

A Rail-Served Economic Initiative in El Paso County, Colorado

Project Update for June 2018

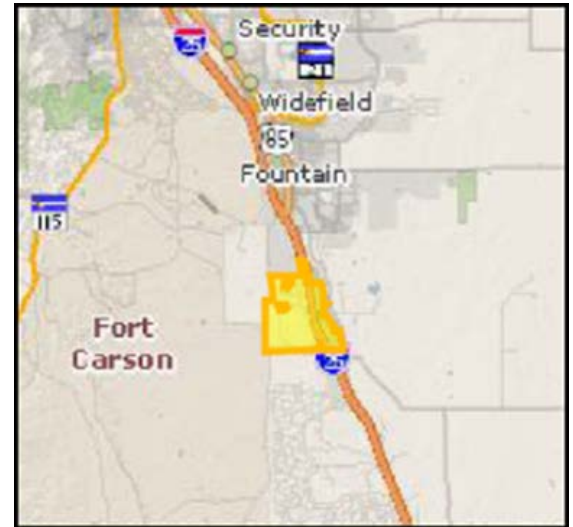
OBJECTIVE: PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE OF A COMMUNITY CENTERED RAIL-SERVED BUSINESS PARK CONTIGUOUS TO FORT CARSON, CO

➤ Talking Points:

- A. May 2018, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between all local governments, the private property owner(s), and the regional economic development corporation
- i. The MOU commits fundings and staff resources toward the Feasibility Study Phase of the project. *(6-mths)*

B. The primary drivers of the railway project are to:

- i. Generate high quality jobs for El Paso County and to cross-pollinate military veteran skillsets with civilian employment opportunities
- ii. Avail Fort Carson a future connection point for secondary railway serviceability at the FEDs discretion
 1. As a public/private initiative, there is presently no federal nexus to trigger a National Environment Protection Act (NEPA) process
- iii. Compatible expansion of light/heavy industrial use along a contiguous military encroachment area
- iv. Derive a dual rail-served business park to captivate the private market demand of railway business development along the Front-Range corridor of CO



➤ Next Steps: *(6-mths)*

- A. MOU stipulates the formation of an Oversight Committee comprised of public and private partners
- i. The Committee will meet in the near future to initiate the Feasibility Study Phase
- B. Two Class One Railways, Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) and Union Pacific/Southern Pacific (UP), presently serve the Ray Nixon Power Plant operated by Colorado Springs Utilities
- i. The Ray Nixon Power Plant rail loop and switch are integral toward establishing a spur to serve the private development rail-served business park
 - ii. Both BNSF and UP have issued a joint-service corridor statement on behalf of the rail-served economic initiative
 1. Each of these entities necessitate further feasibility as to design-engineered coordination and operational logistics
- C. Engage consultant services for the Feasibility Study Phase *(6-mths)*
- i. Railway and Military Certified Design-Engineer firm
 - ii. Economic Vitality and Workforce Analysis
 - iii. Environmental and Traffic Studies

Oversight Committee

Steve Weiner
Vice President
Edw. C. Levy Co.

**Mayor Gabe Ortega or
Mayor Pro Tem Phil Thomas**
City of Fountain

Longinos Gonzalez Jr.
County Commissioner, District 5
El Paso County

Dirk Draper
Executive Director
Colorado Springs Chamber & EDC

Tom Strand
C.S. City Councilman &
C.S. Chair of the Utility Board
Colorado Springs Utilities

Jeff Greene
Mayor's Chief of Staff
City of Colorado Springs