

## **To Build or Not to Build Project Learning Objectives**

November 2003

### **Measurable Objectives**

*All students will:*

- Understand eminent domain
- Understand industrialism (history of and how the environment took a “hit”)
- Read charts and graphs
- Read a government budget
- Calculate using percentage
- Understand which decisions affect environmental racism
- Define contamination: what and quantity
- Understand the effects of contamination
- Know about clean-up models (like Superfund)
- Understand the potential hazardous effects of public transportation
- Describe the model for funding federal highways
- Know the history of at least these three Denver neighborhoods: Elyria-Swansea, Globeville, and 5 Points
- Design an instrument to conduct a survey or conduct a personal interview
- Use the Internet to obtain resources/information

### **Experiential Objectives**

- Appreciate how complex decisions get made
- Learn on one’s own
- Competency in a new technology (Palm Pilot)
- Ability to access “real world” people
- The reality of deadlines
- Frustrations of leadership and responsibility
- Compromise
- “Real world” power struggles

**I-70 East Corridor including Light Rail Options  
Student Study Project  
Research Wrap-up**

February 26, 2004  
Sunny Walker, facilitator  
Millennium Quest High School

**AGENDA**

Introductions

Walkabout to View Team Exhibits

Clarify Information/Key Facts to Consider in Making a Decision

Brainstorm

Our Recommendations

**CLARIFY INFORMATION**

1. No decision has been made.
2. EIS means Environmental Impact Study, DEIS means Draft Environmental Impact Study
3. Main issue is pollution *to* air, soil, water *from* factories, transportation (buses, cars, trucks)
4. EIS is being done on the highway from the I-70/I-25 interchange (the “mousetrap”) to Peña Boulevard *and* a rapid transit system (light rail or “fastrack”) from Union Station through Stapleton to DIA
5. An additional issue is property loss along the route of an expanded highway or light rail
6. 3,000 interview have been done with local residents.
7. Government officials will be making the decision: EPA, FHWA, FTA
8. The I-70 bridge *must* be replaced (it is in disrepair).

**BRAINSTORM**

SEE NEXT PAGE

Results of brainstorm on:

***What factors need to be considered in making a decision?***

<b>After Effects</b>	<b>Displaced People</b>	<b>Economic Effect</b>	<b>Local Residents' Opinion</b>	<b>Money</b>	<b>Health</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How big will I-70 be?</li> <li>• What will happen after making the new I-70 bridge?</li> <li>• How will it benefit the city?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is it fair? Would it be okay in any neighborhood?</li> <li>• What will happen to the people whose homes will be knocked down?</li> <li>• Neighborhood displacement</li> <li>• Issues around the right of eminent domain</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The effect on the economy</li> <li>• Business</li> <li>• Would this help businesses</li> <li>• Labor (jobs)</li> <li>• How would this affect the city?</li> <li>• How long will it take to complete?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Who will it hurt?</li> <li>• How will it change the neighborhood? Better or worse?</li> <li>• Ask residents</li> <li>• How will people in the community feel about it?</li> <li>• People's opinions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is the cost?</li> <li>• The cost</li> <li>• How much would it cost?</li> <li>• Cost and property</li> <li>• Cost</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How much air pollution will it cause?</li> <li>• Pollution</li> <li>• Pollution – air, noise, environment</li> <li>• Pollution</li> <li>• Safety</li> <li>• Pollution</li> <li>• Health</li> <li>• Pollution</li> <li>• Health problems</li> </ul>

Note: Bulleted items are from individual students, the bold at the top are the category titles they gave after organizing (clustering) their individual ideas.

**OUR RECOMMENDATIONS**

The group saw several options and divided into teams to write statements on each options as follows.

***Minimal Change – one additional lane:***

By the year 2011, east-west traffic in Denver will look like this: pollution (with picture of a very crowded highway). Why? Because we don't want any house to be torn down. We want them to fix the bridge by adding another lane. (Keith Brown, Valerie Vasquez, Carmen Cruz)

***Tunnel:***

By the year 2011, east-west traffic in Denver will look like this: (picture of trees and houses with a road underneath them). Why? The cars go underground while other stuff is on top – houses could stay that way. (Stephanie Ryan, Khadijah Kemp, Johnny Chincilla, Dwayne Brown)

***New Toll Road:***

By the year 2011, east-west traffic in Denver will look like this: There will be more traffic on Colfax because nobody will want to pay the Toll Road unless they have to. It will also cause more accidents and street repairs, due to the heavy flow of traffic. Why? We **don't** like this alternative because people are going to have to pay more money and will have to find a different way to get where they're going. They will have to go out of their way. It may not be affordable to some people. (Sherina Hardin, Alysia Berry, Alyssa Zike, Juan Espitia, Chris Duran)

***Both Light Rail and Highway:***

By the year 2011, east-west traffic in Denver will look like this: (picture of highway, with light rail going OVER the highway). Why: The new bridge will make transportation easier. (Ashanti Robinson, Kameron Brown, Chiquita Cole.)

***Double-decker Bridge & Highway:***

By the year 2011, east-west traffic in Denver will look like this: Will be calm and have more room for the drivers by making a double-decker bridge. Why: Because they will not have as many problems. (Wendy Perez-Uribe, Elizabeth Gardner, Robert Brown)

**Some Student Responses to the Question:**

**“What’s the most important thing you learned in this project?”**

- It (the new bridge) may take 10 years to build.
- The project will mess up driving routes
- How it will affect people's health
- No decisions have been made yet.
- The DIA is one of the largest airports in the world.
- My neighborhood will be very contaminated because I live right by the bridge so I think they shouldn't (re) build it.
- The project goes from 1-25 to Pena Blvd.
- Either way, they will build it.
- Homes will be destroyed if the highway is expanded.
- About the pollution around my community
- The project made me see how much pollution people cause.
- I'm an environmental person

**Millennium Quest High School | Highway Construction in a Local Neighborhood | Denver, CO**

- RTD may get more taxes-from .6% to 1%
- RTD hasn't made a decision
- The building of something can impact a lot of people.
- The building of something can impact a lot of people.
- Some things affect your environment.
- It costs millions.
- It takes years.
- So many different groups.
- It affects Swansea (neighborhood).
- (What happened when) the light rail started running through the Five Points (neighborhood).
- A lot of people got really into it.
- We learned that in order to build something a lot of people have to agree.
- 20,000 people work at DIA.
- It will affect more things than what I thought.
- DIA wants light rail.
- CDOT wants to consider the health of people.
- RTD gets 6/10% of tax.
- This project will wipe out houses.
- People can make a difference.
- Will take millions of dollars.
- Some people aren't aware.
- They are building a bridge; it may be a toll road.
- What people think of the neighborhood.
- How the community will change.
- I learned how to work with people.
- Swansea could be contaminated.
- People want more light rail.
- Be yourself.
- The recreation centers in our neighborhoods were built (catalyzed) by inspired Mexican women.

- (More cases of) Asthma if you went to Swansea Elementary
- The sandbarrels (protective) are refilled twice a month.
- This project was a little difficult at first . . .
- EPA stands for Environmental Protection Agency
- We need \$15 million to build (it).
- Superfund is in charge of the EPA.
- (I learned) not to rely on anyone.
- It takes a lot to build a bridge.
- We have toxic ponds in our neighborhood.
- It might take money from your taxes to build.
- There might be no light rail stops in our neighborhoods.
- I actually got along with my team when I had never talked to them before.
- That companies don't really care about other people's economic status, they just want to make money.
- There are 30 - 40 people on the study to build the road.
- You can link two Palm Pilots together without cables.