodate this, from April – June and then after that back to center running construction. Side street access will be maintained as best as possible – some drainage work may impede that but it will be short term relative to overall construction.

Heather: I will be available for businesses to speak about construction. Tamarac westward will have the current construction setup through the fall.

Ryan: My group is trying to turn the construction into opportunities! Monday 3/2 there will be an arch raise at Fillmore. The Fax Pass will be available at the arch raise. Have

about 400 disbursements, and 80 businesses registered. If you are a business and you want to get involved (register, pop-up event, etc...) please contact.

Still in the pilot phase but the long term goal will be to have businesses to be able to disburse.

Tentatively: Krameria arch lift 3/30

Late spring to summer for the arch lifts in EC.

John: Project open/end of construction – end of 2027. The far west segment will be opened up this year.

Jesse (Council Lewis Office) – The long-term plan for 13th and 14th is to stay 2 way from Xanthia to Quebec and conversion continuing to Colorado will be assessed going forward.

8. East Colfax Organizations' Report Out 11:10- 11:25

Paolo (RTD Riders Alliance): There have been a lot of assaults of operators, adversely impacting ridership. RTD just revealed a major budget deficit (\$250mil) that will lead to service cuts, etc... But there is a chance for the community to have an impact on the governorship of the program.

- John: Federal Grant is undergirding the Colfax work and its contingent on current volume level so unlikely to see service declines along Colfax.

BIO Fund

Jesse: Councilwoman Lewis working on some legislative items, a bill regulating the wholesaling of properties. Every year they run community panels: to assess efforts district wide. Please speak with Jesse if you'd like to participate and work to get more funding coming to District 8.

Christian: We need a push to get people out here BEFORE the construction starts.

Erin (R2R): Put issues through 311 when something needs to be addressed but not needing police intervention. This is monitored regularly and will be the most immediate path to seeing issues flagged.

Monique – ECNA: If you live on the corridor and have foliage that is blocking the new 13/14th traffic signs, please try and prune them back. Sidewalks are...coming?

3/14 there will be a community clean-up. Ryan – link up with ECNA as there will be a community wide clean-up.

Ryan: Keep using #webackthefax as there is still the ongoing \$50 Colfax Cash

Jose – Brothers: No major updates

Lara – Hope Communities: April 15th community safety meeting, opportunities for kids in the summer

Ted Frank (Safe places for women): working with survivors of sex trafficking. Giving out gift bags, learning names, providing emergency numbers. Safeplacesforwomen.org

Chanel: Can anything be done to prevent loitering? James Costigan: We can't prevent loitering in a public place without reasonable suspicion that they've done something illegal. Mike: Use 311

Joan: Alleys are having fires set

9. Wrap Up & Next Steps 11:25-11:30