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NEWS RELEASE

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COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT SHARES INSIGHTS WITH KENYAN OFFICIAL

WELD COUNTY, CO – Although more than 8,800 miles separate the city of Konza (Kenya) and Weld County, the issues regarding development and planning actually brought the two closer together this week when Patrick Adolwa, Director of the Department of Infrastructure for Konza Technopolis Development Authority, visited the Weld County Planning

Department to learn how they address planning issues and facilitate projects with efficiency and accountability.



From left: Weld County Planning Manager Michelle Martin, Planning Director Tom Parko, Tetra Tech Senior Planner Anne Best Johnson, Tetra Tech Deputy Project Manager Nanette Nelson, Director of the Department of Infrastructure for Konza Technopolis Patrick Adolwa and Weld County Commissioner Julie Cozad.

Adolwa, accompanied by Nanette Nelson and Anne Best Johnson of Tetra Tech, toured the planning department and learned how the county uses on-line services and software programs to handle planning projects. Tetra Tech is Konza's master development partner. Konza, which according to their web site, "...will be a world-class technology hub, home to leading companies in education, life sciences, telecom, and BPO/ITES," is located approximately 37 miles south of Nairobi, Kenya.

Planning Director Tom Parko and Planning Manager Michelle Martin, along with Commissioner Julie Cozad, spoke to Adolwa about the planning process Weld County uses from land splits to industrial development. Martin also demonstrated how the software the county uses not only

allows applicants to initiate and track their permit request through the entire process but also provides for internal management controls to ensure applications are processed quickly and in accordance with county code.

"In Kenya, people don't like planning because it is seen as an intervention of government," Adolwa said. Adding that his trip to Weld County, as well as other government entities in the United States, to learn ways government can work together effectively to encourage planning and growth in their city and country. "That's what is critical about planning," said Cozad. "Whether it is the owner developing their land or a neighbor impacted by that development, planning can ensure everyone works together."

"In Konza, we will have an innovative one-stop-shop where all departments will be under one roof. This nucleus of services provides developers and businesses one point of contact in, obtaining licensing, building permits and land-use permits," noted Adolwa. Tetra Tech encouraged Adolwa's visit to Weld County to see first-hand the interaction among multiple departments during the permit process, such as Planning, Environmental Health and Public Works.

With regard to Weld County's use of the Acela Citizen Portal, Adolwa said, "This is useful technology solving real problems of people applying for permits and not waiting for years to get approval."

To learn more about Konza, go to <http://www.konzacity.go.ke/>

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