



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Downtown Stakeholders Rally for Next Phase of Union Station Planning**

The **Downtown Denver Partnership**, **The LoDo District** and **Friends of Union Station** are pleased that a developer has been selected for Union Station. This project is incredibly important for both Downtown Denver and the entire metropolitan area. Its success will impact transportation, development and lifestyle decisions in the area for decades.

We commend the hard work done by the Executive Oversight Committee (EOC), the Development Advisory Committee (DAC) and staff members from the various organizations during the decision-making process. In addition, we would like to laud both Union Station Partners and Continuum East West for their tremendous efforts and investments throughout the process. Our three organizations are fully committed to working together with the EOC and the selected developer to help create the best possible development for this historic landmark.

We look forward to being very involved in the decision-making process throughout the design, development and construction period. Initially, we will be addressing the following components:

### **1. Transportation Plan**

Further dialogue regarding the transportation plan is necessary to identify opportunities to enhance the efficiency of the system and the thoughtful integration of the different transportation modes into the entire development. We offer our support in the creation and implementation of such a process.

### **2. Connections**

Design of all facilities, modes of transport and public spaces should create an inviting, active, safe and exceptional pedestrian environment and provide enhanced pedestrian, bicycle, and transit connections between the site and the Central Platte Valley and Lower Downtown.

### **3. Land Use and Urban Form**

The urban form, density and mix of land uses should be appropriate to the context of the developer's location in the dense urban core of a major North American city. We would like to further discuss and solicit more public input as to the appropriate levels of density and activity on this site.

### **4. Governance Structure**

We support the development of a governance structure that includes stakeholders from both the public and private sectors. The governing body should provide a high level of inclusiveness in the public processes related to the project. An executive should be appointed to allow for a single point of contact. The governing body should be implemented by or before the deadline established by the intra-governmental agreement.

### **5. Peer Review Process**

We advocate that this process be instituted for the future revision of the master plan and ongoing consideration of design elements in the plan. This peer review process will be instrumental in achieving the best possible urban design.

### **6. Design**

The design of the on-site facilities should be of the highest quality and should transition appropriately to the adjacent areas. We believe that this is best accomplished through the development of clear design guidelines and the establishment of a design review process for development projects on the Union Station site. The design should support the historic attributes of Denver Union Station. In addition, the architecture on the site should reflect the forward looking nature of Downtown Denver. We are prepared to assist in the creation of the guidelines and in developing an appropriate public input process.

### **7. 18<sup>th</sup> Street**

We have advocated that the plan allow 18<sup>th</sup> Street to pass through the site as a public street at grade, connecting LoDo with the Central Platte Valley. We value the fact that this component is addressed in the selected developer's plan. As the plan evolves, we encourage ongoing active discussions and consideration regarding the variety of possible uses on 18<sup>th</sup> Street. It is important to discuss how these uses strategically and efficiently integrate into the community.

### **8. Sustainable Design**

Sustainable design, landscaping and "green" building technologies should be a requisite for the Union Station development. The Partnership believes that this development should play a key role in establishing Denver as a "green" city, given both its national prominence as a project, and given the Mayor's recent advancement of Greenprint Denver. It should also support the emerging theme of sustainability that will be integral to the Downtown Area Plan's recommendations for Downtown Denver.

## **9. Construction Phasing**

In order to ensure the economic vitality of the development's adjacent areas, it is critical that this project develop in a manner that minimizes adverse environmental effects, such as dust, noise and pollution in surrounding neighborhoods. A comprehensive communication plan with public input opportunities should be put in place throughout the process to address challenges and opportunities as they arise. Construction planning should address worker parking, equipment staging and accessibility to businesses and residences.

If you would like to reach a representative for further comment, please call one of the following organizations:

### **Downtown Denver Partnership**

Sarah McClean, 303.571.8214

### **The LoDo District**

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### **Friends of Union Station**

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*The Downtown Denver Partnership, Inc. is a non-profit business organization that creatively plans, manages and develops Downtown Denver as the unique, diverse, vibrant and economically healthy urban core of the Rocky Mountain region. For more information, visit [www.downtowndenver.com](http://www.downtowndenver.com).*

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