NOTICE OF COUNCIL MEETING

VIRTUAL MEETING (Open to the Public)
Monday, September 8, 2025

Public Comment Listening Session begins at 6 p.m.
The Regular Council Meeting begins 10 minutes after the
Public Comment Listening Session concludes, but no earlier than 6:10 p.m.

Members of the Aurora City Council will participate remotely in the September 8, 2025 Council Meeting. Members of the public and media are invited to view or listen live through the options listed below.

www.auroraTV.org

Youtube.com/TheAuroraChannel

Cable Channels 8 and 880 in Aurora

Call: 885-695-3475

Call-in Participation

Council Meeting – Public comment is welcome during the Council Meeting for items appearing on the agenda. Individuals are allotted a maximum of three (3) minutes to speak. Aurora residents are given priority and placed before non-resident speakers when proof of residency is provided to the city clerk.

Public Comment Listening Session –Public Comment is welcome during the Public Comment Listening Session on non-agenda matters of City concern. Individuals are allotted a maximum of two (2) minutes to speak. Aurora residents are given priority and placed before non-resident speakers when proof of residency is provided to the city clerk.

To participate, individuals must call the live public comment line at 855-695-3475 and press *3 to reach the operator. The public call-in line opens at 5:30 p.m. on the day of the Council Meeting.

- Individuals wishing to comment during the Public Comment Listening Session must call in and be in the queue by 5:45 p.m.
- Individuals wishing to comment on agenda items during the Council Meeting must call in and be in the queue before the agenda item title is read. Once the title is read, no additional calls for that item will be accepted.

Translation/Accessibility

The city provides closed captioning services on Cable Channels 8 and 880. The Aurora Municipal Center is wheelchair accessible with entry ramps and accessible parking located on the west and east side of the building. Please make your request for accommodations or assistance by noon on the Friday preceding the Monday meeting by contacting the Office of Accessiblity at 303.326.8857.

If you are in need of an interpreter, please contact the Office of International and Immigrant Affairs at 303-739-7521 by Monday, September 8, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. (Si necesita un intérprete, comuníquese con la oficina de asuntos internacionales e inmigrantes en 303-739-7521 por el domingo anterior a la reunion del lunes.)

City of Aurora, Colorado

Monday September 8, 2025

EXECUTIVE SESSION

(Closed to the Public)

VIRTUAL ONLY

4:55 p.m.

STUDY SESSION OF THE AURORA CITY COUNCIL

(Open to the Public)

VIRTUAL ONLY

5:25 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT LISTENING SESSION

(Open to the Public)

VIRTUAL ONLY

6:00 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING OF THE AURORA CITY COUNCIL

(Open to the Public)

VIRTUAL ONLY

Meeting begins 10 minutes after the Public Comment Listening Session concludes, but no earlier than 6:10 p.m.

AGENDA

Regular Meeting of the Aurora City Council

Monday, September 8, 2025
VIRTUAL MEETING

Public Comment Listening Session begins at 6 PM. The regular Council Meeting will begin 10 minutes after the Public Comment Listening Session concludes, but no earlier than 6:10 PM.

Pages

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

3. INVOCATION/MOMENT OF SILENCE

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

5. EXECUTIVE SESSION UPDATE

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

   6.a August 25, 2025 Meeting Minutes 9

7. PROCLAMATIONS OR CEREMONIES

8. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

9. CONSENT CALENDAR - MOTIONS

   Any member of Council may request an item be removed from Consent Calendar and considered separately. Removed items are considered immediately following the adoption of the Consent Calendar.

   9.a Motions

   9.b Planning Matters

   9.c Appointments to Boards and Commissions

9.c.1 **Consideration to Reappoint One (1) Member to the Veterans' Affairs Commission** 22

Kadee Rodriguez, City Clerk / Tim Joyce, Assistant City Attorney

9.c.2 **Consideration to Appoint One (1) Youth Member to the Aurora Youth Commission** 49

Kadee Rodriguez, City Clerk / Tim Joyce, Assistant City Attorney

10. CONSENT CALENDAR - RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES

Any member of Council may request an item be removed from Consent Calendar and considered separately. Removed items are considered immediately following the adoption of the Consent Calendar.

10.a Resolutions

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Andrea Long, Principal Engineer, Aurora Water / Ian Best, Assistant City Attorney

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Sarah Young, Assistant General Manager of Planning and Engineering, Aurora Water / Ian Best, Assistant City Attorney

10.a.3 **City of Aurora Private Activity Bond (PAB) Allocation for the Aurora Housing Authority 2025** 125

R2025-97 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, AUTHORIZING THE ASSIGNMENT OF A PORTION OF THE CITY'S 2025 PRIVATE ACTIVITY BOND ALLOCATION TO THE HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO DBA AURORA HOUSING AUTHORITY

Sarah Pulliam, Manager of Community Development, Housing and Community Services / Tim Joyce, Assistant City Attorney

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R2025-98 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, EXPRESSING THE AURORA CITY COUNCIL'S ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE COMPLETION OF, AND ITS SUPPORT FOR, THE OLDER ADULTS NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Sponsor: Angela Lawson, Council Member

Nicole Ankeney, Manager of Planning, Design and Construction, Parks, Recreation and Open Space / Tim Joyce, Assistant City Attorney

10.a.5 **Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with Arapahoe County for Grant Funding at Utah Park** 239

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Waiver of reconsideration is requested because Arapahoe County requires the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) to be executed within 60 days of the notice of award or by 9/28/25.

Nicole Ankeney, Manager of Planning, Design and Construction, Parks, Recreation and Open Space / Tim Joyce, Assistant City Attorney

10.a.6 **Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with Arapahoe County for Grant Funding at Side Creek Park** 289

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Waiver of reconsideration is requested because Arapahoe County wants the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) executed within 60 days of the notice of award or by 9/28/25.

Nicole Ankeney, Manager of Planning, Design and Construction, Parks, Recreation and Open Space / Tim Joyce, Assistant City Attorney

10.a.7 **Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) for Maintenance of the Nine Mile Pedestrian Bridge Project** 340

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Waiver of reconsideration is requested as Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) has informed the city of their desire to execute this agreement prior to allowing the project to be bid for construction. With anticipated design and approvals being completed later this summer, allowing this maintenance Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) to move quickly through the execution process may prevent project delays.

Bret Banwart, Engineering Supervisor, Public Works / Michelle Gardner, Senior Assistant City Attorney

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R2025-102 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, TO AMEND THE RULES OF ORDER AND PROCEDURE FOR THE AURORA, COLORADO, CITY COUNCIL CONCERNING THE START TIME OF REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

Sponsor: Curtis Gardner, Council Member

Kadee Rodriguez, City Clerk / Andrea Wood, Assistant City Attorney

10.b **Finalizing of Ordinances**

Ordinances approved unanimously at first reading.

10.b.1 **Sandy Point – Zoning Map Amendment** 377

2025-83 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, INITIALLY ZONING A PARCEL OF LAND MEASURING 242 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, LOCATED NORTH OF EAST 56TH AVENUE AND WEST OF FUTURE HAYESMOUNT ROAD AND TWO MILES EAST OF JACKSON GAP STREET TO AIRPORT DISTRICT (AD) AND AMENDING THE ZONING MAP ACCORDINGLY (SANDY POINT ZONING MAP AMENDMENT)

Rachid Rabbaa, Planner III, Planning and Business Development / Lena McClelland, Assistant City Attorney

10.b.2 **Colfax and 13th Avenue Station Area Plan 2025 Update to Comprehensive Plan** 399

2025-84 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, AMENDING THE 2018 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TO ADOPT BY REFERENCE THE "COLFAX AND 13TH AVENUE STATION AREA PLAN" ("13TH AVENUE STATION PLAN")

Daniel Krzyzanowski, Planning Supervisor, Planning and Business Development / Lena McClelland, Assistant City Attorney

11. **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

Public hearings with or without related ordinances.

11.a **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Phase 1 Transition Plan Update** 499

R2025-103 A PUBLIC HEARING AND CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, APPROVING PHASE I OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES (ADA) SELF EVALUATION AND TRANSITION PLAN

Karlyn Shorb, Senior Project Manager, General Management / Michelle Gardner, Senior Assistant City Attorney

12. **INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES**

12.a **Amendment to the City Code Pertaining to Automated Vehicle Identification System Penalty Notices** 645

2025-86 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, AMENDING SECTIONS 134-430 AND 134-451 OF THE CITY CODE PERTAINING TO AUTOMATED VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM PENALTY NOTICES

Christopher Amsler, Lieutenant, Police / Mandy MacDonald, Senior Assistant City Attorney

12.b **Interpreter Fee Amendment – City Code 50-36** 651

2025-87 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, AMENDING SECTION 50-36 OF THE CITY CODE PERTAINING TO THE ASSESSMENT OF INTERPRETER FEES AGAINST DEFENDANTS WHO FAIL TO APPEAR FOR TRIAL

Candace Atkinson, Director, Court Administration / Angela Garcia, Senior Assistant City Attorney

13. FINALIZING OF ORDINANCES

Ordinances not approved unanimously at first reading.

13.a **Court Administrator Reporting to the City Manager** 657

2025-85 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, DELEGATING TO THE CITY MANAGER THE AUTHORITY TO APPOINT AND REMOVE THE COURT ADMINISTRATOR

Sponsor: Curtis Gardner, Council Member / Françoise Bergan, Council Member

Jason Batchelor, City Manager / Andrea Wood, Assistant City Attorney

14. ANNEXATIONS

15. RECONSIDERATIONS AND CALL UPS

16. GENERAL BUSINESS

16.a **Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Future In-Person or Virtual Council Meetings, and Changes to Council Rules** 663

Peter Schulte, City Attorney

17. REPORTS

17.a Mayor

17.b Council

18. ADJOURNMENT

MINUTES

Regular Meeting of the Aurora City Council

Monday, August 25, 2025

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:	Mayor Coffman	Amsalu Kassaw
	Françoise Bergan	Angela Lawson
	Alison Coombs	Ruben Medina
	Curtis Gardner	Crystal Murillo
	Stephanie Hancock	Steve Sundberg
	Danielle Jurinsky	

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1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Coffman reconvened the regular meeting of the City Council at 6:45 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

3. INVOCATION/MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mayor Coffman led in prayer for the August 25, 2025 meeting.

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

(All Standing)

5. EXECUTIVE SESSION UPDATE

Mayor Coffman provided an update on the Executive Session, stating economic development incentive and a property transaction were discussed.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

6.a August 11, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Moved by: Steve Sundberg

Second by: Amsalu Kassaw

Does Council wish to approve the minutes of the August 11, 2025 meeting?

Voting Aye: (11): Mayor Coffman, Françoise Bergan, Alison Coombs, Curtis Gardner, Stephanie Hancock, Danielle Jurinsky, Amsalu Kassaw, Angela Lawson, Ruben Medina, Crystal Murillo, and Steve Sundberg

7. PROCLAMATIONS OR CEREMONIES

The City Charter prescribes the Mayor may vote on resolutions and ordinances only to create or break a tie vote of Council Members present. The Mayor Pro-Tem is always permitted to vote on all items.

8. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Moved by: Stephanie Hancock

Second by: Angela Lawson

Does Council wish to adopt the agenda as presented?

Voting Aye: (11): Mayor Coffman, Françoise Bergan, Alison Coombs, Curtis Gardner, Stephanie Hancock, Danielle Jurinsky, Amsalu Kassaw, Angela Lawson, Ruben Medina, Crystal Murillo, and Steve Sundberg

9. CONSENT CALENDAR - MOTIONS

Any member of Council may request an item be removed from Consent Calendar and considered separately. Removed items are considered immediately following the adoption of the Consent Calendar.

Moved by: Françoise Bergan

Second by: Amsalu Kassaw

Does Council wish to approve the Motions Consent Calendar as presented?

Voting Aye: (11): Mayor Coffman, Françoise Bergan, Alison Coombs, Curtis Gardner, Stephanie Hancock, Danielle Jurinsky, Amsalu Kassaw, Angela Lawson, Ruben Medina, Crystal Murillo, and Steve Sundberg

9.a Motions

9.b Planning Matters

9.c Appointments to Boards and Commissions

9.c.1 Consideration to Appoint One (1) Member to the Historic Preservation Commission

Kadee Rodriguez, City Clerk / Tim Joyce, Assistant City Attorney

10. CONSENT CALENDAR - RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES

Any member of Council may request an item be removed from Consent Calendar and considered separately. Removed items are considered immediately following the adoption of the Consent Calendar.

Moved by: Françoise Bergan

Second by: Danielle Jurinsky

Does Council wish to approve the Resolutions and Ordinances Consent Calendar?

The City Charter prescribes the Mayor may vote on resolutions and ordinances only to create or break a tie vote of Council Members present. The Mayor Pro-Tem is always permitted to vote on all items.

Voting Aye: (10): Françoise Bergan, Alison Coombs, Curtis Gardner, Stephanie Hancock, Danielle Jurinsky, Amsalu Kassaw, Angela Lawson, Ruben Medina, Crystal Murillo, and Steve Sundberg

10.a Resolutions

10.a.1 Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with Adams County to Use Moorhead Recreation Center as a Voter Service and Polling Center (VSPC)

R2025-88 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, APPROVING THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT FOR THE USE OF PROPERTY OWNED OR CONTROLLED BY THE CITY OF AURORA FOR USE AS A VOTER SERVICE AND POLLING CENTER (VSPC) SITE BY THE ADAMS COUNTY CLERK AND RECORDER

Kadee Rodriguez, City Clerk / Andrea Wood, Assistant City Attorney

10.a.2 Concessionaire Agreement for the Korean War Memorial at Generals Park

R2025-89 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, EXPRESSING THE AURORA CITY COUNCIL'S APPROVAL OF THE CONCESSIONAIRE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO AND UN HERITAGE FOR KOREAN WAR FOR A KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL AT GENERALS PARK

A waiver of reconsideration is being requested to facilitate the fall 2025 construction timeframe of this memorial.

Nicole Ankeney, Manager of Planning, Design and Construction, Parks, Recreation and Open Space / Tim Joyce, Assistant City Attorney

Outside speaker: Becky Hogan, UN Heritage for Korean War Foundation

10.a.3 Aurora Police Department Grant Application to the Peace Officers Mental Health Grant Program

R2025-90 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, APPROVING THE CITY OF AURORA TO APPLY FOR THE 2025-2026 PEACE OFFICER MENTAL HEALTH GRANT APPLICATION THROUGH THE STATE OF COLORADO

Timothy Sherbondy, Grant Analyst II, Police / Mandy MacDonald, Assistant City Attorney

10.a.4 Approval to Utilize a Private Funding Grant Finder

R2025-91 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, APPROVING THE AURORA POLICE DEPARTMENT'S USE OF A THIRD-PARTY GRANT WRITING AGENCY TO PROVIDE NO-COST GRANT FUNDING RESEARCH AND APPLICATION ASSISTANCE

Timothy Sherbondy, Grant Analyst II, Police / Mandy MacDonald, Assistant City Attorney

10.a.5 Urban Watershed Study Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA)

R2025-92 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, APPROVING THE JOINT FUNDING AGREEMENT FOR WATER RESOURCE INVESTIGATIONS BETWEEN THE CITY OF AURORA ACTING BY AND THROUGH ITS UTILITY ENTERPRISE AND THE U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, COLORADO WATER SCIENCE CENTER, UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR REGARDING THE SOUTH PLATTE RIVER SYNOPTIC STUDY

Richard Vidmar, Water Resources Manager, Aurora Water / Ian Best, Assistant City Attorney

10.a.6 Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with Community College of Aurora (CCA) for Discounted Tuition Rates

R2025-93 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, EXPRESSING THE AURORA CITY COUNCIL'S SUPPORT FOR ENTERING INTO AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE OF COLORADO TO PROVIDE DISCOUNTED TUITION FOR CITY EMPLOYEES AT THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF AURORA

Jennifer Lorenzen, Deputy Director, Human Resources / Kim Skaggs, Assistant City Attorney

10.a.7 Development Agreement with Aerotropolis Industrial Development, LLC Regarding the Development of the Property Located at the Southeast Corner of Powhaton Road and 40th Avenue

R2025-94 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, EXPRESSING THE AURORA CITY COUNCIL'S SUPPORT OF THE AURORA TECHNOLOGY ENERGY CORRIDOR DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO AND AEROTROPOLIS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, LLC

Sponsor: Steve Sundberg, Council Member

Jeannine Rustad, Director, Planning and Business Development / Lena McClelland, Assistant City Attorney

The City Charter prescribes the Mayor may vote on resolutions and ordinances only to create or break a tie vote of Council Members present. The Mayor Pro-Tem is always permitted to vote on all items.

10.b Finalizing of Ordinances

Ordinances approved unanimously at first reading.

10.b.1 Aurora Places Comprehensive Plan Amendment

2025-07 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, AMENDING THE 2018 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TO CHANGE THE PLACETYPE FROM INDUSTRY HUB TO EMERGING NEIGHBORHOOD FOR THE AREA GENERALLY LOCATED EAST OF POWHATON ROAD BETWEEN E 49TH AND E 26TH AVENUE (ATEC COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENT)

Stacy Wasinger, Senior Planner, Planning and Business Development / Lena McClelland, Assistant City Attorney

10.b.2 Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) Amendment for Setbacks and Easement Around Plugged Oil Wells

2025-68 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, AMENDING CHAPTER 135 OF THE CITY CODE AND ADDING SECTION 146-4.2.3(k) TO THE UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE PERTAINING TO PLUGGED OIL AND GAS WELLS

Jeffrey Moore, Manager, Energy and Environment Division / Dave Scott, Assistant City Attorney

10.b.3 Adding and Amending Provisions of the City Code Related to the Business Advisory Board

2025-80 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, ADDING SECTION 26-29 AND AMENDING SECTIONS 26-52 AND 2-772 OF THE AURORA CITY CODE CONCERNING THE BUSINESS ADVISORY BOARD

Jason Batchelor, City Manager / Andrea Wood, Assistant City Attorney

11. PUBLIC HEARINGS

Public hearings with or without related ordinances.

11.a Sandy Point – Zoning Map Amendment

2025-83 A PUBLIC HEARING AND CONSIDERATION OF AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, INITIALLY ZONING A PARCEL OF LAND MEASURING 242 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, LOCATED NORTH OF EAST 56TH AVENUE AND WEST OF FUTURE HAYESMOUNT ROAD AND TWO MILES EAST OF JACKSON GAP STREET TO AIRPORT DISTRICT (AD) AND AMENDING THE ZONING MAP ACCORDINGLY (SANDY POINT ZONING MAP AMENDMENT)

Rachid Rabbaa, Planner III, Planning and Business Development / Lena McClelland, Assistant City Attorney

Mayor Coffman opened the public hearing.

Staff gave a brief presentation on the item.

Mayor Coffman closed the public hearing.

Moved by: Steve Sundberg

Second by: Danielle Jurinsky

Does the City Council wish to support the approval of the ordinance to a zoning map amendment for the initial zoning of 242 acres to Airport District (AD) for the Sandy Point – Zoning Map Amendment?

Voting Aye: (10): Françoise Bergan, Alison Coombs, Curtis Gardner, Stephanie Hancock, Danielle Jurinsky, Amsalu Kassaw, Angela Lawson, Ruben Medina, Crystal Murillo, and Steve Sundberg

11.b Colfax and 13th Avenue Station Area Plan 2025 Update to Comprehensive Plan

2025-84 A PUBLIC HEARING AND CONSIDERATION OF AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, AMENDING THE 2018 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TO ADOPT BY REFERENCE THE "COLFAX AND 13TH AVENUE STATION AREA PLAN" ("13TH AVENUE STATION PLAN")

Daniel Krzyzanowski, Planning Supervisor, Planning and Business Development / Lena McClelland, Assistant City Attorney

Mayor Coffman opened the public hearing.

Staff gave a brief presentation on the item.

Mayor Coffman closed the public hearing.

Moved by: Amsalu Kassaw

Second by: Danielle Jurinsky

Does Council wish to support the approval of the ordinance to amend the city's comprehensive plan to adopt by reference the Colfax and 13th Avenue Station Area Plan?

Voting Aye: (10): Françoise Bergan, Alison Coombs, Curtis Gardner, Stephanie Hancock, Danielle Jurinsky, Amsalu Kassaw, Angela Lawson, Ruben Medina, Crystal Murillo, and Steve Sundberg

12. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

The City Charter prescribes the Mayor may vote on resolutions and ordinances only to create or break a tie vote of Council Members present. The Mayor Pro-Tem is always permitted to vote on all items.

12.a Court Administrator Reporting to the City Manager

2025-85 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, DELEGATING TO THE CITY MANAGER THE AUTHORITY TO APPOINT AND REMOVE THE COURT ADMINISTRATOR

Sponsor: Curtis Gardner, Council Member / Françoise Bergan, Council Member

Jason Batchelor, City Manager / Andrea Wood, Assistant City Attorney

Moved by: Curtis Gardner

Second by: Alison Coombs

Does the Council wish to support the approval of the ordinance relating to the Court Administrator Reporting to the City Manager?

Voting Aye: (7): Françoise Bergan, Alison Coombs, Curtis Gardner, Stephanie Hancock, Angela Lawson, Ruben Medina, and Crystal Murillo

Voting Nay: (3): Danielle Jurinsky, Amsalu Kassaw, and Steve Sundberg

13. FINALIZING OF ORDINANCES

Ordinances not approved unanimously at first reading.

13.a Eliminating the Independent Review Board

2025-72 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, ELIMINATING THE INDEPENDENT REVIEW BOARD

Jason Batchelor, City Manager / Andrea Wood, Assistant City Attorney

Staff gave a brief presentation on the item.

Moved by: Françoise Bergan

Second by: Stephanie Hancock

Does the Council wish to support the approval of Eliminating the Independent Review Board?

Voting Aye: (9): Françoise Bergan, Alison Coombs, Curtis Gardner, Stephanie Hancock, Danielle Jurinsky, Amsalu Kassaw, Angela Lawson, Crystal Murillo, and Steve Sundberg

Voting Nay: (1): Ruben Medina

13.b Eliminating the Human Relations Commission

2025-73 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, ELIMINATING THE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

Jason Batchelor, City Manager / Andrea Wood, Assistant City Attorney

Council heard public comment on the agenda related item.

Mayor Coffman offered the same amendment for this Commission that they did for the Veterans Commission last meeting to meet quarterly for cost saving purposes.

MPT Sundberg voiced concern that in recent HRC meeting minutes, they gave away $2,000 to an attorney type group. He said that it is within their bylaws, but the bylaws need to be re-examined.

CM Bergan added they also had a candidate forum that was very partisan.

CM Jurinsky strongly urged a no vote against the amendment, as the intended purpose of this commission is no longer the case. She noted the first speaker apologized for some negative language he used toward council members but has not shown that over the course of several years, and it is unacceptable for any committee member to be so publicly disrespectful toward council members in their role. She pointed to the May 7, 2025 meeting of the Human Relations Commission, where they promoted a candidate event for specific council candidates. She expressed this commission has become absolutely partisan, geared toward activism, and goes against everything that Council has stood for and voted for. She added that they voted unanimously to spend $250 on snacks to have a Know Your Rights event update, which essentially helps people evade law enforcement and is an exact policy of a sanctuary city, which we are not. She encouraged her colleagues to vote no on this amendment and yes to eliminate this commission.

Mayor Coffman asked the city manager if the appointment process works like any other board or commission for the individual members.

J. Batchelor answered that members of the Human Relations Commission are appointed by majority of Council with three-year terms.

Mayor Coffman expressed that they need to be careful about who they appoint and could always do a resolution to provide a mission statement for this commission.

CM Coombs voiced that commissioners serve at the pleasure of Council, which means they can also be removed by Council; therefore, they can remove someone instead of doing away with the whole Commission. She also noted that Mr. Futrell has not been on this Commission in two years. She stated that APD also attended the Know Your Rights training, which makes sure people understand their legal rights, and it is our responsibility to support our community members in appropriately exercising their legal rights and not paint that as wrong or horrible.

Mayor Coffman inquired if they are allocated appointments on the Human Relations Commission.

J. Batchelor responded that the only two boards or commissions that Council appoints directly are the Citizens Advisory Budget Committee and the Business Advisory Board, and all others are consensus appointments from Council.

Mayor Coffman shared that should change.

CM Gardner stated that this whole process started because Council directed staff to consolidate and/or eliminate boards and commissions to save money, and that is clearly not what this is, because all the eliminations that were up for a vote last time were not moved forward except for the IRB. He said based upon the reasons given tonight, this is clearly retribution. He added that we have the ability to control the bylaws and who sits on the Commission, so if we do not like those things, we need to change them, but it is disingenuous to single out one board and commission for elimination under the guise of efficiency. He supported keeping it in its current format like they have the rest but would also support the mayor's amendment.

CM Lawson voiced that she is not for sanctuary city and served on this commission before being on Council. She does not agree with everything they do, but said they have very good programs they have helped with youth, as well as other things. She agreed with the mayor's amendment and to look at the bylaws, as they are in charge of seeing who they want to be on the commission. She noted that there are people on this commission that do not like her and talk about her, but she does see the purpose for this commission and the good things they do.

CM Murillo felt that CM Jurinsky's comment alluded to the true intention of trying to eliminate this commission. She said this is one of our more active commissions and did not understand why we would get rid of it. She discussed leveraging staff time and the time of professionals, subject matter experts, and volunteers. She supported keep it as is but also supported the amendment.

CM Bergan said this all started a couple years ago when she and CM Coombs were going to cosponsor a resolution to consolidate some of the boards and commissions and they ended up not doing that but recalled that Council put together a resolution to direct the city manager to look at them and see what is much more efficient, so they were not using staff time. She believed that this was on the list that went to the policy committee that oversees board and commissions and did not recall having any kind of issues with it when recommendations were made. She asked the city manager if he made that recommendation.

J. Batchelor answered no. He stated that it was identified as part of the discussion but was not a recommendation. It was discussed at Study Session.

CM Bergan asked for clarification that the consensus of the Study Session from Council was these were the boards to be considered for elimination and were approved.

J. Batchelor responded yes.

CM Bergan expressed that she did not know whether there is real value to this commission or not, but felt it was hijacked in terms of what the mission should be. She suggested significant changes needed to be made to the bylaws if it moves forward, as she has never heard of a commission that gets to spend $2,000 for a

nonprofit group and have a budget of $9,000 a year, even though as a Council majority, said they are done with funding nonprofits. She added that holding a candidate forum that is partisan is inexcusable. She was not in support of keeping the commission or the amendment.

Mayor Coffman asked if he could offer another amendment requiring staff to come up with an appointment process similar to the CABC if the amendment passes.

P. Schulte answered yes, he could offer another amendment if this one passes, as they would have to come back for another reading anyway because it would be a substantial change. He recommended coming up with what they need to do for the final version of the ordinance if that is the direction of council so they are not doing it on the fly, and then they can bring it back to another council meeting in the future.

CM Hancock voiced the same concerns as CM Bergan. She observed that this commission has been highly partisan and suspect in terms of the timber, tone, and activities. She thought this was originally going to be a cost saving measure by consolidating committees but is concerned with how things stand right now.

CM Jurinsky asked for clarification that Council votes to appoint these members, but they go through the commission first in an interview process and that is who comes forward.

J. Batchelor answered yes that they post it, go through applications, interview, and the board will come forward with a recommendation.

CM Jurinsky noted that in the past, the only appointees being brought forward were who the commission wanted. She said holding and promoting a partisan candidate gathering should be automatic termination of the commission. She felt this commission should be eliminated, and perhaps rebuilt, as she did like the idea of making it a Council appointee commission and was willing to look into that.

P. Schulte showed Council the city code about the commission's authority, and said they are one of the few city commissions that can expend and donate money.

CM Bergan commented that she did not know what council authorized that in the past when no other boards or commissions had that authority. She made a substitute motion to delay this vote so they can bring it back with some parameters.

Mayor Coffman noted that when he was on the commission, Council gave an appropriation to the commission, then all the nonprofits would come before the commission, and then the commission would decide the allocation of those resources. It was unilateral that it did not go before Council for ratification.

Moved by: Françoise Bergan

Second by: Danielle Jurinsky

Does Council wish to continue this item to September 22?

The City Charter prescribes the Mayor may vote on resolutions and ordinances only to create or break a tie vote of Council Members present. The Mayor Pro-Tem is always permitted to vote on all items.

Voting Aye: (10): Françoise Bergan, Alison Coombs, Curtis Gardner, Stephanie Hancock, Danielle Jurinsky, Amsalu Kassaw, Angela Lawson, Ruben Medina, Crystal Murillo, and Steve Sundberg

14. ANNEXATIONS

15. RECONSIDERATIONS AND CALL UPS

16. GENERAL BUSINESS

CM Gardner made the motion to begin City Council Meetings 5 minutes after the public comment listening session ends but no earlier than 6:10 p.m.

CM Coombs asked why they cannot resume having public invited to be heard during the meeting, as this seems like a lot of shenanigans just to maintain this public comment listening session instead of having public invited to be heard.

Staff made a friendly amendment to allow 10 minutes between public comment and council meeting, as that would give them time to get everything switched over.

The friendly amendment was accepted.

Moved by: Curtis Gardner

Second by: Françoise Bergan

Does council approve of having council meetings begin 10 minutes after public comment listening session ends but no earlier than 6:10 pm?

Voting Aye: (10): Mayor Coffman, Françoise Bergan, Curtis Gardner, Stephanie Hancock, Danielle Jurinsky, Amsalu Kassaw, Angela Lawson, Ruben Medina, Crystal Murillo, and Steve Sundberg

Voting Nay: (1): Alison Coombs

17. REPORTS

17.a Mayor

Mayor Coffman directed people to visit his Facebook page for information on his activities.

17.b Council

CM Jurinsky attended the Ulta Grand Opening in Ward 6 and arranged a Hyland Hills Park Cleanup Event, along with MPT Sundberg, where several residents came and helped clean up. She thanked PROS for supplying the materials and tools for that. She helped organize an animal shelter golf tournament fundraiser that raised a little over $1,000. She mentioned that agenda item 12.a was a terrible letdown of one of their city employees, discrimination, and she felt the sponsor had a personal vendetta. She was ashamed the city attorney's office did not respond to our court

administrator's attorney and noted this court appointee is the only female they have and was denied deferred comp when hired, but the two male appointees hired after were given the deferred comp. She said this is a breach of contract and that the taxpayers of Aurora will have to bear the burden of paying out a lawsuit on this.

CM Kassaw reported that he had his first ride along with Fire Station 11 and attended the Aurora Fire Rescue Promotional Ceremony, along with Mayor Coffman.

CM Murillo announced her next town hall will be this Thursday, at Moorhead.

MPT Sundberg stated that he enjoyed the neighborhood cleanup of Hyland Hills Park and was glad to see the I-225 hump near 2nd and 6th being repaired and to see APD out conducting pedestrian type interventions and writing citations. He noted that the electric bikes are everywhere, very fast, and are injuries waiting to happen.

CM Lawson expressed that the lawmakers are convening today for the fifth day of the Colorado Special Session. She explained the purpose of the current special session is to address the substantial budget shortfall of around $750 million. She announced that Aurora's legislation, HB25-1112, the Local Authorities Enforce Vehicle Registration, is now in effect. Congress is still in recess and will return after Labor Day to address the FY26 budget.

CM Bergan extended condolences to the families of the two young people that passed away in a tragic motorcycle accident, as well as the Grandview High School community. She chaired the PED meeting in the last couple weeks, had the E-470 Executive Board Meeting and Board Meeting, Region 9 Opioid Meeting, spent two afternoons doing RFQ interviews for the Opioid facilitation process, attended the Water Policy Committee, had staff management meetings, went to the Open Space Board Meeting and had a tour of Ponderosa Preserve.

CM Coombs, CM Gardner, CM Medina, and CM Hancock had no report.

18. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Coffman adjourned the regular meeting of City Council.

_____

MIKE COFFMAN, MAYOR

ATTEST:

_____

The City Charter prescribes the Mayor may vote on resolutions and ordinances only to create or break a tie vote of Council Members present. The Mayor Pro-Tem is always permitted to vote on all items.

KADEE RODRIGUEZ, CITY CLERK

The City Charter prescribes the Mayor may vote on resolutions and ordinances only to create or break a tie vote of Council Members present. The Mayor Pro-Tem is always permitted to vote on all items.

CITY OF AURORA
Council Agenda Commentary

Item Title: Consideration to Reappoint One (1) Member to the Veterans Affairs Commission
Item Initiator: Kadee Rodriguez, City Clerk
Staff Source/Legal Source: Kadee Rodriguez, City Clerk / Tim Joyce, Assistant City Attorney
Outside Speaker: N/A
Strategic Outcome: Connected and Engaged: Providing programming, learning resources, and amenities that reflect the rich history and contributions of our vibrant communities.

COUNCIL MEETING DATES:

Study Session: 8/25/2025

Regular Meeting: 9/8/2025

2nd Regular Meeting (if applicable): N/A

Item requires a Public Hearing: ☐ Yes ☒ No

ITEM DETAILS *(Click in highlighted area below bullet point list to enter applicable information.)*

- Waiver of reconsideration requested, and if so, why
- Sponsor name
- Staff source name and title / Legal source name and title
- Outside speaker name and organization
- Estimated time: (For Study Session items only indicate combined time needed for presentation and discussion)

Kadee Rodriguez, City Clerk / Tim Joyce, Assistant City Attorney

ACTIONS(S) PROPOSED *(Check all appropriate actions)*

☐ Approve Item and Move Forward to Study Session

☒ Approve Item and Move Forward to Regular Meeting

☐ Information Only

☐ Approve Item with Waiver of Reconsideration
Reason for waiver is described in the Item Details field above.

☐ Approve Item as Proposed at Policy Committee

☐ Approve Item as Proposed at Study Session

☐ Approve Item as Proposed at Regular Meeting

PREVIOUS ACTIONS OR REVIEWS:

Policy Committee Name: N/A

Policy Committee Date: N/A

Action Taken/Follow-up: ***(Check all that apply)***

☐ Recommends Approval ☐ Does Not Recommend Approval

☐ Forwarded Without Recommendation ☐ Minutes Not Available

☐ Minutes Attached

HISTORY *(Dates reviewed by City council, Policy Committees, Boards and Commissions, or Staff. Summarize pertinent comments. ATTACH MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS, POLICY COMMITTEES AND BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS.)*

The Veterans Affairs Commission advises City Council as to the concerns of veterans relating to transportation, housing, employment and other areas affecting veterans in the City, make recommendations to these issues and concerns, serve as a source of information regarding resources and services available to veterans, and exercises other powers and duties as may be assigned by City Council.

The Veterans Affairs Commission consists of twelve (12) members appointed by the Aurora City Council. The term length of a member is three (3) years and members may serve up to three (3) consecutive terms. All eligible applications received within the last year are forwarded to the Board to be considered for interviews and recommendations.

ITEM SUMMARY *(Brief description of item, discussion, key points, recommendations, etc.)*

The Veterans Affairs Commission currently has four (4) upcoming vacancies, with applicants pending consideration for appointment and reappointment on a separate agenda item to fill three of the four vacancies. Five (5) applications were received and among the applicants were:

Ralph Charlip
Mary Melissa Watkins
Robert Reichardt (pending reappointment)
Michael Swanson (pending reappointment)
Iman Watson (pending appointment)

The Veterans Affairs Commission respectfully recommends the reappointment of the following candidate:

Ralph Charlip – 3rd term beginning 7/1/2025 and ending 6/30/2028

FISCAL IMPACT

Select all that apply. (If no fiscal impact, click that box and skip to "Questions for Council")

☐ Revenue Impact ☐ Budgeted Expenditure Impact ☐ Non-Budgeted Expenditure Impact
☐ Workload Impact ☒ No Fiscal Impact

REVENUE IMPACT
Provide the revenue impact or N/A if no impact. (What is the estimated impact on revenue? What funds would be impacted? Provide additional detail as necessary.)

N/A

BUDGETED EXPENDITURE IMPACT
Provide the budgeted expenditure impact or N/A if no impact. (List Org/Account # and fund. What is the amount of budget to be used? Does this shift existing budget away from existing programs/services? Provide additional detail as necessary.)

N/A

NON-BUDGETED EXPENDITURE IMPACT
Provide the non-budgeted expenditure impact or N/A if no impact. (Provide information on non-budgeted costs. Include Personal Services, Supplies and Services, Interfund Charges, and Capital needs. Provide additional detail as necessary.)

N/A

WORKLOAD IMPACT

Provide the workload impact or N/A if no impact. (Will more staff be needed or is the change absorbable? If new FTE(s) are needed, provide numbers and types of positions, and a duty summary. Provide additional detail as necessary.)

N/A

QUESTIONS FOR COUNCIL

Does Council support the reappointment of Ralph Charlip to the Veterans Affairs Commission?

LEGAL COMMENTS

All boards and commissions shall be appointed by City Council. (City Charter, art III, sec. 3-11 and art. IX, sec. 9-1). The veterans' affairs commission shall consist of eleven voting members and one non-voting alternate member, who shall be registered electors and shall be on active duty or honorably discharged from the United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force or Coast Guard. (Aurora, Colo. Code § 2-851). The term length for each member is three years and members may serve up to three consecutive terms. (Aurora, Colo. Code § 2-772 and Resolution R2013-03). (Tjoyce)

MEMORANDUM

City of Aurora

AuroraGov.org

To: Mayor Coffman and Members of City Council

From: Jeremy Lammon Vice, Chair, Aurora Veterans Affairs Commission

Through: Ryan Lantz, Human Resources and Marcus Bond, City Clerk Analyst

Date: April 22, 2025

Subject: Consideration to Reappoint a Member to the Aurora Veterans Affairs Commission

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Board or Commission Name: Aurora Veterans Affairs Commission

Number of Vacancies: 1 vacancy and 3 upcoming vacancies

Interview Information

Date of Interviews: N/A

Applicant Names: Dr. Ralph Charlip

Applicants Interviewed: Mary Melissa Watkins, Robert Reichardt, Michael Swanson, Iman Watson

Summary

Summary of suggested appointment(s):

The Veterans Affairs Commission unanimously supports a reappointment for Dr. Ralph Charlip as a commissioner. As a current commissioner, we have observed his ability and dedication to serve on the Commission. He has demonstrated strong values regarding honesty, integrity and accountability and is committed to veteran issues. He has demonstrated the ability to deal with conflict, speak to the public and have the time to be engaged with the commission. We look forward to continuing to work with him.

Recommendation

The Aurora Vetrans Affairs Commission strongly supports the appointment of Dr Ralph Charlip as a member on the Aurora Veterans Affairs Commission.

Veterans Affairs Commission

Applicant Package - Ward VI

Veterans Affairs Commission - Ward VI

Term 01 Jul 2023 - 30 Jun 2026
Positions Available 1

Number of applicants in this package 1

- Charlip, Ralph

Received: 04/05/2025
Ward VI Resident & Registered Voter
Douglas County
Vetted:04/07/2025
Marcus Bond

Name: Charlip, Ralph

Address: [redacted]

Email: [redacted]

Board Name: Veterans Affairs Commission

Date of Birth:

[redacted]

Home Phone Number:

[redacted]

Work Phone Number:

[redacted]

How long have you lived in Aurora?:

2017

Are you registered to vote? :

Yes

Years of Education Completed:

19

Degree(s) Received:

BA, MPA, DPA

College(s) Attended:

University of Arizona, Walden University

Employer Name:

Ralph Charlip

Employer Address:

22921 E Del Norte Cir., Aurora, CO 80016

Current Position:

Owner/Pres/CEO

Years with Current Employer:

9

Work Experience:

USAF 22 Yrs, Medical Service Corps; Federal Civil Service 16 Yrs, SES, Owner of small SDVOSB business 9 years

Certification(s):

Life Member Am College of Healthcare Exec, Master Federal Resume Writer, Master Military Resume Writer

How are you involved in your community?:

VAC for two prior terms, Volunteer with ESGR, Vice Chair of Honor Bell Board

List your interests and activities.:

Model railroading

Do you presently serve in any other appointed position on a board, commission or committee?:

No

If yes, enter the board name and position:

NA

Are you currently a member and seeking reappointment on the board you are applying for?:

Yes

Why do you desire this appointment?:

To continue to serve Aurora's veterans and support the city council in regard to veteran issues.

How much time do you anticipate being able to spend on this appointment each month?:

20-40 hrs

Do you have any conflicts of interest that should be disclosed?:

No

If yes, please explain:

NA

Reference 1: Full Name, Phone Number and Address:

My honor: General (ret) Lance W Lord [redacted]

Reference 2: Full Name, Phone Number and Address:

Theresa Blumberg [redacted]

Reference 3: Full Name, Phone Number and Address:

Bob Tomlinson [redacted]

How did you hear about us?:

News Aurora (water bill newsletter)

By clicking APPLY and submitting this application, I certify that the forgoing information is true and correct.:

Ralph Charlip

Time of Submission: 04/05/25 9:00:51 AM

Attachments

- DD214.PDF

Veterans Affairs Commission

Applicant Package - Ward V

Veterans Affairs Commission - Ward V

Term 01 Jul 2023 - 30 Jun 2026
Positions Available 1

Number of applicants in this package 1

- Reichardt, Robert

Received: 04/04/2025
Ward V Resident & Registered Voter
Arapahoe County
Vetted: 04/04/2025
Marcus Bond

Name: Reichardt, Robert

Address: [redacted]

Email: [redacted]

Board Name: Veterans Affairs Commission

Date of Birth:

[redacted]

Home Phone Number:

[redacted]

Work Phone Number:

N/A

How long have you lived in Aurora?:

25+ years

Are you registered to vote? :

Yes

Years of Education Completed:

14

Degree(s) Received:

Associate's degree

College(s) Attended:

Red Rocks Community College Lakewood, Colorado

Employer Name:

Self Employed

Employer Address:

Last address 3187 S Sedalia Way Aurora, CO 80013

Current Position:

Retired

Years with Current Employer:

N/A

Work Experience:

35 Years in sales, marketing and website development

Certification(s):

Mostly sales, marking training for past employees. All other training was self taught

How are you involved in your community?:

Veterans Affairs Commission (commissioner) Gateway Optimist Club of Aurora (board member) American Red Cross (deputy for the SCI Unit at the RMR VA Hospital in Aurora)

List your interests and activities.:

Involved with many activities at Our Father Luthran Church, Men's Bible Study Group Golf, Phtography, Fishing, Working with Wreaths Across America trough GOC Optimist Club, Reading, anything I can do to support Veterans and their families

Do you presently serve in any other appointed position on a board, commission or committee?:

Yes

If yes, enter the board name and position:

Veterans Affairs Commission (commissioner) Gateway Optimist Club of Aurora (board member) Deputy (American Red Cross)

Are you currently a member and seeking reappointment on the board you are applying for?:

Yes

Why do you desire this appointment?:

To continue to work and support Aurora Veterans and their families.

How much time do you anticipate being able to spend on this appointment each month?:

I'm pretty open on that. 20 hours or so.

Do you have any conflicts of interest that should be disclosed?:

No

If yes, please explain:

I have no conf

Reference 1: Full Name, Phone Number and Address:

Dr Rob Hays [redacted]

Reference 2: Full Name, Phone Number and Address:

David or Tiffany [redacted]

Reference 3: Full Name, Phone Number and Address:

Norman Reichardt [redacted]

How did you hear about us?:

Other

By clicking APPLY and submitting this application, I certify that the forgoing information is true and correct.:

True and correct

Time of Submission: 04/04/25 1:23:09 PM

Attachments

- RMR_DD214.pdf.pdf

Veterans Affairs Commission

Applicant Package - Ward I

Veterans Affairs Commission - Ward I

Term 01 Jul 2023 - 30 Jun 2026
Positions Available 1

Number of applicants in this package 1

- Swanson, Michael

Received: 04/02/2025
Ward I Resident & Registered Voter
Adams County
Vetted: 04/03/2025
Marcus Bond

Name: Swanson, Michael

Address: [redacted]

Email: [redacted]

Board Name: Veterans Affairs Commission

Date of Birth:

[redacted]

Home Phone Number:

[redacted]

Work Phone Number:

[redacted]

How long have you lived in Aurora?:

6 years

Are you registered to vote? :

Yes

Years of Education Completed:

Doctoral

Degree(s) Received:

Bachelor of Arts in Nursing Doctor in Nursing Practice Master in Business Administration

College(s) Attended:

Augustana University - Sioux Falls, SD Rush University - Chicago, IL Denver University - Denver, CO

Employer Name:

US Department of Veterans Affairs

Employer Address:

1700 N Wheeling St Aurora, CO 80045

Current Position:

Nurse Practitioner

Years with Current Employer:

6 years

Work Experience:

Registered Nurse - 8 years Nurse Practitioner - 7 years

Certification(s):

Nurse Practitioner, Adult Gerontological Acute Care Certification through the American Nurses Credentialing Center

How are you involved in your community?:

I attend church regularly in my community have joined the Aurora VAC in Jan'25 to fill a vacancy as a previous commissioner resigned.

List your interests and activities.:

Sports, Hiking, Politics, Current Events - several more

Do you presently serve in any other appointed position on a board, commission or committee?:

Yes

If yes, enter the board name and position:

Aurora city VAC

Are you currently a member and seeking reappointment on the board you are applying for?:

Yes

Why do you desire this appointment?:

I'd like to make a positive impact on the quality of lives for veterans living in Aurora, CO.

How much time do you anticipate being able to spend on this appointment each month?:

2-4 hours

Do you have any conflicts of interest that should be disclosed?:

No

If yes, please explain:

n/a

Reference 1: Full Name, Phone Number and Address:

Scarlett Godwin

Reference 2: Full Name, Phone Number and Address:

Chis Brokaw

Reference 3: Full Name, Phone Number and Address:

Liron Caplan

How did you hear about us?:

Other

By clicking APPLY and submitting this application, I certify that the forgoing information is true and correct.:

APPLY

Time of Submission: 04/02/25 4:38:14 PM

Attachments

- Swanson DD214.pdf

Veterans Affairs Commission

Applicant Package - Ward VI

Veterans Affairs Commission - Ward VI

Term 01 Jul 2023 - 30 Jun 2026
Positions Available 1

Number of applicants in this package 1

- Watson, Iman

Received: 03/05/2025
Ward VI Resident & Registered Voter
Arapahoe County
Vetted: 03/07/2025

Marcus Bond

Name: Watson, Iman

Address: [redacted]

Email: Iman.[redacted]

Board Name: Veterans Affairs Commission

Date of Birth:

[redacted]

Home Phone Number:

[redacted]

Work Phone Number:

[redacted]

How long have you lived in Aurora?:

17 years

Are you registered to vote? :

Yes

Years of Education Completed:

4

Degree(s) Received:

BS Information Technology

College(s) Attended:

Slippery Rock University

Employer Name:

Colorado Health Foundation

Employer Address:

1780 Pennsylvania Street

Current Position:

Sr. IT Manager

Years with Current Employer:

3

Work Experience:

10/22 – Present Colorado Health Foundation Denver, CO Sr. IT Manager • Manage information technology (IT) operations, including audio-visual systems, network infrastructure, and end-user support. • Oversee cybersecurity measures, ensuring data integrity and secure business applications. • Maintain and update system documentation, contributing to efficient IT processes. • Administer IT/FAC department service desk, providing timely and effective support. • Lead technology projects that align with organizational mission and enhance customer service delivery. • Serve as SharePoint Administrator, managing site collections, permissions, and content organization. • Act as Salesforce Administrator, handling user management, customization, and data management. 1/19 – 9/22 Perficient Denver, CO Solutions Architect • Provided Azure expertise around services, cost, security, scale, and enablement. Azure Platform delivery and technical oversight for establishing the Azure platform along with DevOps. • Process design and Improvement: Developed ITIL-aligned ITSM processes and enabled key ITSM automation via ServiceNow. Design service support strategy. • Provide architectural assessments, strategies, and roadmaps for one or more technology domains. • Lead projects within architecture. Work with Product Owner/Business Analysts to understand functional requirements and interact with other cross-functional teams to architect, design, develop, test, and release features. • Develop Proof-of-Concept projects to validate new architectures and solutions. • Mentor and provide architectural guidance to multiple teams building innovative applications. • Engage with business stakeholders to understand required capabilities, integrating business knowledge with technical solutions 1/17 – 1/19 RES Americas Broomfield, CO Director of IT, Americas • Responsible for controlling and monitoring performance across the project management team for all aspects of an assigned project • Set the IT Project Management teams priorities and check work performance periodically • End-to-end responsibility for the IT function in the Americas. Functions include service delivery, networking and operations, enterprise architecture, PMO, and software development • Direct management of 24 staff, accountability for $6M budget • Major restructure of the IT organization into a globally aligned and scalable function with clear job descriptions, performance expectations and career paths • Management of $3M project portfolio, as well as identification and initiation of major business-value driven projects with business cases ranging from $100k to $8M in value • Business-aligned strategy and planning with both the Americas Executive Team and global IT and business leadership Service Desk Manager • Actively direct and manage the project life cycle from project kickoff through development, deployment, User Acceptance Testing support and launch • Monitor the progress of the project and make adjustments as necessary to ensure the successful completion of the project • Managed IT procurement for contracts, vendors, PO’s, etc. • Ground-up rebuilding of the service delivery capability resulting in massively improved service to IT customers, establishing clear roles and accountabilities, standard processes and tools (+- 1400 users domestically, 2000 users globally) • Delivered a global application support desk (ServiceNow) from pilot to operational service, resulting in significant staff rationalization and simplification of service • Introduced customer satisfaction surveys for evaluation and trending of performance. Improved measured customer service by 20% • Acted as discipline leader and coach for all global IT service management staff • Interface with internal IT Services groups on the requirements / impacts of operational issues, architectural directions, project deliverables, strategic initiatives • Interface with business units external to IT Services on the delivery into projects, operational assistance and support and reviewing level service being delivered • Developed and managed IT SLA’s and scorecards to improve IT services • Improved and managed user communication process 04/12 – 12/16 Markwest Energy Denver, CO Service Delivery Supervisor • Effectively lead team ensuring good cross-functional communications and provide input to functional managers on team and team member performance • Assists with tracking, monitoring and reporting project progress • Assist Project Managers and Senior Project Managers to manage their projects like scheduling and organizing meetings • Attended regular M&A meetings with internal management

and helped to facilitate discussion and answer questions regarding project status • Implemented ITIL processes to improve service delivery performance (including full verification of Sox C12 Compliance). • Managed and improved IT asset and license management with savings of 300k a year. • Manage, guide and mentor technical teams specializing in various enterprise technologies delivering design, build, test, and support services across local and global locations. • Managed service desk to support multiple offices, 2000 users o Boosted first call resolution from 50% to 90% in 6 months by implementing and achieving Service Level Agreements (SLAs) o Implemented incident management solutions with life cycle accountability, status, and tracking to increase service and IT value to the business units. • Governed IT plans and projects to develop and deploy infrastructure hardware and software solutions nationwide. 01/08 – 4/12 Mine Safety Appliance Pittsburgh, PA Desktop Support Lead Technician • Provide desktop and laptop support for system refresh project, supported users on setting up multiple network printers, managed hardware and software failures • Provided maintenance and user support for numerous devices and operating systems including Windows XP/7, Microsoft Office, iPhone/iPad/Android/Blackberry • Upgraded and prepare Dell computer systems for Windows 7 migration 06/07 – 01/08 LANtek Pittsburgh, PA IT Field Technician Implemented technical support for software, hardware, and connectivity issues for windows enterprise environment. Rendered timely resolutions to support mission-critical application users Installed, configured and modified hardware and software to ensure optimal performance 11/05-01/08 Xilinx Longmont, CO Applications Support • Provide second-level application software support for multiple products. Analyze system errors and troubleshoot network, server, and database errors. Document system bugs; report to Development team • Identify and find solutions for specific customer issues related to the Xilinx software suite (ISE), including design entry and all tools to implement the design in hardware • Ensured reported issues were resolved more quickly by documenting and tracking application issues, using Agile Methodology, as well as by participating in scrum meetings, which assisted with prioritization of issues 4/96 – 4/2000 United States Navy Virginia Beach, VA • Plane Captain, F-14 Tomcat / F-18 Super Hornet Squadron, on Theodore Roosevelt, Carrier Airwing 8 • Led over 40 deployments to various operations and conflicts around the world. Awarded the Navy Achievement Medal by senior leaders for superior performance. • Planned, scheduled, and organized use and maintenance of aerospace vehicles, engines and aerospace equipment to meet war time tasking and training mission schedules.

Certification(s):

ITIL Practitioner Microsoft Azure Foundations

How are you involved in your community?:

I actively engage in my community by attending local events, coaching youth sports, and supporting various campaigns.

List your interests and activities.:

Information Technology & Leadership – Strategy, governance, system integration (like Fluxx & Intacct), and dashboard tools. Website Development & Content Strategy – Crafting mission-driven content for consulting, mission services, and 'About Us' pages. Health Equity & Community Engagement – Supporting initiatives focused on improving health outcomes and addressing systemic inequities. Project Management & Organizational Strategy – Assisting with governance committee communications, site redesign, and IT updates.

Do you presently serve in any other appointed position on a board, commission or committee?:

No

If yes, enter the board name and position:

N/A

Are you currently a member and seeking reappointment on the board you are applying for?:

No

Why do you desire this appointment?:

I am seeking this appointment to actively support veterans and give back to my community. I am passionate about the work I take on and believe I can make a meaningful, positive impact.

How much time do you anticipate being able to spend on this appointment each month?:

20 hours

Do you have any conflicts of interest that should be disclosed?:

No

If yes, please explain:

NA

Reference 1: Full Name, Phone Number and Address:

Johnny Watson [redacted]

Reference 2: Full Name, Phone Number and Address:

Doris Gains Aurora, CO [redacted]

Reference 3: Full Name, Phone Number and Address:

Lew Spelgatti [redacted]

How did you hear about us?:

Word of Mouth;Other

By clicking APPLY and submitting this application, I certify that the forgoing information is true and correct.:

Iman Watson

Time of Submission: 03/05/25 4:55:33 PM

Attachments

- DD214.pdf

Veterans Affairs Commission

Applicant Package - Ward II

Veterans Affairs Commission - Ward II

Term 01 Jul 2023 - 30 Jun 2026
Positions Available 1

Number of applicants in this package 1

- Watkins, Mary Melissa

Received: 5/30/2024
Ward II Resident & Registered Voter
Arapahoe County
Vetted on 5/30/2024

Marcus Bond

Name: Watkins, Mary Melissa

Address: [redacted]

Email: [redacted]

Board Name: Veterans Affairs Commission

Date of Birth:

[redacted]

Home Phone Number:

[redacted]

Work Phone Number:

none

How long have you lived in Aurora?:

3 years

Are you registered to vote? :

Yes

Years of Education Completed:

16

Degree(s) Received:

BA Education

College(s) Attended:

Memphis State University

Employer Name:

Retired

Employer Address:

none

Current Position:

none

Years with Current Employer:

12

Work Experience:

1992-1996 - Fighter Squadron Adjutant/Section Commander (F-15E Strike Eagle)/335th Fighter Squadron Seymour Johnson AFB NC; 1996-1998 - Command Post Controller/43rd Composite Wing Pope AFB NC 1998-2001 - Intelligence Plans Officer (Combat Targeteer/Weaponeer/Electronic Warfare) 5th Air Force Yokota AB Japan; 2001-2005 - Intelligence Officer 4th Fighter Wing SJAFB NC; 2005-2007 - Air Expeditionary Force Center Intelligence Mobility Officer Langley AFB; 2007-2009 - Air Combat Command A9 Lessons Learned Intelligence Officer Langley AFB VA 2009-2012 - 4th Fighter Wing Special Security Officer (SSO) SJAFB NC Identify names of post or areas you served: 1995-96 Protocol Officer - Operation Southern Watch – Saudi Arabia 1997 Protocol Officer - Exercise Ulchi Focus Lens – South Korea 1999-00 Intelligence Watch Officer - Operation Iraqi Freedom – Saudi Arabia 2004-05 Commander, Intelligence Flight – Operation Iraqi Freedom –Qatar

Certification(s):

See DD214

How are you involved in your community?:

See below

List your interests and activities.:

2024 – Pres – Volunteer, Retiree Activities Office, Buckley SFB, CO 2023 – Pres – Receptionist and Resources Volunteer, Arapahoe County Veterans Service Office, Denver CO 2022 – 2024 – Finance Officer and House & Planning Chair, American Legion LCW Post 1, Denver CO 2022 - Pres - Media Manager, American Legion LCW Post 1, Denver CO 2023 – Chair, Finance Committee, American Legion Department of Colorado, Denver CO 2023 – Pres – President, American LCW Post 1 Riders Chapter, Denver CO 2023 – Pres – Board Finance Officer, Culinary Arts Bootcamp for Veterans (501c19), Denver CO 2016 – 2021 – Finance Officer & Adjutant, American Legion Wayne Post 11, Goldsboro NC 2018 – 2021 – County Chair & Precinct Chair, Wayne County Veterans Board, Wayne NC 2015 – 2020 – President & Public Affairs, Wayne County Veterans & Patriots Coalition, Inc, Wayne NC 2014 – 2017 – Receptionist & Substitute Teacher, Wayne Country Day School, Goldsboro NC 1997 – Pres – Private Genealogist (hobby)

Do you presently serve in any other appointed position on a board, commission or committee?:

Yes

If yes, enter the board name and position:

Financial Officer - Culinary Arts Boot Camp for Veterans

Are you currently a member and seeking reappointment on the board you are applying for?:

No

Why do you desire this appointment?:

Give back to my Veterans

How much time do you anticipate being able to spend on this appointment each month?:

20 hrs

Do you have any conflicts of interest that should be disclosed?:

No

If yes, please explain:

No

Reference 1: Full Name, Phone Number and Address:

Annette Johnson – [redacted]

Reference 2: Full Name, Phone Number and Address:

Frank McCurdy – [redacted]

Reference 3: Full Name, Phone Number and Address:

Joshua Medina – [redacted]

How did you hear about us?:

Word of Mouth

By clicking APPLY and submitting this application, I certify that the forgoing information is true and correct.:

YES - Mary Melissa N Watkins

Time of Submission: 05/30/24 9:35:43 AM

Attachments

- WatkinsDD214.pdf

CITY OF AURORA
Council Agenda Commentary

Item Title: Consideration to Appoint One (1) Youth Member to the Aurora Youth Commission
Item Initiator: Kadee Rodriguez, City Clerk
Staff Source/Legal Source: Kadee Rodriguez, City Clerk / Tim Joyce, Assistant City Attorney
Outside Speaker: N/A
Strategic Outcome: Connected and Engaged: Providing programming, learning resources, and amenities that reflect the rich history and contributions of our vibrant communities.

COUNCIL MEETING DATES:

Study Session: 8/25/2025

Regular Meeting: 9/8/2025

2nd Regular Meeting (if applicable): N/A

Item requires a Public Hearing: ☐ Yes ☒ No

ITEM DETAILS *(Click in highlighted area below bullet point list to enter applicable information.)*

- Waiver of reconsideration requested, and if so, why
- Sponsor name
- Staff source name and title / Legal source name and title
- Outside speaker name and organization
- Estimated time: (For Study Session items only indicate combined time needed for presentation and discussion)

Kadee Rodriguez, City Clerk / Tim Joyce, Assistant City Attorney

ACTIONS(S) PROPOSED *(Check all appropriate actions)*

☐ Approve Item and Move Forward to Study Session

☒ Approve Item and Move Forward to Regular Meeting

☐ Information Only

☐ Approve Item as Proposed at Policy Committee

☐ Approve Item as Proposed at Study Session

☐ Approve Item as Proposed at Regular Meeting

☐ Approve Item with Waiver of Reconsideration
Reason for waiver is described in the Item Details field above.

PREVIOUS ACTIONS OR REVIEWS:

Policy Committee Name: N/A

Policy Committee Date: N/A

Action Taken/Follow-up: ***(Check all that apply)***

☐ Recommends Approval ☐ Does Not Recommend Approval

☐ Forwarded Without Recommendation ☐ Minutes Not Available

☐ Minutes Attached

HISTORY *(Dates reviewed by City council, Policy Committees, Boards and Commissions, or Staff. Summarize pertinent comments. ATTACH MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS, POLICY COMMITTEES AND BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS.)*

The Aurora Youth Commission's role is to advise City Council, the City Manager and the Director of the Department of Parks, Recreation & Open Space regarding the interests of youth in Aurora. The Commission's mission is to better the well-being of Aurora's youth through representation, service and action.

The Aurora Youth Commission consists of twenty-two (22) members; sixteen (16) members between the ages of 14-20, and six (6) members must be twenty-one years of age or older. The term length is two (2) years, and members may serve up to four (4) terms. All eligible applications received within the last year are forwarded to the Commission to be considered for interviews.

ITEM SUMMARY *(Brief description of item, discussion, key points, recommendations, etc.)*

The Aurora Youth Commission currently has six (6) upcoming youth member vacancies and three (3) adult member vacancies. The Commission received one (1) application and an interview was conducted on May 5, 2025 for the upcoming youth vacancies.

Among the applicant(s) were:
Whitaker Heagerty - Youth

Upon conducting the interview, the Aurora Youth Commission respectfully recommends the appointment of the following candidate:

Whitaker Heagerty (Youth) – 1st term beginning 8/1/2025 ending on 7/31/2027

FISCAL IMPACT

Select all that apply. (If no fiscal impact, click that box and skip to "Questions for Council")

☐ Revenue Impact ☐ Budgeted Expenditure Impact ☐ Non-Budgeted Expenditure Impact
☐ Workload Impact ☒ No Fiscal Impact

REVENUE IMPACT
Provide the revenue impact or N/A if no impact. (What is the estimated impact on revenue? What funds would be impacted? Provide additional detail as necessary.)

N/A

BUDGETED EXPENDITURE IMPACT
Provide the budgeted expenditure impact or N/A if no impact. (List Org/Account # and fund. What is the amount of budget to be used? Does this shift existing budget away from existing programs/services? Provide additional detail as necessary.)

N/A

NON-BUDGETED EXPENDITURE IMPACT
Provide the non-budgeted expenditure impact or N/A if no impact. (Provide information on non-budgeted costs. Include Personal Services, Supplies and Services, Interfund Charges, and Capital needs. Provide additional detail as necessary.)

N/A

WORKLOAD IMPACT

Provide the workload impact or N/A if no impact. (Will more staff be needed or is the change absorbable? If new FTE(s) are needed, provide numbers and types of positions, and a duty summary. Provide additional detail as necessary.)

N/A

QUESTIONS FOR COUNCIL

Does Council wish to support the appointment of Whitaker Heagerty to the Aurora Youth Commission?

LEGAL COMMENTS

All boards and commissions shall be appointed by City Council. (City Charter, art III, sec. 3-11 and art. IX, sec. 9-1). The Aurora Youth Commission shall consist of twenty-two (22) voting members. Of the voting members, sixteen (16) members shall be ages 14 through 20. Six (6) members shall be adults of the age of 21 or over. The composition of the Commission shall represent school districts, private schools, and home school participation to the extent possible through the nomination process. Commission members must be residents of the City, except that any student currently enrolled in a secondary school within the City is a qualified member regardless of their city of residence. Each commissioner serves a two-year term. (Aurora, Colo. Code § 2-902). Each commissioner may serve a maximum of four consecutive terms. (Resolution R2013-03). (TJoyce)

MEMORANDUM

City of Aurora

AuroraGov.org

To: Mayor Coffman and Members of City Council

From: David Wagner, Staff Liaison/Supervisor of Youth Services, Aurora Youth Commission

Through: Marcus Bond, City Clerk Analyst
Brian Green, Director, Parks, Recreation and Open Space Department
Wynter Stieger, Acting Recreation Services Manager, Recreation Division, PROS
Donna Hunt, Superintendent of Youth Services, Recreation Programs, PROS

Date: May 9th, 2025

Subject: New Appointment to the Aurora Youth Commission

Board or Commission Name: Aurora Youth Commission

Number of Vacancies: 6 Upcoming Youth, 3 Adults

Interview Information

Date of Interviews: May 5th, 2025

Applicant Names: Whitaker Heagerty

Applicants Interviewed: 1 youth

Recommendation

Suggested Appointment: Whitaker Heagerty

Summary: Whitaker is an incoming junior Cherokee Trails High School who is motivated by a strong belief in equity and fair treatment for all youth. He has experience volunteering at a local summer camp and is currently teaching coding to local youth. While still exploring civic engagement opportunities, he is eager to contribute wherever needed. Described by peers as kind, funny, and approachable, Whitaker brings a positive attitude and strong interpersonal skills to collaborative settings.

The Aurora Youth Commission strongly supports the appointment of Whitaker Heagerty as a member of the Aurora Youth Commission.

Aurora Youth Commission

Applicant Package - Ward VI

Aurora Youth Commission - Ward VI

Term 01 Aug 2024 - 31 Jul 2026
Positions Available 3

Number of applicants in this package 1

- Heagerty, Whitaker

Received: 04/29/2025
Ward VI Student & Aurora High School Student
Arapahoe County
Vetted: 04/30/2025
Marcus Bond

Name: Heagerty, Whitaker

Address: [redacted]

Email: [redacted]

Board Name: Aurora Youth Commission

Date of Birth:
[redacted]

Home Phone Number:
[redacted]

Work Phone Number:
[redacted]

How long have you lived in Aurora?:
6 Years

Are you registered to vote?:

No

Years of Education Completed:
Through 9th Grade

Degree(s) Received:
N/A

College(s) Attended:
N/A

Employer Name:
The Coder School

Employer Address:
20269 E Smoky Hill Rd L, Centennial, CO 80015

Current Position:
Instructor

Years with Current Employer:
9 months

Work Experience:
I've only worked with the coder school

Certification(s):
N/A

How are you involved in your community?:
I would like to be more involved, which is why I'm looking to join the Aurora Youth Commission

List your interests and activities.:
I like to play videogames and skateboard

Do you presently serve in any other appointed position on a board, commission or committee?:

No

If yes, enter the board name and position:

N/A

Are you currently a member and seeking reappointment on the board you are applying for?:

No

Why do you desire this appointment?:
I'm looking to build my resume, and I'd like to get more involved in my community.

How much time do you anticipate being able to spend on this appointment each month?:
Around 5 hours, could be flexible.

Do you have any conflicts of interest that should be disclosed?:

Yes

If yes, please explain:
Work schedule, but my first Thursdays each month should be available.

Reference 1: Full Name, Phone Number and Address:
Garth Heagerty, [redacted]

Reference 2: Full Name, Phone Number and Address:
Derek, owner of the Coder School,[redacted]

Reference 3: Full Name, Phone Number and Address:
I could provide a teacher reference if required.

How did you hear about us?:

Other

By clicking APPLY and submitting this application, I certify that the forgoing information is true and correct:
Whitaker Heagerty

Time of Submission: 04/29/25 6:44:34 PM

Attachments

- Whitaker Heagerty Report Card.pdf

CITY OF AURORA
Council Agenda Commentary

Item Title: Second Amendment to an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) to Drainage and Flood Control Improvements for Sampson and Robinson Gulch Regional Pond
Item Initiator: Amie Drucker, Senior Engineer, Aurora Water
Staff Source/Legal Source: Andrea Long, Principal Engineer, Aurora Water/Ian Best, Assistant City Attorney
Outside Speaker: N/A
Strategic Outcome: Well-Managed: High performing organization, committed to great customer service, innovation, continuous improvement, fiscal stewardship, and maintaining critical infrastructure.

COUNCIL MEETING DATES:

Study Session: N/A

Regular Meeting: 9/8/2025

2nd Regular Meeting (if applicable): N/A

Item requires a Public Hearing: ☐ Yes ☒ No

ITEM DETAILS *(Click in highlighted area below bullet point list to enter applicable information.)*

- Waiver of reconsideration requested, and if so, why
- Sponsor name
- Staff source name and title / Legal source name and title
- Outside speaker name and organization
- Estimated time: (For Study Session items only indicate combined time needed for presentation and discussion)

R2025- A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, EXPRESSING THE AURORA CITY COUNCIL'S SUPPORT OF A SECOND AMENDMENT TO THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF AURORA COLORADO ACTING BY AND THROUGH ITS UTILITY ENTERPRISE AND URBAN DRAINAGE AND FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT D/B/A MILE HIGH FLOOD DISTRICT REGARDING DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF DRAINAGE AND FLOOD CONTROL IMPROVEMENTS FOR SAMPSON/ROBINSON GULCH REGIONAL POND
Andrea Long, Principal Engineer, Aurora Water / Ian Best, Assistant City Attorney

ACTIONS(S) PROPOSED *(Check all appropriate actions)*

☐ Approve Item and Move Forward to Study Session
☐ Approve Item and Move Forward to Regular Meeting
☐ Information Only
☐ Approve Item with Waiver of Reconsideration
Reason for waiver is described in the Item Details field above.

☐ Approve Item as Proposed at Policy Committee
☐ Approve Item as Proposed at Study Session
☒ Approve Item as Proposed at Regular Meeting

PREVIOUS ACTIONS OR REVIEWS:

Policy Committee Name: Water Policy

Policy Committee Date: 8/20/2025

Action Taken/Follow-up: ***(Check all that apply)***

☒ Recommends Approval

☐ Does Not Recommend Approval

☐ Forwarded Without Recommendation

☒ Minutes Not Available

☐ Minutes Attached

HISTORY *(Dates reviewed by City council, Policy Committees, Boards and Commissions, or Staff. Summarize pertinent comments. ATTACH MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS, POLICY COMMITTEES AND BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS.)*

On May 15, 2024, the Water Policy Committee supported moving an Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Aurora and the Mile High Flood District for drainage and flood control improvements to the Sampson/Robinson Gulch Regional Pond forward to Study Session.

On June 24, 2024, City Council approved an Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Aurora and the Mile High Flood District for drainage and flood control improvements to the Sampson/Robinson Gulch Regional Pond as item 11.a.3.

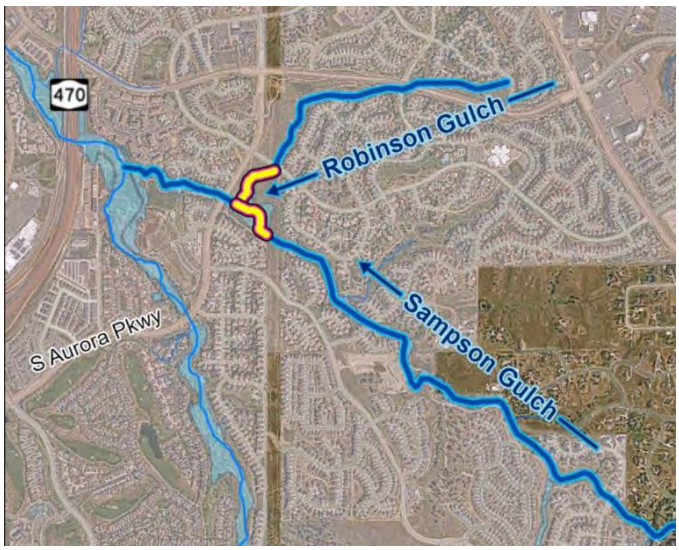
On November 20, 2024 the Water Policy Committee supported moving the first amendment to an Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Aurora acting by and through its Utility Enterprise and the Mile High Flood District regarding final design and construction of drainage and flood control improvements for Sampson/Robinson Gulch Regional Pond forward to the next Council meeting.

On December 16, 2024, City Council approved the first amendment to an Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Aurora and the Mile High Flood District for drainage and flood control improvements to the Sampson/Robinson Gulch Regional Pond as item 11.a.2.

On August 20, 2025, the Water Policy Committee supported moving the second amendment to an Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Aurora and the Mile High Flood Distruct for drainage and flood control improvements to the Sampson/Robinson Gulch Regional Pond forward to the September 8, 2025 Coucil Meeting.

ITEM SUMMARY *(Brief description of item, discussion, key points, recommendations, etc.)*

Background
In 2000, a regional wet-bottom pond was constructed at the confluence of Sampson Gulch and Robinson Gulch, just east of Red-Tailed Hawk Park. The facility was built in such a way that made maintenance very difficult, only allowing for access from the top of the structure. This prohibits larger machinery from being able to remove vegetation and debris. The current condition of the pond is very silted with a nearly clogged trash rack at the outlet structure.



Scope
To return the pond to its full detention capacity, this project will remove all sediment from the bottom of the basin and forebays. The outlet structure will be redesigned to facilitate safer and easier maintenance access in the future. Mile High Flood District (MHFD) will be the lead managing this project. Design has been completed with construction following in Q4 2025. This amendment is being processed now to avoid downtime in the construction schedule.

Budget
The original intergovernmental agreement facilitated MHFD to internally transfer $50,326.13 in maintenance funds which Aurora pays into and has the previous contribution noted to this capital project and $100,000 each from Aurora Water and MHFD.
Amendment one added $500,000 to the construction budget, $250,000 from both Aurora Water and MHFD. This amendment allows for the addition of $200,000 to the construction budget from Aurora Water. MHFD will match this contribution in 2026. Aurora Water will be paying MHFD from ORG 52599 from the 2025 budget.
One additional amendment will be required in 2026 to fully fund the project.

FISCAL IMPACT

Select all that apply. (If no fiscal impact, click that box and skip to "Questions for Council")

☐ Revenue Impact ☒ Budgeted Expenditure Impact ☐ Non-Budgeted Expenditure Impact
☐ Workload Impact ☐ No Fiscal Impact

REVENUE IMPACT
Provide the revenue impact or N/A if no impact. (What is the estimated impact on revenue? What funds would be impacted? Provide additional detail as necessary.)

N/A

BUDGETED EXPENDITURE IMPACT
Provide the budgeted expenditure impact or N/A if no impact. (List Org/Account # and fund. What is the amount of budget to be used? Does this shift existing budget away from existing programs/services? Provide additional detail as necessary.)

Funding will be from the Wastewater Fund capital budget in the amount of $200,000 (50% of the total project cost of $400,000).

CC-52599 (Detention Ponds-Improvements)
SC-64947 (IGA Payments)

NON-BUDGETED EXPENDITURE IMPACT
Provide the non-budgeted expenditure impact or N/A if no impact. (Provide information on non-budgeted costs. Include Personal Services, Supplies and Services, Interfund Charges, and Capital needs. Provide additional detail as necessary.)

N/A

WORKLOAD IMPACT

Provide the workload impact or N/A if no impact. (Will more staff be needed or is the change absorbable? If new FTE(s) are needed, provide numbers and types of positions, and a duty summary. Provide additional detail as necessary.)

N/A

QUESTIONS FOR COUNCIL

Does the Council approve the second amendment to an Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Aurora and the Mile High Flood Distruct for drainage and flood control improvements to the Sampson/Robinson Gulch Regional Pond?

LEGAL COMMENTS

The City is authorized to cooperate and contract with any political subdivision of the State of Colorado, to provide any function, service, or facility lawfully authorized to each of the contracting or cooperating units of government (Article XIV of the Colorado Constitution and C.R.S. 29-1-203). The City Charter authorizes the City by resolution to enter into contracts or agreements with other governmental units, including special districts, for the joint use of buildings, equipment or facilities or for furnishing or receiving commodities and services. (Charter Section 10-12). (Best)

RESOLUTION NO. R2025- ____

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, EXPRESSING THE AURORA CITY COUNCIL'S SUPPORT OF A SECOND AMENDMENT TO THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF AURORA COLORADO ACTING BY AND THROUGH ITS UTILITY ENTERPRISE AND URBAN DRAINAGE AND FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT D/B/A MILE HIGH FLOOD DISTRICT REGARDING DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF DRAINAGE AND FLOOD CONTROL IMPROVEMENTS FOR SAMPSON/ROBINSON GULCH REGIONAL POND

WHEREAS, the City of Aurora, acting by and through its Utility Enterprise ("Aurora Water"), and the Urban Drainage and Flood Control District d/b/a Mile High Flood District ("District") have entered into an intergovernmental agreement Regarding Design and Construction of Drainage and Flood Control Improvements for Sampson/Robinson Gulch Regional Pond ("Intergovernmental Agreement"); and

WHEREAS, Parties now desire to proceed with the design and construction of drainage and flood control improvements for Sampson/Robinson Gulch Regional Pond ("Project") through a second amendment to the Intergovernmental Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the project costs funded through this second amendment to the Intergovernmental Agreement include construction by the District of the drainage and flood control improvements and maintenance funding ("Project Costs"); and

WHEREAS, Aurora Water's contribution to the Project Costs through this second amendment to the Intergovernmental Agreement shall be $200,000; and

WHEREAS, a summary of contributions to date is set forth in the table below:

	Previous Contribution	Contribution through this Second Amendment	Total Contribution
District	$376,542.00	$0	$376,542.00
Aurora Water	$373,784.13	$200,000.00	$573,784.13
TOTAL	$750,326.13	$200,000.00	$950,326.13

; and

WHEREAS, the work performed pursuant to the second amendment to the Intergovernmental Agreement is necessary for the health, safety, and welfare of the people of Aurora; and

WHEREAS, the City is authorized, pursuant to Article XIV of the Colorado Constitution and Section 29-1-203 of the Colorado Revised Statutes, to cooperate and contract with any

political subdivision of the State of Colorado, to provide any function, service, or facility lawfully authorized to each of the contracting or cooperating units of government; and

WHEREAS, Section 10-12 of the City Charter authorizes the City by resolution to enter into contracts or agreements with other governmental units, including special districts, for the joint use of buildings, equipment or facilities or for furnishing or receiving commodities and services.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, THAT:

Section 1. The second amendment to the Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Aurora acting by and through its Utility Enterprise and Urban Drainage and Flood Control District d/b/a Mile High Flood District regarding design and construction of drainage and flood control improvements for Sampson/Robinson Gulch Regional Pond is hereby approved.

Section 2. The Mayor and City Clerk are hereby authorized to execute the attached agreement in substantially the form presented at this meeting with such technical additions, deletions, and variations as may be deemed necessary or appropriate by the City Attorney.

Section 3. All resolutions or parts of resolutions of the City in conflict herewith are hereby rescinded.

RESOLVED AND PASSED this _____ day of _____ 2025.

_____
MIKE COFFMAN, Mayor

ATTEST:

_____
KADEE RODRIGUEZ, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

PETER A. SCHULTE, CITY ATTORNEY

By: Ian J Best RLA
IAN BEST, Assistant City Attorney

SECOND AMENDMENT TO
AGREEMENT REGARDING
DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION
OF DRAINAGE AND FLOOD CONTROL IMPROVEMENTS FOR
SAMPSON/ROBINSON GULCH REGIONAL POND

Agreement No. 24-04.23B
Project No. 110079

THIS SECOND AMENDMENT TO AGREEMENT (hereinafter called "SECOND AMENDMENT"), by and between URBAN DRAINAGE AND FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT D/B/A MILE HIGH FLOOD DISTRICT (hereinafter called "DISTRICT") and CITY OF AURORA (hereinafter called "CITY") and collectively known as "PARTIES";

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, PARTIES have entered into "Agreement Regarding Design and Construction of Drainage and Flood Control Improvements for Sampson/Robinson Gulch Regional Pond " (Agreement No. 24-04.23) dated July 16, 2024, as amended (hereinafter called "AGREEMENT"); and

WHEREAS, PARTIES now desire to proceed with the design and construction of drainage and flood control improvements for Sampson/Robinson Gulch Regional Pond (hereinafter called "PROJECT"); and

WHEREAS, PARTIES desire to increase the level of funding by $200,000.00; and

WHEREAS, DISTRICT's Board of Directors has authorized additional DISTRICT financial participation for PROJECT (Resolution No. 87, Series of 2024); and

WHEREAS, the CITY Council of CITY and the Board of Directors of DISTRICT have authorized, by appropriation or resolution, all of PROJECT costs of the respective PARTIES.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual promises contained herein, PARTIES hereto agree as follows:

1. Paragraph 1.04. PROJECT COSTS AND ALLOCATION OF COSTS is deleted and replaced as follows:

1.04. PROJECT COSTS AND ALLOCATION OF COSTS

A. PARTIES agree that for the purposes of this AGREEMENT, PROJECT costs shall consist of and be limited to the following:

1. Final design services;
2. Construction of improvements;
3. Contingencies mutually agreeable to PARTIES.

B. It is understood that PROJECT costs as defined above are not to exceed $950,326.13 without amendment to this AGREEMENT.

PROJECT costs for the various elements of the effort are estimated as follows:

	ITEM	AS AMENDED	PREVIOUSLY AMENDED
1.	Final Design	$ 200,000.00	$ 200,000.00
2.	Construction	$ 700,000.00	$ 500,000.00

3.	Contingency	$	50,326.13	$	50,326.13
	Grand Total	$	$950,326.13	$	750,326.13

This breakdown of costs is for estimating purposes only. Costs may vary between the various elements of the effort without amendment to this AGREEMENT provided the total expenditures do not exceed the maximum contribution by all PARTIES plus accrued interest.

C. Based on total PROJECT costs, the maximum percent and dollar contribution by each party shall be:

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUNDING				
	Percentage Share	Previously Contributed	Additional Contribution	Maximum Contribution
DISTRICT	38.89%	$350,000	-0-	$350,000
CITY	61.11%	$350,000	$200,000.00	$550,000
TOTAL	100.00%	$700,000.00	$200,000.00	$900,000

MAINTENANCE FUNDING				
	Percentage Share	Previously Contributed	Additional Contribution	Maximum Contribution
DISTRICT	52.7%	$26,542.00	$0	$26,542.00
CITY	47.3	$23,784.13	$0	$23,784.13
TOTAL	100%	$50,326.13	$0	$50,326.13

TOTAL FUNDING			
	CAPITAL	MAINTENANCE	TOTAL CONTRIBUTION
DISTRICT	$350,000.00	$26,542.00	$376,542.00
CITY	$550,000.00	$23,784.13	$573,784.13
TOTAL	$900,000.00	$50,326.13	$950,326.13

2. Paragraph 1.05. MANAGEMENT OF FINANCES

1.05. MANAGEMENT OF FINANCES

As set forth in DISTRICT policy (Resolution No. 11, Series of 1973, Resolution No. 49, Series of 1977, and Resolution No. 37, Series of 2009), the funding of a local body's full share may come from its own revenue sources or from funds received from state, federal or other sources of funding without limitation and without prior DISTRICT approval.

Payment of each PARTY's full share (CITY - $573,784.13; DISTRICT - $376,542.00) shall be made to DISTRICT subsequent to execution of this AGREEMENT and within 30 days of request for payment by DISTRICT. The payments by PARTIES shall be held by DISTRICT in a special fund to pay for increments of PROJECT as authorized by PARTIES, and as defined herein. DISTRICT shall provide a periodic accounting of PROJECT funds as well as a periodic notification to CITY of any unpaid obligations. Any interest earned by the monies contributed by PARTIES shall be accrued to the special fund established by DISTRICT for PROJECT and such interest shall be used only for PROJECT upon approval by the contracting officers (Section 2.03).

Within one year of completion of PROJECT if there are monies including interest earned remaining in excess of 10,000,which are not committed, obligated, or disbursed, each party shall be refunded proportional to the PARTY'S contribution; or, at PROJECT SPONSOR request, PROJECT SPONSOR share of remaining monies shall be transferred to another special fund held by DISTRICT.

3. All other terms and conditions of this AGREEMENT shall remain in full force and effect.

WHEREFORE, PARTIES hereto have caused this SECOND AMENDMENT to be executed by properly authorized signatories as of the date and year written below.

URBAN DRAINAGE AND FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT
D/B/A
MILE HIGH FLOOD DISTRICT

By_____

Name Laura A. Kroeger

Title Executive Director

Date_____

_____ Checked By

_____ Checked By

City of Aurora, Colorado
acting by and through its
Utility Enterprise

_____ _____
Mike Coffman, Mayor Date

Attest:

_____ _____
Kadee Rodriguez, City Clerk Date

Approved as to form for Aurora:

Ian J Best _____ 8/7/2025 25019986
Ian Best, Assistant City Attorney Date ACS #

State of Colorado)
) ss
County of Arapahoe)

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this _____ day of _____, 20___, by Mike Coffman, Mayor, acting on behalf of the Utility Enterprise of the City of Aurora, Colorado.

Witness my hand and official seal. _____
Notary Public

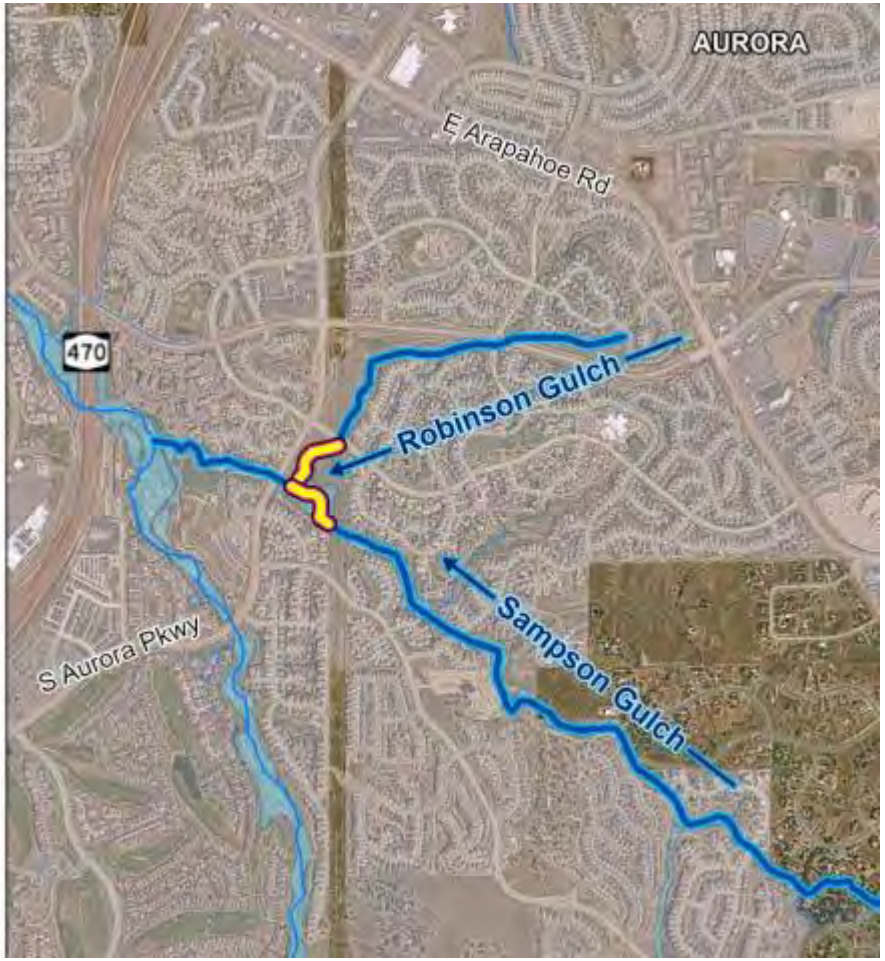
My commission expires: _____

(Seal)

Mile High Flood District IGA

Agreement between MHFD and Aurora

Sampson/Robinson Gulch Detention Pond



The project area is shown here in yellow – at the confluence of Sampson Gulch and Robinson Gulch.

Sampson/Robinson Gulch Detention Pond

This pond was built 24 years ago without consideration for safe and accessible maintenance access. It has become overgrown and silted over time, reducing the detention capacity.

This project will remove the sediment and reconstruct the outlet.

Sampson/Robinson Gulch Detention Pond

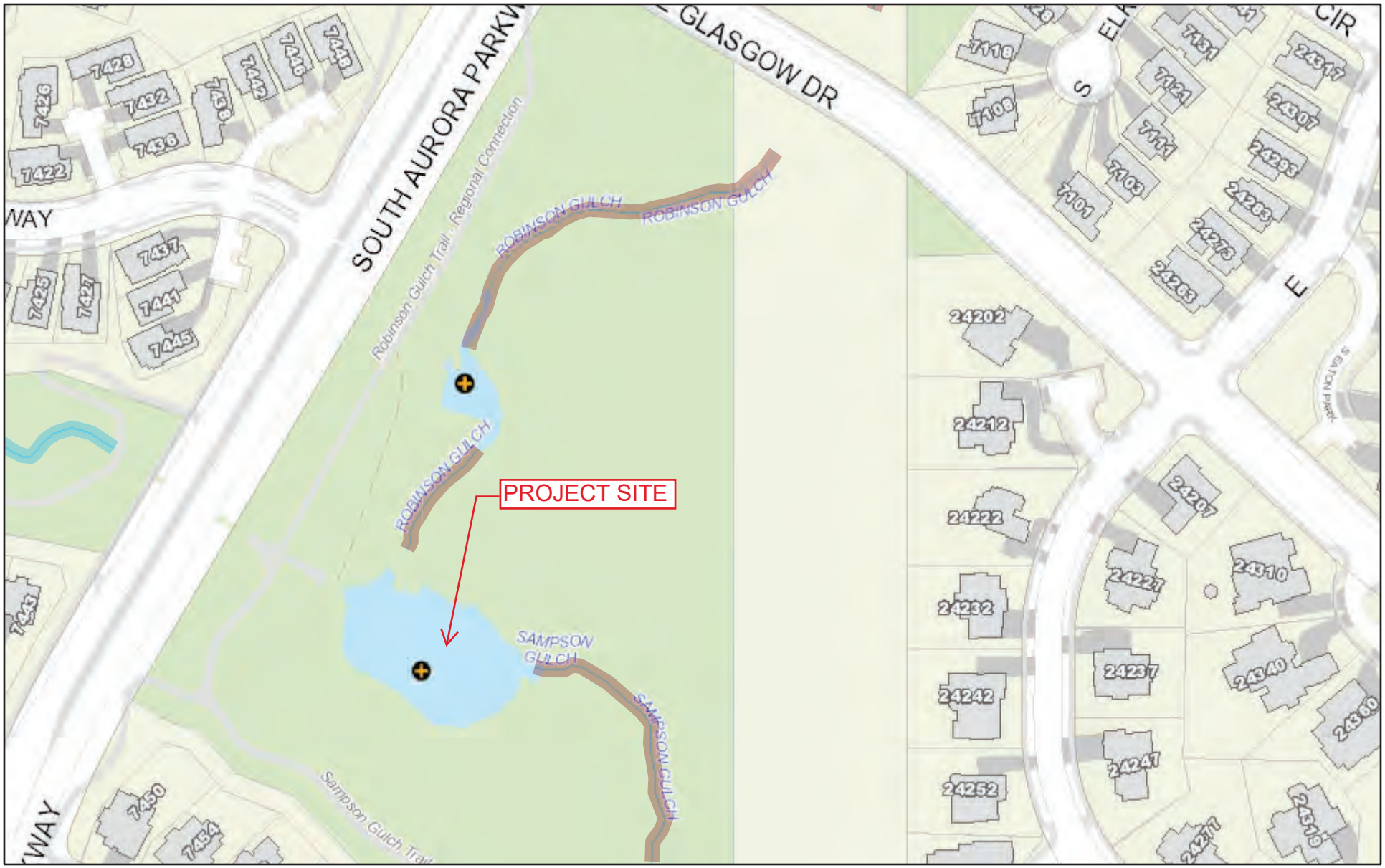
	Contribution through this IGA	Funds through previous IGA	Total
City of Aurora	$200,000	$373,784.13	$573,784.13
MHFD		$376,542.00	$376,542.00
Total			$950,326.13

This IGA amendment includes Aurora contributing $200,000 to fund the capital work. MHFD will match this contribution in 2026.
Due to budgetary constraints, one more amendment will be required in early 2026 to fund the final completion of the construction work.

Sampson/Robinson Gulch Detention Pond

Does the Water Policy Committee support moving this item forward to City Council?

Aurora Regional Detention Sediment Removal



10/17/2023, 9:16:55 AM

1:2,000

0 0.01 0.03 0.06 mi

0 0.03 0.06 0.11 km

City of Aurora

Storm Pond

Active Aurora Maintained Pond

Storm Open Channel

Active Aurora Channel

Creek

ArcGIS Web AppBuilder
City of Aurora | City of Aurora - GIS Editing Group |

Outcome: The Committee supports the Intergovernmental Agreement regarding Drainage and Flood Control Improvements on Coal Creek at Picadilly Road and forwarded to the next Study Session.

Follow-Up Action: The Intergovernmental Agreement regarding Drainage and Flood Control Improvements on Coal Creek at Picadilly Road will be forwarded to the next Study Session.

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4. Drainage and Flood Control Improvements for the Sampson/Robinson Gulch Regional Pond

Summary of Issue and Discussion: S. Scorza gave a presentation regarding an intergovernmental agreement between the Mile High Flood District (MHFD) and Aurora Water to return the Sampson Gulch and Robinson Gulch regional pond to its full detention capacity, this project will remove all sediment from the bottom of the basin and forebays. The outlet structure will be redesigned to facilitate safer and easier maintenance access in the future. MHFD will be the lead managing agency for this project. Design will occur in late Q2 2024 with construction anticipated in Q1 2025.

Outcome: The Committee supports the Intergovernmental Agreement regarding Drainage and Flood Control Improvements for the Sampson/Robinson Gulch Regional Pond and forwarded to the next Study Session.

Follow-Up Action: The Intergovernmental Agreement regarding Drainage and Flood Control Improvements for the Sampson/Robinson Gulch Regional Pond will be forwarded to the next Study Session.

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5. Harmony Flg 14 Reimbursement Agreement

Summary of Issue and Discussion: C. Woo gave a presentation on a reimbursement agreement with Melcor/TC Aurora LLC, the developer of the Harmony Phase 4 Subdivision. Harmony Phase 4 is located in Ward II, southeast of East Alameda Avenue and South Powhaton Road. This Agreement is for a thirty-six (36) inch transmission waterline within South Powhaton Road, extending from approximately East Alameda Avenue to East Exposition Avenue. The total not to exceed reimbursement amount is $1,668,311.90 to be paid in one lump sum following the acceptance of the regional improvements.

Outcome: The Committee supports the Harmony Flg 14 Reimbursement Agreement and forwarded to the next Council Meeting.

Follow-Up Action: The Harmony Flg 14 Reimbursement Agreement will be forwarded to the next Council Meeting.

MINUTES

Regular Meeting of the Aurora City Council

Monday, June 24, 2024

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:	Mayor Coffman Françoise Bergan Alison Coombs Curtis Gardner Stephanie Hancock Danielle Jurinsky	Angela Lawson Ruben Medina Crystal Murillo Steve Sundberg Dustin Zvonek

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1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Coffman reconvened the regular meeting of the City Council at 6:30 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Public call-in instructions were provided in both English and Spanish.

3. INVOCATION/MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mayor Coffman led in prayer for the June 24,2024 meeting.

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All Standing.

Mayor Coffman read a land acknowledgement.

5. EXECUTIVE SESSION UPDATE

None.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

None.

7. PROCLAMATIONS OR CEREMONIES

7.a Disability Pride Month

Mayor Coffman proclaimed the month of July 2024 as Disability Pride Month.

8. PUBLIC INVITED TO BE HEARD

(non-agenda related issues only)

The City Charter prescribes the Mayor may vote on resolutions and ordinances only to create or break a tie vote of Council Members present. The Mayor Pro-Tem is always permitted to vote on all items.

Kadee Rodriquez, City Clerk / Tim Joyce, Assistant City Attorney

10.c.4 Consideration to Appoint One (1) Member to the Library Board

Kadee Rodriguez, City Clerk / Tim Joyce, Assistant City Attorney

10.c.5 Consideration to Remove Two (2) Members from the Library Board

Kadee Rodriguez, City Clerk / Tim Joyce, Assistant City Attorney

10.c.6 Council Direct Appointment of One (1) Member to the Aurora Fox Arts Center Board

Sponsor: Danielle Jurinsky, Council Member

Kadee Rodriguez, City Clerk / Tim Joyce, Assistant City Attorney

Moved by: Stephanie Hancock

Second by: Crystal Murillo

Does Council with to continue this item to the July 8th Council Meeting?

Council Member Hancock requested supplemental information but did not receive it prior to the City Council meeting and would like to push until the next meeting.

Council Member Coombs requested information about permission of council members to make direct appointments as opposed to going through the staff and commission process.

Mayor Coffman noted that an interrogatory may be put in.

Voting Aye: (10): Mayor Coffman, Alison Coombs, Curtis Gardner, Stephanie Hancock, Danielle Jurinsky, Angela Lawson, Ruben Medina, Crystal Murillo, Steve Sundberg, and Dustin Zvonek

Absent: (1): Françoise Bergan

11. CONSENT CALENDAR - RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES

Any member of Council may request an item be removed from Consent Calendar and considered separately. Removed items are considered immediately following the adoption of the Consent Calendar.

Moved by: Dustin Zvonek

Second by: Stephanie Hancock

Does Council wish to approve the Resolutions and Ordinances Consent Calendar?

The City Charter prescribes the Mayor may vote on resolutions and ordinances only to create or break a tie vote of Council Members present. The Mayor Pro-Tem is always permitted to vote on all items.

Voting Aye: (9): Alison Coombs, Curtis Gardner, Stephanie Hancock, Danielle Jurinsky, Angela Lawson, Ruben Medina, Crystal Murillo, Steve Sundberg, and Dustin Zvonek

Absent: (1): Françoise Bergan

11.a Resolutions

11.a.1 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Korea Freedom Federation, the Korean War Memorial Monument Committee, and Seongnam City, Korea

R2024-70 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, ADOPTING A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE KOREA FREEDOM FEDERATION, THE KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL MONUMENT COMMITTEE OF THE CITY OF AURORA, AND SEONGNAM CITY, KOREA (AURORA'S SISTER CITY)

Sponsor: Mike Coffman, Mayor

Ricardo Gambetta, Manager of the Office of the International and Immigrant Affairs / Andrea Wood, Assistant City Attorney

11.a.2 Wyatt Ditch Water Rights Acquisition from Front Range Oil and Gas Water Services, LLC

R2024-71 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, APPROVING THE CONTRACT FOR PURCHASE OF WYATT DITCH WATER RIGHTS BETWEEN THE CITY OF AURORA ACTING BY AND THROUGH ITS UTILITY ENTERPRISE AND FRONT RANGE OIL AND GAS WATER SERVICES, LLC

Alexandra Davis, Assistant General Manager of Water Supply & Demand, Aurora Water / Ian Best, Assistant City Attorney

11.a.3 Drainage and Flood Control Improvements for Sampson and Robinson Gulch Regional Pond

R2024-72 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, EXPRESSING THE AURORA CITY COUNCIL'S SUPPORT OF AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO ACTING BY AND THROUGH ITS UTILITY ENTERPRISE AND THE URBAN DRAINAGE AND FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT, d/b/a MILE HIGH FLOOD DISTRICT REGARDING CONSTRUCTION OF FLOOD AND DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS FOR SAMPSON / ROBINSON GULCH REGIONAL POND

James DeHerrera, Planning Services Manager, Aurora Water / Ian Best, Assistant City Attorney

The City Charter prescribes the Mayor may vote on resolutions and ordinances only to create or break a tie vote of Council Members present. The Mayor Pro-Tem is always permitted to vote on all items.

11.a.4 Drainage and Flood Control Improvements for Coal Creek at Picadilly Road

R2024-73 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, EXPRESSING THE AURORA CITY COUNCIL'S SUPPORT OF AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO ACTING BY AND THROUGH ITS UTILITY ENTERPRISE AND THE URBAN DRAINAGE AND FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT, d/b/a MILE HIGH FLOOD DISTRICT REGARDING CONSTRUCTION OF FLOOD AND DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS FOR COAL CREEK AT PICADILLY ROAD

James DeHerrera, Planning Services Manager, Aurora Water / Ian Best, Assistant City Attorney

11.a.5 Universal Preschool Colorado Program Service Agreement

R2024-74 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, EXPRESSING THE AURORA CITY COUNCIL'S APPROVAL OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, ACTING BY AND THROUGH ITS RECREATION DIVISION IN THE PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE DEPARTMENT, AND THE STATE OF COLORADO FUNDING THE UNIVERSAL PRESCHOOL COLORADO PROGRAM

Donna Hunt, Superintendent of Youth Services, Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces / Tim Joyce, Assistant City Attorney

11.a.6 Memorial Park: Arapahoe County Open Spaces Funding Reimbursement

R2024-75 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, EXPRESSING THE AURORA CITY COUNCIL'S SUPPORT TO REIMBURSE THE ARAPAHOE COUNTY OPEN SPACE FUND TO DEVELOP THE COLORADO FREEDOM MEMORIAL CENTER

Nicole Ankeney, Planning, Design and Construction Manager, Parks, Recreation and Open Space / Tim Joyce, Assistant City Attorney

11.a.7 Cherry Creek School District and Aurora Police Intergovernmental Agreement

R2024-76 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, APPROVING THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEEMENT BETWEEN THE CHERRY CREEK SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5 AND THE CITY OF AURORA REGARDING SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS

Regan Pena, Police Chief of Staff / Megan Platt, Assistant City Attorney

The City Charter prescribes the Mayor may vote on resolutions and ordinances only to create or break a tie vote of Council Members present. The Mayor Pro-Tem is always permitted to vote on all items.

Outcome: The consent items were supported as presented.

Follow-Up Action: None.

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3. Consideration to Appoint one (1) Member to the Metro Water Recovery District Board

Summary of Issue and Discussion: M. Brown gave a presentation of the appointment of Cat Olukotun to the Metro Water Recovery District Board from January 2025 through June 2025 to complete Greg Baker's term due to his retirement in December 2024.

Outcome: The Committee supports moving the appointment of one (1) member to the Metro Water Recovery District Board forward to Study Session.

Follow-Up Action: The appointment of one (1) member to the Metro Water Recovery District Board will be forwarded to the next Study Session.

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4. Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission Lease Extension Intergovernmental Agreement

Summary of Issue and Discussion: R. Kienitz gave a presentation on an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission for a one-year extension of a water lease between Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) and Aurora Water, assumed by Aurora Water in connection with its recent (2024) Arkansas Basin acquisition. The extension also allows CPW to manage hunting access on Aurora Water's property (as shown on the Council map), a historically permitted activity.

Outcome: The Committee supports moving and IGA with the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission for a Lease Extension forward to Study Session.

Follow-Up Action: The IGA with the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission for a Lease Extension will be forwarded to the next Study Session.

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5. Amendment to an Intergovernmental Agreement with Mile High Flood District for the Sampson/Robinson Gulch Regional Pond

Summary of Issue and Discussion: S. Scorza gave a presentation on an amendment to an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with Mile High Flood District (MHFD) for the Sampson/Robinson Gulch Regional Pond to return the pond to its full detention capacity from ongoing issues related to vegetation and debris clogging the outlet structure. This project will remove all sediment from the bottom of the basin and forebays. The outlet structure will be redesigned to facilitate safer and easier maintenance access in the future.

CM Bergan asked, the pond was built 24 years ago and was not built appropriately, did a developer build the detention pond? S. Scorza responded, the pond was built appropriately for the time, however, the amount of sediment that has come through and the type of access now needed has changed from 24 years ago. The structure that is there is no longer compatible with how we currently operate. CM Bergan asked, would possible future problems for new ponds be mitigated by the city and Mile High Flood District? M. Brown responded, there are two different types of ownership for ponds, the first are private ponds that are maintained by homeowner's associations (HOA's) or Metro Districts and regional ponds which are often built by developers are conveyed to public entities for ownership and maintenance. Those public entities are typically the City of Aurora or Mile High Flood District. S. Young added, we have allowed some Metro Districts to maintain regional ponds with agreements that outline strict maintenance criteria and plans. M. Brown continued; the maintenance criteria have become more clearly defined over the past few decades.

Outcome: The Committee supports moving an Amendment to an IGA with Mile High Flood District for the Sampson/Robinson Gulch Regional Pond to the next Council meeting.

Follow-Up Action: The Amendment to an IGA with Mile High Flood District for the Sampson/Robinson Gulch Regional Pond will be forwarded to the next Council meeting.

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6. Amendment to an Intergovernmental Agreement with Denver Water for the Strontia Springs Access Improvement Project

Summary of Issue and Discussion: M. Allsopp gave a presentation for an amendment to an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with Denver Water for the the Strontia Springs Access Improvement Project which is required to improve the safety of access and operations along the Upper Access Road between the Strontia Springs Reservoir Outlet Towers and boat dock ramp. This amendment will increase Aurora Water's contribution due to changes in the project scope and unforeseen geotechnical issues encountered during construction.

Outcome: The Committee supports moving an Amendment to an IGA with Denver Water for the Strontia Springs Access Improvement Project forward to the next Council meeting.

Follow-Up Action: The Amendment to an IGA with the Denver Water for the Strontia Springs Access Improvement Project will be forwarded to the next Council meeting.

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7. Intergovernmental Agreement with Arapahoe County for the Highline Canal Use and Maintenance

Summary of Issue and Discussion: S. Young gave an update that we are no longer asking for approval on this item as Arapahoe County is not willing to negotiate on the proposed easement and license agreement language and therefore it is not in the best interest of Aurora to proceed with the sewer line.

MINUTES

Regular Meeting of the Aurora City Council

Monday, December 16, 2024

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:	Mayor Coffman	Danielle Jurinsky
	Françoise Bergan	Angela Lawson
	Alison Coombs	Ruben Medina
	Curtis Gardner	Crystal Murillo
	Stephanie Hancock	Steve Sundberg

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1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Coffman reconvened the regular meeting of the City Council at 6:30 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

3. INVOCATION/MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mayor Coffman led in prayer for the December 16, 2024 meeting.

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

(All Standing)

Mayor Coffman read a land acknowledgment.

5. EXECUTIVE SESSION UPDATE

None.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

6.a December 2, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Moved by: Steve Sundberg

Second by: Françoise Bergan

Does Council wish to approve the minutes of the 12/02/2024 meeting?

Voting Aye: (10): Mayor Coffman, Françoise Bergan, Alison Coombs, Curtis Gardner, Stephanie Hancock, Danielle Jurinsky, Angela Lawson, Ruben Medina, Crystal Murillo, and Steve Sundberg

7. PROCLAMATIONS OR CEREMONIES

8. PUBLIC INVITED TO BE HEARD

10.c.2 Consideration to Reappoint One (1) Member and to Appoint Two (2) Members to the Commission for Older Adults

Kadee Rodriguez, City Clerk / Tim Joyce, Assistant City Attorney

10.c.3 Consideration to Appoint One (1) Member to the Veterans Affairs Commission

Kadee Rodriguez, City Clerk / Tim Joyce, Assistant City Attorney

10.c.4 Consideration to Appoint One (1) Member to the Metro Water Recovery District Board

Marshall Brown, General Manager, Aurora Water / Ian Best, Assistant City Attorney

10.c.5 Consideration to Appoint Nine (9) Members to the Infrastructure Task Force

Sponsor: Curtis Gardner, Council Member / Françoise Bergan, Council Member

Laura Perry, Deputy City Manager, General Management / Tim Joyce, Assistant City Attorney

11. CONSENT CALENDAR - RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES

Any member of Council may request an item be removed from Consent Calendar and considered separately. Removed items are considered immediately following the adoption of the Consent Calendar.

Moved by: Curtis Gardner

Second by: Angela Lawson

Does Council wish to approve the Resolutions and Ordinances Consent Calendar?

Voting Aye: (9): Françoise Bergan, Alison Coombs, Curtis Gardner, Stephanie Hancock, Danielle Jurinsky, Angela Lawson, Ruben Medina, Crystal Murillo, and Steve Sundberg

11.a Resolutions

11.a.1 Consideration to Authorize the Senior Risk Manager to Expend Funds for the City's Insurance Program for 2025

R2024-167 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER OR DESIGNEE TO SPEND FUNDS FOR THE CITY'S INSURANCE PROGRAM FOR 2025, AND OTHER RELATED MATTERS

A waiver of reconsideration is requested due to the City's insurance policies renewals on January 1, 2025, and without the waiver of

reconsideration, the insurance policies won't have funding to bind the insurance coverages prior to year end.

Renee Pettinato Mosley, Senior Risk Manager, Finance / Hanosky Hernandez, Senior Assistant City Attorney

11.a.2 Drainage and Flood Control Improvement Amendment for Sampson and Robinson Gulch Regional Pond

R2024-168 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, EXPRESSING THE AURORA CITY COUNCIL'S SUPPORT OF AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF AURORA COLORADO ACTING BY AND THROUGH ITS UTILITY ENTERPRISE AND THE URBAN DRAINAGE AND FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT, d/b/a MILE HIGH FLOOD DISTRICT REGARDING CONSTRUCTION OF FLOOD AND DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS FOR SAMPSON/ROBINSON GULCH REGIONAL POND

James DeHerrera, Manager of Planning Services, Aurora Water / Ian Best, Assistant City Attorney

11.a.3 Strontia Springs Access Improvement Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) Amendment

R2024-169 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, EXPRESSING THE AURORA CITY COUNCIL'S SUPPORT OF AN AMENDMENT TO AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF AURORA COLORADO ACTING BY AND THROUGH ITS UTILITY ENTERPRISE AND THE CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER REGARDING THE STRONTIA SPRINGS DAM ACCESS IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Earl Wilkinson, Assistant General Manager of Operations, Aurora Water / Ian Best, Assistant City Attorney

11.a.4 Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) Between the City of Aurora and City and County of Denver for the 68th Avenue Maintenance and Operation Plan

R2024-170 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, APPROVING THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF AURORA AND THE CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER FOR THE OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE PLAN OF A PORTION OF 68TH AVENUE

Haley Johansen, City Engineer, Development Services / Michelle Gardner, Senior Assistant City Attorney

CITY OF AURORA
Council Agenda Commentary

Item Title: Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for Preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement for the Wild Horse Reservoir Project
Item Initiator: Sarah Young, Assistant General Manager of Planning and Engineering, Aurora Water
Staff Source/Legal Source: Sarah Young, Assistant General Manager of Planning & Engineering, Aurora Water / Ian Best, Assisrant City Attorney
Outside Speaker: N/A
Strategic Outcome: Healthy: Connecting natural and built environments with multimodal networks, ensuring access to parks and recreation, and preserving sustainable water supplies.

COUNCIL MEETING DATES:

Study Session: N/A

Regular Meeting: 9/8/2025

2nd Regular Meeting (if applicable): N/A

Item requires a Public Hearing: ☐ Yes ☒ No

ITEM DETAILS *(Click in highlighted area below bullet point list to enter applicable information.)*

- Waiver of reconsideration requested, and if so, why
- Sponsor name
- Staff source name and title / Legal source name and title
- Outside speaker name and organization
- Estimated time: (For Study Session items only indicate combined time needed for presentation and discussion)

R2025-96 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, EXPRESSING THE AURORA CITY COUNCIL'S APPROVAL OF AURORA WATER'S CONTINUATION OF ITS AGREEMENT WITH THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT FOR WILD HORSE RESERVOIR PERMIT AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONAL APPLICATION REVIEW COSTS
Sarah Young, Assistant General Manager of Planning and Engineering, Aurora Water / Ian Best, Assistant City Attorney

ACTIONS(S) PROPOSED *(Check all appropriate actions)*

☐ Approve Item and Move Forward to Study Session

☐ Approve Item and Move Forward to Regular Meeting

☐ Information Only

☐ Approve Item with Waiver of Reconsideration
Reason for waiver is described in the Item Details field above.

☐ Approve Item as Proposed at Policy Committee

☐ Approve Item as Proposed at Study Session

☒ Approve Item as Proposed at Regular Meeting

PREVIOUS ACTIONS OR REVIEWS:

Policy Committee Name: Water Policy

Policy Committee Date: 8/20/2025

Action Taken/Follow-up: ***(Check all that apply)***

☒ Recommends Approval

☐ Does Not Recommend Approval

☐ Forwarded Without Recommendation

☒ Minutes Not Available

☐ Minutes Attached

HISTORY *(Dates reviewed by City council, Policy Committees, Boards and Commissions, or Staff. Summarize pertinent comments. ATTACH MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS, POLICY COMMITTEES AND BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS.)*

On September 11, 2017, the City Council of the City of Aurora approved the adoption of an ordinance to exercise the power of eminent domain for acquisition of certain propertied in Park County, Colorado for a water reservoir project as item 12c.

On June 15, 2022, the Water Policy Committee supported moving an Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Aurora and the Bureau of Land Management for the Wild Horse Reservoir Permit Application Costs forward to Study Session with Council Member Angela Lawson as a sponsor. Since there was no quorum for the meeting, there are no minutes available.

On July 25, 2022, the City Council of the City of Aurora approved a resolution regarding and Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Aurora and the Bureau of Land Management for the Wild Horse Reservoir Permit Application Cost as item 10c.

On November 16, 2022, the Water Policy Committee supported moving a Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Aurora and the Bureau of Land Management for the purpose of preparing an Environmental Impact Statement for the Wild Horse Reservoir Project forward to Study Session.

On January 30, 2023, the City Council approved a resolution for a Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Aurora and the Bureau of Land Management for the purpose of preparing an Environmental Impact Statement for the Wild Horse Reservoir Project as item 11a4.

On August 20, 2025. The Water Policy Committee supported moving a Resolution expressing the Aurora City Council's approval of Aurora Water's continuation of its agreement with the United States of America, Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management for Wild Horse Reservoir permint and approval of additional application review costs forward to the Spetember 8, 2025 Council meeting.

ITEM SUMMARY *(Brief description of item, discussion, key points, recommendations, etc.)*

Aurora Water is in the pre-permitting phase for a new water storage facility known as Wild Horse Reservoir. Even though Aurora is a leader in water conservation and has a robust reclaimed water supply system (Prairie Waters), Aurora still needs additional water storage to reliably meet future demands. Wild Horse would allow Aurora to reliably provide water supply through 2075 while maintaining an accessible emergency reserve.

The site is located approximately, six miles south and west of Spinney Mountain Reservoir. The location of this reservoir is desirable due to the proximity to the Otero Pipeline (approximately 1.5 miles). The Otero Pipeline jointly owned by Aurora and Colorado Springs through which all of Aurora's Colorado River Basin and Arkansas River Basin water supplies are brought into the South Platte Basin. Water for Wild Horse Reservoir would be conveyed through a new pipeline connecting the existing Otero Pipeline to a designed inlet at the new reservoir. Outlet facilities from Wild Horse Reservoir will be conveyed through a pipeline into Spinney Mountain Reservoir.

To complete the reservoir, the City must obtain a Right of Way (ROW) grant from the BLM. The project site also contains large areas of split estate property where the City owns the surface property, but the minerals are owned by the federal government. The current reservoir design requires inundation of the federal surface parcels and the federal mineral estate.

Since the project includes interests in federal property, the project must comply with federal policies including but

not limited to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, Endangered Species Act of 1973, and National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. This compliance requires rigorous environmental evaluation and analysis. The BLM is the lead agency on the environmental analysis.

This approval for additional funds is in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to fund the BLM EIS preparation on the Wild Horse project. The remaining BLM EIS preparation costs are $556,391.00 The EIS process is anticipated to last through early 2028.

FISCAL IMPACT

Select all that apply. (If no fiscal impact, click that box and skip to "Questions for Council")

☐ Revenue Impact ☒ Budgeted Expenditure Impact ☐ Non-Budgeted Expenditure Impact
☐ Workload Impact ☐ No Fiscal Impact

REVENUE IMPACT
Provide the revenue impact or N/A if no impact. (What is the estimated impact on revenue? What funds would be impacted? Provide additional detail as necessary.)

N/A

BUDGETED EXPENDITURE IMPACT
Provide the budgeted expenditure impact or N/A if no impact. (List Org/Account # and fund. What is the amount of budget to be used? Does this shift existing budget away from existing programs/services? Provide additional detail as necessary.)

Funding for this Intergovernmental Agreement will be from the Capital Improvement Program, Water Fund in the amount of $556,391.00.

CC-52396 (Wild Horse Reservoir)
SC-64947 (IGA Payments)

NON-BUDGETED EXPENDITURE IMPACT
Provide the non-budgeted expenditure impact or N/A if no impact. (Provide information on non-budgeted costs. Include Personal Services, Supplies and Services, Interfund Charges, and Capital needs. Provide additional detail as necessary.)

N/A

WORKLOAD IMPACT
Provide the workload impact or N/A if no impact. (Will more staff be needed or is the change absorbable? If new FTE(s) are needed, provide numbers and types of positions, and a duty summary. Provide additional detail as necessary.)

N/A

QUESTIONS FOR COUNCIL

Does the Council support a Resolution expressing the Aurora City Council's approval of Aurora Water's continuation of its agreement with the United States of America, Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management for Wild Horse Reservoir permint and approval of additional application review costs?

LEGAL COMMENTS

The City Charter authorized the City by resolution to enter into contracts or agreements with other governmental units, including special districts, for the joint use of buildings, equipment or facilities or for furnishing or receiving commodities and services. (Charter section 10-12). (Best)

RESOLUTION NO. R2025- ____

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, EXPRESSING THE AURORA CITY COUNCIL'S APPROVAL OF AURORA WATER'S CONTINUATION OF ITS AGREEMENT WITH THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT FOR WILD HORSE RESERVOIR PERMIT AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONAL APPLICATION REVIEW COSTS

WHEREAS, the City of Aurora, acting by and through its Utility Enterprise ("Aurora Water") and the United States of America, Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management ("BLM") has entered a 2022 Cost Reimbursement Agreement between the City of Aurora and BLM ("Agreement") for costs associated with right of way permit review for the Wild Horse Reservoir Project; and

WHEREAS, costs to be reimbursed through the Agreement included, but are not limited to: coordination, administration and approval of any necessary environmental analyses including the preparation of an Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Study; consultation with appropriate Federal, State, Tribal, and local officials; preparation of the administrative record and resolving any protests, appeals and litigation that might result from the proposal, preparation of all decisions and authorizations resulting from those decisions; monitoring the construction, operation and termination of any resultant authorization; and other necessary processing actions consistent with a final decision (hereafter referred to as "Reimbursable Costs"); and

WHEREAS, Aurora Water will reimburse BLM for Reimbursable Costs in accordance with the terms of the Agreement; and

WHEREAS, Reimbursable Costs estimates have been provided by BLM in the amount of $556,391, however, additional Reimbursable Costs may become necessary given the dynamic nature of the Wild Horse Project and therefore Aurora Water requests the ability to administratively approve, by action of the General Manager of Aurora Water (or designee), additional Reimbursable Costs expenditures to allow for maximum responsiveness by Aurora Water; and

WHEREAS, the BLM was authorized to enter the Agreement pursuant Section 304(b) and 504(g) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, 43 U.S.C. 1734(b) and 1764(g), as amended and 43 CFR Subpart 2804; and

WHEREAS, Section 10-12 of the City Charter authorized the City by resolution to enter into contracts or agreements with other governmental units, including special districts, for the joint use of buildings, equipment or facilities or for furnishing or receiving commodities and services.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, THAT:

Section 1. The expenditure and reimbursement to the BLM of additional Reimbursable Costs by Aurora Water in accordance with this resolution and the 2022 Cost Reimbursement Agreement between the City of Aurora and Bureau of Land Management is hereby approved.

Section 2. The General Manager of Aurora Water (or designee) is hereby authorized to administratively approve increases in Reimbursable Costs payable to the BLM in accordance with the Cost Reimbursement Agreement between the City of Aurora and Bureau of Land Management and in the best interest of Aurora Water and its customers.

Section 3. Any Reimbursable Costs approved and expended by Aurora Water and necessary to keep Wild Horse Project reviews on schedule prior to the Aurora City Council's approval of this resolution are hereby ratified and approved.

Section 4. All resolutions or parts of resolutions of the City in conflict herewith are hereby rescinded.

RESOLVED AND PASSED this _____ day of _____, 2025.

_____
MIKE COFFMAN, Mayor

ATTEST:

_____
KADEE RODRIGUEZ, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
PETE A. SCHULTE, CITY ATTORNEY

Ian J Best RLA
_____
By: IAN BEST, Assistant City Attorney

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN THE CITY OF AURORA, ACTING BY AND THROUGH ITS UTILITY ENTERPRISE, AND
THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

FOR THE PURPOSE OF PREPARING
AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
FOR THE WILD HORSE RESERVOIR PROJECT

I. BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

The U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has determined that an environmental impact statement (EIS) will be prepared to analyze the potential environmental impacts associated with the City of Aurora, acting by and through its Utility Enterprise (hereinafter referred to as Aurora Water) proposal for a new water storage facility located about four miles south of the community of Hartsel in the south-central portion of Park County, Colorado. The project is called the Wild Horse Reservoir Project. The Wild Horse Reservoir Project area encompasses portions of 6th P.M. T12S. R74W Sections 19-21 and 31-35, 6th P.M. T12S. R75W Sections 21-25 and 28-33, and 6th P.M. T12S. R75W Sections 3-9 and 17 and is located in the Royal Gorge Field Office.

This MOU establishes an agreement between Aurora Water and the BLM regarding 1) the existing cost reimbursement agreement and cost recovery account established in September 19, 2022 (to reimburse BLM for costs incurred to process the right-of-way application); 2) definition of the responsibilities and roles of the participating parties; and 3) specification of the procedures to be followed during preparation of the EIS and connected documents, including revisions to the Plan of Development (POD). The EIS will be prepared in order to conform to the responsibilities of the BLM as specified by the NEPA.

This MOU also includes coverage and cost recovery for processing of proposed modifications and amendments to the POD during the approval and construction phases of the Project. The BLM is authorized to charge processing fees for cost recovery according to federal regulations.

II. GENERAL PROVISIONS

The BLM and Aurora Water intend to work together in a professional and productive manner under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA), and all other applicable federal and state laws. Both the BLM and Aurora Water are committed to maintaining the integrity of the NEPA process. As the lead agency, the BLM is responsible for assuring compliance with the requirements of NEPA. The BLM will ensure that the Wild Horse Reservoir Project conforms to the terms and provisions of the Royal Gorge RMP, including any revisions thereof. *See* 43 C.F.R. § 1610.5-3(a).

To facilitate timely and efficient completion of required environmental documents, Aurora Water has agreed to contract the EIS preparation with a consulting firm approved by BLM. The Contractor will conduct the environmental analysis process under the supervision of BLM and prepare a Draft and Final EIS for BLM review at Aurora Water's expense.

In accordance with 40 C.F.R. § 1506.2, to reduce duplication to the fullest extent possible, other federal, state, and local agencies having jurisdiction by law or special expertise will be informed and invited to provide input and cooperate with the parties to this MOU during the preparation of the Draft and Final EIS.

III. NEPA COMPLIANCE

The EIS for the Wild Horse Reservoir Project will be prepared with an issues based approach in accordance with NEPA (42 USCA §§ 4321 – 4370e) and in compliance with all applicable regulations and laws passed subsequently, including Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations 40 Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.) §§ 1500-1508, United States Department of the Interior (DOI) regulations at 43 C.F.R. Part 46, DOI guidance (Department Manual 516, Environmental Quality (USDI 2007)), the BLM NEPA Handbook (H-1790-1), and applicable guidance. This includes Parts 1501.10-time limits and 1502.7-page limits.

As the lead agency, the BLM is responsible for analyses and documents that conform to the NEPA, CEQ regulations, and other pertinent federal laws and regulations. Aurora Water agrees it will retain the Contractor to produce analyses and a document meeting BLM standards. Before beginning work on the Wild Horse Reservoir EIS, the Contractor will execute a disclosure statement specifying that they have no financial or other interest in the outcome of the Wild Horse Reservoir as required by 40 C.F.R. § 1506.5(b).

The EIS will assess the potential environmental impacts of Aurora Water's Proposed Action, the no action alternative, and a range of reasonable alternatives selected by the BLM and will serve to inform the decision-making official and the public. The project components that must be analyzed in the Wild Horse Reservoir EIS shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Aurora Water's Proposed Action – develop Wild Horse Reservoir; a new water storage facility near Hartsel in the south-central portion of Park County, CO. The estimated size of the reservoir would be up to 93,500 acre-feet with facilities on private and federal lands. The reservoir would be formed by the construction of a main dam, several saddle dams, and a spillway. In addition to the dam, pipelines would be built to feed into the reservoir and route water downstream.
- No Action – the application would be denied;
- A reasonable range of development alternatives to the Proposed Action;
- Related construction activities, including dam and spillway construction, and pipeline installation;
- Transportation planning, including relocation of Park County Road;
- Socioeconomic considerations, including approximately 30 to 60 people working on-site concurrently;
- Abandonment and reclamation activities; and
- Monitoring of construction and reclamation practices, impacts to wildlife, and compliance with other NEPA requirements.

The BLM and Aurora Water understand and agree that the EIS will analyze the cumulative impacts (*see* 40 C.F.R. § 1508.7 and Considering Effects under the National Environmental Policy Act (CEQ 1997)) of the Wild Horse Reservoir Project with the existing and reasonably foreseeable development within the affected environment (*see* 40 C.F.R. § 1502.15).

IV. AUTHORITIES

This MOU is entered into under the following authorities:

A. The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (Pub. L. No. 91-190, 42 U.S.C. §§ 4312-4370e);

B. The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (Pub. L. No. 94-579, 43 U.S.C. §§ 1701-1784); and

V. RESPONSIBILITIES

A. BLM Rights and Responsibilities

The BLM will be the lead federal agency in the preparation of the EIS and will be responsible for compliance with the requirements of NEPA, BLM and CEQ regulations, and other applicable federal laws and regulations. The BLM will be responsible for completion of Section 7 consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in compliance with the ESA. Additionally, BLM will complete any necessary consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office for cultural and historic properties in compliance with the NHPA.

The Royal Gorge Field Office's Field Manager (hereinafter referred to as the "Field Manager") will oversee the Contractor paid for by Aurora Water to prepare the EIS in accordance with accepted third-party contracting procedures. Aurora Water may undertake the necessary paperwork for the solicitation of a field of candidates under the agency's direction. The BLM and Aurora Water will coordinate in the selection of third-party contractor. The Field Manager will designate for the BLM a sole point of contact for all matters related to the completion of tasks for preparation of the EIS under the Scope(s) of Work approved by BLM under the contracting process of Aurora Water and the Contractor. To ensure the objectivity of the Contractor, all communications between the Contractor and Aurora Water, with the exception of specific budget documents or when authorized by the BLM, shall occur through the BLM. The Contractor will submit all requests for specific information needed for the Wild Horse Reservoir EIS through the BLM. Any and all work performed by the Contractor will be submitted directly to the BLM, and in no case will Aurora Water review, modify, or edit the Contractor's work prior to its submission to the BLM.

The BLM intends to keep Aurora Water informed and engaged throughout the preparation of the Wild Horse Reservoir EIS. The BLM will consult with and keep Aurora Water informed on the progress of the EIS, as well as any data needs or changes, on at least a monthly basis.

The BLM will invite Aurora Water and the Contractor to attend meetings with federal, state, regional, and local agencies and other groups throughout the EIS/NEPA process as appropriate under NEPA and any pertinent regulations. The BLM will ensure that Aurora Water is kept informed of issues, pending meetings, and outcomes of any meetings held so that Aurora Water can ensure that technical information is accurate and complete.

The BLM will provide oversight of the Wild Horse Reservoir EIS preparation process on a bi-weekly basis, or more frequently if needed, to verify that the Contractor considers existing data, environmental descriptions, and analysis available from Aurora Water, BLM, and other sources, and that the Contractor does not duplicate work already completed unless the BLM determines that the existing work is not adequate for the purposes of the Wild Horse Reservoir EIS. The BLM will assess whether existing work must be modified or redone. The BLM requires that the Contractor provide adequate copies of all maps, reports, and draft documents to allow for a timely review. The BLM will be solely responsible for all decisions related to the analysis prepared in connection with the Wild Horse Reservoir EIS.

The BLM will consult with Aurora Water on the project description as needed, particularly during impact analysis, to assist in improving the project description to avoid, mitigate, or otherwise address adverse impacts. The BLM will direct how the Contractor will consider existing data, environmental descriptions, and analyses available from all sources including the BLM.

If, at any time, the Contractor or BLM becomes aware of circumstances that will result in a delay in reaching any milestones and/or key dates on the schedule attached hereto as Exhibit 1 or mutually agreed upon modifications, BLM and the Contractor shall immediately notify Aurora Water in writing. Aurora Water shall have the right, but not the obligation, to take whatever steps are necessary to remedy such situation including, but not limited to, requesting oversight and review of the Wild Horse Reservoir EIS work activities and processes, Royal Gorge priorities, and/or recommending a change in Contractor by the Royal Gorge Field Manager first and then, if necessary, Rocky Mountain District Manager and then, if necessary, BLM Colorado State Director

The BLM will be responsible for determining frequency, location, format, and content of public scoping meetings, if any. The Contractor, at BLM direction, will be responsible for administrative support and logistical arrangements for these public scoping meetings. The BLM will receive public scoping comments and direct the Contractor's actions with regard to the received comments. The Contractor shall provide all needed administrative support to BLM for scoping comment content analysis, in consultation with BLM, and provide a scoping report to BLM, who will transmit the report to Aurora Water at the appropriate time.

When requested to do so by Aurora Water, the BLM will treat specific data provided by Aurora Water as confidential and proprietary to the extent permitted by law. This responsibility extends to both internal and Contractor use of the information. In the event that any confidential or proprietary information is required by law to be released by the BLM, Aurora Water shall be provided written notice of any such proposed release in advance of such release.

The BLM will independently evaluate and take responsibility for the contents of the Wild Horse Reservoir EIS prior to its release or approval as required by 40 C.F.R. § 1506.5(a). The BLM is responsible for complying with NEPA procedures and implementing regulations including, but not limited to: document contents, administrative file (including documentation of rationale and supporting information), public review of the Wild Horse Reservoir EIS, and required decision documentation. The Contractor shall assist with these tasks as directed by the BLM. The BLM shall ensure that the Wild Horse Reservoir EIS presents a range of reasonable alternatives and includes relevant environmental/social/economic issues and impacts, including cumulative impacts. The BLM will provide a mailing list to the Contractor for distribution of the Wild Horse Reservoir EIS to the public.

Upon completion of the Draft and Final EIS for public release and comment, the BLM will be responsible for compliance with public notification requirements, including publication of Federal Register notices and managing public meetings, if any. The BLM will be responsible for

determining frequency, location, format, and content of public meetings, if any. The Contractor, at BLM direction, will be responsible for administrative support and logistical arrangements for these public meetings. The BLM is responsible for developing responses to comments and will direct the Contractor's actions with regard to the received comments. The Contractor shall provide all needed administrative support to the BLM for comment content analysis as directed by the BLM, in consultation with the BLM.

The BLM is responsible for all costs associated with the preparation, reproduction, and mailing of the Record of Decision.

B. Aurora Water's Rights and Responsibilities

Aurora Water will appoint a primary contact person to serve as contact for all general matters relating to the preparation of the Wild Horse Reservoir EIS.

The Contractor, at Aurora Water' expense, will be responsible for providing an electronic copy of the Draft and Final EIS documents in a PDF format or a medium acceptable to the BLM. Aurora Water and the Contractor will assist the BLM in fulfilling its responsibilities for the requirements of NEPA, CEQ regulations, and other pertinent federal laws and regulations.

In compliance with applicable Aurora City Code and procurement processes, Aurora Water will be responsible for developing and executing a contract with the Contractor. The contract between Aurora Water and the Contractor will require timely completion of all work activities pursuant to the schedule attached as Exhibit 1 current to the signing of this MOU.

Aurora Water will be responsible for all costs and any continuing costs incurred by that Contractor until terminated by Aurora Water, other than as set forth in Section V.A.

Aurora Water will ensure that the Contractor signs a Disclosure Statement as required by 40 C.F.R. § 1506.5(b)(4) stating that the Contractor does not have any interest, financial or otherwise, in the outcome of the project. A copy of the signed statement will be provided to the BLM.

Aurora Water shall provide to the BLM a written description of the proposed project to facilitate preparation of the description of the proposed action and voluntary mitigation measures (a.k.a. operator committed measures or design features) to be included as part of the proposed action. Aurora Water may also provide the Contractor with a copy of their proposal submitted to the BLM. Aurora Water shall provide the Contractor with any MOUs or agreements pertinent to the preparation of the Wild Horse Reservoir EIS.

To the extent practicable, Aurora Water will submit to the BLM any information, studies, or other documentation that might be relevant to the BLM's analysis of the potential environmental impacts of the Wild Horse Reservoir Project as early as practicable in the NEPA process.

Aurora Water will provide to the BLM, as specified by the Royal Gorge Field Manager, any justifiable, necessary, or relevant technical and environmental information it may have which is needed, at the BLM's discretion, for environmental analysis and documentation for the proposed action. Aurora Water's contract with the Contractor will ensure that the Contractor provides BLM with all documentation including, but not limited to, interdisciplinary (IDT) and Contractor's EIS team meeting notes, e-mail messages, analysis protocols and methodologies and data, rationale, maps, GIS data and its Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC)-compliant metadata, and any other supporting information used in the preparation of the Wild Horse Reservoir EIS. Such information is part of the administrative file for this project and EIS. The administrative file for the Wild Horse Reservoir Project will be maintained at the Royal Gorge Field Office, and Aurora

Water and the Contractor shall share responsibility with BLM for ensuring that the record is complete and accurate.

Aurora Water will review the technical, environmental, and socio-economic information in its possession and, to the extent that such information is not restricted by confidentiality agreements, Aurora Water will provide the BLM with such information that it believes is necessary for review or input into the analysis or other parts of the document. The BLM will provide this information to the Contractor.

Aurora Water will provide directly to the BLM responses to data requested and provide review comments within the time limits established by the BLM to the extent reasonably possible (or the schedule will be adjusted accordingly). The BLM is responsible for providing this information to the Contractor in a timely manner.

As requested by the BLM, Aurora Water will attend meetings and participate in the identification of appropriate mitigation measures to resolve or lessen potential adverse impacts of the project. The Contractor's EIS team, or specific members thereof, will attend BLM IDT meetings as requested or deemed useful by the BLM.

Aurora Water will specify in the agreement with the Contractor that the Contractor shall be responsible for: (1) responding, as necessary, to BLM requests for input; (2) preparing responses to public comments arising during the EIS process; (3) developing other information (i.e., mapping, public meeting materials, etc.) as deemed necessary by the BLM during the preparation of the Draft and Final EIS documents, and as necessary during preparation of the Records of Decision; (4) following the procedures outlined in this MOU; and (5) stenographic, clerical, graphics, and layout services; printing to established BLM standards; Foldout sheets and large maps shall be provided where appropriate.

Except as described in Section V.A.12, Aurora Water will be responsible for all costs for analysis, internal review drafts, and final copies of the Draft and Final EIS documents prepared by the Contractor. Aurora Water shall be solely responsible for the cost of preparing and providing the number of copies of the Draft and Final EIS (full document or executive summaries) as may be necessary for public review and administrative processing, for the cost of distributing as directed by the BLM, and for one copy suitable for reproduction by the BLM and 16 printed copies to the BLM for their submission to the Superintendent of Documents.

C. Joint Responsibilities

The BLM, in cooperation with Aurora Water and the Contractor, will develop an EIS Preparation Schedule that projects key dates. The EIS Preparation Schedule, current as of the signing of this MOU, is attached as Exhibit 1. Changes to the schedule will require advance notice by the BLM to Aurora Water and the Contractor. Should a party not be able to meet a key date requirement, e-mail notification shall be given to the other parties in advance whenever practicable and, if not in advance, as soon as practicable. The notification shall include a projected date the requirement will be met. All parties will use best efforts to adhere to, and assist each other in adhering to, the EIS Preparation Schedule.

To ensure the objectivity of the Contractor, all communications between the Contractor and Aurora Water, with the exception of specific budget documents, shall occur through the BLM. The Contractor will submit all requests for specific information needed for the EIS through the BLM. Any and all work performed by the Contractor will be submitted directly to the BLM, and in no case will Aurora Water review, modify, or edit the Contractor's work prior to its submission to BLM.

In cooperation with Aurora Water and the Contractor, the BLM has developed a Public Participation Plan (attached as Exhibit 2) that indicates key milestones in the preparation of the EIS.

D. Information Sharing Responsibilities.

The BLM will independently evaluate and consider all information and comments provided by Aurora Water, and the BLM remains solely responsible for the content and analysis in the EIS as required by 40 C.F.R. § 1506.5(a). The BLM may inform Aurora Water of the outcome of interim and final decisions.

Until such time as BLM accepts the EIS, Aurora Water shall not provide copies of the document to other interested parties or the general public unless requested by BLM.

Project applicants are uniquely situated to provide special information or experience to be considered in the NEPA process. The BLM has discretion throughout the NEPA process to require submission of information from the project applicant for possible use by the agency in evaluating the impacts of the proposed project, 40 C.F.R. § 1506.5(b), and the project applicant has the ability to submit information at any time to the agency, 40 C.F.R. § 1506.5(b)(5). The BLM recognizes that Aurora Water, as the project proponent(s), has information and experience relevant to the Wild Horse Reservoir EIS.

As appropriate, meetings or conference calls between the BLM and Aurora Water will be held at least monthly or as otherwise agreed upon during the preparation of the EIS to keep Aurora Water informed on the progress of the EIS and informed regarding data needs or changes. Additional meetings or conference calls may be scheduled on an as-needed basis. Agenda topics will be identified at the end of each meeting for the following meeting. Meeting notes will include a task list identifying tasks, responsible parties, and due dates.

In addition to the items listed below, the BLM may request information from Aurora Water at other stages of the NEPA analysis. 40 C.F.R. § 1506.5(b). Further, nothing prevents Aurora Water from submitting information to BLM for consideration at any time. 40 C.F.R. § 1506.5(b). Aurora Water' responses to information requests and submitted information will be included in the administrative file for the EIS.

a. **Mitigation and Minimization Measures:** In analyzing mitigation and minimization measures for the EIS, BLM may request information and comment from Aurora Water concerning the feasibility of particular mitigation measures. However, as the lead federal agency, the BLM remains solely responsible for selection of mitigation and minimization measures for the EIS and compliance with NEPA, the CEQ regulations and other pertinent federal laws and regulations.

b. **Alternatives Selection:** . The BLM shall ensure that the EIS presents a range of reasonable alternatives and includes relevant environmental/social/economic issues and impacts, including cumulative impacts. As alternatives are developed, the BLM may request information from Aurora Water relative to the feasibility of reasonable alternatives to Aurora Water's project proposal for analysis in the Wild Horse Reservoir EIS. However, the BLM remains solely responsible for identifying and analyzing reasonable alternatives, including the preferred alternative.

VI. ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGAL PROVISIONS

A. Applicable Law

The parties agree to comply with all applicable laws governing activities under this MOU.

B. Term of MOU

This MOU will commence upon the date last signed and executed by the duly authorized representatives and will terminate in accordance with provisions listed below in VI., part D (Termination) or when the Record of Decision for the Wild Horse Reservoir Project is issued by the BLM, whichever occurs first.

C. Amendments

Either party may request changes in this MOU. Any changes, modifications, revisions, or amendments to this MOU, will be incorporated upon acceptance by written instrument, executed and signed by all parties to this MOU.

D. Termination

Either Aurora Water or the BLM may terminate this MOU after thirty (30) days written notice to the other party of its intention to do so. During this period, the parties will enter negotiations to resolve the disagreement(s). If the disagreement(s) have not been resolved by the end of the 30-day period, the MOU will terminate. In the event negotiations are progressing but are not concluded by the end of the 30-day period, the party initiating the request to terminate may request termination be postponed for an additional 30-day period.

In the event of termination of the MOU, and at the request of Aurora Water, the BLM will initiate preparation of any remaining analysis and documentation covered by this MOU consistent with staff and budget limitations. Aurora Water will be required to submit to the BLM all information and records held by Aurora Water and the Contractor that were used for EIS preparation up to the point of MOU termination, as well as information and records held by Aurora Water and the Contractor needed to support continued preparation of the EIS.

E. Limitations

In executing this MOU and taking any other action contemplated hereby, Aurora Water reserves the right to contest, in any administrative or judicial proceedings, any and all decisions concerning the EIS or any other Federal requirements related to the proposed project. Aurora Water recognizes that nothing in this MOU commits the BLM to permit the project or otherwise take action favorable to Aurora Water upon all or any part of the proposal.

F. Entirety of Agreement

This MOU consisting of 16 pages, including attachments, represents the entire and integrated agreement between the parties and supersedes all prior negotiations, representations, and agreements concerning the Wild Horse Reservoir Project EIS, whether written or oral.

G. Severability

Should any portion of this MOU be determined to be illegal or unenforceable, the remainder of the MOU will continue in full force and effect, and either party may renegotiate the terms affected by the severance.

H. Assignability

This MOU may be assigned, transferred, or conveyed to any third party by Aurora Water.

I. Exchange of Information

Data provided pursuant to this MOU may contain proprietary or pre-decisional BLM information or information provided by Aurora Water. All records or information requested of either party by the other will be reviewed by the releasing party prior to release. To the extent permissible under law, any recipient of proprietary or pre-decisional information agrees not to disclose this information to the public or other parties. To the extent permissible by law, any recipient of this information agrees not to transmit or otherwise divulge this information without approval from BLM or Aurora Water or both. Any breach of this provision may result in termination of this MOU. Requests for information will be made through the points of contact identified in Section VII. Contacts, below.

J. Third Party Beneficiary Rights

The parties do not intend to create in any other individual or entity the status of third party beneficiary, and this MOU must not be construed so as to create such status. The rights, duties and obligations contained in this MOU operate only between the parties to this MOU, and inure solely to the benefit of the parties of this MOU. The provisions of this MOU are intended only to assist the parties in determining and performing their obligations under this MOU. The parties to this MOU intend and expressly agree that only parties signatory to this MOU will have any legal or equitable right to seek to enforce this MOU, to seek any remedy arising out of a party's performance or failure to perform any term or condition of this MOU, or to bring an action for the breach of this MOU.

K. Administrative Consideration

In carrying out the terms of this MOU, there shall be no discrimination against any person because of race, creed, color, sex or national origin.

The terms of this MOU are effective only to the extent the BLM is authorized to take actions, and to the extent funds are appropriated or otherwise made available.

Nothing in this agreement shall be construed as obligating the BLM to expend, or as involving the BLM in any obligation for future payment of money in excess of appropriations authorized by law and administratively allocated for these purposes, except as specifically set forth herein.

Sole Obligation of Utility Enterprise. (a) This MOU shall never constitute a general obligation or other indebtedness of the City of Aurora ("the City"), or a multiple fiscal year direct or indirect debt or other financial obligation whatsoever of the City within the meaning of the Constitution and laws of the State of Colorado or of the Charter and ordinances of the City. (b) In the event of a default by the City's Utility Enterprise of any of its obligations under this MOU BLM shall have no recourse for any amounts owned to it against any funds or revenues of the City except for those revenues derived from rates, fees or charges for the services furnished by, or the direct or indirect

use of, the Water System and deposited in the Water Enterprise Fund, as the terms "Water System" and "Water Enterprise Fund" are defined in City Ordinance No 2003-18, and then only after the payment of all operation and maintenance expenses of the Water System and all debt service and reserve requirements of any bonds, notes, or other financial obligations of the Utility Enterprise secured by a pledge of the net revenues of the Water Enterprise Fund. Notwithstanding any language herein to the contrary, nothing in this MOU shall be construed as creating a lien upon any revenues of the Utility Enterprise or the City.

All documents released to the public must reflect the independent judgment of the BLM. The BLM is responsible for the adequacy and objectivity of all such documents.

L. Dispute Resolution

In the event of any disagreement between the Royal Gorge Field Office and Aurora Water regarding the scope of work, schedule, performance of Contractor, data requests, or other issues relating to the Wild Horse Reservoir Project and EIS that cannot be resolved between the Royal Gorge Field Office and Aurora Water within a reasonable time, either party may refer the disagreement to the Rocky Mountain District Manager, and if resolution cannot be reached at the District, to the BLM Colorado State Director to timely resolve said issue. Nothing herein shall be construed, however, as limiting the rights of Aurora Water to seek other relief as entitled by law.

VII. CONTACTS:

The primary points of contact for carrying out the provisions of this MOU are:

Aurora Water: Lauren Nance Maggert (lanace@auroragov.org)

BLM: John Smeins (jsmeins@blm.gov)

VIII. SIGNATURES

City of Aurora, Colorado
Acting by and through its
Utility Enterprise

Mike Coffman, Mayor Date 02/21/23

Attest:

~~Kadee Rodriguez~~, City Clerk - Deputy Cecilia Zapata Date 2/22/2023

Approved as to form for Aurora:

Ian J Best — 01/05/2023 — 23035600

Ian Best, Assistant City Attorney | Date | ACS #

State of Colorado)
) ss
County of Arapahoe)

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this 21st day of February, 2023, by Mike Coffman, Mayor, acting on behalf of the Utility Enterprise of the City of Aurora, Colorado.

Witness my hand and official seal.
Notary Public

My commission expires: 04/15/2026

ALIA GONZALES
NOTARY PUBLIC
STATE OF COLORADO
NOTARY ID 20224015148
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES 04/15/2026

(Seal)

For Bureau of Land Management:

Keith Berger
Keith Berger (Feb 28, 2023 13:52 MST)

Feb 28, 2023

Keith Berger, Field Manager
Royal Gorge Field Office
3028 E. Main St.
Cañon City, CO 81212

Date

City of Aurora, Attorney, Approval as to Form

Ian J Best

01/05/2023

Ian Best, Assistant City Attorney

Date

BLM Regional Solicitor's Office, Approval as to Form

(insert name and title)

Date

Exhibit 1
EIS Preparation Schedule for the Wild Horse Reservoir Project

All dates are approximate

ID	Task Name	Duration	Start	Finish
1	**Wild Horse Reservoir EIS**	**428 days**	**Thu 12/22/22**	**Mon 8/12/24**
2	**Pre NOI**	**116 days**	**Thu 12/22/22**	**Thu 6/1/23**
3	3rd Party NEPA MOU signed by Aurora	45 days	Thu 12/22/22	Wed 2/22/23
4	3rd Party NEPA MOU signed by BLM	5 days	Thu 2/23/23	Wed 3/1/23
5	BLM: brief SD	1 day	Wed 2/1/23	Wed 2/1/23
6	BLM: schedule HQ 100 brief	20 days	Thu 2/2/23	Wed 3/1/23
7	BLM: Brief HQ-100	1 day	Thu 3/2/23	Thu 3/2/23
8	Third-party Contractor Selected by Aurora and BLM.	93 days	Thu 12/22/22	Mon 5/1/23
9	BLM: Identification of and initial outreach to Cooperating Agencies.	73 days	Thu 12/22/22	Mon 4/3/23
10	BLM: Submit Initial Action Notice	0 days	Mon 4/17/23	Mon 4/17/23
11	Begin Tribal Consultation	0 days	Mon 4/17/23	Mon 4/17/23
12	Develop internal draft purpose and need, alternative screening, and cumulative impacts analysis area	15 days	Mon 4/17/23	Fri 5/5/23
13	Hydrology Modeling Protocol finalized by Aurora and BLM.	24 days	Mon 5/1/23	Thu 6/1/23
14	**DEIS**	**312 days**	**Fri 6/2/23**	**Mon 8/12/24**
15	Federal Register Notice published – start of Scoping Period.	60 edays	Mon 6/19/23	Fri 8/18/23
16	Scoping Notice sent to public.	1 day	Tue 6/20/23	Tue 6/20/23
17	Public Scoping Meeting (s?)	10 days	Thu 7/20/23	Wed 8/2/23
18	Contractor completes Public Scoping Report.	11 days	Fri 8/18/23	Fri 9/1/23
19	Meeting between BLM and Contractor to finalize purpose and need, alternatives and cumulative impact analysis area based upon public issues/BLM concerns.	10 days	Mon 9/4/23	Fri 9/15/23
20	Con: Affected Environment section completed.	30 days	Mon 9/18/23	Fri 10/27/23
21	Hydrology Modeling completed by Aurora.	66 days	Fri 6/2/23	Fri 9/1/23
22	Potential Environmental Consequences section completed.	40 days	Mon 9/18/23	Fri 11/10/23
23	BLM: Review Preliminary Draft EIS, includes Cooperating agencies	30 days	Mon 11/13/23	Fri 12/22/23
24	Con: Incorporate BLM comments on PDEIS	35 days	Mon 12/25/23	Fri 2/9/24
25	BLM: Final review for print copy of DEIS	20 days	Mon 2/12/24	Fri 3/8/24
26	Con: Incorporate BLM comments and finalize	5 days	Mon 3/11/24	Fri 3/15/24
27	BLM: NRT review	30 days	Mon 3/18/24	Fri 4/26/24
28	Con: Prepare Camera ready FEIS	5 days	Mon 4/29/24	Fri 5/3/24
29	BLM: FEIS uploaded to EPA NEPA	5 days	Mon 5/6/24	Fri 5/10/24
30	Publication of DEIS. NOA in Federal Register. Start DEIS Review Period (45 days from publication by EPA in the Federal Register)	45 edays	Fri 5/10/24	Mon 6/24/24
31	Hold Public Meetings	5 days	Wed 6/5/24	Tue 6/11/24
32	Public comment period ends, all public comments to Contractor	35 days	Tue 6/25/24	Mon 8/12/24
33	**FEIS**	**246 days**	**Mon 3/11/24**	**Mon 2/17/25**
34	Completion of BA to initiate ESA Section 7 Consultation	65 days	Mon 3/11/24	Fri 6/7/24
35	Contractor analyzes public comments, summary report to BLM.	24 days	Tue 8/13/24	Fri 9/13/24
36	BLM: review PFEIS, includes CAs	30 days	Mon 9/16/24	Fri 10/25/24
37	Con: Incorporate BLM comments	25 days	Mon 10/28/24	Fri 11/29/24
38	BLM: Final internal review of FEIS	20 days	Mon 12/2/24	Fri 12/27/24
39	Con: Incorporate BLM comments and finalize	5 days	Mon 12/30/24	Fri 1/3/25
40	BLM: NRT review	30 days	Tue 12/31/24	Mon 2/10/25
41	Con: Prepare Camera ready FEIS	5 days	Tue 2/11/25	Mon 2/17/25
42	Publication of FEIS. NOA published in Federal Register	0 days	Mon 2/17/25	Mon 2/17/25
43	**ROD**	**18 days**	**Mon 2/24/25**	**Thu 3/20/25**
44	Completion of ESA Section 7 consultation	0 days	Mon 2/24/25	Mon 2/24/25
45	Completion of NHPA Section 106	0 days	Mon 2/24/25	Mon 2/24/25
46	ROD issued. Appeal period begins. No sooner than 30 days from NOA.	1 day	Thu 3/20/25	Thu 3/20/25

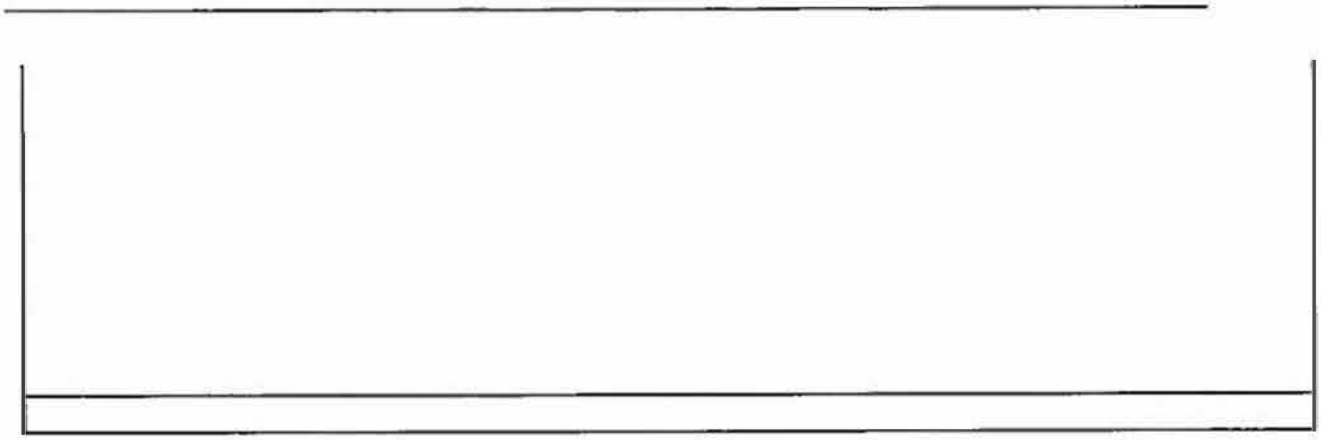

Exhibit 2
Public Participation Plan

Agency and Initial Public Scoping

The public notice of intent (NOI) will be prepared and published in the Federal Register. BLM will distribute project and scoping information to appropriate local, state, and federal agencies, elected officials, public land users and user groups, affected landowners, and news outlets including newspapers and radio and television stations. The scoping information will describe Aurora Water's proposal, identify the proposal's relationship to land use plans and other environmental documents, describe proposed compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, disclose land and resource management issues and concerns, and solicit comments from the public. In addition, it will announce the time and place of a public involvement meeting to provide the general public, affected interests, and stakeholders with an opportunity to review Aurora Water's proposal and provide input to BLM regarding concerns and issues to be addressed. On the date the NOI is published in the Federal Register, the Royal Gorge Field Office project leader will post the information on the Royal Gorge NEPA Register (Log).

Development of Alternatives and Cumulative Impact Analysis Areas

Based on the key issues identified following public comment and cooperating agency input, a range of reasonable alternatives to the proposed action will be generated. Cumulative impact analysis areas and associated impact level definition criteria also will be developed based on plans, data, concerns, and methodologies. Input from BLM specialists, cooperating and other government agencies, the public, and Aurora Water will be used for alternative and cumulative impact assessment area development, as appropriate. Concurrently, the Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences sections will be developed, and associated data collection or analyses will occur. Public meetings will be held to explain alternatives and cumulative impact analysis areas and solicit for comments and additional resources information.

Draft EIS

Development of the Preliminary DEIS (PDEIS) will be overseen by the BLM and may include input from BLM specialists or an interdisciplinary team or both, cooperating and other government agencies, and the public. Prior to publication of a Notice of Availability, the BLM will develop a document distribution list by format and provide the list to the Contractor. Concurrent with the publication of the NOA in the Federal Register, other methods of informing the public, stakeholders, and other federal agencies, state and local governments, the media and other interested parties as described in a communication plan will be implemented. BLM will provide the public with an opportunity to review and comment on the DEIS. Public meeting(s) will be held to provide opportunities for the public to gather additional or clarifying information prior to making their comments. An official public hearing to take public comment may be held, if necessary or requested.

Final EIS

Development of the FEIS will incorporate (as appropriate) public, Aurora Water, and agency comments on the DEIS.

Media

The news media will be provided news releases at each stage of the NEPA process (i.e., public scoping, issuance of DEIS, FEIS and ROD). In addition, they will be advised of any public meetings. All news releases will be coordinated through the BLM Colorado Office of Communications.

WILD HORSE AGREEMENT

Final Audit Report 2023-02-28

Created:	2023-02-27
By:	Sherri Sanderson (ssander@auroragov.org)
Status:	Signed
Transaction ID:	CBJCHBCAABAAuYcesx36K36-u6BPvcL6er6fkBrV-fP_

"WILD HORSE AGREEMENT" History

Document created by Sherri Sanderson (ssander@auroragov.org)
2023-02-27 - 7:15:07 PM GMT

Document emailed to John Smeins (jsmeins@blm.gov) for signature
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Document signing delegated to kberger@blm.gov by John Smeins (jsmeins@blm.gov)
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Signer kberger@blm.gov entered name at signing as Keith Berger
2023-02-28 - 8:52:18 PM GMT

Document e-signed by Keith Berger (kberger@blm.gov)
Signature Date: 2023-02-28 - 8:52:21 PM GMT - Time Source: server

Agreement completed.
2023-02-28 - 8:52:21 PM GMT

Financial Plan

Project	Wild Horse Reservoir	**Geographic Name**			
Subact/J		**BLM Case File**	COC-080710		
Project Mgr.	Sarah Garcia Castro	**Worksheet Date**	7/28/2025		
Office	RGFO	**Funds Available**	$16,008.88		
Labor Cost Estimate from FY25 Pay Period 14 to Project Completion					
Title or Name	**Name**	**GS- Level (Pay Grade)**	**Estimated Hours to Completion**	**Hourly Cost to Govt.**	**Estimated Cost**
Field Office Staff					
Field Manager	Mayes	GS-14	160	$112.00	$17,920
Renewable Resources AFM	Sales	GS-12	100	$81.00	$8,100
Non-Renewable Resources AFM	Ogle	GS-13	40	$100.00	$4,000
Recreation AFM	Lenard	GS-12	0	$85.00	$0
Environmental Coordinator	Brittingham	GS-11	40	$63.00	$2,520
Realty Specialist	Valladares	GS-11	40	$71.00	$2,840
Wildlife Biologist	McNitt	GS-11	80	$61.00	$4,880
Archeologist	Wallace/Schell	GS-11	500	$65.87	$32,935
Field Support- Law Enforcement	N/A	GS-11	0		$0
Soil-Water-Air Specialist	Apostolos	GS-11	80	$65.00	$5,200
Fisheries Biologist	Richter	GS-11	40	$80.00	$3,200
Minerals Specialist	A. Pike	GS-11	10	$62.00	$620
Outdoor Recreation Planner	Reynolds	GS-9	80	$62.12	$4,970
Outdoor Recreation Planner	Skinner	GS-11	0	$73.00	$0
Wilderness Coordinator	N/A	GS-11	0		$0
Cadastral	Singleton	GS-12	20	$79.00	$1,580
Administrative Staff	Parker	GS-9	20	$35.00	$700
Hydrologist	Smeins	GS-11	320	$99.00	$31,680
District Office Staff					
Project Mananger - P&EC	Garcia Castro	GS-12	3000	$93.00	$279,000.00
Engineering	??	GS-12	20	$79.98	$1,599.60
Budget Analyst	Brame-Leonard	GS-11	20	$60.14	$1,202.80
PAO	Spellman	GS-12	80	$79.98	$6,398.40
DDM	Ziegler	GS-13	52	$93.00	$4,836.00
DM	??	GS-14	0		$0.00
State Office Staff	General				
Water Rights Coordinator	Smith (Roy)	GS-13	50	$132.98	$6,649.00
Economist	Strunk	GS-12	25	$102.00	$2,550.00
NEPA Liason	Sauls	GS-12	50	$96.00	$4,800.00
Visual Resources	Christenson (Jeff)	GS-12	25	$89.66	$2,241.50
Visual Resources	Perfors (Tracy)	GS-12	30	$88.62	$2,658.60
TOTALS			**4,882.0**		$433,080.50
* S4Hana Budget Financial System					($16,008.88)
					$417,071.62

LVRWC22C9780 : WILD HORSE RESERVOIR	2023	**230,657.11**
2023 Total Expenditures		(23,235.95) All labor and the overhead expense Indirect Rate
	2024	**207,421.16**
2024 Total Expenditures		(61,535.86) $10k Overhead expense $107 CC Charge $50,707 Labor
	2025	**145,885.30**
2025 Total Expenditures		(129,876.42) All labor and the overhead expense Indirect Rate
Current Available Funds Thru PP14		**16,008.88**

LABOR COSTS	**AMOUNT**		**Notes**	
			Cost are estimates based on current information. Actual	
Labor Cost Est	$417,071.62			
Surcharge			**Indirect Rate (FY25) - All Projects**	
Labor - Subtotal	$417,071.62		19.84%	
Operating Cost	**EST.**		**Project**	
Travel	5,000.00		**Labor - Subtotal**	$417,071.62
Supplies			**Other - Subtotal**	$5,000.00
Vehicles	0.00		**Indirect Cost Est.**	$83,739.00
Contracts	0.00		**Contingency - 10%**	$50,581.06
Equipment				
Misc. Costs			**TOTAL**	**$556,391.68**
TOTAL	$5,000.00			

Colorado Springs Locality Pay - 2025

GS	Annual Salary Step 5	Loaded Rate (Cost w/36% Benefits)	Standard Hourly Rate	Total Hourly Rate for Planning	Monthly Rat
15	$166,957	$227,062	$108.75	$130.50	$22,706
14	$141,942	$193,041	$92.45	$110.94	$19,304
13	$120,118	$163,360	$78.24	$93.89	$16,336
12	$101,010	$137,374	$65.79	$78.95	$13,737
11	$84,274	$114,613	$54.89	$65.87	$11,461
10	$76,704	$104,317	$49.96	$59.95	$10,432
9	$69,654	$94,729	$45.37	$54.44	$9,473
8	$63,063	$85,766	$41.08	$49.29	$8,577
7	$56,946	$77,447	$37.09	$44.51	$7,745
6	$51,246	$69,695	$33.38	$40.05	$6,969
5	$45,969	$62,518	$29.94	$35.93	$6,252

Cost Reimbursement Agreement between the City of Aurora and Bureau of Land Management

Applicant: City of Aurora, acting by and through its Utility Enterprise
Lead Bureau Land Management (BLM) Office: Royal Gorge Field Office

I. **Authority**: Section 304(b) and 504(g) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) [43 U.S.C. 1734(b) and 1764(g)], as amended and 43 CFR Subpart 2804.

II. **Purpose**: This Agreement between the above referenced Applicant and BLM, establishes procedures to reimburse BLM for costs incurred to process a Right-of-Way Application Serial Number(s) COC-080710. If a decision is made to authorize a right-of-way this Agreement shall be utilized to reimburse BLM for costs incurred to monitor construction and initial reclamation.

III. Provision of Agreement

A. In accordance with Section 304(b) of Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) and 43 CFR 2804.19, Applicant agrees to reimburse BLM for the costs incurred by BLM for processing the Application, and should a right-of-way be approved, costs for issuing a right-of-way grant and monitoring the construction and initial reclamation. Further, in accordance with 43 CFR 2804.14(f), Applicant waives consideration of reasonable costs, as would be determined under 43 CFR 2804.20 and 2804.21, and agrees to pay all actual costs incurred by the BLM related to the processing of this Application subject to paragraphs F and G of Attachment 1 to this Agreement.

B. This Agreement is subject to the Reimbursable Cost Provisions and the Descriptions of Direct and Indirect Costs contained in Attachment #1, the Work Plan contained in Attachment #2, and the Financial Plan contained in Attachment #3. This cost estimate may be amended should actual costs exceed estimated costs.

C. Applicant will be advised as to the nature and extent of all major studies needed to complete the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). BLM will prepare a separate Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to which this Agreement may be attached and incorporated therein for any project requiring preparation of an EIS.

IV. **Effective Date**: This Agreement shall be effective (*as of the latter date of its execution by both parties)*. Unless terminated earlier, it shall continue until the BLM authorized officer has accepted completion of construction and initial reclamation.

Bureau of Land Management

Catherine L. Cook
Cathy Cook, District Manager

August 23, 2022
Date

State of Colorado)
) ss
County of Fremont)

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this 23 day of August, 2022, by Cathy Cook, District Manager, acting on behalf of the Bureau of Land Management.

Witness my hand and official seal. Ashley Purvis
Notary Public

My commission expires: 08/18/2023

(Seal)

ASHLEY PURVIS
NOTARY PUBLIC
STATE OF COLORADO
NOTARY ID 20154032571
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES AUGUST 18, 2023

City of Aurora, Colorado,
Acting by and through its
Utility Enterprise

Mike Coffman, Mayor — Date 08/10/22

Attest:

Kadee Rodriguez — Date 08-10-22
Kadee Rodriguez (Aug 15, 2022 11:16 MDT)
Kadee Rodriguez, City Clerk

Approved as to form for Aurora:

Ian J Best — May 31, 2022 — 22039183
Ian J Best (May 31, 2022 16:15 MDT)
Ian Best, Assistant City Attorney — Date — ACS #

State of Colorado)
) ss
County of Arapahoe)

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this 10th day of August, 2022, by Mike Coffman, Mayor, acting on behalf of the Utility Enterprise of the City of Aurora, Colorado.

Witness my hand and official seal.

Notary Public

My commission expires: 4/15/2022

ALIA GONZALES
NOTARY PUBLIC
STATE OF COLORADO
NOTARY ID 20224015148
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES 04/15/2026

(Seal)

Attachment #1

Reimbursable Cost Provisions

A. BLM agrees to process the Application to the extent funding under the Agreement permits. Processing will include, but not be limited to, the following: coordination, administration and approval of any necessary environmental analyses including the preparation of an EA or EIS; consultation with appropriate Federal, State, Tribal, and local officials; preparation of the administrative record and resolving any protests, appeals and litigation that might result from the proposal, preparation of all decisions and authorizations resulting from those decisions; monitoring the construction, operation and termination of any resultant authorization; and other necessary processing actions consistent with a final decision.

B. BLM agrees to timely notify the Applicant, in writing, of any changes to the indirect rate. Refer to the Definition of Direct and Indirect Costs below.

C. Applicant agrees to fund and utilize third party assistance contractors to expedite processing the application. Third party assistance contractors may include, but are not limited to, contractors for preparation of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents, cultural resource inventories, biological inventories and surveys, engineering and design surveys, clerical staff support, NEPA adequacy reviews, resource specialist reviews, persons to aid in assembling the case file record, and compliance inspectors.

D. BLM shall monthly review case processing and costs incurred. When BLM determines there are insufficient funds remaining for the next period of planned work, it shall inform the Applicant of the work proposed to be done and request a further deposit. Deposits must be received prior to BLM incurring costs.

E. Quarterly statements of BLM expenditures will be furnished to Applicant within thirty (30) days of the close of the quarter (March 31, June 30, September 30, and December 31).

F. Applicant shall have the right to conduct, at its own expense, reasonable audits of the books, records, and documents of BLM relating to the items on any particular accounting statement provided by BLM. Applicant shall have ninety (90) days after receipt of the quarterly statement to raise objections to or dispute any particular entry of cost item.

G. BLM shall provide full justification of any disputed entry or cost item within thirty (30) days of receipt of the objection or will delete the entry or cost item. If Applicant still objects to the entry or cost item, an appeal to the State Director may be made within thirty (30) days of receipt of BLM justification. The State Director's decision is the final administrative decision.

H. Reimbursable funds, once obligated by BLM, are not refundable and will not be made refundable by termination of the Project, withdrawal of the Application, or non-issuance of a right-of-way grant.

I. In accordance with 43 CFR 2804.27(a), if BLM denies the Application, Applicant must

reimburse BLM for all costs BLM incurred in processing the Application. If the Applicant withdraws the application, Applicant will reimburse BLM for processing costs incurred by BLM in closing its review of the Application and which cannot reasonably be avoided after BLM receives written notice of withdrawal of the Application.

J. Nothing herein shall be deemed to require BLM to maintain books, records, or documents other than those usually maintained by them, provided that such books, records, and documents reasonably segregate and identify the costs for which reimbursement is required and comply with generally accepted accounting practices for such documentation.

K. The designated points of contact with whom each party to this Agreement will communicate concerning any aspect of this Agreement are as follows:

BLM
John Smeins
3028 E. Main Street
Canon City, CO 81212
719-269-8581
jsmeins@blm.gov

City of Aurora – Water Resources
Lauren Maggert
15151 E. Alameda Parkway, Ste. 3600
Aurora, CO 80012
830-534-8601
lnance@auroragov.org

Either party may designate a different point of contact by notifying the other party in writing of such change.

Definition of Direct and Indirect Costs

Direct costs are those costs which can be specifically identified with the Application and which are incurred for the benefit of said applicant in that the costs would not have been incurred but for the Application and are appropriate in order for BLM to process the Application. Examples of direct costs include, but are not limited to, personnel costs in the form of wages paid to BLM personnel working on the Application, with allowances provided for fringe benefits and leave surcharge rate and any overtime associated with processing the Application; travel expenses; purchased services, if necessary, such as printing, automated data processing services and photographic reproduction; and any miscellaneous supplies and equipment of a specialized nature, the use of which is directly applicable to processing the Application.

Indirect costs are those which cannot be specifically identified with the Application. These indirect costs have been calculated at a rate of twenty-one point one percent (21.1%) of direct costs. The indirect costs are subject to change annually. This percentage figure has been developed in accordance with Department of the Interior procedures and represents those administrative and

program costs, excluding management overhead, which can be attributed to processing the Application. Indirect costs include a portion of the costs for capitalized and non-capitalized equipment; space rental; telephone services; postage; personnel transfer costs; budget and program development; administrative and clerical support; training; safety management; public information, inquiries and reports; cartography and basic series mapping; aviation management; telecommunications; maintenance of equipment and tools; and systems design and implementation.

Excluded from indirect costs are costs for managerial work; evaluations of field office activities; program coordination; technical program direction; environmental education; interagency planning; studies and research; preparation of environmental documents relating to general program planning; law enforcement and firefighting.

Attachment #2

Work Plan

Schedule of Major Milestones

This work plan identifies only major milestones. A more detailed project schedule and/or Gantt chart will be attached.

Task	Date	Time Required	Responsible Party
Review Application and Plan of Development			
Establish reimbursable account	08/05/2022		
Public Notification	02/28/2023		
Notify agencies/tribes	05/13/2022		
Agency/tribal meetings	06/17/2022		
Scoping Meetings	04/10/2023		
Initiate field work/data collection	05/01/2023		
Review administrative draft EA/EIS	09/27/2024		
Review Final EA/EIS	03/28/2025		
Conclude agency/Tribal consultations	05/30/2025		
Issue Decision Record/FONSI or Record of Decision	10/01/2025		
Review/approve surety bonds	10/01/2025		
Issue Grant(s)	12/01/2025		
Pre-construction meeting(s)	01/2026-03/2026		
Issue Notice(s) to Proceed	03/2026		

Attachment #3

Financial Plan

Project	Wild Horse Reservoir	**Geographic Name**	
Subact		**BLM Case File**	COC-080710
Project	John Smeins	**Worksheet Date**	4/20/2022
Office	RGFO	**Funds Available -**	

Labor Cost Estimate

Title or Name	Hours	Hourly Cost to Government	Estimated Cost	Estimated Workmonths	Comment
Field Office Staff					
Field Manager	80	$100.00	$8,000.00	0.46	
Renewable Resources AFM	40	$75.00	$3,000.00	0.23	
Non-Renewable Resources AFM	40	$75.00	$3,000.00	0.23	
Recreation AFM	80	$80.00	$6,400.00	0.46	
Environmental Coordinator	120	$85.00	$10,200.00	0.69	covered by PM
Realty Specialist	40	$62.00	$2,480.00	0.23	Partial coverage by PM
Wildlife Biologist	40	$70.00	$2,800.00	0.23	
Archeologist	200	$75.00	$15,000.00	1.16	
Field Support- Law Enforcement	0	$75.00	$0.00	0.00	
Soil-Water-Air Specialist	120	$85.00	$10,200.00	0.69	covered by PM
Fisheries Biologist	40	$68.00	$2,720.00	0.23	
Minerals Specialist	0	$75.00	$0.00	0.00	
Outdoor Recreation Planner	3	$63.00	$189.00	0.02	
Wilderness Coordinator	0	$80.00	$0.00	0.00	covered by rec. AFM
Cadastrel	20	$74.00	$1,480.00	0.12	
Administrative Staff	20	$46.00	$920.00	0.12	LLE, etc.
Project Manager	920	$85.00	$78,200.00	5.32	
District Office Staff					
P&EC	20	$82.00	$1,640.00	0.12	
Engineering	20	$82.00	$1,640.00	0.12	
PAO	12	$72.00	$864.00	0.07	
ADM	8	$75.00	$600.00	0.05	
DM	12	$110.00	$1,320.00	0.07	
			$0.00	0.00	
State Office Staff	175	$100.00	$17,500.00	1.01	
TOTALS	2,010		$168,153.00	11.62	

LABOR COSTS	AMOUNT
Labor Cost Est	$168,153.00
Surcharge	
Labor - Subtotal	$168,153.00

Notes

Cost are estimates based on current information. Actual costs could increase based on additional information such as Tribal consultations, protests, etc.

Indirect Rate - All Projects

21.10%

Operating Cost	EST.
Travel	5,000.00
Supplies	
Vehicles	0.00

Project	
Labor - Subtotal	$168,153.00
Other - Subtotal	$5,000.00
Indirect Cost Est.	$36,535.28

Contracts	0.00		**Contingency - 10%**	$20,968.83
Equipment				
Misc. Costs			**TOTAL**	$230,657.11
TOTAL	$5,000.00			

MINUTES

Regular Meeting – Aurora City Council
Monday, September 11, 2017

CALL TO ORDER – REGULAR MEETING

Mayor Hogan convened the regular meeting of City Council at 2:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

PRESIDING:	Mayor Hogan
COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:	Berzins, Cleland Lawson, LeGare, Mounier, Peterson, Pierce, Richardson, Roth
COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:	Bergan
OFFICIALS PRESENT:	City Manager Noe, City Attorney Hyman, City Clerk Blackston
COUNCIL MEMBERS ARRIVING AFTER ROLL CALL:	None

City Clerk Blackston announced the proposed items for discussion at executive session.

CONSIDERATION TO RECESS FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Roth, second by Pierce, to recess for executive session.

Voting Aye: Mayor Hogan, Berzins, Lawson, LeGare, Mounier, Pierce, Roth

Voting Nay: Cleland, Peterson, Richardson

Abstaining: None

The executive session was recorded pursuant to the requirements of state law.

1. **RECONVENE REGULAR MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2017 AND CALL TO ORDER**

   Mayor Hogan reconvened the regular meeting of City Council at 5:00 p.m.

2. **ROLL CALL** Linda S. Blackston, City Clerk

3. **INVOCATION** Pastor Mark Spence, Mississippi Avenue Baptist Church

4. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG** (all standing)

5. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF AUGUST 21 & 31, 2017**

   Motion by Roth, second by Pierce, to approve the minutes of August 21 & 31, 2017 as presented.

   Voting Aye: Mayor Hogan, Bergan, Berzins, Lawson, LeGare, Mounier, Peterson, Pierce, Richardson, Roth

   Abstained: Cleland

Council Member Richardson asked if it was correct that the pet surcharge did not go to animal shelter at all but went into the general fund.

Jason Batchelor, Deputy City Manager, answered affirmatively, noting the ordinance increased the amount of offenses that the surcharges were applied to and City Council set the surcharge programs by ordinance.

Presiding Judge Shawn Day, Judicial, concurred, noting the funds went to a designated Nexus program.

Council Member Richardson asked if any of the Nexus programs had anything to do with animals. Judge Day answered no, noting the funds went to the five beneficiaries designated by Council.

Council Member Cleland pointed out City Council made those designations and they could choose to remove the funds from Nexus to be used elsewhere.

Voting Aye: Bergan, Cleland, Lawson, LeGare, Mounier, Peterson, Pierce, Roth

Voting Nay: Berzins, Richardson

b. **2017-33**
Consideration for ADOPTION OF AN ORDINANCE of the City Council of the City of Aurora, Colorado, amending the 2009 Aurora Comprehensive Plan by including the North East Plains-Central East Strategic Area. STAFF SOURCE: Karen Hancock, Planning Supervisor, Planning & Development Services

Motion by Cleland, second by Roth, to approve item 12b.

Council Member Cleland stated by not doing it would hamper the future of the City of Aurora. She stated her understanding that the annex discussion was for the future and her hope was that it would be decided to be advantageous for Aurora.

Duane Senn, President, Laredo Highline Homeowners Association and Margaret Sobey, President, MCGC Neighbors, spoke in opposition to the item.

Council Member Bergan stated she would not support the item. She noted she was not anti-growth but believed it was important to have smart measured growth. She pointed out consultants for the City did a study that cost $500k which indicated the City would have a $15M deficit to the general fund, therefore she stated it was important to look at the impact to current residents and the services they needed. She stated her understanding that this was a boundary issue, noting however, she was not naïve and understood it was also about accepting petitions for annexation. She pointed out the City still had a lot of undeveloped land and the study indicated it could take up to 50 years to absorb the actual development the City had available to them.

Mayor Pro Tem Lawson concurred, noting her concern as a citizen and policymaker that a $500k study was not being considered at all in this instance.

Voting Aye: Berzins, Cleland, LeGare, Peterson, Pierce, Richardson, Roth

Voting Nay: Bergan, Lawson, Mounier

c. **2017-34**
Consideration for ADOPTION OF AN ORDINANCE of the City Council of the City of Aurora, Colorado, acting by and through its Utility Enterprise, to exercise the power of eminent domain for acquisition of certain properties in Park County, Colorado for a

water reservoir project. STAFF SOURCE: Alexandra Davis, Deputy Director Water Resource, Aurora Water

Motion by Richardson, second by Bergan, to approve item 12c.

Council Member Mounier asked who absorbed the costs associated with eminent domain.

Marshall Brown, Director, Aurora Water, stated the costs came out of the project budget which was funded through two revenue sources, noting 65% came from connection fees and 35% from water rates, which included everyone's water bill.

Council Member Mounier asked Mr. Brown to clarify section 6. Mr. Brown did so, noting it related to allowing the City to use eminent domain if it could not acquire the property by other means. Council Member Mounier asked how the City of Aurora and other counties outside of Park County could invoke eminent domain. Mr. Brown explained the City's water system expanded over a much greater area than the City proper and that type of authority could be exercised to ensure the public benefitted from having reliable sustainable water supplies in the future. Council Member Mounier asked if Wild Horse was one of three reservoirs the City was looking at. Mr. Brown answered affirmatively, noting all three were located outside of the City. Council Member Mounier asked if there were alternatives. Mr. Brown answered affirmatively, noting those options were expensive and were also located outside of the City.

Council Member Cleland stated the process with the federal government for the other two would take longer because of where they were located.

Mr. Brown concurred, noting they were decades out from being pursued.

Council Member Cleland stated Wild Horse would provide the City with the opportunity to store water.

Mr. Brown concurred, noting water rights and storage went hand-in-hand.

Council Member Cleland asked for an explanation of eminent domain. Mr. Brown did so, noting eminent domain gave the City the ability to pay the fair market value for the property. Council Member Cleland stated the property owner, the City and a third party assessed the valuation on the property which made it fair to the property owner.

Council Member Richardson asked if East Reservoir was in trouble. Mr. Brown agreed there were significant challenges with the East Reservoir. Council Member Richardson asked if those challenges included other parties in the water business putting unacceptable conditions on the City's acquisition of the East Reservoir. Mr. Brown concurred. Council Member Richardson stated eminent domain actions would be brought up in Park County because that was where the property was and the landowner could choose a jury of Park County residents or panel of Park County property owners to determine the amount of compensation so they would be appropriately compensated.

Council Member Roth discussed the many good things the City has done in the past that went above and beyond to be a good neighbor with regards to water. He stated he would not support the item because he had a philosophical problem with the City going into Park County and exercising eminent domain.

Council Member Bergan stated she would support the item because while she supported property rights and was not generally in favor of eminent domain, this was a unique opportunity where a reservoir was positioned to meet the City's future needs for water storage. She pointed out it was to the benefit of future citizens of Aurora and other jurisdictions.

Council Member Cleland stated the land was basically open range.

Mr. Brown concurred.

Council Member LeGare discussed the correlation between the right of eminent domain as it related to public projects such as local roads and state highways. He stated this was different than turning land over to a developer for commercial use, noting he would support the item because it related to public infrastructure and roads.

Voting Aye: Bergan, Cleland, Lawson, LeGare, Peterson, Pierce, Richardson

Voting Nay: Berzins, Mounier, Roth

13. **RECONSIDERATIONS AND CALL-UPS**

None

14. **GENERAL BUSINESS**

a. Consideration to appoint one (1) member to the Veterans Affairs Commission. STAFF SOURCE: Linda Blackston, City Clerk, General Management

Motion by Richardson, second by Bergan, to appoint Christopher Crandall to the Veterans Affairs Commission.

Voting Aye: Mayor Hogan, Bergan, Berzins, Cleland, Lawson, LeGare, Mounier, Peterson, Pierce, Richardson, Roth

Council Member Berzins noted Robert O'Reilly lived in Ward II.

b. Consideration to reappoint two (2) and the appointment of three (3) members to the Art in Public Places Commission. STAFF SOURCE: Linda Blackston, City Clerk, General Management

Motion by Pierce, second by Cleland, to reappoint Amy Cheslin and Rachel Granrath and appoint Tarilynn Moore, Julie Weinheimer and Nicole Schaeur to the Arts in Public Places Commission.

Voting Aye: Mayor Hogan, Bergan, Berzins, Cleland, Lawson, LeGare, Mounier, Peterson, Pierce, Richardson, Roth

16. **REPORTS**

a. Report by the Mayor

Mayor Hogan discussed the 2001 9/11 attacks and pointed out Americans should never forget those who gave their lives in the attack or saving those impacted by the attack. He noted it was the Ethiopian New Year and wished a Happy New Year to Aurora's sister city.

b. Reports by the Council

Mayor Pro Tem Lawson noted the importance of recognizing the families impacted by 9/11.

MINUTES

Regular Meeting of the **Aurora City Council**

Monday, July 25, 2022

1. **RECONVENE REGULAR MEETING OF JULY 25, 2022, AND CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Coffman reconvened the regular meeting of City Council for July 25, 2022, at 6:30 p.m.

2. **ROLL CALL**– Kadee Rodriguez, City Clerk

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Coffman, Bergan, Coombs, Gardner, Jurinsky, Lawson, Marcano, Medina, Murillo, Sundberg, Zvonek

Public call-in instructions were provided in both English and Spanish.

3. **INVOCATION/MOMENT OF SILENCE**

Mayor Coffman led a prayer for the July 25th Council Meeting.

4. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** (all standing)

5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

5.a. **June 27, 2022, Meeting Minutes**

Mayor Pro Tem Bergan offered an amendment for the third sentence of her council report to state: "She asked questions to Senators Hickenlooper and Bennet regarding accountability and partnerships with different distributions for mental health."

Motion by Bergan, second by Coombs, to approve the minutes of the June 27, 2022 City Council meeting with MPT Bergan's amendment to the third sentence of her Council Report.

Voting Aye: Mayor Coffman, Bergan, Coombs, Gardner, Jurinsky, Lawson, Marcano, Medina, Murillo, Sundberg, Zvonek

5.b. **July 11, 2022, Meeting Minutes**

Motion by Bergan, second by Lawson, to approve the minutes of the July 11, 2022 City Council meeting as presented.

Voting Aye: Mayor Coffman, Bergan, Coombs, Gardner, Jurinsky, Lawson, Marcano, Medina, Murillo, Sundberg, Zvonek

♦ ***The City Charter prescribes the Mayor may vote on resolutions and ordinances only to create or break a tie vote of Council Members present. The Mayor Pro-Tem is always permitted to vote on all items.***

R2022-141 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF A NEW POET LAUREATE

Midori Clark, Director of Library & Cultural Services / Tim Joyce, Assistant City Attorney

Midori Clark, Director of Library & Cultural Services, provided a summary of the item.

CM Coombs asked how long Assetou Xango served as emeritus past her original term or how long the city did not have a Poet Laureate. M. Clark explained Assetou was requested to extend her appointment partially through 2021. She stated that there was no Poet Laureate for 2022. CM Jurinsky stated that she talked with Assetou, and she said that her term was extended by almost a year.

Motion by Jurinsky, second by Coombs to approve item 10b.

Voting Aye: Bergan, Coombs, Gardner, Jurinsky, Lawson, Marcano, Medina, Murillo, Sundberg, Zvonek

10.c. **An Intergovernmental Agreement for Wild Horse Reservoir Permit Application Costs**

R2022-142 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, EXPRESSING THE AURORA CITY COUNCIL'S APPROVAL OF AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF AURORA ACTING BY AND THROUGH ITS UTILITY ENTERPRISE AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT FOR WILD HORSE RESERVOIR PERMIT APPLICATION COSTS

Alexandra Davis, Deputy Director of Water Resources, Aurora Water / Ian Best, Assistant City Attorney

Sarah Young, Deputy Director of Aurora Water, provided a summary of the item.

CM Coombs mentioned there was a shifting in the location of where they thought the reservoir will be. She asked if there is any risk or likelihood that the assessments will result in additional changes to the location and structure of the reservoir. S. Young explained that they are far enough along in the feasibility design, and they are confident in the current location and the dam analysis.

Motion by Jurinsky, second by Sundberg to approve item 10c.

Voting Aye: Bergan, Coombs, Gardner, Jurinsky, Lawson, Marcano, Medina, Murillo, Sundberg, Zvonek

10.d. **2022 Private Activity Bond Assignment**

R2022-143 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, AUTHORIZING THE ASSIGNMENT OF THE CITY'S 2022 PRIVATE

♦ ***The City Charter prescribes the Mayor may vote on resolutions and ordinances only to create or break a tie vote of Council Members present. The Mayor Pro-Tem is always permitted to vote on all items.***

Summary of Issue and Discussion: B. Bell gave a presentation. The Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) and Aurora Water Departments have a long history of collaboration focused on data informed water conservation initiatives that include Kentucky Blue Grass turf conversions, irrigation controller and system replacements, alternative grass material evaluation, and use of xeric designs. The presentation includes water conservation accomplishments to date, gives perspective to PROS current water use, and describes the PROS plan to meet and exceed goals established in recent water conservation initiatives approved by City Council.

CM Gardner asked, when native grasses are installed or after installation do they require irrigation? J. Wesolowski, responded, there is irrigation for a two to three year period of irrigation to get the native grass established then can be tapered off. Gardner asked, would it be an option for Bermuda grasses in Colorado for golf courses? B. Bell responded that the Tahoma Bermuda grass is a cold-weather grass but would like more time to experiment with it before replacing the golf courses with it. M. Brown, agreed with Brooke and stated, there is more experimentation that needs to take place and may begin with a driving range to see how the Bermuda grass holds up. CM Gardner stated that he is glad to see that PROS is making the investments to preserve water supply through alternative grass material and xeric designs.

Outcome: The Committee supports the PROS Water Conservation – Past, Present, and Future.

Follow-Up Action: Forward to Study Session for consideration.

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5. Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with the City and County of Denver regarding Sewer Discharge Connection

Summary of Issue and Discussion: S. Nyirenda gave an overview of the IGA. The City and County of Denver has a new customer constructing adjacent to Aurora's Segment 1E and requires connection for service. This agreement allows that connection and will initiate the ability to transfer this segment of the interceptor to Metro. The terms of the agreement are as follows:

- Denver is responsible for the connection costs.
- A target date for Metro transfer by 12-31-2024.
- Denver will be responsible for paying Metro rates directly and will therefore pay Aurora 65% of our internal customer rate for use of the interceptor.
- Denver must introduce a flowrate of less than 0.5 MGD average or 1.0 MGD peak.
- The term shall be 3 years or until Metro assumes Segment 1E.

Outcome: The Committee supports the Intergovernmental Agreement with the City and County of Denver regarding Sewer Discharge Connection.

Follow-Up Action: Forward to Study Session for consideration.

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6. Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between the City of Aurora and the Bureau of Land Management for a Memorandum of Understanding for the purpose of preparing an Environmental Impact Statement for the Wild Horse Reservoir Project

Summary of Issue and Discussion: A. Davis gave an overview of the IGA. The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) sets forth roles and responsibilities for the BLM and Aurora Water for the

purpose of hiring a third party contractor to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Wild Horse reservoir project. The MOU is an important step to begin the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Right of Way (ROW) permit processes. The costs associated with preparing the EIS and completing the ROW request (estimated cost of $230,657.11) was addressed in a Cost Reimbursement Agreement approved by Council on July 25, 2022. The MOU and the third party contractor are a standard practice for permitting processes.

Outcome: The Committee supports the Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Aurora and the Bureau of Land Management for a Memorandum of Understanding for the purpose of preparing an Environmental Impact Statement for the Wild Horse Reservoir Project.

Follow-Up Action: Forward to Study Session for consideration.

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7. Aurora Water Management Plan Overview

Summary of Issue and Discussion: G. Baker gave a presentation on demand management in the event of drought or other water emergencies.

Outcome: Informational only.

Follow-Up Action: Informational only.

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8. Miscellaneous Matters for Consideration

Summary of Issue and Discussion:

Outcome: Informational only.

Follow-Up Action: Information only.

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7. Confirm Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for December 20, 2022, 9:00 a.m. via WebEx.

X Steve Sundberg (Dec 21, 2022 06:37 MST)

Steve Sundberg
Chair, Water Policy Committee

MINUTES

Regular Meeting of the **Aurora City Council**

Monday, January 30, 2023

1. **RECONVENE REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 30, 2023, AND CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Coffman reconvened the regular meeting of the City Council for January 30, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.

2. **ROLL CALL**– Kadee Rodriguez, City Clerk

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Coffman, Bergan, Coombs, Gardner, Jurinsky, Lawson, Marcano, Medina, Murillo, Sundberg, Zvonek

Public call-in instructions were provided in both English and Spanish.

3. **INVOCATION/MOMENT OF SILENCE**– Mike Coffman, Mayor

Mayor Coffman led the prayer and followed by reading the Land Acknowledgement.

4. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** (all standing)

5. **EXECUTIVE SESSION UPDATE**

Mayor Coffman stated that during the executive session, the council discussed potential development as well as security issue concerns.

6. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

6.a **January 09, 2023, Meeting Minutes**

Motion by Bergan, second by Sundberg, to approve the minutes of January 9, 2023 as presented.

Voting Aye: Mayor Coffman, Bergan, Coombs, Gardner, Lawson, Marcano, Medina, Murillo, Sundberg, Zvonek

7. **PROCLAMATIONS OR CEREMONIES**

♦ ***The City Charter prescribes the Mayor may vote on resolutions and ordinances only to create or break a tie vote of Council Members present. The Mayor Pro-Tem is always permitted to vote on all items.***

Emma Knight, Manager of Homelessness Program / Tim Joyce, Assistant City Attorney

11.a.4 **Preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement for the Wild Horse Reservoir Project**

R2023-09 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, EXPRESSING THE AURORA CITY COUNCIL'S APPROVAL OF AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF AURORA ACTING BY AND THROUGH ITS UTILITY ENTERPRISE AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT FOR THE PURPOSE OF PREPARING AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE WILD HORSE RESERVOIR PROJECT

Alexandra Davis, Deputy Director of Water Resources, Aurora Water / Ian Best, Assistant City Attorney

11.a.5 **Colorado Freedom Memorial Visitor & Education Center**

R2023-10 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, EXPRESSING THE AURORA CITY COUNCIL'S SUPPORT FOR THE COLORADO FREEDOM MEMORIAL FOUNDATION GOALS AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE COLORADO FREEDOM MEMORIAL VISITOR AND EDUCATION CENTER IN SPRINGHILL COMMUNITY PARK

Sponsor: Dustin Zvonek, Council Member / Danielle Jurinsky, Council Member

Curt Bish, Planning Supervisor of Parks, Recreation and Open Space / Tim Joyce, Assistant City Attorney

Outside speaker: Rick Crandall, Executive Director Colorado Freedom Memorial Foundation

11.a.6 **Rules of Order and Procedure: Public Input at City Council Meetings**

R2023-11 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, TO MODIFY THE RULES OF ORDER AND PROCEDURE FOR THE AURORA, COLORADO, CITY COUNCIL REGARDING PUBLIC INPUT AT CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

Sponsor: Juan Marcano, Council Member

Dan Brotzman, City Attorney / Jack Bajorek, Deputy City Attorney

Council heard public in-person and in-call testimony.

♦ ***The City Charter prescribes the Mayor may vote on resolutions and ordinances only to create or break a tie vote of Council Members present. The Mayor Pro-Tem is always permitted to vote on all items.***

CM Marcano agreed to the public testimony that the current process is convoluted. He disagreed with the time limit that was changed by the current Council early on. He stated that the public invited to be heard at the end of the meeting was useful before he was on Council because there would be things that would happen during the meeting that they might want to give feedback on, but they wouldn't be able to give feedback until two weeks later.

Motion by Gardner, second by Marcano to approve items 11.a.1 through 11.a.6 with item 11.a.7 removed.

Voting Aye: Gardner, Medina, Marcano, Bergan, Lawson, Murillo, Coombs, Zvonek, Sundberg

11.a.7 **Rules of Order and Procedure: Motions To End Debate**

R2023-12 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, TO AMEND THE RULES OF ORDER AND PROCEDURE FOR THE AURORA, COLORADO, CITY COUNCIL REGARDING MOTIONS TO END DEBATE

Sponsor: Curtis Gardner, Council Member

Dan Brotzman, City Attorney / Jack Bajorek, Deputy City Attorney

CM Marcano stated that he wished they had a Council where this resolution was not even necessary to contemplate. However, he further stated that this rule has been abused in the past. CM Marcano supported moving the resolution forward.

Motion by Marcano, second by Medina to support Resolution 2023-12 amending the motion to end debates.

Voting Aye: Medina, Marcano, Murillo

Voting Nay: Bergan, Coombs, Gardner, Lawson, Zvonek, Sundberg

12. **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

Public hearings with or without related ordinances

None.

13. **INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES**

♦ ***The City Charter prescribes the Mayor may vote on resolutions and ordinances only to create or break a tie vote of Council Members present. The Mayor Pro-Tem is always permitted to vote on all items.***

CITY OF AURORA
Council Agenda Commentary

Item Title: City of Aurora Private Activity Bond (PAB) Allocation for the Aurora Housing Authority 2025 (Resolution)
Item Initiator: Jessica Prosser, Director, Housing and Community Services
Staff Source/Legal Source: Sarah Pulliam, Manager of Community Development, Housing and Community Services / Tim Joyce, Assistant City Attorney
Outside Speaker: N/A
Strategic Outcome: Economically Strong: Building a conducive development climate, a diverse mix of industries and housing options, and fostering economic growth so that our community thrives and remains resilient.

COUNCIL MEETING DATES:

Study Session: 8/25/2025

Regular Meeting: 9/8/2025

2nd Regular Meeting (if applicable): N/A

Item requires a Public Hearing: ☐ Yes ☒ No

ITEM DETAILS *(Click in highlighted area below bullet point list to enter applicable information.)*

- Waiver of reconsideration requested, and if so, why
- Sponsor name
- Staff source name and title / Legal source name and title
- Outside speaker name and organization
- Estimated time: (For Study Session items only indicate combined time needed for presentation and discussion)

Sarah Pulliam, Manager of Community Development, Housing and Community Services / Tim Joyce, Assistant City Attorney

ACTIONS(S) PROPOSED *(Check all appropriate actions)*

☒ Approve Item and Move Forward to Study Session

☒ Approve Item and Move Forward to Regular Meeting

☐ Information Only

☐ Approve Item with Waiver of Reconsideration
Reason for waiver is described in the Item Details field above.

☐ Approve Item as Proposed at Policy Committee

☐ Approve Item as Proposed at Study Session

☐ Approve Item as Proposed at Regular Meeting

PREVIOUS ACTIONS OR REVIEWS:

Policy Committee Name: N/A

Policy Committee Date: N/A

Action Taken/Follow-up: ***(Check all that apply)***

☐ Recommends Approval

☐ Does Not Recommend Approval

☐ Forwarded Without Recommendation

☐ Minutes Not Available

☐ Minutes Attached

HISTORY *(Dates reviewed by City council, Policy Committees, Boards and Commissions, or Staff. Summarize pertinent comments. ATTACH MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS, POLICY COMMITTEES AND BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS.)*

The purpose of the Community Investment Financing application is to provide resources for developers and service providers interested in creating and/or preserving affordable housing opportunities in the city of Aurora. The city's housing priorities are established in the recently adopted Housing Strategy and guided by six policies informed by best practices and extensive community input. Applications will be evaluated based on alignment with the policies and goals of the Housing Strategy.

Types of Projects Funded: New rental or for-sale affordable housing, rehabilitation/preservation of existing affordable housing, permanent supportive housing, and homelessness service providers with infrastructure needs related to housing.

Funding Sources: Amounts will vary from year to year based on changing federal grant allocations, program income received, and funding needs for other programs. Sources will include some or all of the following: HOME (Home Investment Partnership Program) funds and CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) funds. The city currently has approximately $25,743,930 in Private Activity Bonds (PAB), $2.0 million in HOME funds, $2.5 million of CDBG, $450K in ERA2, and $400K in CDBG-CV funds for this spring round of financing.

General Application Components/Evaluation Criteria:
Alignment with Housing Strategy
Meets an identified housing need in the community
Demographics to be served by the project reflect the principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion
Average median income to be served by the project
Cost-effectiveness: leveraging of funding, review of sources and uses, and funding sustainability
Available city funding sources based on project type, developer or organization experience, and surrounding compatible uses.
Review Committee: City staff including Community Development, Homelessness Program, Finance, Planning, and Urban Renewal, and members of the Community Housing and Development (CHD) Committee.

ITEM SUMMARY *(Brief description of item, discussion, key points, recommendations, etc.)*

Applications for the City of Aurora's Community Investment Financing round were received on Wednesday, April 30, 2025, and reviewed by a committee consisting of City staff and members of the Community Housing and Development Committee. A total of five (5) applications for five (5) projects were received including three (3) multi-family new construction projects (total request $3.135M in HOME) and two (2) multi-family preservation projects (total request $21.3M in PAB).

Recommendations for PAB funding:

Montview Heights - $17.3M PAB

Ashbury Park - $8.4M PAB

A Private Activity Bond (PAB) is a special class of tax-exempt bond that benefits private (non-governmental borrowers) that can be issued by states, local governments, or housing authorities. These "state or local issuers" are bound by very specific restrictions as to the use of the bonds and the compliance requirements related to those bonds. The benefit of the PABs is that the interest paid to the bondholders is exempt from Federal income tax, which generally results in a lower borrowing cost the eligible project or a lower interest rate mortgage in the

case of single-family bonds. A population-based formula establishes the maximum amount of PABs that a state can issue annually, which amount is referred to as "cap" or "volume cap."

Eligible Uses for PABs
Affordable multifamily housing including new construction or acquisition and rehabilitation for low- and moderate-income individuals and families.

Single-Family Mortgage Revenue Bonds (SFMRBs) used to finance the purchase of mortgages made to income-qualified first-time homebuyers.

Mortgage Credit Certificates (MCCs), a financing enhancement for income eligible first-time homebuyers (can't be combined with SFMRB financing).

Industrial Development Bonds for smaller manufacturing projects (less than $10 million) that produce any type of goods.

Qualified Redevelopment Bonds used to acquire and redevelop blighted areas (typically not used in Colorado).

Solid Waste Disposal Bonds used to finance certain disposal facilities utilizing certain waste disposal processes.

FISCAL IMPACT

Select all that apply. (If no fiscal impact, click that box and skip to "Questions for Council")

☐ Revenue Impact ☐ Budgeted Expenditure Impact ☐ Non-Budgeted Expenditure Impact
☐ Workload Impact ☐ No Fiscal Impact

REVENUE IMPACT
Provide the revenue impact or N/A if no impact. (What is the estimated impact on revenue? What funds would be impacted? Provide additional detail as necessary.)

N/A

BUDGETED EXPENDITURE IMPACT
Provide the budgeted expenditure impact or N/A if no impact. (List Org/Account # and fund. What is the amount of budget to be used? Does this shift existing budget away from existing programs/services? Provide additional detail as necessary.)

N/A

NON-BUDGETED EXPENDITURE IMPACT
Provide the non-budgeted expenditure impact or N/A if no impact. (Provide information on non-budgeted costs. Include Personal Services, Supplies and Services, Interfund Charges, and Capital needs. Provide additional detail as necessary.)

N/A

WORKLOAD IMPACT
Provide the workload impact or N/A if no impact. (Will more staff be needed or is the change absorbable? If new FTE(s) are needed, provide numbers and types of positions, and a duty summary. Provide additional detail as necessary.)

N/A

QUESTIONS FOR COUNCIL

Does the City Council wish to support the Resolution to assign of the City's Private Activity Bond Cap allocation for 2025 to the Aurora Housing Authority for use in the redevelopment of two Aurora properties – Montview Heights and Ashbury Park?

LEGAL COMMENTS

Pursuant to the Colorado Private Activity Bond Ceiling Allocation Act, C.R.S. § 24-32-1701, *et seq.*, the City has received a direct allocation of the State of Colorado's Private Activity Bond Ceiling for 2025 in the amount of $25,743,930.00. As a designated State housing and finance authority, the City may assign all or a portion of its allocation to the State housing and finance authority for the purpose of financing the construction of multi-family rental housing projects. C.R.S. § 24-32-1706(2) (TJoyce)

CERTIFICATE OF CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO CONCERNING ASSIGNMENT OF PRIVATE ACTIVITY BOND VOLUME CAP ALLOCATION TO THE HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO

We, the undersigned, hereby certify that we are the duly sworn, qualified and acting Mayor (the "Mayor") and City Clerk (the "City Clerk") of the City of Aurora, Colorado (the "City"), and that:

1. The City is a Colorado home rule municipal corporation, duly organized and existing under the constitution and laws of the State of Colorado.

2. The City has been previously notified that, pursuant to Section 24-32-1706 of the Colorado Private Activity Bond Ceiling Allocation Act, Part 17 of Article 32 of Title 24, Colorado Revised Statutes (the "Allocation Act"), it has an allocation of the State ceiling (as defined in the Allocation Act) for 2025 in the amount of $25,743,930 (the "2025 Allocation").

3. Attached hereto as Exhibit A is a true and correct copy of a resolution (the "Resolution") authorizing the assignment to the Housing Authority of the City of Aurora, Colorado dba Aurora Housing Authority (the "Authority") all of the City's 2025 Allocation in the amount of $25,743,930 (the "Assigned Allocation"), and authorizing the execution and delivery of an Assignment of Allocation dated [_____ __], 2025 (the "Assignment of Allocation") between the City and the Authority in connection therewith, which Resolution was duly adopted by the City Council of the City (the "City Council") at a meeting thereof held on September 8, 2025, at which meeting a quorum was present and acting throughout and which Resolution has not been revoked, rescinded, repealed, amended or modified and is in full force and effect on the date hereof.

4. The meeting of the City Council at which action has been taken with respect to the Assignment of Allocation was a regular meeting properly called and open to the public at all times.

5. With respect to the Assigned Allocation, the City has not heretofore: (a) issued private activity bonds; (b) assigned the Assigned Allocation to another "issuing authority," as defined in the Allocation Act; (c) made a mortgage credit certificate election; or (d) treated the Assigned Allocation as an allocation for a project with a carryforward purpose, as defined in the Allocation Act.

6. The Assignment of Allocation, attached hereto as Exhibit B, is in substantially the form presented to and approved by the City Council at the meeting thereof held on August 14, 2024.

7. On or before the date hereof, the Mayor of the City and the City Clerk officially executed counterparts of the Assignment of Allocation.

8. The City has authorized the execution, delivery and due performance of the Assignment of Allocation, and the execution and delivery of the Assignment of Allocation and the compliance by the City with the provisions thereof, will not, to the best of my knowledge, conflict with or constitute on the part of the City a breach of or a default under any existing Colorado law, City resolution, court or administrative regulation, decree or order or any agreement or other instrument to which the City is subject or by which it is bound.

9. To the best of the undersigned's knowledge, there does not exist any action, suit, proceeding or investigation pending, or threatened against the City, contesting (a) the corporate existence of the City, (b) the title of its present officers or any of them to their respective offices, including, without limitation, the members of the City Council, (c) the validity of the Assignment of Allocation or (d) the power of the City to execute, deliver or perform the Assignment of Allocation.

10. No referendum petition has been filed concerning the Resolution; and to the best of my knowledge none is being circulated or planned for circulation.

EXECUTED this _____ day of _____, 2025.

_____
Mike Coffman, Mayor

ATTEST

_____
KADEE RODRIGUEZ, City Clerk

EXHIBIT A
RESOLUTION

EXHIBIT B
ASSIGNMENT OF ALLOCATION

Active/52079062.1

City of Aurora Bond Cap Assignment
2025

Sarah A. Pulliam
Manager of Housing & Community Development
August 20, 2025

PAB Basics:

A Private Activity Bond (PAB) is a special class of tax-exempt bond that benefits private (non-governmental borrowers). They can be issued by states, local governments, or housing authorities. These "state or local issuers" are bound by very specific restrictions as to the use of the bonds and the compliance requirements related to those bonds. The benefit of the PABs is that the interest paid to the bondholders is exempt from Federal income tax, which generally results in a lower borrowing cost the eligible project or a lower interest rate mortgage in the case of single-family bonds. A population-based formula establishes the maximum amount of PABs that a state can issue annually, which amount is referred to as "cap" or "volume cap."

Community Investment Finance Review

Total Grant Amount To Be Allocated:	
Private Activity Bonds (PAB)	$25,743,930.00
HOME Funds	$2,053,715.00
CDBG Funds	$2,378,86.00
TOTAL	**$30,175,731.00**
Total Number of Agencies Applied:	5
Total Applications:	5
Total Amount Requested:	$20,435,000
Total Amount Awarded:	**$27,778,930**
Total Number of New Units added to Housing Stock:	**137**
Number of Units Already in the Pipeline	200
Total Units in this application round	337

PAB Recommendations

Project Name	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded
Montview Heights (50 Units)	$17,300,000	$17,300,000
Ashbury Park (44 Units)	$ 4,000,000	$ 8,443,930

Question for City Council

Does the City Council recommend to move the Private Activity Bond Assignment approval to Regular Session?

Thank You

Sarah A. Pulliam
Manager of Housing & Community Development
sacarrol@auroragov.org

RESOLUTION NO. R2025-_____

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, AUTHORIZING THE ASSIGNMENT OF A PORTION OF THE CITY'S 2025 PRIVATE ACTIVITY BOND ALLOCATION TO THE HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO DBA AURORA HOUSING AUTHORITY

WHEREAS, the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "IRC"), restricts the amount of tax-exempt bonds (the "Private Activity Bonds") that may be issued in the State to provide for qualified residential rental projects, mortgage loans, and for certain other purposes; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the IRC, the State of Colorado passed the Colorado Private Activity Bond Ceiling Allocation Act, constituting Title 24, Article 32, Part 17, of the Colorado Revised Statutes, as amended (the "Allocation Act"); and

WHEREAS, the Allocation Act authorizes the direct allocation of the State Ceiling among issuing authorities such as the Colorado Housing and Finance Authority and other governmental units in the State including the City of Aurora, Colorado ("City"); and

WHEREAS, the City has received a direct allocation of the State of Colorado's Private Activity Bond Ceiling for the year 2025 (the "2025 Allocation") in the amount of $25,743,930; and

WHEREAS, having received the 2025 Allocation the City may assign the amounts of their 2025 Allocation pursuant to section 24-32-1706(2) of the Allocation Act to any issuing authority such as the Aurora Housing Authority of the City of Aurora, Colorado, dba Aurora Housing Authority (the "Authority"); and

WHEREAS, the Authority has requested that the City assign the 2025 Allocation, in the aggregate amount of $25,743,930 (the "Assigned Allocation"), to the Authority pursuant to Section 24-32-1706 of the Allocation Act, to be used to issue bonds to finance qualified residential rental projects, including but not limited to the costs of the acquisition, construction, rehabilitation, renovation, and equipping of (i) Montview Heights, which is expected to use approximately $17,300,000 of the Assigned Allocation, and (ii) Ashbury Park, which is expected to use approximately $8,443,930 of the Assigned Allocation, provided that each such project receives an award of tax credits in CHFA's 2025 Round 2, 4% federal and State Credit award cycle; and

WHEREAS, the City has determined that in order to increase the availability of adequate affordable housing for low-income persons and families within the City and elsewhere in the State it is necessary and desirable to utilize the entire Assigned Allocation; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City has determined that it is in the best interest of the City to assign the 2025 Allocation to the Authority, with such assignment to be evidenced by an Assignment of Allocation between the City and the Authority in the form presented at this meeting (the "Assignment").

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, THAT:

Section 1. Authorization of Assignment. The Aurora City Council hereby authorizes the assignment of the Assigned Allocation in the aggregate amount of $25,743,930, constituting the City's 2025 Allocation, to the Housing Authority of the City of Aurora, dba Aurora Housing Authority (the "Authority").

Section 2. Approval of Assignment of Allocation. The form, terms, and provisions of the Assignment are hereby approved.

Section 3. Signatory Authorization. The Mayor and City Clerk are hereby authorized to execute (by manual, electronic or facsimile signature) the attached Assignment of Allocation in substantially the form presented at this meeting with such technical additions, deletions, and variations as may be deemed necessary or appropriate by the City Attorney.

Section 4. Further Action. The City shall take such other steps or actions necessary or reasonably required to carry out the terms and intent of this Resolution and the Assignment.

Section 5. Ratification. All actions not inconsistent with the provisions of this Resolution taken by the City directed towards the assignment of the Assigned Allocation and the authorization of the Assignment are hereby ratified, approved, and confirmed.

Section 6. Severability. If any section, paragraph, clause or provision of this resolution is for any reason held to be invalid or unenforceable by a court of competent jurisdiction, the invalidity or unenforceability of such section, paragraph, clause, or provision shall not affect any of the remaining provisions of this Resolution, the intent being that the same are severable.

Section 7. Recission. All resolutions of the City, or parts thereof, inconsistent with this resolution are hereby rescinded only to the extent of such inconsistency.

Section 8. Effective Date. This Resolution shall be in full force and effect upon its passage and approval.

RESOLVED AND PASSED this _____ day of _____, 2025.

_____
MIKE COFFMAN, Mayor

ATTEST:

_____
KADEE RODRIGUEZ, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

PETER A. SCHULTE, CITY ATTORNEY

By: _____
TIM JOYCE, Assistant City Attorney

CITY OF AURORA
Council Agenda Commentary

Item Title: Acknowledgement of the Completion and Support for the Older Adult's Needs Assessment (Resolution)
Item Initiator: Nicole Ankeney, Manager of Planning, Design and Construction, Parks, Recreation and Open Space
Staff Source/Legal Source: Nicole Ankeney, Manager of Planning, Design and Construction, Parks, Recreation and Open Space / Tim Joyce, Assistant City Attorney
Outside Speaker: N/A
Council Goal: 2012: 4.3--Be responsive to citizen's concerns and questions to create a shared sense of community

COUNCIL MEETING DATES:

Study Session: 8/25/2025

Regular Meeting: 9/8/2025

2nd Regular Meeting (if applicable): N/A

Item requires a Public Hearing: ☐ Yes ☒ No

ITEM DETAILS *(Click in highlighted area below bullet point list to enter applicable information.)*

- Agenda long title
- Waiver of reconsideration requested, and if so, why
- Sponsor name
- Staff source name and title / Legal source name and title
- Outside speaker name and organization
- Estimated time (For Study Session items only, indicate combined time needed for presentation and discussion)

Sponsor: Angela Lawson, Council Member
Nicole Ankeney, Manager of Planning, Design and Construction, Parks, Recreation and Open Space / Tim Joyce, Assistant City Attorney
Estimated time: 10 mins

ACTIONS(S) PROPOSED *(Check all appropriate actions)*

☐ Approve Item and Move Forward to Study Session

☐ Approve Item as Proposed at Study Session

☒ Approve Item and Move Forward to Regular Meeting

☐ Approve Item as Proposed at Regular Meeting

☐ Information Only

☐ Approve Item with Waiver of Reconsideration
Reason for waiver is described in the Item Details field above.

PREVIOUS ACTIONS OR REVIEWS:

Policy Committee Name: N/A

Policy Committee Date: N/A

Action Taken/Follow-up: ***(Check all that apply)***

☐ Recommends Approval ☐ Does Not Recommend Approval

☐ Forwarded Without Recommendation ☐ Minutes Not Available

☐ Minutes Attached

HISTORY *(Dates reviewed by City council, Policy Committees, Boards and Commissions, or Staff. Summarize pertinent comments. ATTACH MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS, POLICY COMMITTEES AND BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS.)*

Preparation for the older adult needs assessment began in September of 2022 when PROS staff began working with Eppley Institute to write the scope of services for the Request For Proposals (RFP) with feedback and collaboration with the Aurora Commission for Older Adults (ACFOA). JSI Research & Training Institute (JSI) was selected to perform the work, which began in earnest in January 2023.

06-27-2024 – PFQL - The first phase of the assessment, the environmental scan, was completed in late spring and a presentation was given to the Parks, Foundations & Quality of Life (PFQL) committee.

ITEM SUMMARY *(Brief description of item, discussion, key points, recommendations, etc.)*

PROS is seeking approval of a resolution acknowledging the completion of and support for the Older Adult Needs Assessment, a community-driven comprehensive assessment supported by data collection and analysis of the needs of older adults (age 60+) in Aurora.

The assessment was developed by JSI, the PROS project management team, and in collaboration with city staff from various departments as well as a vision team made up of city staff and members of the ACFOA. The project included data analysis, public and stakeholder engagement, and the development of recommendations to guide future planning, programs, and resources for older adults in Aurora.

To gather community input, the following was conducted as part of phase two of the assessment:

- 18 Key Informant Interviews
- 9 Focus Groups
- 553 Community Survey Responses
- Additional outreach through information sharing sessions

The entire assessment as well as the final recommendations were organized around three domains of livability: Aging-in-Place, Healthy Living, and Community Connections. Each of the domains also contains several themes which help to further underscore the specific areas where older adults are facing the most challenges.
The domains of livability and themes within each are shown below:

Heathy Living	**Aging-in-Place**	**Community Connections**
Mental Health/Isolation	Cost of living & housing	Social Participation
Physical Health	Transportation	Communication & Information
Caregiver Support	Community Resources	Safety
Medical Care		

There are many recommendations that involve different functions of the city and span several areas affecting quality of life. They include expanding home repair supports, increasing caregiver services, improving transportation options, enhancing communication of available resources, and developing partnerships to address key gaps in services.

Acknowledgement and support of this assessment will enable city departments to align strategic, deprogram and facility planning with the identified needs of older residents and position the city for future funding opportunities related to aging services and infrastructure.

FISCAL IMPACT

Select all that apply. (If no fiscal impact, click that box and skip to "Questions for Council")

☐ Revenue Impact ☐ Budgeted Expenditure Impact ☐ Non-Budgeted Expenditure Impact
☐ Workload Impact ☒ No Fiscal Impact

REVENUE IMPACT
Provide the revenue impact or N/A if no impact. (What is the estimated impact on revenue? What funds would be impacted? Provide additional detail as necessary.)

N/A

BUDGETED EXPENDITURE IMPACT
Provide the budgeted expenditure impact or N/A if no impact. (List Org/Account # and fund. What is the amount of budget to be used? Does this shift existing budget away from existing programs/services? Provide additional detail as necessary.)

N/A

NON-BUDGETED EXPENDITURE IMPACT
Provide the non-budgeted expenditure impact or N/A if no impact. (Provide information on non-budgeted costs. Include Personal Services, Supplies and Services, Interfund Charges, and Capital needs. Provide additional detail as necessary.)

N/A

WORKLOAD IMPACT
Provide the workload impact or N/A if no impact. (Will more staff be needed or is the change absorbable? If new FTE(s) are needed, provide numbers and types of positions, and a duty summary. Provide additional detail as necessary.)

N/A

QUESTIONS FOR COUNCIL

Does Council wish to support approval of a resolution acknowledging and supporting the completion of the Older Adult Needs Assessment?

LEGAL COMMENTS

The City Manager is responsible to the City Council for the proper administration of all affairs of the City placed in the City Manager's charge and, to that end, shall have the power and duty to make written or verbal reports at any time concerning the affairs of the City. (City Charter, art. VII, sec. 7-4(e)) A resolution involves a ministerial act which relates to some administrative business of the municipality. A resolution involves a "declaration of the will of the municipality in a given matter." *Deighton v. City Council,* 902 P.2d 426, 428 (Colo. App. 1994) (TJoyce)

RESOLUTION NO. R2025- ____

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, EXPRESSING THE AURORA CITY COUNCIL'S ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE COMPLETION OF, AND ITS SUPPORT FOR, THE OLDER ADULTS NEEDS ASSESSMENT

WHEREAS, over seventeen percent (17%) of the Aurora population exceeded the age of 60 in 2022 and is projected to steadily increase; and

WHEREAS, the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG), as the Area Agency on Aging, conducts the Community Assessment Survey for Older Adults (CASOA) every four years to provide important regional data on the needs of older adults; and

WHEREAS, the Aurora Commission for Older Adults (ACFOA), in collaboration with the city of Aurora, identified the need for a community-driven, city-specific assessment to complement CASOA data and provide more detailed local insights to guide planning and services for Aurora residents aged 60 and older; and

WHEREAS, in 2023, the city of Aurora undertook the Older Adult Needs Assessment in collaboration with ACFOA and multiple city departments, engaging the community and stakeholders through surveys, focus groups, and interviews; and

WHEREAS, these efforts culminated in the 2023–2024 Aurora Older Adult Needs Assessment report.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, THAT:

The Aurora City Council resolves its acknowledgement of the 2023-2024 Older Adult Needs Assessment report and supports its findings as an informative, community-driven document to assist City Council to meet the needs of Aurora's growing older adult population, as resources are available.

RESOLVED AND PASSED this _____ day of _____, 2025.

_____
MIKE COFFMAN, Mayor

ATTEST:

_____
KADEE RODRIGUEZ, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

PETER A. SCHULTE, CITY ATTORNEY

By: _____
TIM JOYCE, Assistant City Attorney

Aurora Older Adult Needs Assessment

Final Report & Recommendations
City Council Resolution

Nicole Ankeney, *Manager of PROS Planning, Design & Construction*

Study Session

August 25, 2025

Purpose and Focus of Study

Purpose: To carry out a community-driven comprehensive assessment supported by data collection and analysis of the needs of older adults (age 60+) in Aurora.

The assessment addresses the three domains of livability:

Aging-in-Place

Cost of living & housing

Transportation

Community Resources

Heathy Living

Mental Health/Isolation

Physical Health

Caregiver Support

Medical Care

Community Connections

Social Participation

Communication & Information

Safety

*Aurora Commission for Older Adults provided significant feedback throughout the project.

Phase 1: Environmental Scan

- Reviewed data on demographics, housing, health, and services.
- Focused on adults age 60+ and was organized by three domains of livability.

Key Findings:

Economic Characteristics

- **35% of older adults are in the labor force;** 56% had earnings last year
- Average earnings in Aurora are lower than Denver/State averages

Housing Characteristics

- 79% own their homes
- Renters pay a median of $1,526/month—higher than in Denver or Colorado
- **63% of renters and 30% of homeowners are cost-burdened by paying >30% of income on housing**

Phase 1: Environmental Scan (cont.)

Transportation Access

- **62% live within a 10-minute walk of a bus stop**
- Service gaps remain in the eastern and southeastern areas

Community Resources & Services

- **Currently concentrated in western and southern Aurora**
- Services anticipated to expand eastward with development

Health & Living Facilities

- Includes assisted living, adult day services, and skilled nursing
- **Geographically follows the same pattern as community resources**

Phase 2: Community Engagement

- 18 Key Informant Interviews
- 9 Focus Groups
- **553 Community Survey Responses**
- 4 Information Sharing Sessions
- Targeted outreach to underserved and underrepresented populations

  (e.g., homebound older adults)
- ACFOA assisted with recommendations on key groups and promoted the survey

Phase 2 Findings: Challenges of Aging in Place

Housing Affordability

- Downsizing is difficult

Maintenance & Mobility

- Challenges are not only physical

Transportation Gaps

- RTD service gaps
- Safety, long waitlists for services and eligibility restrictions for paratransit services.

Phase 2 Findings: Mental, Physical, and Caregiver Health

Mental Health:
- 31% feel depressed
- 27% feel they don't belong
- 29% feel isolated

Physical Health:
- 34% reported falling
- 26% physically burdened by caregiving

Caregiver Support:
- High demand but limited resources—especially post-COVID

Medical Care:
- Desire for better access, affordability, and help navigating the system

Phase 2 Findings: Community Connections & Safety Concerns

- Many lack digital literacy and do not know where to find services.
- 41% do not feel valued
- ~50% lack access to skill-building, work, and volunteering opportunities
- 39% do not feel safe in their community
- 66% feel at risk of fraud

Requests for:

Translation

Protected walkways

Recreation programs

More police presence

Phase 2 Findings: Key Community Assets

- ACAA – viewed valued and well-utilized resource.
- Classes like Silver Sneakers are popular.
- Parks, trails, and recreation centers are very popular among older adults.
- Praise is often given to the city for diversity of the population.

Final Recommendations

- Organized across the three core domains:
  - Aging in place
  - Healthy living
  - Community connections
- Each recommendation is assigned a level of time, effort and resources.
  - Tier 1 = Low
  - Tier 2 = Moderate
  - Tier 3 = High
- Recommendations are not all-or-nothing decisions — May be phased in over time.
- Although higher recommendations require more time and effort, they can result in more significant outcomes.
- **108 total recommendations!**

Final Recommendations by Domains of Livability	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3	Total
Overarching Recommendations	**1**	**1**	**1**	**3**
Aging In Place **Food Access**	2	2	3	**7**
Aging In Place **Housing Affordability**	2	4	6	**12**
Aging In Place **Housing Accessibility/Maintenance**	4	3	3	**10**
Aging in Place **Transportation**	3	6	3	**12**
Aging in Place **Community Resources**	7	3	2	**12**
Healthy Living **Mental Health and Isolation**	5	3	2	**10**
Healthy Living **Physical Health**	2	1	0	**3**
Healthy Living **Caregiver Support**	3	1	0	**4**
Healthy Living **Medical Care**	4	3	1	**8**
Community Connections **Social Participation**	1	1	1	**3**
Community Connections **Employment**	2	3	3	**8**
Community Connections **Communication and Information**	3	2	2	**7**
Community Connections **Safety**	1	2	6	**9**

Overarching Recommendations & Next Steps

OVERARCHING RECOMMENDATIONS

There are three overarching recommendations that transcend all of the identified domain areas.

TIER 1	● Explore adopting age-friendly practices and joining age-friendly networks that will align with the city's short- and long-term strategic planning, providing access to tools and resources.
TIER 2	● Using survey data, consider participating in Colorado's Multisector Plan on Aging (MPA) to ensure the voices of older Aurora residents are represented. MPAs are blueprints for restructuring policies and convening key stakeholders to address the needs of older adult populations. Colorado's plan is being developed through the Colorado Department of Human Services.
TIER 3	● Explore the feasibility of creating an officer on aging position or an office on aging to coordinate efforts with other departments.

EXAMPLE

Transportation

TIER 1	● Use data from the community survey to inform RTD of a need to enhance ridership safety through the increased presence of security guards, lighting and cameras and installing covered benches at RTD stops. ● Add more benches to Aurora trail systems to provide more opportunities for older adults and those with disabilities to stop and rest. ● Pilot a carpool/ride share program within the ACAA so more older adults can attend the Center's activities. Underway: PROS & Planning
	● Expand marketing of existing and future micro-transit services for older adults in Aurora and evaluate outcomes.

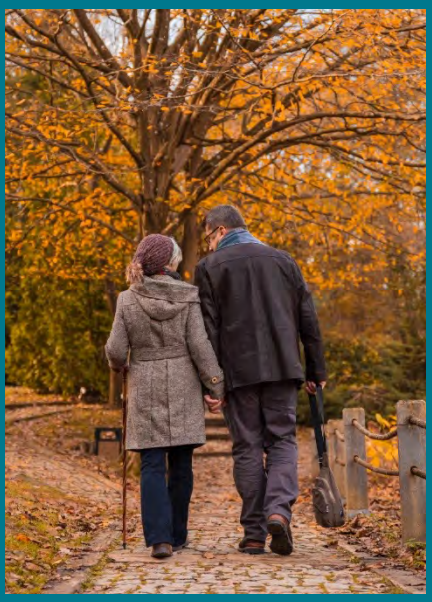
Next Steps:

- **City Council Resolution Approval**
- **Incorporate recommendations into the citywide strategic plan and department strategic plans.**
  - Share final assessment citywide.
  - Determine if any recommendations can be achieved with existing resources.
  - Consider future resource, staffing and program needs.
  - For example, PROS identified 8 to implement over next year.
  - Continue to coordinate and collaborate with ACFOA.

Questions for staff?

- **Does City Council wish to support approval of the resolution acknowledging and supporting the completion of the Older Adult Needs Assessment, moving the item to the next regular council meeting?**

2023-2024 AURORA OLDER ADULT NEEDS ASSESSMENT



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INTRODUCTION

This 2024 Older Adult Assessment report presents findings from an environmental scan and a community assessment. In 2023, the city of Aurora contracted with the public health organization, JSI Research & Training Institute, Inc. (JSI), to complete a city-wide needs assessment of older adults in Aurora. Founded in 1978, JSI is a nonprofit public health consulting organization that applies practical, technically-sound, and innovative solutions to the challenges facing public and private clients, including foundations, community-based organizations, health centers, and federal, state, and county agencies. The purpose of this report is to assess the diverse landscape of the older adult population in Aurora and to identify gaps in services and supports. Also included in this report are recommendations to address the gaps identified through the assessment.

METHODS

PHASE 1: ENVIRONMENTAL SCAN

In order to develop the environment scan, the JSI Team compiled demographic, economic, and health data via public databases and reports to consider the contexts of older adults aged 60+ years in Aurora. When information was unavailable for this age group, the team utilized data on older adults aged 65+ years and specified this age group within the report. To consider existing gaps in support and services for Aurora older adults, the JSI Team utilized a framework drafted by the city of Aurora as an expansion of a standard set of domains of livability found in the Community Assessment Survey for Older Adults (CASOA). The CASOA provides a statistically valid survey of the strengths and needs of older adults as reported by older adults themselves. The ten domains of livability, organized across three themes include:

- Aging in Place (Cost of Living and Housing, Transportation, Community Resources);
- Healthy Living (Mental Health and Isolation, Physical Health, Caregiver Support, Medical Care); and
- Community Connections (Social Participation, Communication and Information, and Safety).

PHASE 2: COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT

Along with the environmental scan, JSI collected qualitative data to contextualize environmental scan findings and better understand the Aurora older adult population. These efforts included key informant interviews, focus groups, and community surveys. Information sessions were held with Aurora residents interested in learning about the assessment.

Key Informant Interviews

Key informant interviews (KIIs) were conducted to refine themes and further inform focus group discussions and community survey content. With help from the city of Aurora staff, JSI compiled a list of organizations that provide services and/or assistance to the diverse Aurora older adult community. Then, JSI interviewed 18 key informants to participate in KIIs to better understand Aurora's older adult needs. These informants represented stakeholders who have direct and indirect impacts within the older adult community.

The interview questions were developed to inform the needs assessment process by identifying unmet needs, disparities in access to services, and service gaps for older adults living in Aurora. One-hour digital interviews were conducted and recorded. All interviews were recorded upon receiving the interviewee's consent. The facilitator used a KII guide with a list of questions centered around the Aurora domains of livability. The following summary of themes is based on the domains of livability, including Aging in Place, Healthy Living, and Community Connections.

A detailed summary of the Key Informant Interview Findings is included in Appendix A.

Focus Groups

Based on information collected from the environmental scan and KIIs, JSI created a focus group facilitation guide to more deeply understand the issues of greatest importance for older adults in the Aurora community. Overall, nine focus groups were organized in locations across Aurora in partnership with local organizations. JSI also ensured that focus groups were conducted to account for the diverse makeup of Aurora, providing translators as applicable. The organizations with whom focus groups were conducted are listed in Table 1 below.

TABLE 1. FOCUS GROUPS

Organization	Area of Focus	Number of Participants	Language Used
Nine Mile Station Senior Living	Older adults income and age restricted 62+	14	English
African Leadership Group	Older Adult Kenyan women's group	10	English
Veterans Affairs Commission	Aurora Veterans	6	English
Senior Planet Center	Aged 60+ older adults learning to use technology	9	English
Happy Living and Wellness Adult Daycare	Chinese and other Asian immigrant communities in Aurora	43	Chinese
Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG)	Older adults from refugee and immigrant communities	14	Tigrinya, Amharic, Kinyarwanda, Dari/Farsi
Latino Community	Older adult Latinos living in Aurora	9	Spanish
Heather Gardens	55+age-restricted community of active, independent adults	9	English
Everest Home Care	Nepalese, Bhutanese, Burmese and other refugee/immigrant seniors in Colorado	35	Burmese (Karenni and Kayah), Chinese, Nepalese

The JSI team conducted nine focus groups to inform the needs assessment process by identifying unmet needs, disparities in access, and service gaps for older adults living in Aurora. Focus groups were conducted by two team members in person and lasted one to two hours. Translators were there to facilitate questions for four of the focus groups. Focus group facilitators used a guide with a list of questions that centered around the Aurora domains of livability.

A detailed summary of the Focus Group Findings is included in Appendix B.

Information Sessions

Four information sessions were also conducted with Aurora older adults; three were held at the Aurora Center for Active Adults, and one was held at the Hilltop Veterans Club. During each session, JSI explained the needs assessment process and invited attendees to share their thoughts and opinions on what Aurora older adults most needed. The intent of the information sessions was to share out information with Aurora community members and not to collect information as was the intent with the focus groups, surveys and interviews.

Surveys

JSI conducted two community surveys. The first survey was conducted in partnership with Jewish Family Services (JFS) and provided the opportunity to reach elders facing increasing challenges to age in place in their own homes. JSI collaborated with JFS, Aging Care and Connections to identify and survey clients in their home-based program. A total of 15 surveys were completed. It is not unusual for a smaller response rate for homebound individuals or their caregivers and still provides a snapshot into those that are utilizing multiple services to remain in their homes and who are often not on the radar screen of community or organizational survey efforts. It is equally important to give a voice to these older Aurora residents that are generally not connected to the usual mainstream city resources.

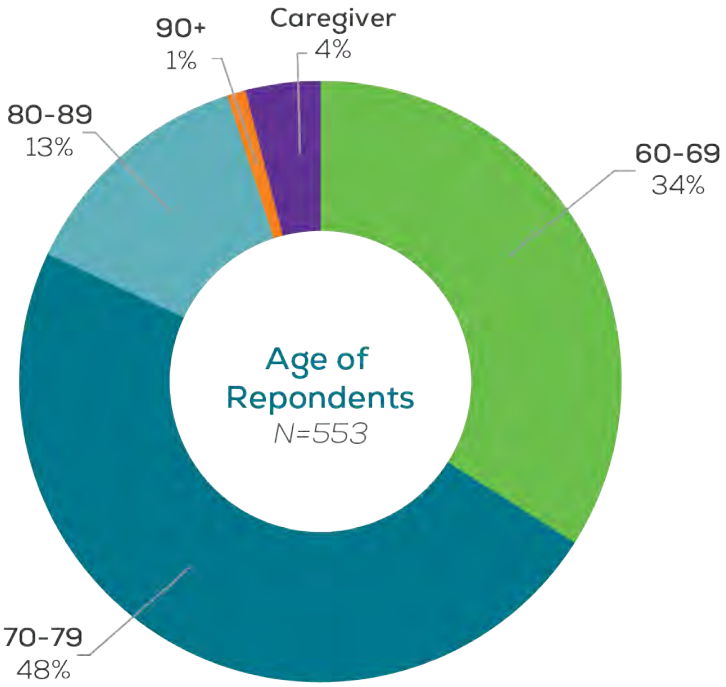
A detailed summary of the JFS survey findings is included in Appendix C.

A community-wide survey was conducted for the overall Aurora community. This survey, targeted at Aurora older adults and their caregivers, was a way of collecting the thoughts and experiences of older adults who may not have been reached through the focus groups and information sessions. JSI worked with the city of Aurora to create the survey and disseminate it via various channels, including physical locations such as libraries, recreation centers, physical and online newsletters, social media platforms, elected official communications channels, etc. A total of 553 surveys were completed between July and September 2024.

In addition to surveys being made available to Aurora residents online, a limited number of paper surveys were distributed to community settings including all city libraries, recreation centers and the ACAA. Survey questions were available in six languages, including English, Spanish, Mandarin, Korean, Amharic, and Vietnamese. The majority of surveys were completed in English (546); six surveys were completed in Spanish and one was completed in Amharic.

The majority of respondents were aged 70-79 while those who were 90 years old or over represent 4% of the respondents. Figure 1 depicts the distribution of respondents by age.

Figure 1. Age of Respondents



Responders reported living in one Aurora zip code. The highest proportion of responses (25.1%) originated from zip code 80014; the second highest proportion (13.9%) originated from zip code 80013; and the third highest proportion (11.6%) originated from zip code 80016

A copy of the survey questions and a detailed analysis of survey data is included in Appendix D.

TABLE 2. AURORA RESPONDERS BY ZIP CODE

Zip Code	Aurora
80014	25.1%
80013	13.9%
80016	11.6%

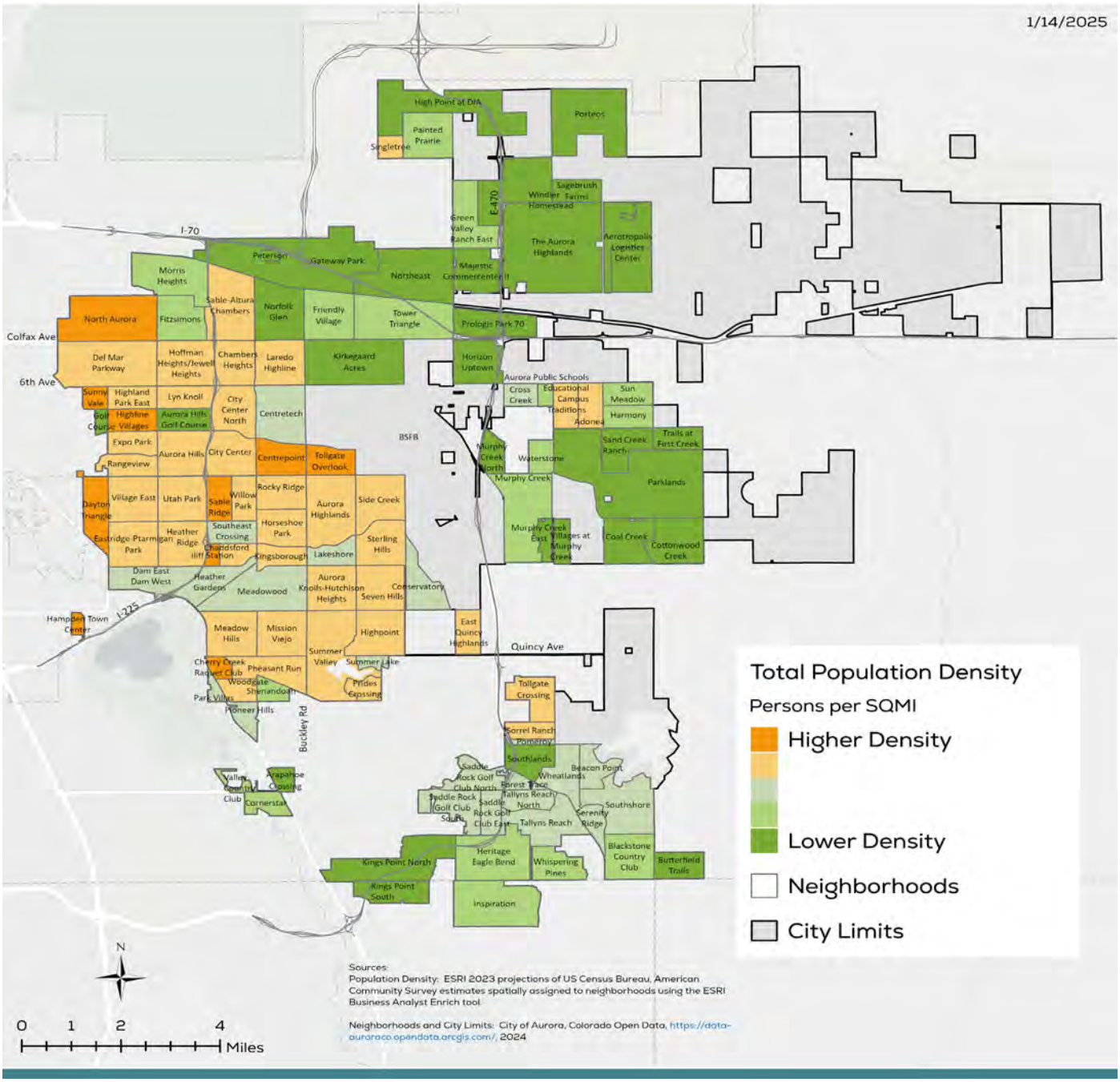
Lastly, JSI surveyed a sample of the city of Aurora staff who were identified as key contributors to the assessment. JSI facilitated a discussion with the selected staff members who answered the survey to glean additional insights that were then factored into recommendations for the city.

DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

OLDER ADULT SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHICS

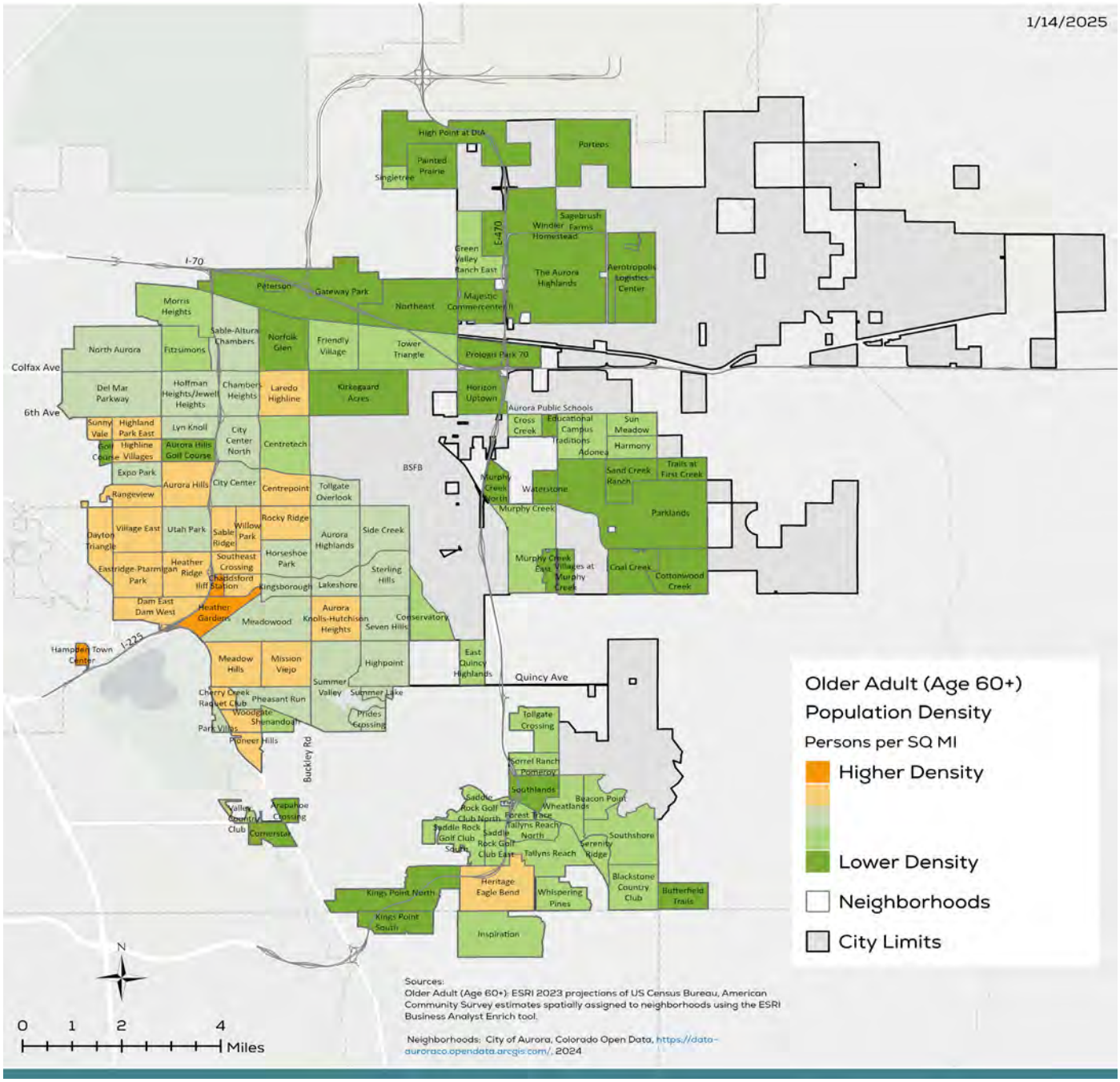
The city of Aurora, CO, is located in Arapahoe, Adams, and Douglas counties and is comprised of 17 zip codes. The city is part of the Denver metropolitan area and is located directly east of Denver, CO. Aurora is largely considered a suburban city, with the northeast and eastern areas being much less populous (Figure 2). According to the 2022 American Community Survey, a total of 66,414 older adults, aged 60 years or older, live in the city of Aurora. They represent 17.1% of the overall city population.

Figure 2. Aurora's Overall Population Density



When comparing the overall Aurora population density to the older adult population density in Figure 3, higher densities of older adults live in western Aurora, with the highest older population densities inhabiting the Heather Gardens, Iliff Station, and Hampden Town Center neighborhoods.

Figure 3. Aurora's Older Adult Population Density



AGE, GENDER, AND OTHER FACTORS

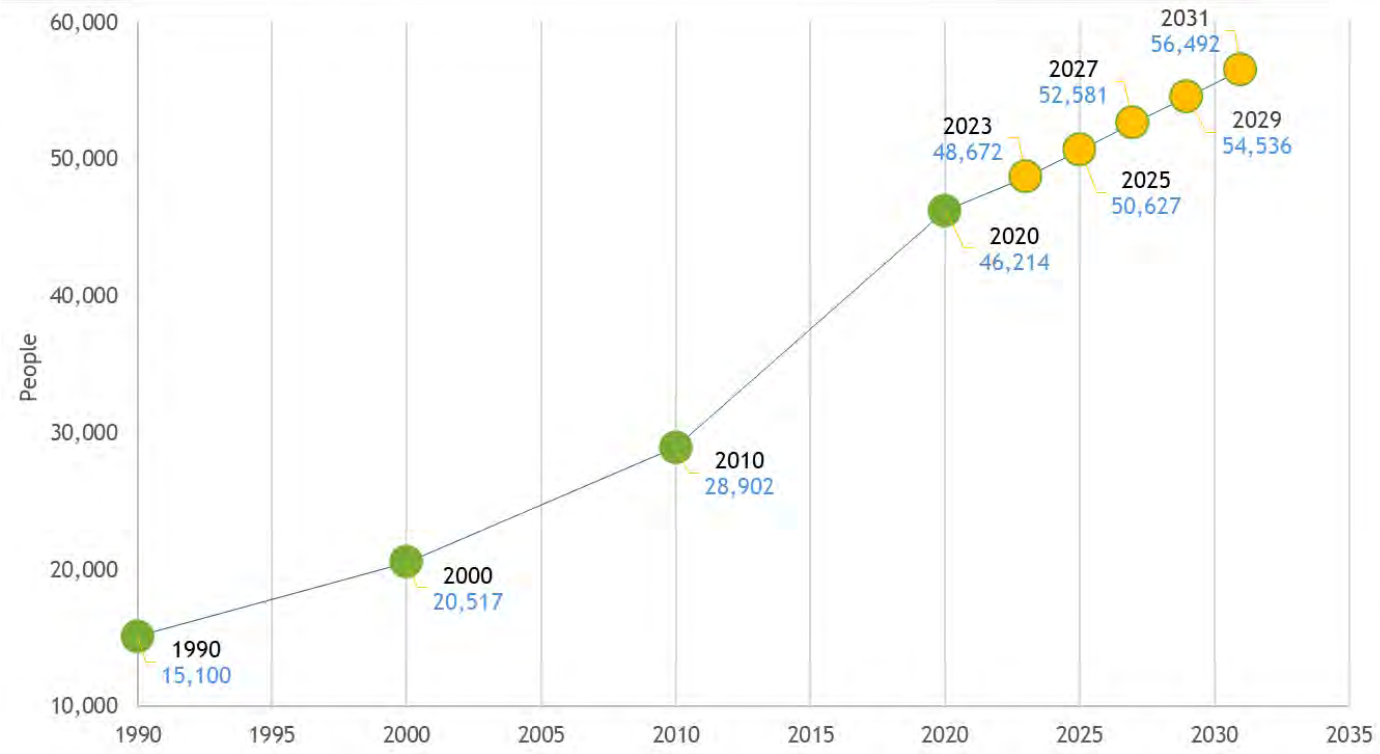
The Aurora older adult population has a median age of 68.8 years. Table 3 breaks down this population by age and compares the percentage of older adults in Aurora to the neighboring city of Denver and the state of Colorado. The overall percentage of the older adult population in Aurora is similar to Denver's and slightly smaller than Colorado's. Notably, Aurora has fewer older adults aged 70 years and older compared to Denver and Colorado. With regard to gender, a higher proportion of the older adult population of Aurora identifies as female versus male. This proportion remains true across all age brackets.

TABLE 3. AURORA OLDER ADULTS BY AGE GROUPS[1]

Age	Aurora	Denver	Colorado
60 years and over	17.1%	16.8%	21.8%
60 to 64 years	5.7%	4.4%	6.2%
65 to 69 years	4.5%	4.0%	5.3%
70 to 79 years	5.3%	5.8%	7.2%
80 years and older	1.8%	2.7%	3.2%

When considering the future of this population, U.S. Census data shows that the population of Aurora older adults aged 65+ will continue to increase over time at an increment of about 2,000 people every two years (Figure 4).

Figure 4. Growth Projections for Aurora Older Adults Aged 65+ Years[2]



[1] *U.S. Census Bureau. (2022). Population 60 Years and Over in the United States. American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables, Table S0102. Retrieved from* https://data.census.gov/

[2] *U.S. Census Bureau. (2022). "Population Over 5 Age Groups." American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Census Blocks. Retrieved from* https://data.census.gov.

Other important factors include veteran status and disability status (Table 4). Aurora older adults are more likely to be veterans than in Denver and Colorado. Additionally, 29.3% of the veteran older adult population self-identify as having a disability.

TABLE 4. VETERAN AND DISABILITY STATUS[3]

	Aurora	Denver	Colorado
Civilian veteran status	17.3%	11.5%	14.0%
Disability status	29.3%	29.6%	25.8%

RACE, ETHNICITY, AND RELATED FACTORS

Overall, Aurora has a diverse older adult population, with 30.2% identifying as a race other than White, which is slightly lower than in Denver and much higher than in Colorado (see Table 5). The city also has a higher percentage of Black or African American and Asian older adults compared to Denver and Colorado.

TABLE 5. AURORA OLDER ADULT RACE AND ETHNICITY[4]

	Aurora	Denver	Colorado
White	69.8%	66.9%	82.6%
Black or African American	13.7%	9.8%	2.8%
American Indian and Alaska Native	0.6%	0.9%	0.7%
Asian	5.9%	4.1%	2.5%
Some other race	5.3%	6.7%	3.5%
Two or more races	4.5%	11.4%	7.8%
Hispanic or Latino origin (of any race)	11.7%	19.5%	11.5%
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	66.2%	63.5%	80.2%

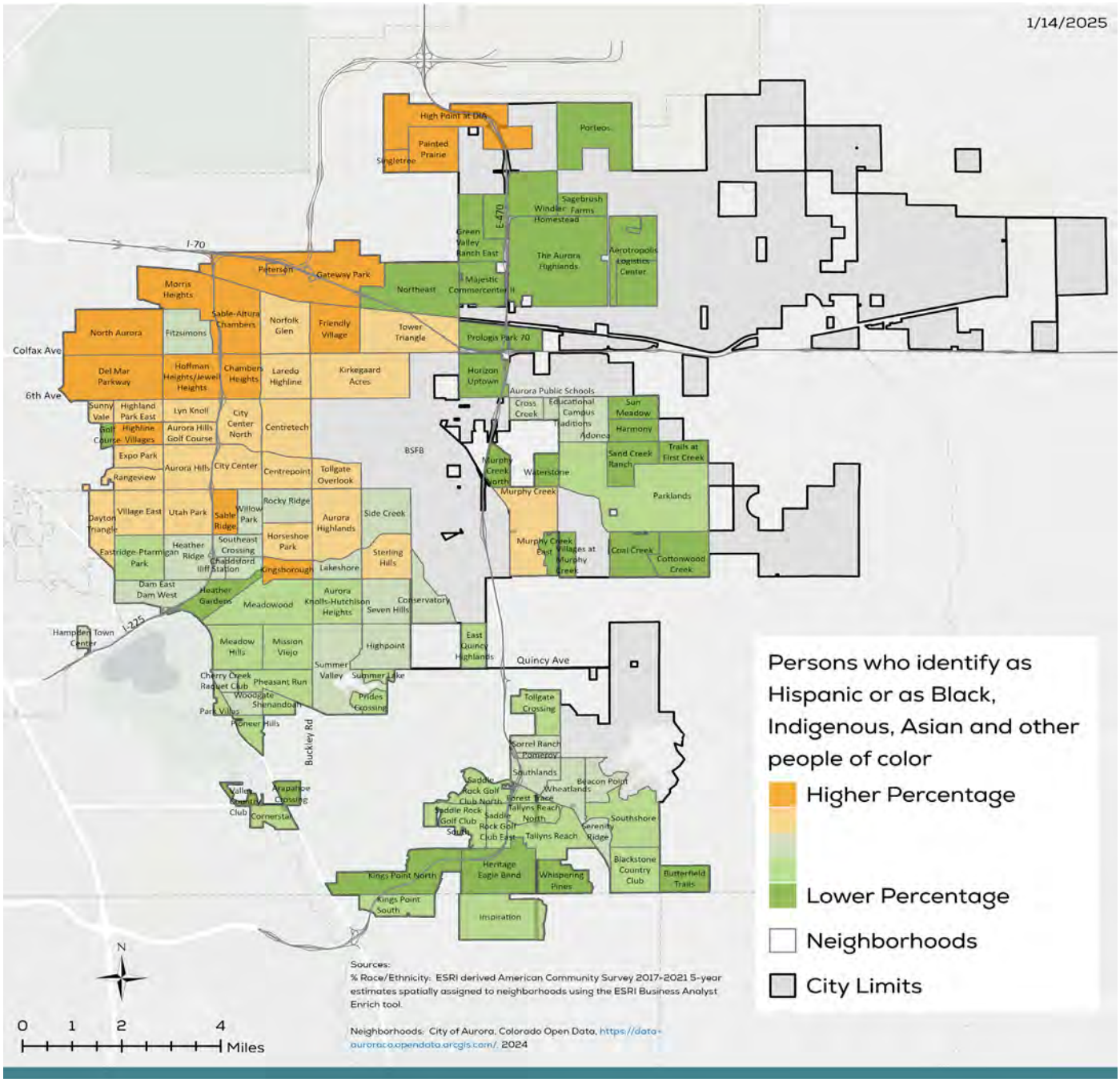
**Not listed is Aurora's Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander older adult population, which accounts for 0.1% of the population*

Figure 5 highlights the location where Aurora residents who identify as Hispanic or as Black, Indigenous, Asian, and other people of color live. The figure shows that the northwestern neighborhoods of Aurora have the highest concentration of this population, but also have low densities of older adults (Figure 2). Additionally, some neighborhoods in central western Aurora have lower, but still notable, percentages of those who identify as Hispanic or as Black, Indigenous, Asian, and other people of color. The central western neighborhoods have a medium-high density of the general population (Figure 2. Aurora's Total Population Density on Page 5) and of older adults (Figure 3. Aurora's Older Adult Population Density, Page 6), which may indicate a concentration of non-White older adult populations in these areas.

[3] U.S. Census Bureau. (2022). Population 60 Years and Over in the United States. American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables, Table S0102. Retrieved from https://data.census.gov/.

[4] U.S. Census Bureau. (2022). Population 60 Years and Over in the United States. American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables, Table S0102. Retrieved from https://data.census.gov/.

Figure 5. General Population Persons Who Identify as Hispanic or Black, Indigenous, Asian, or Other People of Color, by Location

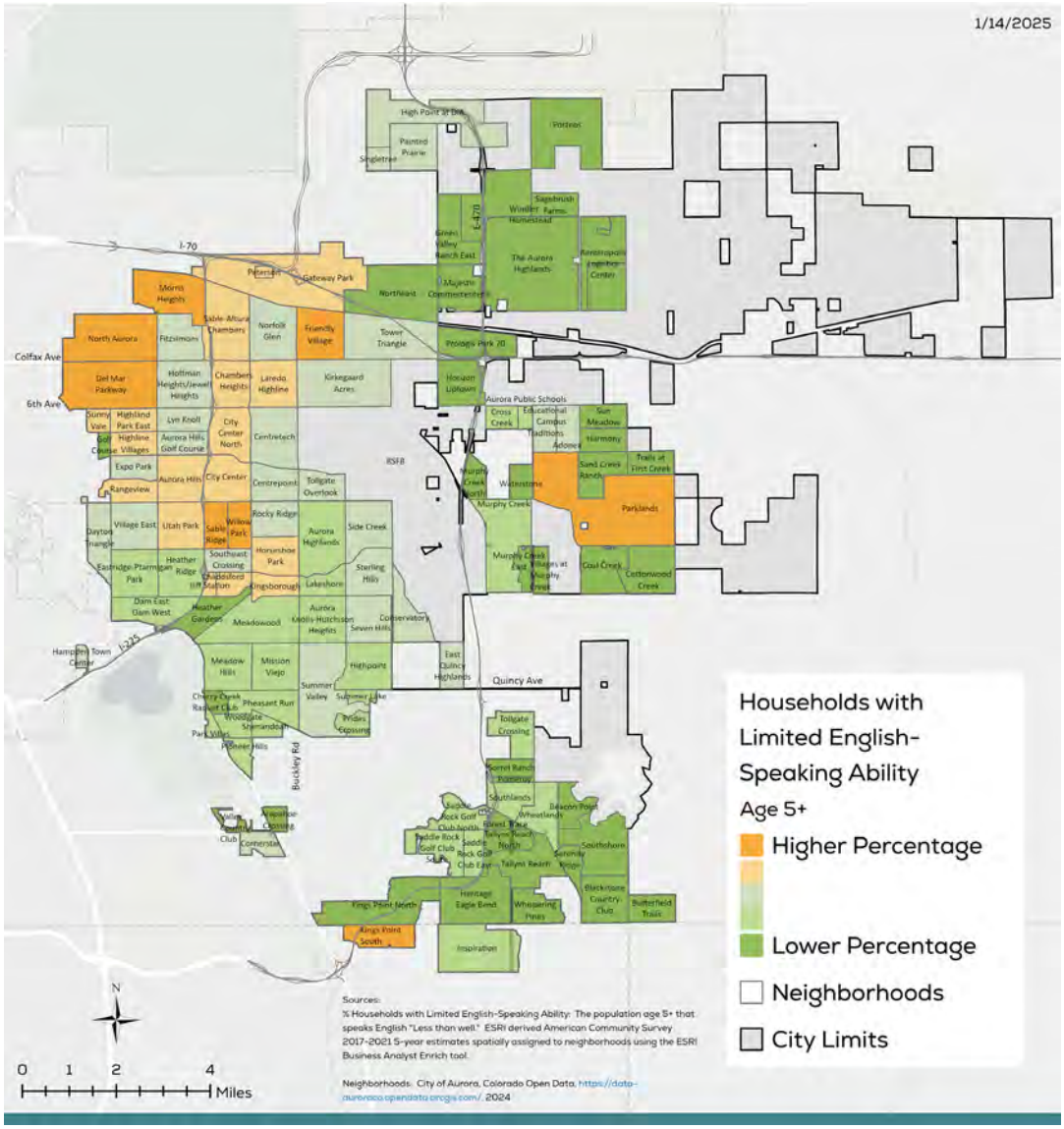


Additionally, eighteen percent of Aurora's older adults are more likely to be foreign-born than those in Denver or Colorado (14% or 8%, respectively). This foreign-born cohort is more likely to have recently entered the United States after 2000 (18.8% versus 16.8% and 14.8%). Those who spoke languages other than English at home were also less likely to speak English "very well" (Table 6).

TABLE 6. AURORA OLDER ADULT LANGUAGES SPOKEN AT HOME AND ABILITY TO SPEAK ENGLISH[5]			
	Aurora	**Denver**	**Colorado**
English Only	81.4%	80.4%	89.5%
Language Other Than English	18.6%	19.6%	10.5%
Of Those Speaking Other Languages, Speak English less than "very well"	12.6%	9.1%	4.3%

Figure 6 shows households in the population with limited English-speaking ability, which may align with older adult households of similar language status. Many neighborhoods with the highest percentages (up to 19%) of those with limited English-speaking ability are in the northwestern or central western parts of Aurora. Of note, some of these neighborhoods, including North Aurora and Sable Ridge, have high overall population density (Figure 2. Aurora's Total Population Density on Page 5) and medium-high density of older adults (Figure 3. Aurora's Older Adult Population Density, Page 6), while other neighborhoods have medium-high density of both general and older adult populations. This may indicate a concentration of older adults in these areas with limited English-speaking ability.

Figure 6. General Population Households with Limited English-Speaking Ability



[5] *U.S. Census Bureau. (2022). Population 60 Years and Over in the United States. American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables, Table S0102. Retrieved from* https://data.census.gov/.

SERVICES AND SUPPORTS FOR OLDER ADULTS

Along with a profile of the demographics and identities of Aurora older adults, understanding the services and supports that exist to serve older people and the gaps in service is vital. The following information is organized utilizing Aurora's modified framework of the domains of livability and each domain includes the elements that follow:

- **Aging in Place:** Cost-of-Living, Housing, Transportation, and Community Resources
- **Healthy Living:** Mental Health, Social Isolation, Physical Health, Caregiver Support, and Medical Care
- **Community Connections:** Social Participation, Communication and Information, and Safety)

AGING IN PLACE

Providing older adults with supportive services helps them maintain and increase their quality of life. Factors that are integral to allowing an older adult to age in place include the cost of living and housing, access to transportation, and access to supportive community resources. According to the Community Assessment Survey for Older Adults (CASOA) report, many older adults from Aurora desire to age in their current homes and communities, yet 30% of them did not feel that they could maintain independence if they experienced a decline in health due to age. This finding, initially reported in 2022, was further supported by the findings of this assessment's survey. While 87% of survey responders reported that their current housing suits their current needs, only 62% reported that their current housing will meet their future needs. Further, nearly 25% of survey responders reported that they cannot currently maintain their own home, and nearly 50% cannot currently maintain their own yard. If they are to age in community, home modification services and assistance with home maintenance will be important elements of support.

Cost of Living and Housing

Phase 1: Cost of Living and Housing Environmental Scan Findings

Cost of living and housing directly relate to an older adult's ability to stay within their communities as they age. Only 18% of Aurora older adults believe that the cost of living in the city is "excellent" or "good." Financial characteristics of the population also affect this factor. In Aurora, 8.4% of older adults are below 100% of the federal poverty level (Table 7). Concerning employment, 35.0% of Aurora older adults are in the labor force, which is higher than in Denver and Colorado. Of those in the labor force, 34% are currently employed. Overall, 55.5% of this population earned an income in the past year, with mean earnings of $81,466, which is lower than in Denver ($95,578) or in Colorado ($95,466).

TABLE 7. AURORA OLDER ADULT FINANCIAL CHARACTERISTICS[6]

	Aurora	Denver	Colorado
Below 100 percent of the federal poverty level	8.4%	11.5%	8.5%
In labor force	35.0%	32.2%	32.9%
Employed	34.0%	30.6%	32.0%
Had earnings in the past year	55.5%	49.1%	50.9%
Mean earnings	$81,466	$95,578	$95,466

[6] *U.S. Census Bureau. (2022). Population 60 Years and Over in the United States. American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables, Table S0102. Retrieved from* https://data.census.gov/.

With regard to housing status, 78.7% of Aurora older adults own their own homes while the rest are renters (Table 8). For renters, the median gross rent is $1,526, which is drastically higher than what older adult renters pay in Denver ($1,180) and in Colorado ($1,320).

TABLE 8. AURORA OLDER ADULT HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS[7]

	Aurora	Denver	Colorado
Owner-occupied housing units	78.7%	68.6%	81.8%
Renter-occupied housing units	21.3%	31.4%	18.2%
Average household size of owner-occupied unit	2.04	1.92	1.96
Average household size of renter-occupied unit	1.83	1.42	1.48
Median gross rent	$1,526	$1,180	$1,322

Table 9 highlights cost of living for older adults, indicating that 29.6% of homeowners use 30% or more of their income towards housing costs. For renters, this rate is much higher, with 63.3% of the population spending 30% or more of their income on housing. The CASOA report indicates that 88% of Aurora older adults rated the cost of living in the community as only fair or poor.

TABLE 9. AURORA OLDER ADULT COST OF LIVING[8]

		Aurora	Denver	Colorado
For Homeowners	Less than 30 percent	70.4%	65.9%	72.9%
	30 percent or more	29.6%	34.1%	27.1%
For Renters	Less than 30 percent	36.7%	36.5%	39.1%
	30 percent or more	63.3%	63.5%	60.9%

**Housing Costs as Percentage of Household Income in Past 12 Months*

Phase 2: Cost of Living and Housing Community Assessment Findings

Findings from the community assessment indicate that overall, older adults are finding it challenging to live off of limited and fixed incomes. Many of the key informants interviewed noted that related to food access, older adults are increasingly using food pantries. They also noted that lack of transportation exacerbates access to food. In three of the nine focus groups, access to healthy foods was mentioned when asked what the top needs are. Access to ethnic foods was mentioned in two focus groups when asked about top needs. This was further supported in two of the focus groups; when asked about suggestions for programs that would help older adults in Aurora, a theme in two of the focus groups was access to food, including food stamps, food cards, food trucks, and food banks to access fresh produce. Preferred cultural foods and fresh fruits and vegetables are scarce, especially at food pantries. Survey findings further support these challenges, as indicated in the numbers below.

[7] *U.S. Census Bureau. (2022). Population 60 Years and Over in the United States. American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables, Table S0102. Retrieved from* https://data.census.gov/.

[8] *National Research Center, Inc. (2022). Aurora, CO, Community Assessment Survey for Older Adults, September 2022. Retrieved from* https://drcog.org/sites/default/files/resources/Aurora%20CASOA.pdf.

- 23% disagreed or strongly disagreed that they have enough money to meet their daily needs
- 40% agreed or strongly agreed that they do or will have a financial need to work after retirement
- 29% responded that they are financially burdened by giving care to someone
- 9% reported current food insecurity

Specific to housing affordability, key informants emphasized that older adults are increasingly experiencing housing instability. Downsizing is difficult to execute and requires both financial costs and physical labor that may include packing, moving, and new home deposit costs, which add layers to something already expensive. Many noted the "missing middle" phenomenon, a decrease in medium-density housing such as multi-family or clustered house types. This missing middle is occurring in Aurora, leading to increased social isolation for older adults who cannot live near family and friends. Additionally, many key informants mentioned that affordable assisted living and skilled nursing facilities are scarce in Aurora.

Several respondents mentioned the need for a handyman to manage household repairs or assistance with some household chores such as yard work, snow shoveling, and minor repairs.

The absence of rent controls in Aurora was raised in four of the nine focus groups. Survey findings reinforce this concern, as 63.3% of renters reported spending 30% or more of their income on housing costs, and 40% of respondents disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement, 'I have housing to meet my future needs.

Of the community survey respondents, 27% disagreed or strongly disagreed that they have enough money to pay their property tax. Additionally, 87% of survey respondents currently have housing that suits their needs, and 40% disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement, *"I have housing to meet my future needs"*.

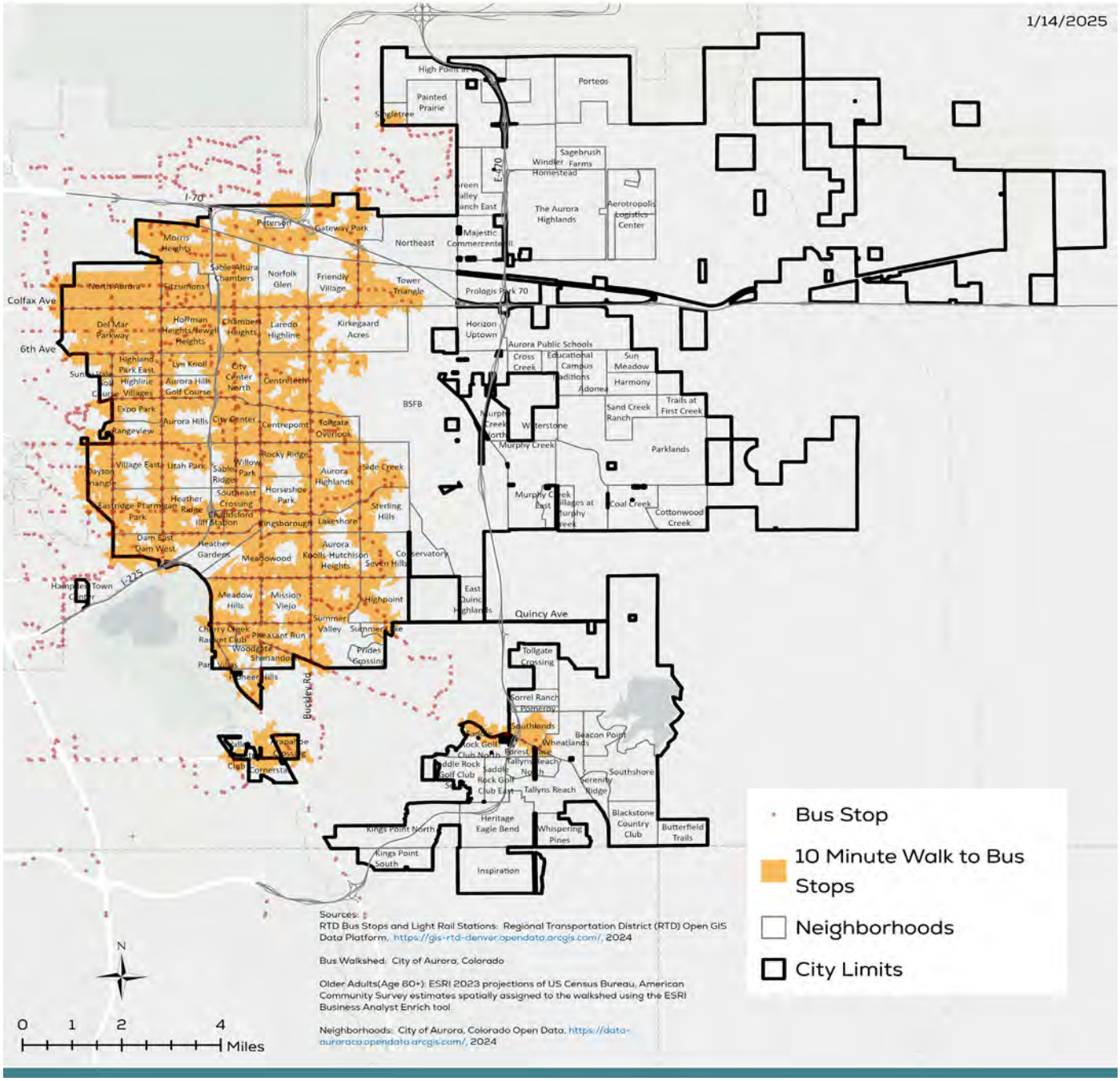
Transportation

Phase 1: Environmental Scan Findings on Transportation

According to the CASOA report, 49% of Aurora older adults reported that the overall quality of the transportation (via automobile, bicycle, foot, bus) in their community as good or excellent.[10] Access to transportation allows older adults to easily age in community settings by reducing barriers to accessing resources within their community that help them to thrive. Figure 7 highlights the availability of public transportation resources in Aurora, such as bus stops. Overall, 62% of the older adult population is within a ten-minute walk of a bus stop. The map indicates, however, that the eastern and southern parts of Aurora have little to no access to public transportation.

[10] *National Research Center, Inc. (2022). Aurora, CO, Community Assessment Survey for Older Adults, September 2022. Retrieved from* https://drcog.org/sites/default/files/resources/Aurora%20CASOA.pdf.

Figure 7: Access to Public Transportation



Phase 2: Community Assessment Findings on Transportation

Many of the key informants interviewed said that transportation in Aurora is not affordable, accessible, or available. Barriers include having to qualify for services, long waitlists, language barriers, lack of door-through-door services, and Regional Transportation District (RTD) lacking regular routes, especially in eastern and southern areas of the city. Door-through-door service is special type of transportation similar to rideshare companies like Uber/Lyft, except that the driver provides assistance to the passenger beyond curbside delivery to the origin or destination by helping them through the doors.

As shown in Figure 7, public transportation resources are concentrated in central and western Aurora, leaving eastern and southern areas underserved. This aligns with focus group participants who reported limited accessibility and long wait times for services in the southern portion of the city where RTD service is present but to much less of an extent than more established parts of the city. Aurora east of Buckley Space Force Base and E-470 shows a complete absence of RTD services in the majority of the area. This is because residential development is still in the early stages and much of the land is currently vacant.

Increased transportation opportunities were mentioned numerous times by respondents, especially reliable transportation, and transportation to social events, not restricted to accessing medical care. Many commentators mentioned that they would participate.

Safety while on public transportation was identified as a concern among Aurora older adults. Many adults stated they did not feel safe because of behavior on public transit and requested more monitoring. Further, pedestrian safety and mobility were identified as concerns. Sidewalks were identified as uneven, in need of repair, and not conducive to use by those who need assistive devices such as wheelchairs or walkers. Construction is common and often obstructs or redirects sidewalks and walkways, and more effective snow removal is needed.

Transportation issues, including bus station safety and navigating inclement weather when using public transportation, were metioned in eight of the nine focus groups when participants were asked about top needs. Transportation vouchers for Uber/Lyft and RTD services were mentioned in five out of nine focus groups when asked if they could suggest a program or service that would help. Better transportation options were brought up in seven of the nine groups when asked if participants could suggest programs that would help. Additionally, in two focus groups, participants agreed that access to more bike and walking trails was a top need.

Survey findings support the focus group findings in this area. When asked about transportation needs and access, 53% of community survey respondents disagreed or strongly disagreed that they have access to safe and affordable public transportation. Approximately 57% of survey respondents can walk where needed, and 87% can go to social and recreational activities. However, 17% of survey responders reported that they are no longer able to drive and are now dependent on family or community support for transportation to meet daily needs such as grocery shopping, travel to medical appointments, and any outside activity . For family members who provide transportation support, this can interfere with their ability to attend to their own employment demands.

Community Resources

Phase 1: Environmental Scan Findings on Community Resources

Resources that are supportive and accessible may help older adults to age well in their community. One such resource is access to supplemental income and aid received from the government that will help older adults meet their own needs. Table 10 highlights some of these resources. Overall, well over half of Aurora older adults receive Social Security income. Additionally, over half receive retirement income. With regard to local resources, 64% of CASOA survey respondents rated the overall quality of local services as only fair or poor.

TABLE 10: AURORA OLDER ADULT GOVERNMENT-RELATED INCOME OR AID[11]

	Aurora	Denver	Colorado
Had Social Security income	67.8%	68.3%	69.2%
Had Supplemental Security Income	6.4%	6.3%	5.1%
Had cash public assistance income	2.2%	1.9%	1.9%
With Food Stamp/SNAP benefits	8.0%	11.8%	7.6%
Had retirement income	52.6%	50.9%	51.2%

Phase 2: Community Assessment Findings on Community Resources

The community assessment revealed that many resources are not accessible or affordable for low-income, diverse communities, including LGBTQ+ and those of color. Many private recreational centers and gyms do not have specific programs or accommodations for older adults and are expensive. Community services, such as older adults' day programs, Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG), and Aurora Center for Active Adults (ACAA), were mentioned in five groups when asked about the best thing about living and aging in Aurora. When asked what organizations are trusted by older adults, the following organizations were mentioned among focus group participants at least nine times:

- Community/friends
- Family
- ACAA
- Police Department

Many of the key informants shared that there is a stigma associated with attendance at "senior centers" as many older adults perceive these centers to be associated with frailty and dependence, and they do not see themselves in these categories. This belief is seen across the country as the word "senior" has become associated with frailty. In many locations, such centers are reimagining their service model and rebranding themselves as active sites for older adults. The city of Aurora has already made significant progress in this respect through the renaming of the Aurora Center for Active Adults and continues to rewrite language in policies and materials to align with rebranding efforts.

Community survey respondents noted significant challenges in accessing needed information, for example:

- While over 70% of responders feel that they have access to recreational activities, 28.5% of responders feel they do not have access to recreational activities.
- While the majority of responders believe they have resources available in their language, 9% of responders (including four of six responders to the survey in Spanish) feel that resources are not available in their language.
- Nearly one-third (29%) of responders feel they have inadequate information about resources to critical financial and healthcare information such as social security, Medicare, and Medicaid, and 40% feel they have inadequate resources to access guidance on legal and financial planning, which are important to physical health and financial security in older adulthood.

The community survey listed programs and services that currently exist in the city of Aurora and asked those who responded if the services were valuable to them, were used by them, or both. The most valued services are reported in descending order below.

1	Public services such as parks and recreation services. This area demonstrated the highest utilization by responders
2	Skill-building activities, such as sport and recreation training, technology training
3	Nutrition programs
4	Transportation services
5	Private services such as Adult Day programs, private recreation centers

HEALTHY LIVING

Another vital aspect of livability is healthy living. The concept of healthy living means encouraging, supporting, and increasing access to and participation in programs and services that help people achieve and maintain a high level of health and function regardless of their age for as long as possible. Healthy living activities can avoid and reduce the burden of chronic disease, reduce the rate of functional decline, increase social engagement, and improve overall wellbeing. Ensuring that older adults have access to healthy food sources, clean and safe indoor and outdoor spaces, physical and mental health resources, and social engagement supports overall health and improves their ability to function independently and enhances self-reliance. The following elements address aspects of healthy living:

Mental Health and Isolation

Phase 1: Environmental Scan Findings on Mental Health and Isolation

Mental health significantly impacts older adults' overall well-being. Addressing social isolation is crucial to reducing loneliness and fostering emotional health. In the survey, 26% of those responding admitted feeling depressed, and nearly 36% felt bored. Among the most critical factors affecting mental health and depression among older people is

social isolation. Research has shown that social isolation at any age is associated with depression and early mortality. While age alone is not a predictor of social isolation, there are multiple factors associated with aging that can predispose older people to the sense of being lonely. As people age, they are more likely to develop chronic diseases that affect their mobility and sensory function such as arthritis and other orthopedic disorders, diabetes, chronic lung disease, congestive heart failure, and vision and hearing disorders. Decreased functional capacity means that people are more likely to be confined to their home and to engage with others less often. Additionally, many older adults are aging alone as a consequence of death, divorce, never partnering, and mobility of children.

Among the population aged 60 and older in Aurora, over 45% are currently widowed, divorced, separated, or never married. Further, the older resident survey results illustrate multiple risks affecting the mental health of older Aurorans:

- One in four (27%) reported feeling lonely or isolated,
- Nearly one-third (31%) felt emotionally and mentally burdened by providing care to another person,
- Over 40% were dealing with the loss of a close family member or friend,
- Greater than one in five (21%) reported that they have no friends or family to rely upon

Household makeup is another important indicator of social isolation. Older adults in Aurora make up 39,348 households (Table 11). Of these households, just over half are

TABLE 11: AURORA OLDER ADULT HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS[12]

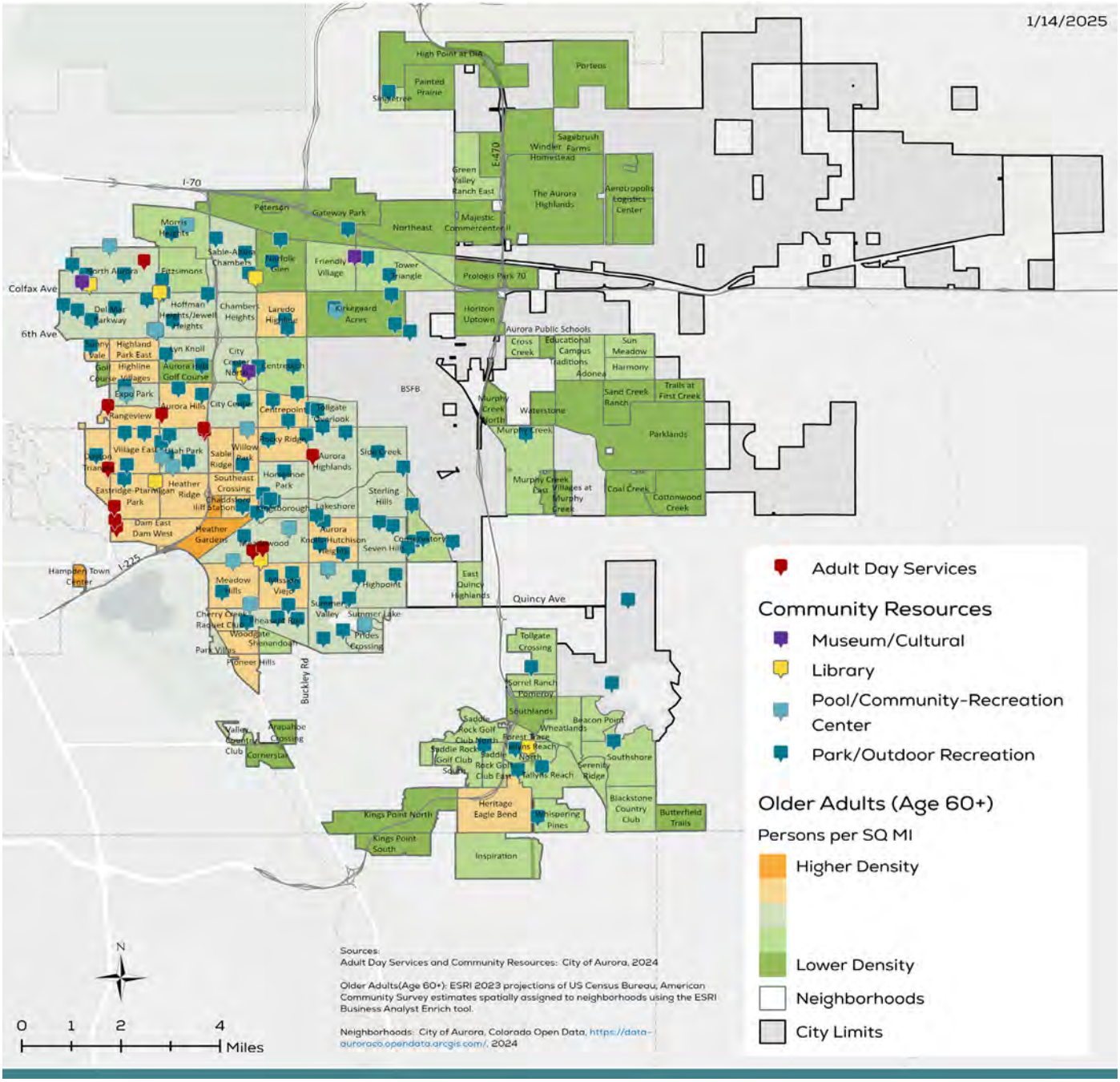
	Aurora	Denver	Colorado
Households	39,348	79,509	782,213
Family households	53.3%	46.0%	56.8%
Married-couple families	41.6%	34.3%	47.7%
Female householder, with no family present	8.5%	9.4%	6.5%
Non-family households	46.7%	54.0%	43.2%
Householder living alone	42.6%	49.8%	39.4%
Living with grandchild(ren)	7.6%	5.0%	4.2%
Responsible for grandchild(ren)	1.7%	2.0%	1.2%

family households, of which 47% are married-couple families and close to 9% have a female householder with no family present.

Aurora has resources to support the mental health and alleviate social isolation of their older adult population. Figure 8 highlights the various social and cultural resources that can be found within the city. For example, several adult day centers are open throughout the city, providing the older adults who attend them the opportunity to interact with others in their cohort or are language-specific. The city also has community recreation centers, libraries, museums, and parks available to the general public as avenues to connect with others.

[12] *U.S. Census Bureau. (2022). Population 60 Years and Over in the United States. American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables, Table S0102. Retrieved from* https://data.census.gov/.

Figure 8: Community Resources and Social Services for Older Adults



Phase 2: Community Assessment Findings on Mental Health and Isolation

Community assessment findings indicate that Aurora is experiencing a mental health provider shortage, while demand for mental health services has increased. As noted by many key informants, lack of transportation is a barrier to access, and virtual appointments may not appeal to older adults. Key informants also emphasized that the loss of friends and loved ones and resulting grief disproportionately impacts older adults, sometimes causing them to retreat from others. Many older adults may not have family or support systems, particularly those in the LGBTQ+ community. Also mentioned during interviews is that hearing and visually impaired older adults are especially isolated.

While the majority of survey respondents noted that they have family or friends to rely upon, a substantial portion of responders noted behavioral health matters or social isolation and are experiencing or are at risk for experiencing clinical depression. Approximately 30% feel they do not have access to affordable, quality mental health care. Below are additional data from survey respondents regarding mental health and isolation that are worth noting.

- 29% feel lonely or isolated
- 35% feel bored
- 27% feel that they do not fit in or belong
- 31% feel depressed
- 31% feel mentally burdened by providing care
- 41% were dealing with the loss of a close family member or friend

Physical Health

Phase 1: Environmental Scan Findings on Physical Health

Physical health is another major facet of healthy living. The CASOA report captured that some Aurora older adults felt that staying fit (62%), overall physical health (53%), and maintaining a healthy diet (42%) was either a minor, moderate, or major problem. Figure 8 indicates all the park locations in Aurora for older adults to utilize for physical exercise.

Phase 2: Community Assessment Findings on Physical Health

Related to physical health, the community-wide survey focused on conditions associated with healthy aging (healthy diet and fitness activities), the ability to conduct activities of daily living (walking, eating, maintaining, personal hygiene, etc.), the ability to maintain a home (housework, yardwork), and access to direct medical care.

- 62% felt they had access to affordable, quality healthcare and were able to access non-emergency care within three days.
- Over 70% describe themselves as physically healthy, and
  - 72% indicate they stay physically active
  - 80% have access to fitness opportunities
  - 90% can perform routine activities of daily living independently.
  - While the majority of those who responded can manage their housework, 34% reported falling at home, and 50% have difficulty carrying out heavy house and yard work.
  - 26% feel physically burdened by providing care to someone else.

Caregiver Support

Phase 1: Environmental Scan Findings on Caregiver Support

Consideration should also be given for the caregivers who look after older adults. Equipping caregivers with support will ensure that older adults can thrive. The CASOA report noted that 31% of survey respondents provided direct care to someone over the age of 55. Of those, 23% felt emotionally burdened, and 21% felt physically burdened.

Phase 2: Community Assessment Findings on Caregiver Support

Most of the community assessment findings around caregiver support came from interviews with key informants. Many stakeholders interviewed said that there are not many resources available to caregivers. Aurora has lost some caregiver programs and services since the pandemic, including Morning Star Adult Day Program, LiveWell Adult Day Services and most recently Senior Hub. Also, there are cultural and language barriers for some caregivers seeking support. Lastly, there are few supports available for grandparents raising grandchildren or for the LGBTQ community.

The lack of caregiver support services not only impacts older adults but also increases the burden on family members, as seen in survey results where over 30% of responders to the survey indicated that they feel mentally burdened by providing care, and 25.5% feel physically burdened by providing care. Additionally, seven respondents to the JFS survey listed caregiver support as one of the top needs for older adults in Aurora, and twelve survey respondents mentioned needing extra support with household assistance and other daily activities from a caregiver.

Medical Care

Phase 1: Environmental Scan Findings on Medical Care

Finally, access to medical care is vital to meeting older adult health-related needs. Insurance status is a consideration for older adults getting the care needed to remain healthy. Table 12 highlights the types of insurance that older adults aged 65+ have in Aurora. Overall, 31% of Aurora older adults aged 65+ years have Medicare coverage only, 3% have employer-based insurance only, and 15% have both. An additional 8% have both Medicare and Medicaid coverage (dual eligible people), and 2% have no insurance at all.

TABLE 12: AURORA OLDER ADULT (65+) INSURANCE TYPES[13]

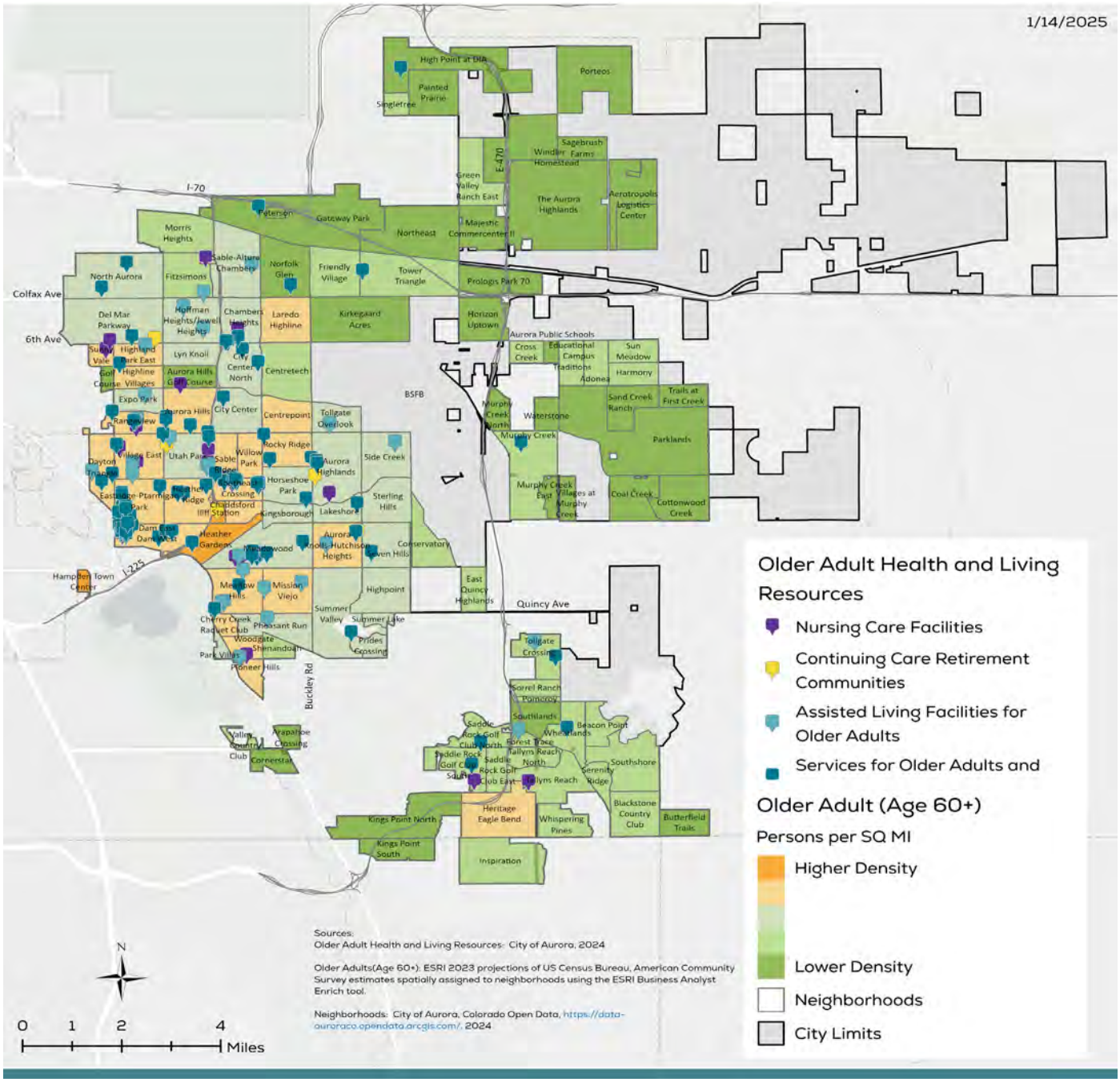
	Aurora	Denver	Colorado
Medicare coverage only	31.5%	34.9%	35.3%
Employer-based insurance only	3.1%	4.4%	3.3%
Employer-based and Medicare coverage	15.3%	15.6%	14.8%
Medicare and Medicaid dual coverage	8.4%	10.8%	5.9%
Other public-only combinations	3.1%	1.9%	2.4%
Other coverage combinations	21.8%	14.8%	18.1%
No insurance coverage	2.1%	1.0%	0.7%

[13] U.S. Census Bureau. "Types of Health Insurance Coverage by Age." American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Detailed Tables, Table B27010. Retrieved from https://data.census.gov

Some respondents to the CASOA report indicated that affordable physical health care and preventive health care (health screenings, flu shots, etc.) were not readily available in the community.

Figure 9 highlights resources that Aurora has that help older adults maintain the healthiest lives as they age, including nursing care facilities, continuing care retirement communities, assisted living facilities for older adults, and services for older adults and persons with disabilities.

Figure 9: Aurora Older Adult Health and Living Resources



Phase 2: Community Assessment Findings on Medical Care

Findings from the community assessment indicate that a top need for older adults in Aurora is access to affordable medical care and assistance in navigating the healthcare system. This issue was raised in seven out of nine focus groups as a top need. Many key informants said there are too few Medicare/Medicaid providers serving Aurora to meet the increased demand. There are often waitlists to access primary and specialty care.

Many respondents spoke about the complexity of both Medicare and Medicaid, and they requested assistance navigating the complex system to better understand their options.

A respondent wrote about the intense need for technical and benefit navigation assistance for those formerly incarcerated who do not have access to digital tools or understand programs for which they may be eligible.

When asked about suggestions for one program or service that would help older Aurora residents, six focus groups said reliable experts for medical services to help manage health and navigate social and government services. In response to the same question, three focus groups answered affordable home health care services and assisted living facilities.

There are barriers to accessing medical care in Aurora for older adults, including digital equity (access to the internet, a device, and skills to use both), transportation, and language. Hospitals also came up in several key informant interviews when asked about access to medical care; a few noted that hospitals are not well connected to community services, and patients are sometimes discharged with no place to go.

The community-wide survey probed the question of access to medical care, asking about types of access to different medical practitioners. Below are noteworthy survey findings.

- 87% of respondents have access to affordable health insurance.
- 90% have access to the healthcare they need.
- 90% have access to preventive health care such as vaccines and screenings.
- 15% of responders reported that they cannot afford the medications they need.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

The final thematic area emerged around community connection. Ensuring that older adults have spaces to connect with each other can also decrease social isolation and increase quality of life. Social participation, communication and information, and safety are all important aspects of creating community connection.

[14] *National Research Center, Inc. (2022). Aurora, CO, Community Assessment Survey for Older Adults, September 2022. Retrieved from* https://drcog.org/sites/default/files/resources/Aurora%20CASOA.pdf.

Social Participation

Phase 1: Environmental Scan Findings on Social Participation

Opportunities to participate socially can be beneficial to older adults, helping them feel less isolated. Social participation may include activities such as civic participation, volunteer, employment opportunities, community gatherings, recreational programs, etc. Revisiting Figure 7, Aurora provides opportunities for older adults to gather and be in the community at locations such as city recreation centers. The CASOA report indicated that 47% of respondents felt they had available volunteer opportunities, 39% felt they had an opportunity to participate in matters of the community, and 35% felt connected and engaged in the community.[14]

Phase 2: Community Assessment Findings on Social Participation

The community assessment's findings have been grouped into two distinct areas: Civic Participation, Volunteer Activities, Community Gatherings, and Employment.

Civic Participation, Volunteer Activities, Community Gatherings

Related to civic participation, volunteer activities, and community gatherings, many older adults in Aurora do not know where to go for information, resources, or services. This theme was prevalent in the key informant interviews and focus group discussions. This issue is further compounded by a lack of digital literacy among some older adults since information is increasingly available through digital means exclusively. Lastly, several key informants mentioned that older adults may not always feel welcome at community gatherings due to racial and cultural differences such as those related to language and food.

When asked for suggestions for activities or services for older adults, below were the top responses in this area:

- Fun opportunities/activities for older adults (kayaking, biking, etc.) were mentioned in six focus groups
- Education classes (how to start a business, learn English, etc.) were mentioned in three focus groups
- Translation services were mentioned in four focus groups
- Volunteer opportunities for older adults were mentioned in three focus groups

The Aurora Center for Active Adults (ACAA) was mentioned in six focus groups and the community survey when asked what older adults' services or programs they found particularly enjoyable or benefited from. Libraries were mentioned in four groups and the community survey when asked what older adults' services or programs they found particularly enjoyable or benefited from.

The questions in the community-wide survey probed on access to skill building, work, volunteer opportunities, opportunities to participate in meaningful activities, and having a voice in their own community. The findings in this set of measures were not as positive as in other measures.

- Nearly 50% feel they do not have access to skill-building and work opportunities.
- 39% feel they have been discriminated against or not treated fairly due to their age.
- 26% report that they do not have access to recreational and cultural activities.
- 23% report that they do not have access to meaningful volunteer work or productive and meaningful activities.
- 41% do not feel valued in their community.

Employment

Older adults often face ageism in the workplace, and employment opportunities for them can be limited. A common perception is that older adults lack technological skills, which may discourage employers from hiring them. Yet, 90% of survey respondents said they can use digital devices, and 94.5% reported having access to such devices. Despite this, the perception of low digital proficiency persists. It's important to note that not all older adults in Aurora have reliable internet, access to technology, or the digital literacy needed to seek employment online. In five focus groups, participants brought up employment as an area where more support is needed. In addition, 48% of community survey respondents said they do not feel they have access to work opportunities.

Communication and Information

Phase 1: Environmental Scan Findings on Communication and Information

Older adults may feel more connected in their communities when communication methods that are preferred by the population are utilized to disseminate information. In the CASOA report, 77% of older adults reported that the information they currently receive on resources available in their community was fair or poor, which may indicate a communication issue.

Phase 2: Community Assessment Findings on Communication and Information

A prevalent theme in the community assessment was that many older adults in Aurora do not know where to go for information and resources. This issue is challenging because there is not one size that fits all when communicating with older adults. Focus group participants were mixed in terms of whether they prefer to receive information in hard copy such as newsletters or online.

Many older adults in Aurora do not know where to go for information and resources.

Access to information for older adults came up in eight focus groups when asked about the top needs. Access to newsletters or information for older adults came up in eight groups when asked if they could suggest a program or service that would help.

The community-wide survey questions probed responders' access to information and resources using technology and technology devices. Importantly, the vast majority of responders reported having access to and using technology with over 90% reporting access to and use of technology devices. The important outlier in this set of questions related to the ability of responders to afford technology devices. Nearly one of four (23%) responders indicated difficulty affording technology devices and/or access to the internet. Lastly,

approximately 32% of respondents indicated they do not have access to information about resources for older adults.

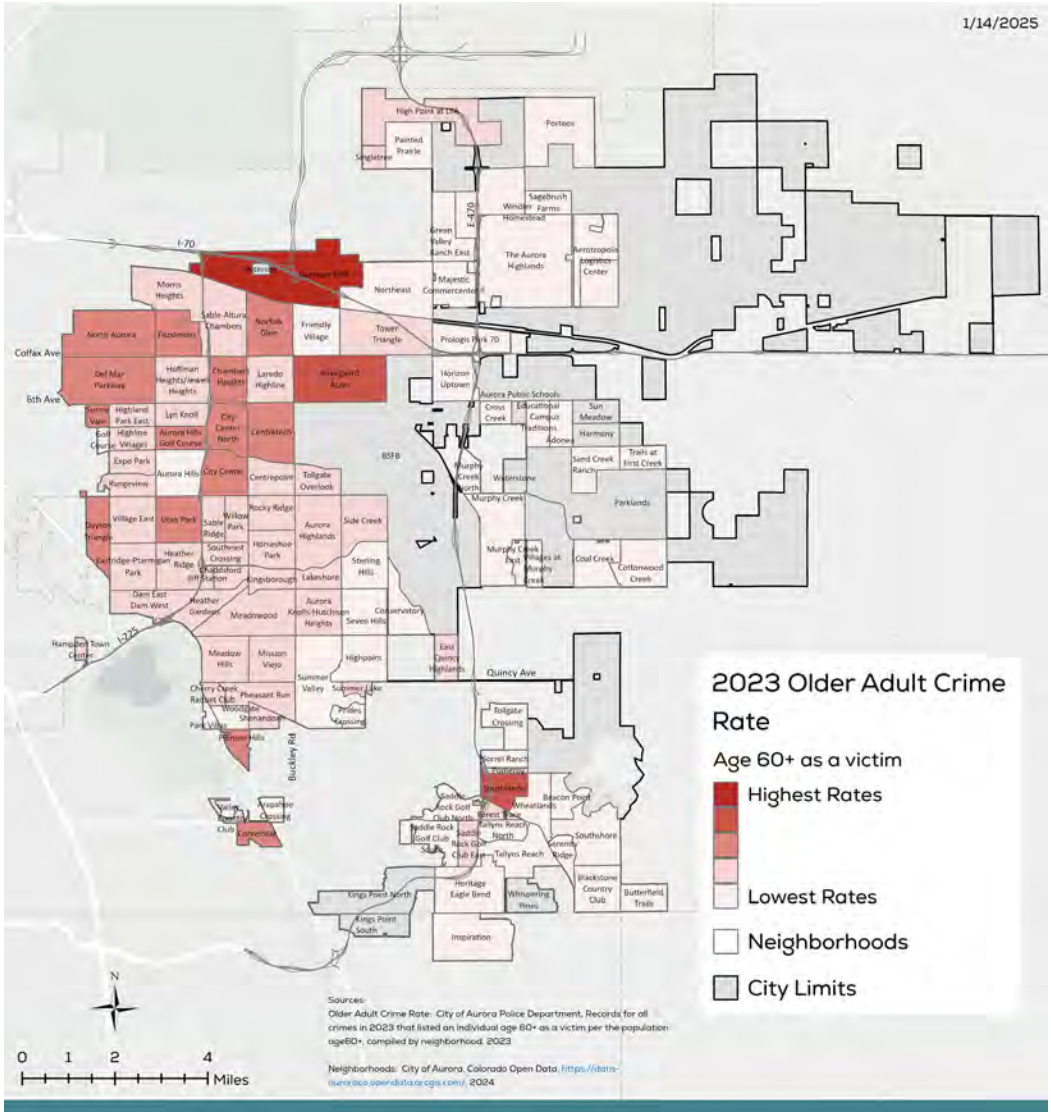
Safety

Phase 1: Environmental Scan Findings on Safety

The final domain of livability pertains to older adult safety. Older adults may be more susceptible to physical and financial crimes. Concerning city-level physical crime, Figure 10 highlights the rates of violent crime against older adults in 2023 by neighborhood. The map shows that older adults were victims of crime at the highest rates in the Gateway Park neighborhood, followed by medium-high rates in Kirkegaard Acres and Southlands. Overall, older adults were most likely to experience crime in the northwestern areas of the city. When considering how older adults felt about their safety, the CASOA report found that 54% of Aurora older adults rated their overall safety in the community as excellent or good.

Figure 10. Aurora 2023 Older Adult Crime Rate Map

Phase 2: Community Assessment Findings on Safety



Concerns around safety were a prominent theme revealed in the community assessment. Many older adults do not feel safe in Aurora because of crime, including shootings, car and other thefts, car speeding, porch pirates, and drugs. A desire for more police presence in Aurora came up in five of the focus groups when asked about top needs. Discussions in three focus groups highlighted pedestrian safety as a top need, including a desire for protected crosswalks.

The community-wide survey questions probed respondents' sense of safety in the community and addressed property crime, physical and emotional abuse, risk of crime related to fraud, and discrimination against racial, ethnic, gender, or sexual identity. The responses to this set of questions highlight the sense of risk felt among older people in the community.

- 39% do not feel safe in the community
- 17% do not feel secure from physical and emotional abuse
- 42% disagree or strongly disagree that they feel safe in the community
- 52% feel at risk for property crime
- 66% feel at risk for fraud and scams
- 3% feel at risk of discrimination against their identity

Multiple requests appeared for "welfare checks" on older people, particularly those with mobility restrictions. This would keep an eye on people to make sure they are safe and well.

KEY FINDINGS

The environmental scan and collection of qualitative data through interviews, focus groups and surveys have revealed specific areas of focus to promote the well-being of older adults living in Aurora. Following this summary of key findings are recommendations specific to these areas for the city of Aurora's consideration.

COST OF LIVING AND HOUSING

Older adults are finding it challenging to live off limited and fixed incomes, and they are increasingly experiencing housing instability. Downsizing may be an option for some but it is difficult to execute and requires both financial resources and physical labor.

Living off a fixed income also results in challenges accessing healthy foods and for some, preferred cultural foods, due to dramatically rising food costs.

TRANSPORTATION

For many older Aurorans who are not able to own a car or to drive, other forms of transportation are not reliably affordable, accessible, or available. Barriers include having to qualify for services, long waitlists, language barriers, lack of door-through-door services (where a driver assists passengers not only getting into and out of the vehicle but also helps them physically enter and exit their destination building), and lack of RTD routes in eastern and southern areas of the city.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES, COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION

Many older adults do not know where to go for information, resources, or services that are available to help them meet their functional needs. This issue is further compounded by a lack of digital literacy among some older adults since information is increasingly available through digital means exclusively.

MEDICAL CARE

Access to medical care is vital to meeting older adult health-related needs, yet many older adults do not have access to affordable medical care. Additionally, many older adults would like assistance in navigating the complex healthcare system as they develop greater needs for medical and related systems of care.

SAFETY

Many older adults do not feel safe because of crime, including shootings, car and other thefts, car speeding, porch pirates, and drugs. There is a desire for more police presence in Aurora and increased pedestrian safety measures such as protected crosswalks.

SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT

An increasing number of older Aurora residents live alone with no close family or friends to rely upon; many live with functional disabilities such as a loss of mobility, vision, hearing, and cognitive function; and many are caregivers of someone with functional disabilities. All these conditions serve to isolate older people from community life, and this isolation presents further risk of physical decline, premature death, and depression.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations are drawn from the rich data collected during the full assessment process and were compiled in collaboration with the city of Aurora. The recommendations are presented by domain and reflect whether the recommendation could be considered a low, moderate or high level of time and effort to implement. Recommendations may be implemented incrementally so that the level of time, effort and resources required to implement are more manageable. City policy and ordinance recommendations may require legal review.

Key to Recommendation Levels of Time and Effort:
Tier 1 - Low
Tier 2 - Moderate
Tier 3 - High

Some recommendations are made in more than one domain area. In those instances, rather than repeating the same information, the reader will see an icon that corresponds with the repeated domain. Following is a key to the icons used:

Food Access

Caregiver Support

Housing Affordability

Medical Care

Housing Accessibility Maintenance

Social Participation

Transportation

Employment

Community Resources

Communication and Information

Mental Health and Isolation

Safety

Physical Health

OVERARCHING RECOMMENDATIONS

There are three overarching recommendations that transcend all of the identified domain areas.

TIER 1	● Explore adopting age-friendly practices and joining age-friendly networks that will align with the city's short- and long-term strategic planning, providing access to tools and resources.
TIER 2	● Using survey data, consider participating in Colorado's Multisector Plan on Aging (MPA) to ensure the voices of older Aurora residents are represented. MPAs are blueprints for restructuring policies and convening key stakeholders to address the needs of older adult populations. Colorado's plan is being developed through the Colorado Department of Human Services.
TIER 3	● Explore the feasibility of creating an officer on aging position or an office on aging to coordinate efforts with other departments.

AGING IN PLACE

Food Access

TIER 1	● Work with and encourage local grocery stores/grocery chains to establish senior discount hours or days and promote those programs to older adults in Aurora. ● Explore partnerships with community organizations such as churches and neighborhood/community groups to create volunteer shopper programs that train and guide volunteers to perform grocery shopping and delivery for older adults with mobility and/or transportation challenges.
TIER 2	● Partner with nonprofits, food banks, local businesses, and social service organizations or businesses to provide food voucher programs for older adults. ● Consider providing vouchers for discounted grocery delivery services for older adults with mobility challenges.
TIER 3	● Explore and promote accessible, intergenerational community gardens to help alleviate food insecurity and social isolation and serve as a model for healthy eating. Locations might include spaces near churches, schools, neighborhood public spaces, and apartment buildings. ● Consider working with community organizations and nonprofits to research and establish sustainable locally sourced food hubs that deliver healthy foods to local organizations serving low-income clients. ● Explore opportunities for the city or a local nonprofit to provide a van or alternate vehicle for nonprofits to rent or borrow for use in food delivery or for transporting older adults for grocery shopping.

Housing Affordability

TIER 1	● Promote and/or incentivize Accessible Dwelling Units (ADUs) as the city updates city code in accordance with new state statutes. ● To address additional costs associated with pet service fees, it may be beneficial to partner with animal shelter services and veterinarians to promote discounted and mobile services to support older adults' ability to care for pets and to improve accessibility of animal services to adults with mobility challenges.
TIER 2	● Partner with community organizations to expand access to stable, affordable housing with integrated services, ensuring residents can access ongoing support such as navigation and case coordination. ● Routinely review existing city zoning ordinances and codes to identify those that may create unnecessary barriers to building and/or renovating properties as Aurora has demonstrated with updated ADU codes, and work with city officials and residents to propose revisions of those ordinances and codes. ● Research, invite, and promote home sharing programs that partner willing and eligible homeowners with those seeking housing to share housing and home upkeep. ● Consider implementing city ordinances that address limits on Home Owners Association (HOA) fees to enable people to remain in their homes and contain external costs.
TIER 3	● Continue to leverage opportunities to work with property developers and community nonprofits to create and/or expand on affordable and accessible housing options. Potential additional options include the creation of land trusts and accessible properties and communities. ● Research and draft targeted policy interventions that create incentives for developers to build affordable, accessible and creative housing solutions capable of addressing the needs of multiple generations. Examples include duplexes, 4-plexes, single story homes, and mixed-use developments that are accessible to people living with disabilities. ● Evaluate the implementation of city-based eviction and foreclosure prevention efforts, such as legal assistance and temporary financial assistance, for older adults at specific low-income levels. ● Expand existing utility assistance and rental assistance programs and options that target older adults at specific low-income levels. ● Evaluate the impact of city-supported options for rent control for older adults at specific low-income levels. ● Create a flex fund/voucher program to help offset moving expenses (i.e., security deposit, pet deposit, packing and moving costs) that support relocation expenses for older adults with the application process and approval criteria set by a review committee.

Housing Accessibility/Maintenance

TIER 1	● Enhance the city of Aurora's older adult resources webpage to prominently feature home repair and maintenance services offered by the city, along with related support from local nonprofits. This section should be routinely updated to ensure that visitors always have access to current programs. ● Engage with community service organizations and other community partners (churches, schools, local service organizations) to participate in the design and support the creation of low-cost handyman, and home maintenance assistance programs to support the ability of older adults to stay in their homes. ● Explore the creation of educational home repair workshops for older homeowners and residents of mobile home parks. ● Continue current "Snow Busters" program and expand volunteer base.
TIER 2	● Consider housing and development policies that promote the use of universal design and visit-ability design features that prioritize usability by all people without the need for adaptation. ● Consider providing economic incentives for home modifications that enable older adults to age safely in their own homes. This could involve partnerships with local organizations that provide home modification services. ● Expand on the city's current repair program to assist low-income homeowners with vital repairs to better serve older adults
TIER 3	● Explore the feasibility of city incentives such as reduced permit fees or grants for homeowners and/or builders to construct homes with accessibility features that enable those who are living with disabilities and older adults to stay in community settings and navigate their homes safely and effectively. The level of certification could assist in promoting the home at the time of sale. ● Consider partnering with builders and realtors to promote formal built-environment accessibility certification to expand the use of features that could be highlighted at the time of sale. ● Evaluate how the Aurora Housing Locator Tool can be expanded upon to provide a guide for people with disabilities and older adults to find housing that meets pre-determined accessibility and affordability standards.

Transportation

TIER 1	● Use data from the community survey to inform RTD of a need to enhance ridership safety through the increased presence of security guards, lighting and cameras and installing covered benches at RTD stops. ● Add more benches to Aurora trail systems to provide more opportunities for older adults and those with disabilities to stop and rest. ● Pilot a carpool/ride share program within the ACAA so more older adults can attend the Center's activities.
TIER 2	● Expand marketing of existing and future micro-transit services for older adults in Aurora and evaluate outcomes. ● Explore partnerships with community organizations such as churches, community groups, and nonprofits to establish a vehicle training and loan program to transport older adults to access food, medical appointments, etc. ● Provide or promote existing online and in-person technology training programs for older residents on how to use Uber, Lyft and other transportation options. ● Expand upon existing access to transportation vouchers for Uber, Lyft and RTD options for qualifying older adults. ● Partner with state and local organizations to improve pedestrian infrastructure and increase safety for older adults and people with disabilities through activities such as repairing sidewalks and extending the length of crossing time at busy Aurora intersection crosswalks to accommodate people using assistive devices such as walkers, canes and wheelchairs. ● Consider expansion of existing snow buster programs to assist older adults in clearing sidewalks within a recommended time frame.
TIER 3	● Explore opportunities for installing crossing lanes for high traffic areas located near bus stops to decrease the need to walk long distances to access bus stops. ● Evaluate the installation of more roundabouts to slow traffic in areas of high child and older adult foot traffic. ● Discuss options with RTD to expand regular routes, especially in eastern and southern areas of the city of Aurora.

Community Resources

TIER 1	● Refresh and update the city of Aurora website to include easy-to-access older adult resources. Initiate a marketing campaign to drive people to the website for information. ● Expand the broad dissemination of older adult resources through Access Aurora. ● Work with libraries to expand educational programs that highlight existing community resources, especially sessions on legal service advice, detecting fraud schemes, financial and retirement planning and skill building for employment readiness. ● Partner with local organizations to bring or expand their assistive services to locations where older adults live and gather such as older adult centers, retirement communities, library bookmobile and libraries. ● Increase the frequency and timing of popular ACAA and library offerings for older adults to allow an increase in attendance. ● Consider expanding communication on existing programs which partner with local pharmacies and libraries to provide informational flyers to older adults about city services (city newsletter) and community resources for older adults. ● Encourage organizations serving older adults in Aurora to participate in and update their information in local and regional business directories and aging network resource websites so that older adults have access to up-to-date information and resources through these regional organizations.
TIER 2	● Incorporate a technology-based mobile resource and navigation service, such as the book mobile model, that is geared toward older adults who otherwise would not know about or have access to city services and community resources. ● Encourage existing information and referral services to develop a system to support remote appointments using audio-visual technology to assist older people and increase access to services in languages of preference to Aurora older adults. ● Encourage existing nonprofits to create or expand peer-to-peer empowerment programs where older adults assist their peers with community resources.
TIER 3	● Create a satellite Aurora Center for Active Adults in southern Aurora to accommodate the growing older population in that section of the city and reduce the transportation burden for older adult residents. ● Expand dissemination of older adult resources by Access Aurora by creating a navigator/promotora hotline to connect older adults and their caregivers to information and resources of importance to older adults.

HEALTHY LIVING

Mental Health and Isolation

TIER 1	● Support the creation of Friendly Visitor or Community Check-In programs that partner older adults with a trained and supervised volunteer who connects with them on a frequent basis to provide social contact and assure their needs are addressed. ● Support the creation of Neighbor-to-Neighbor programs in Aurora communities that partner residents with one another to conduct check-ins and identify needs. ● Partner with public and private schools in order to promote intergenerational learning activities and fulfill community service requirement opportunities. ● Expand and support digital literacy programs so older adults have increased access to the internet, appropriate digital devices, training and knowledge of resources to connect them with support groups or educational webinars. ● Engage with community and regional partners to participate in emerging state and local digital access planning and programs such as the Colorado Digital Access Plan, that support education and social connection for older adults.
TIER 2	● Encourage local behavioral health providers to offer training for and access to tele-behavioral health visits for Aurora older adults with mobility challenges. ● Support the creation of local programs that are available online or in person and address topics of importance to older adults living alone. ● Continue to partner with places where older adults gather such as libraries, recreation centers, congregate housing, and faith-based organizations to expand and deliver creative art, music, and writing programs to support social engagement and artistic expression for older adults.
TIER 3	● Work with local and regional behavioral health providers to evaluate the potential for mental health services to be offered locally in congregate housing or other convenient locations for older adults. ● Work with local organizations to provide technical equipment to older adults in Aurora to enable telehealth delivered behavioral health services.

Physical Health

TIER 1	● Explore reinitiating an evidence-based falls prevention program for older adults, offered both online and in person on a rotating basis at various city facilities to expand access and participation. ● Promote free online fitness and healthy cooking courses offered by nonprofits, such as the American Diabetes Association and AARP, through the ACAA for people who cannot physically access the recreational center programs and promote programs through libraries, online portals, and older adult newsletter. Consider the development of new online city programs if other options do not exist.
TIER 2	● Consider expanding ACAA access and activities by increasing popular activity opportunities, expanding programs into southern Aurora, and offering classes designed to meet the needs of older adults such as nutrition, falls prevention, and using technology.

Caregiver Support

TIER 1	● Develop programming that provides simultaneous support for caregivers and the older adults they care for, particularly those with dementia or disabilities. This could include caregiver support groups or education sessions offered while care recipients participate in structured activities at the same location. Dual-purpose programming helps reduce isolation and improves access to support for both groups. ● Work with local non-profit nursing and social services to create facilitated Caregiver Support Programs/groups that are available to residents of Aurora who provide in-home caregiving. ● Encourage libraries, recreation centers, local pharmacies, healthcare offices and other community resources to provide information online or in paper format about caregiving supports so that information is available in locations people can access.
TIER 2	● Encourage the creation of language-specific social adult day programs and promote the programs through trusted community sources such as churches and ethnic community organizations.

Medical Care

TIER 1	● Consider sponsoring health fairs, including activities for diverse communities, through city resources such as the ACAA and libraries. ● Promote more 365 Health Fairs (formerly 9Health Fairs) in the City of Aurora. ● Share the findings of the Aurora older adult survey data with community health organizations to support the development of targeted older adult services. ● Provide information on reliable and validated resources for access to low-cost medications at libraries, older adult centers, ethnic community centers, and recreation facilities to provide education and guidance to older adults.
TIER 2	● Engage with existing healthcare systems where possible to encourage them to expand opportunities for vision, hearing, and dental care for older Aurora residents and share these resources through a city-sponsored connection. ● Encourage hospitals in Aurora to adopt and practice age-friendly health system principles. ● Invite organizations that offer impartial health insurance navigation services to co-locate at various community locations such as libraries and the ACAA to support older adult choices in accessing healthcare. Health navigators/counselors/promatoras would be helpful in guiding older adults toward systems that meet their needs and identifying healthcare providers who are accepting patients and who are trained in older adult care. ● Expand the activities of existing Aurora recreation centers, libraries, older adult centers and other community resources to promote preventive health activities to older adult populations. Promotion might include topics such as vaccines, colorectal cancer screening, breast cancer screening, and other preventive health care needs using tools that are culturally appropriate and linguistically relevant.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Social Participation *(Civic Participation, Volunteer Activities, Community Gatherings)*

TIER 1	● Partner with local county older adult services and nonprofit providers to design and implement a local media campaign to connect Aurora older adults to resources and opportunities to increase social engagement.
TIER 2	● Evaluate novel concepts that bring older adults together in an engaging, hands-on format that encourage expression and socialization.
TIER 3	● Partner with local county older adult services and nonprofit providers to offer virtual opportunities to participate in art, music, poetry, conversations, learning, and intergenerational activities.

Employment

TIER 1	● Train staff and communications department on reframing aging communication principles (Changing the Narrative) and incorporate language internally and externally. ● Disseminate a curated list of local and national resources available to assist older adult job seekers in job finding, creating resumes, and application guidance.
TIER 2	● Encourage larger businesses in Aurora to become certified as an Age-Friendly Employer through the Age-Friendly Institute and promote that certification. The city could host a contest to launch such an effort. ● Host a city-sponsored job board website for older adult job seekers and local employers targeting experienced talent. Such a job board might include video or text testimonials from older adults who were successful in job seeking. ● Create job readiness programs that could be offered at libraries and centers where older adults gather to assist in creating resumes or completing job applications.
TIER 3	● Sponsor Employment/Career Fairs geared toward introducing local employers to older adults seeking employment and provide information to potential employers that support the hiring of older adults. ● Encourage training and utilization of resource tools on Changing the Narrative to improve acceptance of aging and older adults based on the principles of "Reframing Aging" for local employers and community organizations. Host training workshops for interested businesses and nonprofits. ● Encourage the Arapahoe/Douglas Works! Workforce Center to offer customized curriculum and programming for employment opportunities (skill development as well as upskilling) for older adults that match what employers want.

Communication and Information

TIER 1	● Provide a printed guide to services and resources for older adults and caregivers, available upon request at all city facilities. The guide should also be available online along with instructions for how to request a physical copy. ● Partner with organizations that provide medical advocacy assistance. ● Promote information about animal shelter food pantries that older adults can access for pets.
TIER 2	● Partner with and encourage the expansion of local models (i.e., conectoras and promotoras) into Aurora to reach and connect Latino elders and their families to information and services. ● Expand the Aurora book mobile services and increase resource information available for older adults through the book mobile service.
TIER 3	● Invest in a technology-enhanced mobile unit staffed with an information navigator to provide information and connection to services for communities of older adults in Aurora. ● Establish a navigator/promotora hotline to connect older adults and family caregivers to information and resources designed to meet the needs of older adults.

Safety

TIER 1	● Expand neighborhood watch programs to neighborhoods with high older adult populations.
TIER 2	● Advocate for covered benches and lighting at RTD bus stops and add cameras in higher risk areas. ● Organize a series of media campaigns to increase usage of the FILE OF LIFE® card system in which people list important medical information for first responders to access in the case of a medical emergency.
TIER 3	● Expand and train police or community service volunteers to work specifically with older adults and provide education about frauds, scams, cyber security and crime prevention. ● Consider adding another senior resource position with the Aurora Police Department and increase outreach, education and crime reduction efforts. ● Partner with police or community service volunteers to offer home crime prevention assessments and have funds to add lighting, better door and window locks, and smoke detectors. ● Advocate for increased security on buses and light rail. ● Partner with nonprofits or churches to establish shelters for older adults, including those that accept pets. ● Work with partners to ensure safe parking locations are available to provide a safe environment, services and support for older adults living in their automobiles to address safety.

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APPENDIX A:
AURORA OLDER ADULT NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Key Informant Interviews Summary Report

AURORA PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE DEPARTMENT

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OVERVIEW

Throughout February and March 2024, The JSI team conducted 18 key informant interviews (KII) to inform the needs assessment process by identifying unmet needs, disparities in access, and service gaps for older adults living in Aurora. Interviews were conducted by two JSI team members (a facilitator and a notetaker) over Zoom and lasted one hour. All interviews were recorded upon receiving interviewee consent. The facilitator used a KII guide with a list of questions that centered around the Aurora domains of livability. A summary of themes identified throughout the interviews is provided in this report. The following summary of themes is based on the domains of livability, including *Aging in Place*, *Healthy Living* and *Community Connections*. In addition to these domains, themes within the category of *Policy and Cultural Changes* are presented.

AGING IN PLACE

Providing older adults with opportunities to age in place may help them to maintain and increase their quality of life. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control aging in place is defined as the "ability to live in one's own home and community safely, independently and comfortably, regardless of age, income, or ability level". Factors that are integral to allowing an older adult to age in place include cost of living and housing, access to transportation, and community resources.

COST OF LIVING AND HOUSING

The following themes within cost of living and housing were identified in the interviews.

● Food Access	○ Aurora older adults are increasingly using food pantries. ○ Preferred cultural foods and fresh fruits and vegetables are scarce, especially at food pantries. ○ Lack of transportation exacerbates access to food. ○ A shortage of volunteers has led to challenges in delivering food. ○ Older adults are on wait lists for older adult nutrition services such as Meals on Wheels. ○ Undocumented older adults cannot receive food benefits such as SNAP.
● Housing Affordability	○ Older adults are increasingly experiencing housing instability. ○ A "missing middle" phenomenon, or a decrease in medium-density housing such as multi-family or clustered house types, is occurring in Aurora, leading to increased social isolation for older adults who cannot live in close proximity with family and friends. ○ A disconnect exists between what is in demand and what is realistic in terms of affordability and availability (i.e. Accessory Dwelling Units are often too expensive for older adults to afford). ○ Affordable assisted living and skilled nursing facilities are scarce.

• Housing Affordability (cont'd)	◦ Downsizing is difficult to execute and can require physical labor and financial aspects, such as packing, moving, and new home deposit costs, which add layers to something already expensive. ◦ Older adults are experiencing homelessness. ◦ Many mobile home parks exist in Aurora and more older adults are living in them, although rental rates for these units are increasing. ◦ Homeowner Associations are assessing higher fees that are increasingly unaffordable for older people on fixed incomes.
• Housing Accessibility	◦ Many housing options are not culturally appropriate. ◦ Home repair, home modification, handyman and yard services, and snow removal services are inaccessible or unaffordable. ◦ Older adults need in-home services such as housekeeping. ◦ Accessible housing is growing in demand, or housing that includes single level homes, walk-in showers, compatible kitchen controls, and options that are wheelchair or visually impaired (and other assistive device) friendly. ◦ Wait lists are prevalent for all types of housing.

TRANSPORTATION

- Transportation in Aurora is not affordable, accessible, or available.
- Barriers include having to qualify for services, long waitlists, language barriers, lack of door through door services, and the Regional Transportation District lacking regular routes, especially in eastern and southern areas of the city.
- Safety is a concern with public transportation.
- Pedestrian safety and mobility is an issue; sidewalks need repair and are not conducive to wheelchairs or walkers, there is lots of construction, and snow removal is needed.
- Older adults may not have the technology or digital literacy needed to access rider apps such as Uber and Lyft.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

- Many resources are not accessible or affordable for low-income, diverse communities (including LGBTQ+ and those of color).
- Stigma: older adults perceive senior centers to be for more elderly people.
- Many private recreational centers and gyms do not cater to older adults and are expensive.
- Older adults do not know where or how to access services.
- The delivery of information and resources is fragmented.
- Language and cultural barriers exist with communications around resources.
- Digital literacy is an issue for some regarding being aware of resources.
- Retirement planning resources are scarce.
- Affordable legal advice services are difficult to acquire for the legal challenges experienced by aging adults.

HEALTHY LIVING

Another vital aspect of livability is healthy living. Ensuring that older adults have access to the physical and mental health resources that will allow them to be the healthiest that they can be is an important consideration. As part of this domain, it is important to consider mental health and isolation, physical health, caregiver support, and medical care.

MENTAL HEALTH AND ISOLATION

- Aurora is experiencing a mental health provider shortage, while demand for services has increased.
- Virtual appointments may not be appealing for older adults.
- Waitlists exist in accessing mental health care.
- Transportation can be a barrier to accessing mental health care.
- Older adults may experience stigma associated with accessing mental health care.
- Loss of friends and loved ones and grief impacts older adults, sometimes causing them to retreat from others.
- Mental health issues increase social isolation and decrease cognitive function.
- Many older adults do not have family or support systems, especially those in LGBTQ+ community.
- Hearing and visually impaired older adults are especially isolated.

CAREGIVER SUPPORT

- Cultural and language barriers exist for caregivers in getting support.
- Aurora has lost some caregiver programs and services so there are fewer options for caregivers to access.
- Few supports exist for grandparents raising grandchildren or the LGBTQ community

MEDICAL CARE

- Access to healthcare is a challenge due to digital equity considerations (access to the internet, having a device, and having skills to use both).
- Fewer Medicare/Medicaid providers are serving Aurora even as demand has increased.
- Equitable access is scarce for the underserved or underinsured.
- Transportation can be a barrier to accessing medical care.
- Language barriers exist in accessing health care for some older adults.
- Applications for benefits are burdensome.
- Waitlists exist in accessing primary and specialty care.
- People are discharged from hospitals with no place to go.
- Hospitals are often not aware of or connected to home and community-based services to refer patients to.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

The final thematic area is around community connection. Ensuring that older adults have spaces to connect with each other can also decrease social isolation and increase quality of life. Social participation, communication and information, and safety are all important aspects of creating community connection.

SOCIAL PARTICIPATION

Civic Participation, Volunteer Activities, Community Gatherings

- Many older adults do not know where to go for information about social participation activities.
- Lack of digital literacy may impact participation in local activities.
- Older adults have safety concerns related to public gatherings (i.e., COVID-19).
- Transportation to and from gatherings pose challenges for older adults without personal transportation.
- Older adults may not always feel welcome at community gatherings due to racial and cultural differences such as those related to language and food.
- Many older adults are active within their faith-based communities and do not seek other types of community gathering.

Employment

- Older adults experience ageism in the workplace.
- Transportation challenges factor into employment challenges.
- Employment opportunities for older adults may be limited outside of retail and food service industries.
- Older adults may not have the technology equipment or digital literacy to access employment opportunities online.
- Competition is prevalent for older adults seeking employment opportunities.

Communication and Information

- Many older adults do not know where to go for information, resources or services.
- There are culture and language barriers in terms of communication and immigrant populations.
- Some older adult communities do not trust the government.
- Digital Equity is an issue for some older adults in accessing communication and information.

Safety

- Older adults do not feel safe because of crime (shootings, car thefts, porch pirates, migrants, drugs).
- Many older adults are concerned about cyber security and artificial intelligence.
- Older adults are susceptible to fraud and scams.
- Family caregivers who also work are concerned for the safety of those they care for while they are not there.
- Emergency housing, shelters, and/or resources are not available in Aurora for older adults, for older women of color, LGBTQ+ women and victims of domestic violence.

POLICY AND CULTURAL CHANGES

Along with the themes identified across livability domains above, key informants provided information on emerging policy and cultural changes that may affect older adults in Aurora.

IN AURORA

- Aurora has seen an increase in immigrants and undocumented individuals for whom there are few resources available, leading to a concern that older adults may fall through the cracks in terms of access to resources.
- Fewer people are willing and available to volunteer time for older adults care and services such as Meals on Wheels, transportation services, and other core community services.
- Multiple Adult Day Programs have closed in the past few years, reducing options for older adults, especially those with cognitive disorders, to engage in meaningful social activity.
- Nonprofits have expressed limited capacity to serve the older adult population.

ON NATIONAL AND STATE LEVELS

- Older adults are the fastest growing population segment in Colorado over the next five years, especially those aged 85+ years.
- Federal and state budget cuts are impending while demand continues to increase for older adult services that are currently being funded with this money.
- Concerns exist surrounding potential cuts to Social Security and Medicare at the Federal level; the Older Americans Act is up for renewal.
- Health care sector is increasingly willing to pay for in-home and housing services to avoid costly acute care and facility-based services.

APPENDIX B:

AURORA OLDER ADULT NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Focus Group Summary

AURORA PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE DEPARTMENT

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OVERVIEW

Throughout April and June 2024, the JSI team conducted nine focus groups to inform the needs assessment process by identifying unmet needs, disparities in access, and service gaps for older adults living in Aurora. Table 1 provides a list of the focus group dates, location and number of participants.

TABLE 1: FOCUS GROUPS

Date Conducted	Location	Number of Attendees
4/8	Nine Mile Station Senior Living Development	14
4/27	African Leadership Group Older Adult Women's group	10
5/14	Aurora Veterans (Veterans Affairs Commission)	6
5/22	Senior Planet Colorado, 7585 E Academy Blvd, Denver, CO	9
5/23	Happy Living & Wellness Adult Daycare, 14015 E Evans Ave, Aurora, CO	43
5/24	DRCOG at Aurora Center for Active Adults- Older Adult Refugee Program	14
6/1	Latino Community	9
6/25	Heather Gardens	9
6/28	Everest Adult Day Care (Burmese and Nepalese)	35

Focus groups were conducted by two team members (a facilitator and a notetaker) in person and lasted one to two hours. Translators were there to facilitate questions for four of the focus groups. Focus group facilitators used a guide with a list of questions that centered around the Aurora domains of livability. The following summary of themes is based on the domains of livability, including Aging in Place, Healthy Living and Community Connections. Many of the focus group themes mirror the key informant interview themes highlighted in Appendix A.

SUMMARY OF THEMES

AGING IN PLACE

Providing older adults with opportunities to age in place may help them to maintain and increase their quality of life. Factors that are integral to allowing an older adult to age in place include cost of living and housing, access to transportation, and community resources.

Cost of Living and Housing

The following themes within cost of living and housing were identified in the interviews.

● Food Access	○ Access to healthy foods - came up in three groups when asked what the top needs are. ○ Access to ethnic foods - came up twice when asked about top needs. ○ Access to food (food stamps, food cards, food trucks, and food banks to access fresh produce) came up twice when asked about suggestions for programs that would help older adults in Aurora.
● Housing Affordability	○ No housing cost/rent control in place came up in four groups when asked about top needs. ○ Lower utility bills came up in two groups when asked about top needs.

Transportation

- Transportation (bus stations safety, better RTD services, inclement weather when using public transportation) came up at eight focus groups when asked about top needs.
- Transportation vouchers for Uber or Lyft and RTD services was mentioned in five groups when asked if they could suggest a program or service that would help.
- Better transportation options was brought up in seven groups when asked if you could suggest programs that would help.

Community Resources

- Services, such as older adult day programs (DRCOG, ACAA) were mentioned in five of the focus groups when asked about the best thing about living and aging in Aurora.
- Bike trails/walk trails accessibility (lack of) came up in two groups when asked about top needs.
- When asked what organizations are trusted by older adults, the following table highlights organizations/entities most mentioned:

TABLE 2: ORGANIZATIONS TRUSTED BY OLDER ADULTS	
Location	**Number of Focus Groups Where Mentioned**
Communities/Friends	9
Family	5
Aurora Center for Active Adults	5
People that run the older adult facilities	4
Churches	4

HEALTHY LIVING

Another vital aspect of livability is healthy living. Ensuring that older adults have access to the physical and mental health resources that will allow them to be the healthiest that they can be is an important consideration. As part of this domain, it is important to consider mental health and isolation, physical health, caregiver support, and medical care.

Medical Care

- Access to affordable medical care and navigating the healthcare system came up in seven groups when asked what the top needs are.
- Reliable experts for medical services (specifically, help on how to manage health and navigate social and government services) was mentioned in six groups when asked if you could suggest one program or service that would help.
- Affordable home health care services and assisted living was mentioned in three groups when asked if you could suggest a program or service that would help older people stay in this community as they age.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

The final thematic area is around community connection. Ensuring that older adults have spaces to connect with each other can also decrease social isolation and increase quality of life. Social participation, communication and information, and safety are all important aspects of creating community connection.

Social Participation

Civic Participation, Volunteer Activities, Community Gatherings

- Diversity and ethnicity groups (people, food, events) was brought up in two focus groups when asked what the best thing is about living and aging in Aurora.
- Fun opportunities/activities for older adults (kayaking, biking, etc.) was mentioned in six groups when asked if you could suggest a program that would help.
- Education classes (how to start a business, learn English, etc.) was mentioned in three groups when asked if you could suggest services that would help.
- Translation services was mentioned in four groups when asked if you could suggest services that would help.

- Volunteer opportunities for older adults was mentioned in three groups when asked if you could suggest services that would help.
- The ACAA was mentioned in six groups when asked what older adults services or programs they found particularly enjoyable or benefit from.
- Libraries were mentioned in four groups when asked what older adults services or programs they found particularly enjoyable or benefit from.

Employment

- More employment opportunities for older adults was mentioned in five groups when asked if you could suggest services that would help.

Communication and Information

- Access to information for older adults came up in eight focus groups when asked about the top needs.
- Access to newsletters or information for older adults came up in eight groups when asked if you could suggest a program or service that would help.

Safety

- Police safety (wanting more police presence) due to shootings and crime, speeding on roads was mentioned in five groups when asked about top needs.
- Pedestrian safety - speeding on roads and crosswalks - was mentioned in three groups when asked about top needs.
- General safety (around fraud and public safety generally) was mentioned in six groups when asked about top needs.
- Pedestrian safety such as protected crosswalks and bringing cameras back to intersections was mentioned in seven groups when asked if you could suggest a program that would help.
- Public safety (reference to high homeless population) and having a higher police presence was mentioned in four groups when asked if you could suggest a program or service that could help.

APPENDIX C:
AURORA OLDER ADULT NEEDS ASSESSMENT

JFS Home-Based Survey Findings

AURORA PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE DEPARTMENT

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OVERVIEW

Throughout May and June 2024, the JSI team collaborated with Jewish Family Service of Colorado, Aging Care and Connections to survey clients in their home-based program. A total of fifteen (15) surveys were completed. The following summary of themes is based on the domains of livability, including Aging in Place, Healthy Living and Community Connections.

SUMMARY OF THEMES

AGING IN PLACE

Providing older adults with opportunities to age in place may help them to maintain and increase their quality of life. Factors that are integral to allowing an older adult to age in place include cost of living and housing, access to transportation, and community resources.

Cost of Living and Housing

Overall, older adults are finding it challenging to live off of limited and fixed incomes. The following themes within cost of living and housing were identified in the survey results.

● Food Access	○ Five survey respondents use nutrition programs, and seven find them to be valuable, when asked if they use any of the following services and find them to be valuable. ○ Eight survey respondents listed access to healthy foods as one of the top three things older adults in Aurora need now.
● Housing Affordability	○ Twelve survey respondents identified affordable housing as the highest priority among the top needs for older adults in Aurora. ○ Four survey respondents also highlighted housing affordability essential for helping older adults remain in the Aurora community.

Transportation

- Six survey respondents use transportation services, and nine of them find it valuable, when asked if they use any of the following services and find them valuable.
- Ten survey respondents listed transportation and mobility services as the second highest top needs of older adults in Aurora.
- The need for transportation and mobility services includes rides to doctor's appointments, grocery stores and staying engaged with their communities.

Community Resources

- Four survey respondents use library programs and three find them to be valuable, when asked if they use any of the following services and find them to be valuable.
- Thirteen survey respondents use Jewish Family Services, and eleven of them find it valuable when asked if they use any of the following services and find them valuable.
- Eight survey respondents listed affordable legal advice and retirement planning services as one of the top needs of older adults in Aurora.
- One survey respondent listed translation services as one of the needs of older adults in Aurora.

HEALTHY LIVING

Another vital aspect of livability is healthy living. Ensuring that older adults have access to the physical and mental health resources that will allow them to be the healthiest that they can be is an important consideration. As part of this domain, it is important to consider mental health and isolation, physical health, caregiver support, and medical care.

Mental Health And Isolation

- Five survey respondents listed access to mental and behavioral health services as one of the top needs for older adults in Aurora.

Physical Health

- Four survey respondents listed access to recreation centers as one of the top needs in improving physical health for older adults in Aurora.

Caregiver Support

- Seven survey respondents listed caregiver support services as one of the top needs for older adults in Aurora.
- Twelve survey respondents mentioned needing extra support with household assistance and other daily activities from a caregiver.

Medical Care

- Five survey respondents listed medical care as one of the top needs for older adults in Aurora.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

The final thematic area is around community connection. Ensuring that older adults have spaces to connect with each other can also decrease social isolation and increase quality of life. Social participation, communication and information, and safety are all important aspects of creating community connection.

Social Participation

Civic Participation, Volunteer Activities, Community Gatherings

- Eight survey respondents participate in community activities and social engagements, ten find them valuable when asked if they use any of the following services and find them to be valuable.

- Fifteen survey respondents find it beneficial to participate in community activities and social engagement to connect with their communities and friends and families.
- Five survey respondents attend religious faculties, four respondents find them valuable when asked if they use any of the following services and find them to be valuable.
- Five survey respondents find religious facilities helpful in connecting with their communities and friends and families.
- Five survey respondents participate in cultural activities and four find them to be valuable, when asked if they use any of the following services and find them to be valuable.
- Ten survey respondents use cultural activities to connect with their communities and friends and families.

Communication and Information

- Four survey respondents emphasized the need for improving how information is shared and ensuring older adults know where and how to access the help they need.
- Five survey respondents listed the need for help with using technology such as phones, computers as one of the top needs for older adults in Aurora.
- Two survey respondents listed access to internet services as one of the top needs for older adults in Aurora.

Safety

- Two survey respondents listed measures to increase feelings of safety as one of the top needs for older adults in Aurora.

APPENDIX D:

AURORA OLDER ADULT NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Survey Questions And Analysis

AURORA PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE DEPARTMENT

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SURVEY QUESTIONS

Are you an older adult, aged 60 years or older, living in Aurora? Or do you have a relationship with an Aurora older adult (caregiver, relative, friend, etc.)?

The city of Aurora is conducting an assessment to understand the needs and experiences of older adults (aged 60+ years) in Aurora. Your answers will help us to determine future strategies to help this population thrive in the city. Please complete this survey by July X, 2024.

As you respond to the following survey questions, we invite you to share thoughts and opinions based on your own experiences (and/or those of older adults in your circle of family and friends). Any information you share will not be linked with your name and will be used to help us understand the general needs of older adults in Aurora. The goals of this survey are to understand:

- the most important needs of older adults in Aurora;
- how existing programs and services help to address these needs; and
- what additional programs and services may be added to meet these needs.

1. If you are an older adult, what is your age range?	a. 60-69 years b. 70-79 years c. 80-89 years d. 90-99 years e. 100 years or older f. Not applicable
2. If you answered not applicable above, how are you involved with older adults in your daily life?	a. I take care of an older adult b. I am the child of an older adult c. Friend d. Other, please describe: _____
3. Please enter the zip code(s) in Aurora where you live:	_____ _____
4. Please specify your race or ethnicity:	a. White/Caucasian b. Hispanic or Latino c. Black/African American d. Native American or American Indian e. Asian or Pacific Islander f. More than one race
5. Is there anything else you would like to specify about your race and/or ethnicity?	_____ _____
6. What is your preferred speaking language?	_____ _____

7. What is your gender?	a. Female b. Male c. Non-binary d. I prefer to explain (please specify) _____
8. Would you describe yourself as transgender?	a. Yes b. No
9. What is your sexual orientation? *(please pick all that apply)*	c. Straight or Heterosexual d. Lesbian, Gay, or Homosexual e. Bisexual f. I don't know g. I prefer to explain (please specify) _____
10. Do you identify as having a disability?	a. Yes b. No
11. If yes to the above question, please share the type of disability that you experience ***(i.e. mobility, vision, hearing, etc.)***	_____ _____

12. Older adults may or may not face a number of challenges. Thinking back over the last 12 months, please rate the following statements?

If you are not an older adult, please consider these statements from the perspectives of the older adults in your life.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
Cost Of Living And Housing					
I have enough money to meet my daily expenses	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
I have enough food to eat	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
I have enough money to pay my property taxes	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
I have housing that suits my needs	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
I have access to housing that will meet future needs (long-term care, accessible housing, etc.)	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
I feel financially burdened by providing care for another person	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
Transportation					
I have access to safe and affordable public transportation	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
I am able to walk where needed	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
I am able to bike where needed	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
I am no longer able to drive	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
I am able to get to social, personal, recreational, and health-related activities	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
I feel financially burdened by providing care for another person	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Community Resources					
I have adequate information/ resources to deal with public programs such as Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
I have access to recreational opportunities (including games, arts, library services, etc.)	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
I have community resources available to me in my language and/or for my community	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Mental Health And Isolation					
I experience confusion or forgetfulness	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
I feel depressed	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
I feel bored	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
I have friends or family to rely on	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
I feel lonely or isolated	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
I am dealing with the loss of a close family member or friend	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
I do not feel that I fit in or belong	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
I feel emotionally burdened by providing care for another person	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
I have access to affordable, quality mental health care	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
Physical Health					
I am physically healthy	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
I stay physically fit	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
I maintain a healthy diet	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
I have fallen and/or injured myself at home	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
I feel physically burdened by providing care for another person	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
I am able to perform regular activities, including walking, eating, and preparing meals	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
I am able to perform heavy or intense housework	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
I am able to maintain my home	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
I am able to maintain my yard (snow removal, lawn maintenance, etc.)	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
I have access to fitness opportunities in the community (including exercise classes and paths or trails, etc.)	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
I have access to affordable, quality physical health care	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Medical Care					
I have access to affordable health insurance	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
I have access to the health care that I need	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
I have access to oral health care that I need	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
I have access to vision care that I need	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
I have access to preventive health services (e.g., health screenings, flu shots, educational workshops)	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
I can afford the medications that I need	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
Social Participation					
I have access to work in retirement	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
I have access to skill-building opportunities for paid or unpaid work	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
I am treated fairly and am not discriminated against because of my age	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
I have a voice in the community	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
I have access to meaningful volunteer work	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
I have access to productive and/or meaningful activities	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
I have access to interesting recreational or cultural activities to attend	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
I have access to interesting social events or activities to attend	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
I feel welcome in the community	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
I feel valued in the community	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Communication and Information					
I have access to information about resources for older adults	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
I have access to financial or legal planning services	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
I am able to use technology, such as technological devices (cellphones, laptops, etc.) and the internet	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
I have access to technological devices	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
I have access to the internet	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
I can afford technology, devices, internet, etc.	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
I have access to resources in my own language	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑

Safety					
I feel safe in the community	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
I feel safe from crime	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
I feel safe from fraud and/or scams	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
I feel safe from physical or emotional abuse	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
I feel safe from discrimination against my identity (age, race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, etc.)	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑

13. Which of the following programs and services do you use and which do you find valuable?

If you are not an older adult, which programs and services do older adults in your life use and are they valuable to them.

	I use this service		This service is valuable to me	
	Yes	No	Yes	No
Volunteer opportunities	❑	❑	❑	❑
Employment opportunities	❑	❑	❑	❑
Community activities	❑	❑	❑	❑
Religious or spiritual activities	❑	❑	❑	❑
Cultural activities	❑	❑	❑	❑
Social engagements	❑	❑	❑	❑
Library programs	❑	❑	❑	❑
Skill building and personal enrichment activities	❑	❑	❑	❑
Nutrition programs	❑	❑	❑	❑
Transportation	❑	❑	❑	❑
Public services (public recreation centers, parks, etc.)	❑	❑	❑	❑
Private services (private recreation centers, adult day centers, etc.)	❑	❑	❑	❑

Other services or programs that you use and are valuable to you *(or for older adults in your life) (please describe)*: _____

_____

14. Other services or programs that you use and are valuable to you *(or for older adults in your life) (please describe)*: _____

_____

_____

15. What are the top 3 needs of older adults in Aurora?

(Please select up to three (3) items from the list below)

- ❑ Affordable housing
- ❑ Access to healthy food
- ❑ Transportation and mobility services
- ❑ Medical care
- ❑ Mental and behavioral health care
- ❑ Caregiver support services
- ❑ Access to recreation
- ❑ Measures to increase safety
- ❑ Translation services
- ❑ Internet access
- ❑ Help with using technology (phones, computers, etc.)
- ❑ Affordable legal advice
- ❑ Retirement planning advice
- ❑ End of life planning services
- ❑ Better delivery of information on resource
- ❑ and service availability
- ❑ Other; please describe: _____

16. What is the best thing about living and aging in Aurora?

_____

_____

_____

_____

SURVEY DATA ANALYSIS

An 83-item survey addressing the needs of older adults, their ability to access services and their preference for services was developed by JSI in collaboration with the City of Aurora and circulated to community-dwelling older adults living in the city between September 15 and October 31, 2024. For the purposes of this study, Aurora older adults are those who were aged 60 or older at the time of the survey and were currently living in the city of Aurora.

The survey was available in both paper and electronic formats. The paper version was available in 3 languages, the electronic version was available in 6 languages. The data below express the responses submitted by older adults and provide brief analytic information.

Survey Sample	
Total responses in English:	546 (electronic + paper)
Total responses in Spanish:	6
Total responses in Amharic	1
Total responses combined:	553*

Not all responders responded to every question, so the total per question will be lower than 553

Note: NA responses were dropped out of the denominator in the calculation of percentages.

Results have been color coded for quick and easy assessment of level of concern for responses.

Results Color Key	
Red text	Greater % concern
Yellow text	Medium % concern
Blue text	Low % concern

DEMOGRAPHICS

The following table describes the survey respondents by selected characterizations.

Survey Sample	
Gender	
Female	71.6%
Male	25.0%
Non-binary	0.4%
No response	2.4%
Disability Status *(People who self-identified as having a disability of some kind)*	
Yes, I have a disability	27.5%
No, I do not have a disability	66.9%
No response	5.6%
Category of Disability Reported *(responders may have selected more than one disability)*	
Mobility Disability	22.8%
Vision Disability	8.5%
Hearing Disability	9.4%
Speech or Language Disability	1.1%
Cognitive, Intellectual or Emotional Disability	5.3%
Other Disability	10.4%
Proportion of Responders by Age Groups	
60-69	34.2% (189)
70-79	47.7% (264)
80-89	12.8% (71)
90+	1.3% (7)
Not an older adult *(responding on behalf of the older adult)*	4.3%

Caregivers for an older adult (may be an older adult, family member or friend) – 13% (n=66) of whom 39 were children of an older adult.

Zip codes: Responders reported living in 19 Aurora zip codes. One of these was identified as originating from Aurora, Illinois and was not included in the data analysis. The highest proportion of responses (25.1%) originated from zip code 80014; the second highest proportion (13.9%) originated from zip code 80013; and the 3rd highest proportion (11.6%) originated from zip code 80016.

Cost of Living and Housing (Q4 Question Cluster)

Responders were asked to check the response that most closely aligned with their current status. Potential responses were available on a 4-item Likert-type scale including: strongly disagree, disagree, agree, strongly agree. The following data represent a summary of the responses, presenting the number of people selecting the identified responses as a proportion of the total number responding to the question.

Cost Of Living And Housing	
% Responding Disagree or Strongly Disagree to the following questions	
I have enough money to meet my daily needs	22.9% (125/547)
I have enough food to eat	8.7% (48/546)
I have enough money to pay property tax	27.1% (137/505)
I have housing that suits my needs	13.4% (72/536)
I have housing to meet my future needs	37.8% (209/553)
% Responding Agree or Strongly Agree to the following questions	
I will have a financial need to work after retirement	40.1% (189/461)
I am financially burdened by giving care	29.0% (85/294)

Transportation (Q5 Question Cluster)

Responders were asked to check the response that most closely aligned with their current status. Potential responses were available on a 4-item Likert-type scale including: strongly disagree, disagree, agree, strongly agree. The following data represent a summary of the responses, presenting the number of people selecting the identified responses as a proportion of the total number responding to the question.

Transportation	
% Responding Disagree or Strongly Disagree to the following questions	
I have access to safe & affordable public transport	53.0% (238/449)
I can walk where needed	57.3% (293/511)
I can bike where needed	74.5% (299/401)
% Responding Agree or Strongly Agree to the following questions	
I am no longer able to drive	16.8% (70/418)
I can go to social, recreational opportunities	86.7% (473/545)

Community Resources (Q6 Question Cluster)

Responders were asked to check the response that most closely aligned with their current status. Potential responses included a 4-item Likert-type scale including: strongly disagree, disagree, agree, strongly agree. The following data represent a summary of the responses, presenting the number of people selecting the identified responses as a proportion of the total number responding to the question.

Community Resources	
% Responding Disagree or Strongly Disagree to the following questions	
I have adequate information about resources (SS, Medicare/caid)	28.6% (158/541)
I have access to recreational activities	25.0% (133/532)
I have access to financial and legal planning	39.0% (200/512)
I have resources available in my language	9.0% (45/498)

Mental Health and Isolation (Q7)

Responders were asked to check the response that most closely aligned with their current status. Potential responses included a 4-item Likert-type scale including: strongly disagree, disagree, agree, strongly agree. The following data represent a summary of the responses, presenting the number of people selecting the identified responses as a proportion of the total number responding to the question.

Mental Health and Isolation	
% Responding Disagree or Strongly Disagree to the following questions	
I have access to affordable, quality mental healthcare	29.0% (132/458)
I have friends or family to rely on	21.0% (113/538)
% Responding Agree or Strongly Agree to the following questions	
I experience confusion or forgetfulness	27.0% (136/505)
I feel depressed	30.6% (154/504)
I feel bored	34.8% (176/505)
I feel lonely or isolated	29.5% (151/511)
I am dealing with the loss of a close family member or friend	41.0% (181/442)
I do not feel that I fit in or belong	27.0% (133/493)
I feel mentally burdened by providing care	31.0% (102/329)

Physical Health (Q8)

Responders were asked to check the response that most closely aligned with their current status. Potential responses included a 4-item Likert-type scale including: strongly disagree, disagree, agree, strongly agree. The following data represent a summary of the responses, presenting the number of people selecting the identified responses as a proportion of the total number responding to the question.

Physical Health	
% Responding Disagree or Strongly Disagree to the following questions	
I am physically healthy	27.4% (147/537)
I stay active	28.4% (131/534)
I maintain a healthy diet	21.3% (114/536)
I can perform regular daily activites	9.2% (50/544)
I can perform heavy housework	49.5% (264/553)
I can maintain my home	24.7% (131/530)
I can maintain my yard	50.6% (220/553)
I have access to fitness opportunities	19.5% (104/534)
I have access to affordable, quality healthcare	13.5% (72/535)
I can see a doctor within 3 days for a non-emergency	36.6% (195/533)
% Responding Agree or Strongly Agree to the following questions	
I have fallen or injured myself at home	33.9% (164/483)
I feel physically burdened by caring for someone	25.4% (74/291)

Medical Care (Q9)

Responders were asked to check the response that most closely aligned with their current status. Potential responses included a 4-item Likert-type scale including: strongly disagree, disagree, agree, strongly agree. The following data represent a summary of the responses, presenting the number of people selecting the identified responses as a proportion of the total number responding to the question.

Physical Health	
% Responding Agree or Strongly Agree to the following questions	
I have access to affordable health insurance	87.2% (471/540)
I have access to the healthcare I need	90.0% (490/544)
I have access to the oral healthcare I need	85.9% (465/541)
I have access to the vision care I need	90% (487/540)
I have access to preventive healthcare services	90.2% (400/434)
I can afford the medications I need	85.9% (451/525)

Social Participation (Q10)

Responders were asked to check the response that most closely aligned with their current status. Potential responses included a 4-item Likert-type scale including: strongly disagree, disagree, agree, strongly agree. The following data represent a summary of the responses, presenting the number of people selecting the identified responses as a proportion of the total number responding to the question.

Social Participation	
% Responding Disagree or Strongly Disagree to the following questions	
I have access to work opportunities	47.9% (157/328)
I have access to skill building opportunities	47.3% (191/404)
I am treated fairly and am not discriminated against due to age	38.5% (192/499)
I have a voice in my community	41.7% (192/461)
I have access to meaningful volunteer work	22.9% (103/449)
I have access to productive & meaningful activities	22.9% (116/506)
I have access to recreational and cultural activities	25.6% (126/514)
I have access to social events and activities	27.1% (140/517)
I feel welcome in the community	22.9% (117/510)
I feel valued in my community	40.7% (195/479)

Communication and Information (Q11)

Responders were asked to check the response that most closely aligned with their current status. Potential responses included a 4-item Likert-type scale including: strongly disagree, disagree, agree, strongly agree. The following data represent a summary of the responses, presenting the number of people selecting the identified responses as a proportion of the total number responding to the question.

Communication and Information	
% Responding Disagree or Strongly Disagree to the following questions	
I have access to information about resources for older adults	32.2% (171/532)
I can afford technology devices and the internet	23.2% (126/541)
% Responding Agree or Strongly Agree to the following questions	
I can use technology devices	90.0% (488/542)
I have access to technology devices	94.5% (504/539)
I have access to the internet	93.9% (512/545)
I have access to information in my preferred language	96.8% (512/529)

Safety (Q12)

Responders were asked to check the response that most closely aligned with their current status. Potential responses included a 4-item Likert-type scale including: strongly disagree, disagree, agree, strongly agree. The following data represent a summary of the responses, presenting the number of people selecting the identified responses as a proportion of the total number responding to the question.

Safety	
% Responding Disagree or Strongly Disagree to the following questions	
I feel safe in the community	39.2% (211/538)
I feel secure from property crime	52.0% (280/538)
I feel secure from fraud & scams	66.3% (356/537)
I feel secure from physical & emotional abuse	17.1% (90/525)
I feel secure from discrimination against my identity	36.8% (195/529)

TOP NEEDS

Responders were asked to identify what they believe are the top needs of older residents of Aurora in free text form. One hundred and twelve people inserted responses, and the top elements include the following:

- Affordable Housing
- Transportation and Mobility Services
- Caregiver Support (Respite, adult day, in-home assistance)
- Improved communication about resources
- Mental Health Care
- Increased Access to Fitness Activities

What is Best About Living in Aurora? Two hundred and ten people responded to this question and added responses in free text.

- Among the most affordable communities in the area
- ACAA & recreation activities
- Friendly people
- Diverse Community/Multicultural
- Places like Heather Gardens
- Hiking trails
- Family members live close by
- Grew up and/or spent my career years in Aurora

Optional Questions, not answered by all responders, reflecting services they value and use:

Valued Services			
	Valuable to Me	I use the Service	Both
Participation in Skill Building Activities	161	35	48
Nutrition Programs	137	22	31
Transportation Services	147	15	34
Public Services (Recreation, Parks, etc.)	133	79	129
Private Services (Rec Centers, Adult Day, etc.)	121	51	47

Key Themes, Suggestions, Requests, and Phrases from the additional comments added to the survey (not an exhaustive list):

- Parks, trails, and recreation centers are very popular among Aurora older adults. Several comments about adding more classes to meet the demand and setting up more programs for older people.
- Pickleball was mentioned at least 15 times, very popular. Requests for indoor pickleball.
- Several comments requesting inter-generational activities through Parks & Rec and libraries.
- Silver Sneakers is popular.
- Senior Planet is popular (digital & tech use education for older adults).
- Multiple requests were entered to add more programs for those who have disabilities of some kind.
- Many state they would use programs but lack transportation.
- Multiple requests for handyman repairs, assistance with some household chores such as yardwork, shoveling, etc.
- Multiple requests for community “welfare checks” on older people.
- Safety is a concern, especially for those who live alone as they age. Safety involves personal and property safety.
- More transportation options including transport for social engagement, not just medical needs.
- Healthcare navigation assistance was identified as a need.
- Assistance for those who were previously incarcerated and lack technical and digital skills was identified as a unique need because the years of incarceration have deprived people of opportunities to build digital skills that are now necessary to navigate public systems.
- More recreation services were requested for South Aurora.
- More assistance in accessing services for those speaking another language.
- Praise was given to the city for the diversity of the population.

CROSS TABULATION FINDINGS FROM THE DATA SET

Cross tabulations were run on selected data elements to identify potential associations between select responder characteristics and other data findings. There was a statistically significant association between:

- Feeling welcomed in the community and having access to information in their preferred language.
- Zip codes and feelings of safety in the community and feelings of risk for property crime.

Disability Status and Ability to Meet Needs:

27.5% of all responders reported having a disability of some kind. Cross tabulations found an association between identifying as having a disability and the following:

- Having enough money to meet daily expenses and where those who noted a disability more commonly felt they did not have sufficient funds to meet expenses.
- Having housing to meet future needs where those who were disabled felt less confident about future housing to meet their needs.
- Having adequate resources about public programs.
- Having access to legal and financial services.
- Self-identified feelings of depression.

Age and Multiple Factors:

Cross tabulations found a statistically significant association between advancing age and the following:

- Having enough money to meet expenses
- Having housing to meet future needs
- Having access to recreational opportunities
- Having family and friends to rely on (older age was associated with not having family and friends to rely on)
- Discrimination based on age
- Having a voice in the community
- Having access to interesting cultural activities
- Feeling secure from property crime (where older age was associated with decreased feelings of security)

Note there was ***not*** an association between advancing age and loneliness or depression, falls at home, or being emotionally burdened by caregiving responsibilities.

CITY OF AURORA
Council Agenda Commentary

Item Title: Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with Arapahoe County for Grant Funding at Utah Park
Item Initiator: Erick del Angel, Planner II, Parks, Recreation and Open Space
Staff Source/Legal Source: Nicole Ankeney, Manager of Planning, Design and Construction, Parks, Recreation and Open Space / Tim Joyce, Assistant City Attorney
Outside Speaker: N/A
Strategic Outcome: Connected and Engaged: Providing programming, learning resources, and amenities that reflect the rich history and contributions of our vibrant communities.

COUNCIL MEETING DATES:

Study Session: n/a

Regular Meeting: 9/8/2025

2nd Regular Meeting (if applicable): N/A

Item requires a Public Hearing: ☐ Yes ☒ No

ITEM DETAILS *(Click in highlighted area below bullet point list to enter applicable information.)*

- Waiver of reconsideration requested, and if so, why
- Sponsor name
- Staff source name and title / Legal source name and title
- Outside speaker name and organization
- Estimated time: (For Study Session items only indicate combined time needed for presentation and discussion)

R2025-99 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, EXPRESSING THE AURORA CITY COUNCIL'S APPROVAL OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF AURORA COLORADO AND ARAPAHOE COUNTY FOR THE REHABILITATION, ENHANCEMENT OF THE TENNIS COURTS, AND THE REPLACEMENT OF THE LIGHTING SYSTEM AT UTAH PARK USING A GRANT FROM THE ARAPAHOE COUNTY OPEN SPACE PROGRAM FUND
Waiver of reconsideration is requested because Arapahoe County requires the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) to be executed within 60 days of the notice of award or by 9/28/25.
Nicole Ankeney, Manager of Planning, Design and Construction, Parks, Recreation and Open Space / Tim Joyce, Assistant City Attorney

ACTIONS(S) PROPOSED *(Check all appropriate actions)*

☐ Approve Item and Move Forward to Study Session

☐ Approve Item and Move Forward to Regular Meeting

☐ Information Only

☐ Approve Item as Proposed at Policy Committee

☐ Approve Item as Proposed at Study Session

☒ Approve Item as Proposed at Regular Meeting

☒ Approve Item with Waiver of Reconsideration
Reason for waiver is described in the Item Details field above.

PREVIOUS ACTIONS OR REVIEWS:

Policy Committee Name: N/A

Policy Committee Date: N/A

Action Taken/Follow-up: ***(Check all that apply)***

☐ Recommends Approval

☐ Does Not Recommend Approval

☐ Forwarded Without Recommendation

☐ Minutes Not Available

☐ Minutes Attached

HISTORY *(Dates reviewed by City council, Policy Committees, Boards and Commissions, or Staff. Summarize pertinent comments. ATTACH MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS, POLICY COMMITTEES AND BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS.)*

The requirements of the grant warrant execution of the IGA within 60 days of the notice of award or by 9/28/25. Due to this time constraint, Council Member Medina, Chair of the Parks, Foundations and Quality of Life Policy Committee, was agreeable to bringing this item straight to a regular City Council session, bypassing the standard process of policy committee to study session to regular session.

ITEM SUMMARY *(Brief description of item, discussion, key points, recommendations, etc.)*

Utah Park, approximately 47-acres in size, is a large community adjacent to Overland High School and Prairie Middle School. The goal of this project is to rehabilitate and enhance the tennis court facilities to ensure they remain a safe, accessible, and well-maintained community resource. The tennis courts currently suffer from extensive cracking making play difficult and unsafe. The area between tennis courts seven and eight has a large crack that has existed for more than two decades that cannot be mitigated with the mere resurfacing of the individual courts. This project will correct this long-standing issue with new continuous post-tensioned concrete tennis courts and ensure future court replacement may be completed incrementally. Additionally, the lighting system will be replaced because the lighting system has been completely removed due to its poor condition and the risk posed from leaving the fixtures in place. Other items to be included in the project are chain link fencing, repaving of the court perimeter, ADA compliance, repair of ADA access and accompanying pavement markings, signage, shade cabanas within the courts, and other site furnishings.

In April 2025, the City of Aurora Parks, Recreation and Open Space Department applied for a standard grant from Arapahoe County Open Spaces in the amount of $600,000, the maximum grant award. The grant request has been approved by Arapahoe County Open Spaces subject to the execution of an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between the County and the City. This grant solidifies funding for the proposed renovation and enables the replacement of a significant community asset.

The IGA outlines the roles and responsibilities of the parties, the use and dispersement of grant funds, reporting requirements, and maintenance requirements. Upon completion of the work and the handover of the project from the contractor to the City, the Utah Park Tennis Courts will be reinstated into the regular maintenance schedule of the Aurora Parks, Recreation and Open Space Department.

STAFF RECOMMENDS APPROVING THE IGA WITH ARAPAHOE COUNTY OPEN SPACES. This will allow for the use of grant funding in the reconstruction of the Utah Park tennis courts and lighting.

STAFF REQUESTS A WAIVER OF RECONSIDERATION. The waiver of reconsideration will facilitate approval of the IGA which Arapahoe County requires to be executed within 60 days of the notice of award or by 9/28/25.

FISCAL IMPACT

Select all that apply. (If no fiscal impact, click that box and skip to "Questions for Council")

☒ Revenue Impact ☒ Budgeted Expenditure Impact ☐ Non-Budgeted Expenditure Impact
☐ Workload Impact ☐ No Fiscal Impact

REVENUE IMPACT

Provide the revenue impact or N/A if no impact. (What is the estimated impact on revenue? What funds would be impacted? Provide additional detail as necessary.)

Arapahoe County Open Spaces grant: $600,000

BUDGETED EXPENDITURE IMPACT

Provide the budgeted expenditure impact or N/A if no impact. (List Org/Account # and fund. What is the amount of budget to be used? Does this shift existing budget away from existing programs/services? Provide additional detail as necessary.)

Grant Match Funds: $2,464,264 – Org 62958 Arapahoe County Open Space Shareback; $875,761 – Org 62874 Arapahoe County Open Space Shareback

The total project budget with the grant and grant match is $3,940,025.

NON-BUDGETED EXPENDITURE IMPACT

Provide the non-budgeted expenditure impact or N/A if no impact. (Provide information on non-budgeted costs. Include Personal Services, Supplies and Services, Interfund Charges, and Capital needs. Provide additional detail as necessary.)

N/A

WORKLOAD IMPACT

Provide the workload impact or N/A if no impact. (Will more staff be needed or is the change absorbable? If new FTE(s) are needed, provide numbers and types of positions, and a duty summary. Provide additional detail as necessary.)

N/A

QUESTIONS FOR COUNCIL

Does City Council approve the resolution and IGA between the City and Arapahoe County Open Spaces for the use of standard grant funds in the amount of $600,000 for the reconstruction of the Utah Park tennis courts and lighting?

LEGAL COMMENTS

Governmental entities may cooperate or contract with one another to provide any lawful function, service, or facility, including sharing of costs, the imposition of taxes, or the incurring of debt. (Colo. Const. Art. 14, § 18(2)(a) and Colo. Rev. Stat. § 29-1-203(1)). City Council may, by resolution, enter into agreements with other governmental units or special districts for the joint use of buildings, equipment or facilities, and for furnishing or receiving commodities or services. (City Charter, art. X, sec. 10-12). Upon authorization by a majority vote of the members of City Council voting thereon, the Mayor shall execute all intergovernmental agreements to which the City is a party. (Aurora, Colo. Code section 2-31(b)(2)). Any motion to approve shall include a waiver of reconsideration. (TJoyce)

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT REGARDING
2025 GRANT OF ARAPAHOE COUNTY OPEN SPACE PROGRAM FUNDS
PROJECT NAME: UTAH PARK TENNIS COURTS AND LIGHTING REPLACEMENT

This Intergovernmental Agreement ("Agreement") is made and entered into by and between **THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF ARAPAHOE, STATE OF COLORADO** ("County"), and the **CITY OF AURORA,** a municipality and political subdivision of the State of Colorado ("Grantee") (collectively "Parties" and individually a "Party").

RECITALS

A. On November 2, 2021, the voters of the County permanently reauthorized, until repeal, a countywide sales and use tax to be deposited in the County Open Space Fund and used for specified open space purposes as set forth in County Resolution No. 21-263 ("Open Space Resolution").

B. The Open Space Resolution authorizes the County to award discretionary grants from its Open Space Fund to municipalities and special districts, as more fully set forth in the Open Space Resolution.

C. On July 22, 2025, the County approved by resolution the Grantee's grant proposal for the Utah Park Tennis Courts and Lighting Replacement ("Grant Project"), which is attached as Exhibit A, subject to the execution of an intergovernmental agreement.

D. This Agreement is authorized by Article XIV, Section 18 of the Colorado Constitution and C.R.S. § 29-1-203.

AGREEMENT

NOW, THEREFORE, the County and the Grantee agree as follows:

1. Amount of Grant. The County awards the Grantee up to 15% of the total Grant Project cost, not to exceed $600,000 ("Grant Funds"), from the County Open Space Fund. The County's contribution of the Grant Funds is contingent upon the Grantee contributing the remaining 85% share of the total Grant Project cost. The Grantee is responsible for any Grant Project costs in excess of the Grant Funds.

2. Use of Grant Funds. The Grantee agrees that it shall only use the Grant Funds for the Grant Project as described in Exhibit A.

3. Disbursement of Grant Funds. The County shall pay the Grant Funds via ACH transfer to the Grantee on a reimbursement basis upon receipt of the approved status report and documentation of expenditures as required by this Agreement and no more often than bi-annually. No more than 75% of the Grant Funds will be reimbursed prior to the final report

approval. The final 25% of Grant Funds will be reimbursed following the Grant Project inspection and review and approval of the final report and Grant Project deliverables.

4. Time for Use of Grant Funds. The Grantee agrees that the Grant Project will be completed and the Grant Funds will be expended no later than September 30, 2027, unless the County agrees in writing to a longer period of time. The Grantee understands and agrees that, if the Grant Project cannot be completed by the deadline above or by the end of the agreed-upon extension, the County may terminate the grant and this Agreement.

5. Interest on Grant Funds. The Grantee further agrees that, after receipt of the Grant Funds, the Grantee will use any interest earned on the Grant Funds only for the Grant Project.

6. Administration of Grant Project. The Grantee shall be responsible for the direct supervision and administration of the Grant Project. The County shall not be liable or responsible for any cost overruns on the Grant Project, nor shall the County have any duty or obligation to provide any additional funding for the Grant Project if the Grant Project cannot be completed as described in Exhibit A. The Grantee also agrees to comply with all local, state, and federal requirements while completing the Grant Project unless specifically waived.

7. Grant Project Site Visits. Upon 24 hours' written notice to the Grantee, the Grantee agrees to allow the County to make site visits before, during, at the completion of, and/or after the completion of the Grant Project.

8. Acknowledgement of County by Grantee. The Grantee agrees to acknowledge the County as a contributor to the Grant Project in all publications, news releases, and other publicity issued by the Grantee related to the Grant Project and agrees to allow the County to do the same. If any events are planned in regard to the Grant Project, the County shall be acknowledged as a contributor in the invitation to such events. The Grantee shall cooperate with the County in preparing public information pieces, providing photos of the Grant Project from time to time, and providing access to the Grant Project for publicity purposes. Event information, event materials, and press release information related to the Grant Project must be sent to the County Grants Program Administrator for review and filing.

9. Required Sign at Grant Project Site. The County agrees to provide a standard sign for the Grant Project. The Grantee agrees to erect and permanently maintain at least one County sign or a Grantee sign as described below in a publicly visible area in recognition of the grant from the Arapahoe County Open Space Program. The sign shall be erected prior to the completion of the Grant Project or its public opening, whichever is earlier. If the Grantee wishes to use its own sign and design, the Grantee must submit the design and wording to the County Grants Program Administrator for approval prior to manufacture and/or installation of such sign.

10. Report Requirements. On or before January 31 and July 31 annually, the Grantee agrees to provide the County with Grant Project Progress Reports that conform to the format provided by the County. Each Grant Project Progress Report shall include supporting financial documentation as requested in the form provided. Upon completion of the Grant

Project, the Grantee also agrees to submit to the County a Final Report that conforms to the format provided by the County; a final spreadsheet comparing the original budget to actual expenses that demonstrates Grant Funds were used in compliance with the Open Space Resolution; supporting financial documentation as requested in the County report form; and high-resolution photographs of the progress and finished results of the Grant Project. The Final Report shall be submitted within three months of Grant Project completion, unless the County agrees in writing to a longer period of time. The County shall be allowed to use information and images from these reports in publications, public information updates, and on the County's website.

11. Failure to Submit Required Reports. Upon written notice from the County's Open Space Grants Program Administrator informing the Grantee that it has failed to submit any required status report and/or final report, the Grantee shall submit such reports to the County's Open Space Grants Program Administrator within 30 days, and, if it fails to do so, the Grantee shall be deemed to be in violation of this Agreement.

12. Record-Keeping Requirements. The Grantee shall maintain a complete set of books and records documenting its use of the Grant Funds and its supervision and administration of the Grant Project. The County or any of its duly authorized representatives shall have reasonable access to any books, documents, papers, and records of the Grantee that are pertinent to the Grant Project for the purpose of making an audit, examination, or excerpts. The Grantee shall keep all books, documents, papers, and records pertinent to the Grant Project for a minimum of three years from the Grant Project completion date.

13. Changes to Grant Project. The Grantee agrees and understands that it must complete the Grant Project as it is described in Exhibit A; the Grant Project may not be changed without the County's prior written approval. Proposed changes must be formally requested using the applicable Grant Project Modification Form provided by the County. Changes may not begin until the County has issued a written approval, which may also require the execution of an amendment to this Agreement.

14. Maintenance. The Grantee agrees to assume responsibility for continuous maintenance and public safety of open space lands, parks, trails, recreation facilities, amenities, signage, and other projects funded by the Grant Funds for the useful life of the Grant Project and in accordance with applicable product warranties and/or the generally accepted standards in the parks and recreation community.

15. Change in Use. If the Grantee wishes to dispose of or sell the property purchased with the Grant Funds or if the Grantee wishes to use the Grant Project or property improved or purchased with the Grant Funds for purposes other than the purposes specified in Exhibit A, the Grantee shall provide written notice to the County. The Grantee shall obtain the County's written consent and shall present the proposed disposition, sale, or change in use in a public hearing and receive approval from its governing body prior to proceeding with such disposition, sale, or change in use. The County, in its sole discretion, may require the Grantee to make a partial or full refund to the County based on the amount of the Grant

Funds, the value of the Grant Project, or the value of the property purchased with the Grant Funds at the time of disposition, sale, or change in use.

16. Reimbursement of Grant Funds. The Grantee understands and agrees that the County may require the Grantee to reimburse the County if any portion of the Grant Funds is not used in accordance with its approved grant proposal and this Agreement.

17. Failure to Comply. Failure to comply with this Agreement shall result in default, and the County in its sole discretion may determine the Grantee is ineligible for any future grants until the violation is remedied or until such other time.

18. Remedies. The rights and remedies of the County as set forth in this Agreement shall not be exclusive and are in addition to any other rights or remedies provided by law.

19. No Waiver of Rights. A waiver by either Party of the breach of any term or provision of this Agreement shall not operate or be construed as a waiver of any subsequent breach by either Party.

20. Relationship of the Parties. The Grantee shall perform all duties and obligations under this Agreement as an independent contractor and shall not be deemed by virtue of this Agreement to have entered into any partnership, joint venture, employer/employee, or other relationship with the County.

21. No Third-Party Beneficiaries. Nothing in this Agreement shall give or allow any claim or right of action whatsoever by any third party, including, but not limited to, any agents or contractors of the Grantee.

22. Severability. The invalidity or unenforceability of any portion of this Agreement shall not affect the validity or enforceability of any other portion or provision. Any invalid or unenforceable portion or provision shall be deemed severed from this Agreement and, in such event, the Parties shall negotiate in good faith to replace such invalidated provision in order to carry out the intent of the Parties in entering into this Agreement.

23. Written Amendment Required. Except when the County issues a written approval permitted under another provision of this Agreement, this Agreement may be amended, modified, or changed, in whole or in part, only by written agreement duly authorized and executed by the Parties.

24. Applicable Law and Venue. This Agreement shall be construed and enforced in accordance with the laws of the State of Colorado. The venue for any legal action arising out of this Agreement shall be in Arapahoe County District Court, pursuant to the appropriate rules of civil procedure.

25. Notices. Notices under this Agreement shall be sent to:

COUNTY: Arapahoe County Open Spaces
Grants Program Administrator
6934 S. Lima St., Unit A
Centennial, CO 80112
askopenspaces@arapahoegov.com

and

Arapahoe County Attorney
5334 South Prince Street
Littleton, CO 80120-1136
attorney@arapahoegov.com

GRANTEE: City of Aurora
15151 E. Alameda Parkway
Aurora, CO 80012
parks@auroragov.org

26. Incorporation of Exhibits. Unless otherwise stated in this Agreement, any exhibits, applications, resolutions, or other documents referenced in this Agreement shall be incorporated by reference into this Agreement for all purposes. In the event of any conflicts between this Agreement and any attached documents, this Agreement shall control.

27. Section Headings. The headings for any section of this Agreement are only for the convenience and reference of the Parties and are not intended in any way to define, limit, or describe the scope or intent of this Agreement.

28. Assignment. The rights, or any parts of this Agreement, granted to the Parties in this Agreement may be assigned only with the prior written consent of the non-assigning Party.

29. Extent of Agreement. This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement of the Parties related to the Grant Project. The Parties agree that there have been no representations made regarding the subject matter of this Agreement other than those, if any, contained in this Agreement, and the various promises and covenants contained in this Agreement are mutually agreed upon and are in consideration of one another.

30. Signatures. The signatories to this Agreement represent that they are fully authorized to execute this Agreement and bind their respective entities.

31. Counterparts. This Agreement may be executed in multiple counterparts, each of which will be deemed to be an original and all of which taken together will constitute one and the same agreement.

32. Effective Date. This Agreement will become effective on the date of the Grantee's signature ("Effective Date").

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the County and the Grantee have executed this Agreement as of the Effective Date.

ATTEST:

By: _____
Kadee Rodriguez, City Clerk

CITY OF AURORA

By: _____
Mike Coffman, Mayor
Date: _____

APPROPVED AS TO FORM:

By: Tim Joyce
Tim Joyce, Assistant City Attorney

COUNTY OF ARAPAHOE
STATE OF COLORADO

By: _____
Margina Pingenot, Director, Open Spaces
Pursuant to Resolution No. 25-078

EXHIBIT A

Utah Park Tennis Courts and Lighting Replacement

2025 Standard and Small Grant Application

City of Aurora

Mr Rian French

15151 E. Alameda Parkway, Ste 4600
Aurora, CO 80012

rfrench@auroragov.org
O: 303-739-7196

Application Form

Application Summary

Primary Contact Information*

Please provide information for the primary contact for this project in the following format.
Agency:
Name:
Title:
Telephone:
Email:

City of Aurora / Parks, Recreation & Open Space Department
Erick del Angel
Planner II
303-739-7154
edelange@auroragov.org

Grant Category*

Select One:

- **Standard Grant:** $150,001 - $600,000, requiring a minimum of 25% total project cost cash match
- **Small Grant:** $1,000 - $150,000, requiring a minimum of 10% total project cost cash match

Standard Grant

Project Type*

Select One:

- **Trail Project:** Trail/trailhead construction or improvement, including stream/road crossings and trailhead amenities (such as parking or shelters); on-street trails and sidepaths for the purposes of (a) connecting an isolated neighborhood or activity center to a park, trail, open space, or school, and (b) connecting to a trail system included in a regional, County, or special district planning document
- **Site Improvement Project:** New construction, improvement, repair, or replacement of outdoor recreation facilities or amenities (such as playgrounds, shelters, sports fields, restrooms, or interior trail connections)
- **Environmental/Cultural Education Project:** Eligible projects include outreach materials (such as printed materials, video, or displays), installations (such as signage), or associated outdoor amenities (such as shelters or native landscaping)
- **Acquisition Project:** Eligible projects include fee simple acquisition of land for public open space, parks, or trails; or acquisition of a trail or conservation easement. *Additional application materials are required. Contact grants program staff to discuss projects in advance.*
- **Other Project:** Other allowable projects include stream/habitat restoration, natural re-vegetation, and water quality improvement. *Contact grants program staff to discuss projects in advance.*

Site Improvement Project

Project Title*
Utah Park Tennis Courts and Lighting Replacement

Project Address*
1800 S. Peoria St., Aurora, CO 80012

Project Location*
Select a Jurisdiction or Unincorporated Arapahoe County:

Aurora

GPS Coordinates (Latitude in Decimal Degrees)*
Example: 39.5773033 (Dove Valley Regional Park)

39.6837

GPS Coordinates (Longitude in Decimal Degrees)*
Example: -104.828850 (Dove Valley Regional Park)

104.8455

Grant Request Amount*
$600,000.00

Cash Match Amount*
$3,340,025.00

Total Project Amount*
Total project amount includes grant request and cash match only. Please do not include in-kind match.

$3,940,025.00

Cash Match Percentage*
Calculate cash match as % of total project cost.

85

Project Partners

List partner agencies if applicable.

N/A

Executive Summary*

Provide a brief summary highlighting key points of your proposal, such as project description, goals, need, partnerships, etc.

The Utah Park Tennis Courts are part of the greater Utah Park which is an approximately 46.8 acre community park across the street from Overland High School and Prairie Middle School. The park contains several sports facilities including Utah Indoor Pool. The city is the sole owner of the land and operates and maintains the park and its amenities.

A community park serves visitors within a 2-mile radius and most people drive to participate in the types of recreation activities available at the park. There are 35,006 Aurora households and an estimated 68,540 Aurora residents within the 2-mile radius of Utah Park. The park was originally platted in 1973 and constructed shortly after. Since then, there have been several renovations including the conversion of two half basketball courts in 2005 into the single regulation-size tennis court that exists today to the west of the other courts.

The goal of this project is to rehabilitate and enhance the tennis court facilities to ensure they remain a safe, accessible, and well-maintained community resource. The courts currently suffer from extensive cracking, making play difficult and unsafe. The area between courts seven and eight, in particular, has a large crack that has existed for more than two decades and could not be mitigated with the mere resurfacing of the individual courts. This project will correct this long-standing issue with new continuous post-tensioned concrete courts. Additionally, the lighting system will need to be replaced as it has been completely removed due to its poor state and the danger posed from leaving them in place. Other items to be included in the project are chain link fencing, repaving of court perimeter due to grade changes for ADA compliance, repair of ADA access and accompanying pavement markings, signage, shade cabanas within courts, and other site furnishings.

Minimum Qualifications and Eligibility

Eligibility Question 1*

Please list your agency's ongoing Arapahoe County Open Spaces grant projects.

Murphy Creek Trail Extension
Laredo Highline Access and Awareness Improvements
Triple Creek Trail Construction

Eligibility Question 2*

How does this project align with the Arapahoe County Open Spaces Master Plan, Arapahoe County Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan, an agency master plan, or other approved planning documents?
Please refer to the current Arapahoe County Open Spaces Master Plan adopted in June 2021. Plans are available on the ACOS website.

2023 City of Aurora "Our Parks, Our Places" Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Master Plan - Chapter 3, which describes in detail the city's assets, states that there are fewer tennis courts per capita than both the national median and the aspirational peer median cities which uses Cleveland, Ohio, Minneapolis, Minnesota, Portland, Oregon, and Seattle, Washington as comparable cities.

Eligibility Question 3*

How does this project address specific objectives in the Arapahoe County Open Space Resolution #21-263?
Please note that this resolution replaces the previous Open Space Resolutions #030381/110637. The resolution is available on the ACOS website.

Resolution #21-263 allows for the expenditure of funds, consistent with the guidelines set forth in the resolution to maintain existing or new open space properties, trails, neighborhoods and regional parks, and sports fields. The rehabilitation of the Utah Parks tennis courts will provide a much needed and desired amenity to the community.

Section 12(e) Additional Guidelines for Use of Funds, specifically the clause in part i.f. states that funds can be used "to acquire and/or improve lands for neighborhood and regional parks, sports fields, dog parks, and other active and passive outdoor recreation purposes."

Certification and Authorized Signature Form*

Please attach completed Certification and Authorized Signature Form as a PDF document. Form must be signed by highest authority in agency or authorized individual. *Forms are available on the ACOS website.*

Please name your file as follows: *Applicant_SignatureForm.pdf*

Applicant_SignatureForm.pdf

Project Timeline

Project Timeline Form*

Please attach completed Project Timeline Form as a PDF document. *Forms are available on the ACOS website.*

Please name your file as follows: *Applicant_ TimelineForm.pdf*

Applicant_TimelineForm.pdf

Project Budget

Budget Narrative*

Provide a clear and concise budget narrative. Include details about expenses in each budget category, justification for any unusual line items, and an explanation of how you arrived at these estimates. Include amount and sources of matching funds.

We are requesting $600,000 in grant funding and have a $3,340, 025 of secured cash match funding. The total amount includes the cost of design and engineering. The source of our match amount is funding from Arapahoe County Shareback Tax. We have no project partners or in-kind donations at this time; however, we are exploring our options with the USTA (United States Tennis Association).

The most significant costs are for the construction of the courts themselves, lighting and site preparation. Other major expenses include professional services (surveying, design and engineering, materials testing, mobilization, etc.). Costs associated with site preparation, earthwork, and stormwater infrastructure improvements are also significant and tend to fluctuate. However, city staff have taken this into account possible rises in gas prices, materials, and labor rates and have adjusted the estimates previously received from outside consultants.

Other costs include structural reinforcements and landscaping. These tend to be more stable but have also been adjusted where necessary to anticipate market trends.

Design and engineering are part of this grant application as part of our matching funds and will be completed within 6 months of the application deadline (most likely mid-spring before the award announcement). This will allow us to be ready to bid the project in the fall/winter if awarded the grant.

Budget Forms*

Please attach completed Summary Budget Form and Detailed Expense Budget Form as a single PDF document. *Forms are available on the ACOS website.*

Please name your file as follows: *Applicant_BudgetForms.pdf*

Applicant_BudgetForms.pdf

Project Narrative

Question 1*

Describe the project goals, scope, and expected results. Describe project elements, including useful life. Discuss the current condition of the project site and the improvements that are proposed. Discuss how this project improves access to the outdoors, connectivity, and/or educational opportunities.

The goal of this project is to rehabilitate and enhance the existing tennis courts and lighting to ensure they remain a safe, accessible, and well-maintained community resource. This project will improve the usability and longevity of the courts and enhance accessibility for players of all ages and abilities.

As stated in the executive summary, the existing courts suffer from severe cracking and chipping, making them unsafe for leisure and competitive play. Of the ten courts, a portion of them were resurfaced in 2007 and the rest were done in 2009. In addition, the previous lighting system was in such poor condition that it had to be removed last year due to safety concerns from exceeding useful life. Without proper lighting, the

courts are currently limited to daylight use, reducing overall accessibility. The fencing is also outdated and does not provide adequate security or separation for different play areas.

Expected results include safer and more durable courts, increased participation in outdoor sports, and greater community engagement. The project will further support the Mission Statement for the PROS Department by encouraging physical activity, social interaction, and overall well-being for residents. Deliverables include:

- Court Resurfacing & Conversion: Complete reconstruction of the existing nine contiguous courts with each set of three east-west courts to be on their own post-tension concrete foundation (currently all are on one). The two southern sets of three courts will be expanded to 60' width regulation size. The remaining existing standalone tennis court will be repaired and converted into four pickleball courts in a future phase not included in the current project. The useful life for the new courts is approximately 20+ years.
- New Lighting System: Replacing the previously removed, outdated lighting system with updated LED lighting around the perimeter of the courts (8 in total). The useful life is approximately 15+ years.
- Silver Galvanized Chain Link Fencing: Installation of secure low maintenance fencing to delineate playing areas and improve safety. The useful life is approximately 25+ years.
- ADA-Compliant Upgrades: Repaving the court perimeter to accommodate grade changes for wheelchair accessibility. An additional walkway will be installed between the two southern sets of courts that does not currently exist. The faded ADA striping will be redone and the curb ramp will be updated. The useful life of the concrete perimeter paving is approximately 20-30 years.
- Site Enhancements: Addition of shade cabanas, spectator seating and permanent signage for facility branding and court rules. The shade structures and seating typically last approximately 15-25 years while the signage is about 10-20 years depending on the materials used.

Benefits to Outdoor Access, Connectivity, and Educational Opportunities:
This project enhances outdoor recreation by creating a high-quality, multi-use facility for tennis and in a future phase, pickleball. ADA-compliant upgrades ensure accessibility for all users, while the new lighting system extends playtime beyond daylight hours.

The courts will serve as a social and recreational hub, fostering intergenerational play and community connections. Additionally, the City's IGA with Overland High School allows its tennis program to use the courts, and these improvements will further expand educational opportunities, training programs, and tournaments.

Question 2*

Describe the community/neighborhood and user groups the project will serve. Discuss the type of users (children, families, seniors, sports leagues, etc.), and estimate the number of users that will benefit annually. How did you arrive at this estimate? Describe how this project will address inclusivity per Americans with Disabilities Act guidelines.

Community support letters are encouraged; include up to five in the Attachments section.

Being the biggest outdoor tennis court complex in the city, the repair of these courts will serve a very large and diverse population. The courts are actively used by residents of the surrounding neighborhoods, recreational players, and students from the Overland High School tennis program. There are currently 90 student-athletes on the high school team.

The IGA is between the City and Cherry Creek School District No. 5, specifically Overland High School, but also Prairie Middle School due to its location next door to Overland and across the street from Utah Park. The middle school does not currently have a tennis program. The agreement is valid until June 30, 2029, at which time it can be renewed for a third successive period of five years. It allows for use of the courts for school teams during boys tennis season (Mid-August thru October) in the afternoons Monday – Friday, 3:30-6:00pm

with the use of up to 8 courts, if public is waiting. Occasional Saturday use is by special request. Also allowed is the use of the courts during girls tennis season (Mid-February thru May) in the afternoons Monday – Friday, 3:30-6:00pm with the same restrictions for the number of courts permitted and Saturday use. There are no other times reserved for general high school students from the school. We always do our best to keep one tennis court open for the public; however, there are exceptions such as tournaments and special events. The Utah Park Tennis Center, due to the lighting and its central location, sees some of the highest usage in the area. There are also two other outdoor tennis facilities within 2 miles of the site; Havana Heights Park and Expo Park. The latter is the closest and largest park with four lighted courts. Along with the high school tennis team's use of the courts, we have a contractor (Advantage YOU) who provides tennis lessons for the city. They also utilize the tennis courts at various times (dependent upon season) throughout the week.

It is estimated that, 68,540 Aurora residents and an additional 3,000 – 5,000 residents of other cities/counties live within a two-mile radius of the tennis court service area. Therefore, if the latest metric which states that 1 in 12 people in Colorado play tennis is used, then one could estimate that at least 6,000 users would benefit annually from the use of the Utah Park Tennis Courts.

The project will address inclusivity per Americans with Disabilities Act guidelines by repaving the court perimeter to accommodate grade changes for wheelchair accessibility. An additional walkway that does not currently exist will be installed between the two southern sets of courts. Lastly, the faded ADA striping will be redone, and the curb ramp will be updated that connects from the parking lot to the courts.

Question 3*

Discuss the need and urgency for this project. Is this part of a multiphase project? If so, describe the work already completed and plans for future phases. What opportunities will be lost if this project or phase is not funded now?

The immediate need and urgency for this project is high as the courts and lighting have been identified as far back as 2020 in the Capital Infrastructure Needs Survey. The funding of this project is vital and there will be missed opportunities for play by school teams and local players if not awarded.

The proposed budget for the project will cover all improvements in one phase and the conversion of one of the courts to pickleball will be completed in a future phase and is not included in the current budget.

Question 4*

Summarize any planning completed prior to submitting this grant proposal. Is design and engineering complete? Does the project necessitate a zoning change? List any permits or approvals that need to be obtained (county or city planning, stormwater, federal 404 permit, etc.) and their status.

Include any time needed for these efforts in the Project Timeline. Planning costs incurred up to 6 months prior to application submission may be eligible for inclusion in match with prior approval from grants program staff.

Since this is for the repair of existing courts and lighting, public outreach is not necessary, nor is a zone change required for approval. A lighting survey was completed in 2023 stating the deficiencies and options for repair, however, the existing light poles were removed prior to it being completed due to safety concerns.

Permits anticipated for the project include a state of Colorado Storm Water Discharge Permit, a City of Aurora Stormwater Discharge Permit, a City of Aurora Building Permit for structures, and a permit from Aurora Water for the proposed rain garden. All of these will be obtained by the contractor at the time of construction.

As stated earlier, design and engineering are part of this grant application as part of our matching funds and will be completed within 6 months of the application deadline (most likely mid-spring before the award announcement). The construction drawings will be reviewed and approved by the city of Aurora Public Works Department and Aurora Water to ensure all appropriate standards are met.

Question 5*

Describe how the project will be completed within the required two-year timeframe. Discuss the agency's capacity to complete the project, including project management, resources, and experience implementing similar projects.
This description should match the Project Timeline.

The site survey will be ordered, and preliminary and final design will be completed by the second quarter of this year. We will then be proceeding with construction and bidding documents and subsequently award of contract for construction by the first quarter of 2026. The project management team is fully capable and has the experience to successfully manage a project of this size. The project is anticipated to be break ground by the end of the first quarter of 2026.

Question 6*

Summarize any efforts to obtain public input, disseminate information to the public, develop partnerships, and garner community support for this project. Evidence of a transparent public process will be required. List the stakeholders that are involved. Discuss any known or anticipated opposition to this project and how this will be addressed.
If applicable, include letters, petitions, or other documents evidencing opposition in the Attachments section.

Being that this is for the repair of an existing amenity, public input is not necessary. However, the City of Aurora posts our mission, vision and goals on the PROS website, on social media and in our publications. Therefore, we will announce plans for the renovation project as well as the future closure and expected reopening.

The city has received several letters of support from the Overland High School Athletics Director, the United States Tennis Association, racket sport training companies and the chair of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) for the repair of the courts and associated lighting. In addition, as stated earlier, 2023 City of Aurora “Our Parks, Our Places” Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Master Plan identifies the need and desire for more tennis courts in Aurora.

There is no known or anticipated opposition to this project.

Question 7*

How much of your cash match is secured? If applicable, what are your plans for securing additional funds? Describe cash and in-kind match partnerships established for this project.
Include partner support letters in the Attachments section and include cash match from partners on the Budget Forms. Grant recipients are responsible for cost overruns.

We have secured the full amount of the cash match and have adjusted the projected costs obtained from consultants to account for inflation and economic variability. However, we are also exploring other grant opportunities, such as those provided by USTA (United States Tennis Association), in order to free up existing funds in the event that costs rise more than already anticipated and to set aside money for the future addition of pickleball courts.

Question 8*

Describe any scenic, historic, or cultural values associated with the project site. Will they be impacted, preserved, or restored? Discuss natural resources at the site (habitat, water, wildlife, vegetation, etc.) and impacts to these resources as a result of this project. If applicable, discuss environmental sustainability benefits of this project (energy or water conservation, water quality improvement, etc.).

This is an existing park facility and there are no known scenic, historic, or cultural values associated with the project site. Westerly Creek and the associated regional trail of the same name are directly to the east of the courts.

At the end of construction, all disturbed areas along the trail will be re-seeded with native grasses for future establishment. Best management practices for erosion control will be utilized during and after construction to ensure stabilization so that silt and sediment do not enter Westerly Creek or spillover onto the trail. The regional trail will remain open during the entirety of the project.

Question 9*

Discuss ownership and legal access at the proposed project site. Detail any third-party rights, easements, or other encumbrances that exist and their effect on the project.

Provide supporting documentation showing ownership, legal access, and/or permission from landowner in the Attachments section.

The City of Aurora owns the park property and has legal access to the project site and full control on what can be developed on site. There are no third-party rights, easements or encumbrances that are known to exist. See attached documents showing ownership for Parcel 1 and 2 on which the tennis courts sit.

Question 10*

Describe long-term plans for maintaining the project. Who will be responsible for maintenance? Estimate annual costs to maintain the project site and explain how maintaining the site will affect the responsible agency's budget.

Maintenance of the courts is handled by Parks Operations and Maintenance Department (O&M). Courts surfacing is inspected weekly to check for debris, trash, cracks, moisture and any other material that may impact playability or contribute to surface damage. Signage is placed at gates to discourage any activities that are not allowed on the court surface including snow shoveling, skateboarding, roller blading and roller skating, pets, etc. Every effort is made to remove and/or adjust irrigation from surrounding turf to minimize moisture from penetrating the surface or underlying subsoil. Fencing is monitored for damage. If windscreens are used, screens are raised/lowered seasonally to minimize off season damage and stress to fencing due to weather. In the case of grime or debris that requires cleaning, staff will use a lower power spray to remove material. Annual court surface inspections are made to evaluate overall conditions. When resurfacing is required, the O&M team works with the Planning, Design and Construction Division to facilitate the resurfacing work to ensure the courts are maintained in a manner to extend the life of the concrete court base.

Maintenance of the courts is part of the larger budget; however, it can be estimated that annually, approximately $7,500 - $8,500 is spent on Utah Tennis Complex alone based on the size of the facility. These costs include labor and supplies. The variance would take into consideration a fluctuation in events and factors in weather events that require any needed clean-up.

Attachments

Attachment 1: Evidence of Support from Highest Authority*

Please attach evidence of support from the agency's highest authority (official letter or resolution) as a PDF document. At a minimum, this document must include: project title, amount of grant funds requested, statement that matching funds are secured and/or efforts to secure funds are underway (include the amount of matching funds committed), and certification that the project will be open to the public or serve a public purpose upon completion. *A sample resolution is available on the ACOS website.*

Please name your file as follows: *Applicant_SupportHighestAuthority.pdf*

Applicant_SupportHighestAuthority.pdf

Attachment 2: Evidence of Community Support*

Please attach up to 5 letters of support from users, working groups, community members, volunteers, schools, etc. as a single PDF document. Letters should be specific to the project and dated within the last 6 months.

Please name your file as follows: *Applicant_CommunitySupport.pdf*

Applicant_CommunitySupport.pdf

Attachment 3: Documentation of Opposition*

Please attach documentation of opposition to the project (such as letters, petitions, articles, etc.) as a single PDF document. If there is no known opposition, please attach a page stating that this section is not applicable.

Please name your file as follows: *Applicant_Opposition.pdf*

Applicant_Oppostion.pdf

Attachment 4: Evidence of Commitment from Project Partners*

Please attach evidence of commitment from project partners (such as partner support letters, commitment to provide cash/in-kind match, or maintenance agreements) as a single PDF document. There is no maximum allowable number of partner support letters. If there are no partners for this project, please attach a page stating that this section is not applicable.

Please name your file as follows: *Applicant_PartnerCommitments.pdf*

Applicant_PartnerCommitments.pdf

Attachment 5: Primary Project Photo*

Please attach one high resolution photo in JPG format. Please choose the photo that provides the best overall representation of your project. This photo will be used for presentations and/or publications.

Please name your file as follows: *Applicant_PrimaryPhoto.jpg*

Applicant_PrimaryPhoto.jpg

Attachment 6: Photos*

Please attach photos of existing conditions at the project site (including captions) as a single PDF document. Include conceptual drawings if applicable.

Please name your file as follows: *Applicant_Photos.pdf*

Applicant_Photos.pdf

Attachment 7: Maps*

Please attach a site map and a vicinity map as a single PDF document.

Please name your file as follows: *Applicant_Maps.pdf*

Applicant_Maps.pdf

Attachment 8: Site Visit Form*

Please attach a completed site visit form as a PDF document. *Forms are available on the ACOS website.*

Please name your file as follows: *Applicant_SiteVisitForm.pdf*

Applicant_SiteVisitForm.pdf

Attachment 9: Evidence of Property Ownership/Access*

Please attach evidence of property ownership/legal access (ArapaMAP parcel information, title commitment, etc.) as a PDF document.

Please name your file as follows: *Applicant_EvidenceofOwnership.pdf*

Applicant_EvidenceofOwnership.pdf

Attachment 10: Other Attachments

Please attach additional supporting documentation (news articles, cost estimates, etc.) as a single PDF document.

Please name your file as follows: *Applicant_OtherAttachments.pdf*

Applicant_OtherAttachments.pdf

Confirmation

Please click the "I Agree" button below to certify that your application is complete and ready to submit. Once submitted, applications are final and cannot be returned.*

I agree

File Attachment Summary

Applicant File Uploads

- Applicant_SignatureForm.pdf
- Applicant_TimelineForm.pdf
- Applicant_BudgetForms.pdf
- Applicant_SupportHighestAuthority.pdf
- Applicant_CommunitySupport.pdf
- Applicant_Oppostion.pdf
- Applicant_PartnerCommitments.pdf
- Applicant_PrimaryPhoto.jpg
- Applicant_Photos.pdf
- Applicant_Maps.pdf
- Applicant_SiteVisitForm.pdf
- Applicant_EvidenceofOwnership.pdf
- Applicant_OtherAttachments.pdf

ARAPAHOE COUNTY
OPEN SPACES

Certification and Authorized Signature Form

Please use this form for the Arapahoe County Open Spaces grant application.

By signing this form, I certify that:

- **The information included in this application is true to the best of my knowledge.**
- **If funded, the applicant commits to completing the proposed project.**
- **If funded, the applicant accepts responsibility for any cost overruns necessary to complete the project.**
- **If funded, the completed project will be open to the public or will otherwise serve a public purpose.**
- **If funded, the applicant agrees to maintain the completed project site or to continue its maintenance agreement with a partner agency as outlined in the application.**
- **I am authorized to sign on behalf of the applicant.**

Jason Batchelor _____ 03.19.25

Authorized Signature (highest authority in agency or authorized individual) Date

Jason Batchelor

Printed Name and Title

City of Aurora - Utah Park Tennis Courts and Lighting Replacement

Grant Project or Joint Project Name

Applicant: __Aurora PROS_____Project Title: __Utah Park Tennis Courts and Lighting Replacement____

ARAPAHOE COUNTY OPEN SPACES

2025 Open Space Grants - Project Timeline Form

Use the sample timeline below as a guide to complete your proposed project timeline. Rows or columns may be added as necessary to include any milestones specific to your project. Timeline must be detailed, realistic, and coincide with details provided in the narrative portion of the grant application. Timeline must conclude within two years of project start date.

Task	April 2025	May 2025	June 2025	July 2025	Aug 2025	Sep 2025	Oct 2025	Nov 2025	Dec 2025	Jan 2026	Feb 2026	Mar 2026	Apr 2026	May 2026	June 2026	July 2026	Aug 2026	Sept 2026	Oct 2026	Nov 2026	Dec 2026
Site Survey	■																				
Final Design		■																			
Construction Documents		■	■	■	■	■	■	■													
Grant Award Notification					■																
IGA Executed (Project Start Date)						■															
Project Bid & Award(s)									■	■	■										
Construction & Contract Close Out												■	■	■	■	■	■	■			
Grand Opening																			■		
Final Report																				■	■

Sources of Funds	Date Funds Secured	Grant Request	Cash Match	Total Project Funds
Arapahoe County Open Spaces Grant	8/1/2025	$600,000		**$600,000**
Applicant Cash Match	1/1/2025		$3,340,025	**$3,340,025**
(Specify) Partner Cash Match/Other Funding Source				**$0**
(Specify) Partner Cash Match/Other Funding Source				**$0**
(Specify) Partner Cash Match/Other Funding Source				**$0**
Totals		***$600,000***	***$3,340,025***	**$3,940,025**

MATCH REQUIREMENTS

Total Project Cost:	**$3,940,025.00**
Cash Match % Required:	**25%**
Cash Match % Budgeted:	**85%**
Cash Match Amount Required:	**$985,006.25**
Cash Match Amount Budgeted:	**$3,340,025.00**

**match fields calculate automatically*

Applicant: Aurora PROS

Project Title: Utah Park Tennis Courts and Lighting Replacement

** Please do not include in-kind match on the Budget Forms*

DETAILED EXPENSE WORKSHEET

	Budget Category	Line Item Detail Description	ACOS Grant	Grantee Cash Match	Partner Cash Match	TOTAL
	Professional services	Topgraphic Survey & geotech report		$24,000.00		$24,000.00
		Final design, engineering and CDs		$131,000.00		$131,000.00
		Permits and review fee		$19,500.00		$19,500.00
	Construction start up	Mobilzation		$175,250.00		$175,250.00
		Construction surveying		$72,025.00		$72,025.00
		Bonding and insurance		$148,000.00		$148,000.00
		Materials testing		$39,000.00		$39,000.00
	Erosion control	BMP's required for state and city stormwater permits		$45,000.00		$45,000.00
	Site prep/demolition	Construction fencing, removal of existing courts & fencing		$570,000.00		$570,000.00
	Earthwork	Excavation and grading		$40,000.00		$40,000.00
	Stormwater infrastructure improvements	Detention area/runoff filtering		$155,000.00		$155,000.00
	Tennis courts	(9) Post tensioned, court surfacing and striping, chain link fence, gates, windscreens, cabana benches, spectator seating, nets and posts	$600,000.00	$600,000.00		$1,200,000.00
	Lighting	LED downcast perimeter for courts, eletrical connections		$575,000.00		$575,000.00
	Retaining wall	Precast concrete to match with existing grades		$180,000.00		$180,000.00
	Boulder retaining wall	Natural buff colored snap cut sandstone		$41,250.00		$41,250.00
	ADA parking	Curb ramp updates and access improvements		$45,000.00		$45,000.00
	Concrete flatwork	Court access walkways		$340,000.00		$340,000.00
	Site Furnishings	Metal benches, litter receptacles		$40,000.00		$40,000.00
	Signage	Custom rules and regs		$15,000.00		$15,000.00
	Landscape and Irrigation	Sod, native grass restoration and irrgation adjustments		$85,000.00		$85,000.00
						$0.00
						$0.00
						$0.00
						$0.00
						$0.00
						$0.00
						$0.00
						$0.00
						$0.00
						$0.00
TOTALS			**$600,000.00**	**$3,340,025.00**	**$0.00**	**$3,940,025.00**

Applicant: ____ Aurora PROS_____ Project Title:__Utah Park Tennis Courts and Lighting Replacement_____ Date:__March 20, 2025_____

15151 E. Alameda Parkway
Aurora, Colorado 80012

April 2, 2025

Arapahoe County Open Spaces
Open Space and Trails Advisory Board
6934 S Lima St, Unit A
Centennial, CO 80112

Re: Open Space Grant Application 2025

Dear Arapahoe County Open Spaces and OSTAB Members:

Please accept this letter of commitment on behalf of the City of Aurora, Colorado for support of the Utah Park Tennis Courts and Lighting Replacement grant application. This project will repair the tennis court facility that has been deficient and needing attention for some time. Most of the courts suffer from extensive cracking and the lighting had to be removed due to safety concerns.

Aurora is requesting $600,000 in grant funds from the Arapahoe County Open Space Tax program. The City of Aurora has a secured cash match of $3,340,025 comprised of Arapahoe County Open Space Shareback funds. The City will be responsible for any cost overruns. Maintenance and care of the facility will be managed as part of our ongoing maintenance budget.

If awarded, the City Manager, is designated as the authorized signatory for the grant agreement. Grant reports will be authorized by the Director of Parks, Recreation and Open Space.

By approving this grant application for $600,000, the Arapahoe County Open Space and Trails Advisory Board will contribute to the repair of the largest outdoor tennis court facility in the city. The facility is currently and will remain open to the public. Thank you for your on-going support of our parks, open space and trail system.

Sincerely,

Jason Batchelor
City Manager

March, 9, 2025

Dear Members of the Board,

As the proprietor of Advantage You INC, I am writing to express our strong support for the City of Aurora's grant application to enhance the lighting and overall condition of the tennis courts at Utah Park. Our organization is dedicated to training young athletes in tennis year-round, and these courts are essential for developing future players and fostering a love for the game within our community.

The availability of well-lit courts is crucial for providing training and recreational opportunities for players of all ages. Colorado already faces a shortage of public tennis courts relative to high demand, and the absence of proper lighting during the fall and winter months reduces available training hours by approximately 30%. This limitation directly impacts not only the development of our youth athletes but also the broader tennis community that relies on these courts for recreational play and USTA league matches.

Tennis is more than just a sport—it is a vital contributor to community wellness. Studies indicate that regular participation can add nearly 10 years to a person's lifespan. By investing in the necessary improvements to Utah Park's tennis courts, Arapahoe County would be supporting a healthier, more active community while maximizing the use of a valuable public space.

Furthermore, enhanced lighting would contribute to increased safety within the park, deterring negative activities and encouraging greater community engagement. These upgrades will not only benefit tennis players but also help create a more inviting and secure environment for all park visitors.

We respectfully urge the approval of this grant request to ensure that Utah Park remains a thriving hub for tennis and community interaction. Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to your support in making this much-needed improvement a reality.

Please feel free to reach out to me directly with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Kristin Janos
Proprietor, Advantage You Inc
Kristi@Advantageyou.org
720-239-3365

Overland High School AND THE INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
12400 East Jewell Ave. | Aurora, CO 80012 | 720.747.3700 | overland.cherrycreekschools.org

March 10, 2025

Arapahoe County Open Spaces
Open Space and Trails Advisory Board
6934 S. Lima St., Unit A
Centennial, CO 80012

Re: Grant Request for Utah Tennis Courts and Lighting Repair

Dear Members of the Board:

On behalf of the Overland High School Athletics Department, I am writing in strong support of the City of Aurora's grant application for the repair and improvement of the tennis courts and associated lighting at Utah Park.

As the local high school currently utilizing Utah Park tennis courts, we are dedicated to promoting and developing the growth of youth tennis. These tennis courts provide an opportunity for our young student athletes to have a place for their love of the sport to grow.

Our teams rely on Utah Park for our home court location for both the fall and spring seasons. It provides a positive experience that is greatly needed for our young people. Recently the courts have been in such bad shape that we have had to adjust schedules, and not use certain courts which can limit matches and play. Now that the lights are lost, we are unable to play past sundown which has created further scheduling issues.

We also know that the surrounding neighborhood uses this facility as well. If this facility is improved, we believe that our community will come together in a positive way to support this new opportunity. People tend to frequent places that are taken care of and look nice. Utah is a central location for so many things and it can be a great place for people to remain active and engaged in the Aurora community.

We strongly support this grant application and encourage its approval to ensure that Utah Park remains a vibrant hub for tennis and community engagement for years to come.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Evan Henderson
Overland High School Athletic Director
12400 E. Jewell Ave Aurora, CO 80012

March 24, 2025

Arapahoe County Open Spaces
Open Space and Trails Advisory Board
6934 S. Lima St., Unit A
Centennial, CO 80012

Re: Grant Request for Utah Park Tennis Courts and Lighting Replacement

Dear Members of the Board:

I am writing in support of the City of Aurora's Parks, Recreation and Open Space Department grant request for the renovation of the tennis courts and lighting at Utah Park located at 1800 S. Peoria St., Aurora, CO 80012.

Aurora has a robust tennis and pickleball community. It includes both recreational and tournament opportunities for adults and youth tennis starting at age 5, kids summer camps, and multi-leveled classes for tennis and pickleball. Also, competitive athletes from Overland High School, located just across the street, rely on the courts to train and compete.

Utah Park is a very popular neighborhood park with various amenities including ball parks, an indoor pool, walking paths, and the largest outdoor tennis court center in Aurora. The courts have been a vital part of the Aurora community for years, providing a space where players of all ages and skill levels come together to practice, compete and enjoy the sport of tennis. Due to ongoing wear and the lack of lighting, the courts' usability has been greatly diminished, restricting play to daylight hours and competition for daylight court time.

Renovating the courts will not only fix existing deficiencies but also expand several courts to regulation size. The court will be resurfaced and new lighting will be installed increasing safety and accessibility. One court will be changed into a pickle ball court to accommodate the sport's rapid growth and popularity. By diversifying the court offerings, the project will expand opportunities for all ages to engage in recreational play. The project will ensure that Utah Park remains a vibrant, multi-use facility that meets the evolving needs of Aurora's residents.

My neighborhood Aurora park was updated a few years ago. It brought new life and vitality to the park. It is wonderful to see the huge increase in usage of it's many amenities. I believe the same will happen to the Utah Park tennis courts. I have lived in Aurora for 65 years. I have sat on the Aurora Recreation Board for nine years. Over the years, I have always been impressed with the care the Aurora parks department puts into its parks. I feel confident that they will carefully plan and execute the Utah tennis court renovation.

Please consider funding this grant application for the betterment of Aurora and the active residents that depend on this valuable community asset.

Thank you:

Bobbie McClure
City of Aurora Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Chair

USTA COLORADO

USTA Colorado
Joan Birkland Pavilion at Gates Tennis Center
3300 East Bayaud Avenue, Suite 201
Denver, CO 80209
ph: 303.695.4116
web: USTA.com
league website: USTAColorado.com

March 3, 2025

Arapahoe County Open Spaces
Open Space and Trails Advisory Board
6934 S. Lima St., Unit A
Centennial, CO 80012

Re: Grant Request for Utah Tennis Courts and Lighting Repair

Dear Members of the Board:

On behalf of the United States Tennis Association Colorado (USTA CO), I am writing in strong support of the City of Aurora's grant application for the repair and improvement of the tennis courts and associated lighting at Utah Park.

As the governing body for the sport of tennis in Colorado, and District of the USTA, USTA CO is dedicated to promoting and developing the growth of tennis at all levels, ensuring that communities across the state have access to high-quality courts and facilities. Public tennis courts play a vital role in fostering active lifestyles, encouraging youth participation, and providing an inclusive space for recreational and competitive play.

Utah Park's tennis courts have long served as an important recreational asset for the Aurora community, offering a space for players of all ages and skill levels to gather for learning, play and competition. However, the deterioration of the courts and the absence of lighting have significantly impacted their usability, limiting playing opportunities—especially during popular evening hours. Investing in these repairs will not only restore a valuable community resource but also enhance accessibility, safety, and the overall playing experience for local residents. A tennis facility of this size also opens the door for tournament and league opportunities that will have an economic impact drawing players into Aurora from other areas.

Furthermore, tennis participation continues to increase, with a 45% increase nationally since 2019 and historic highs in Colorado USTA leagues. USTA recently announced the dedication of an additional $10 million toward courts and facilities to ensure tennis infrastructure supports this surging demand. Improving these facilities aligns with USTA's mission to expand the reach of tennis and create welcoming environments where individuals and families can come together through sport and benefit from all it has to offer.

We strongly support this grant application and encourage its approval to ensure that Utah Park remains a vibrant hub for tennis and community engagement for years to come.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Sincerely,
Kristy Harris

Kristy Harris
Community Services Director

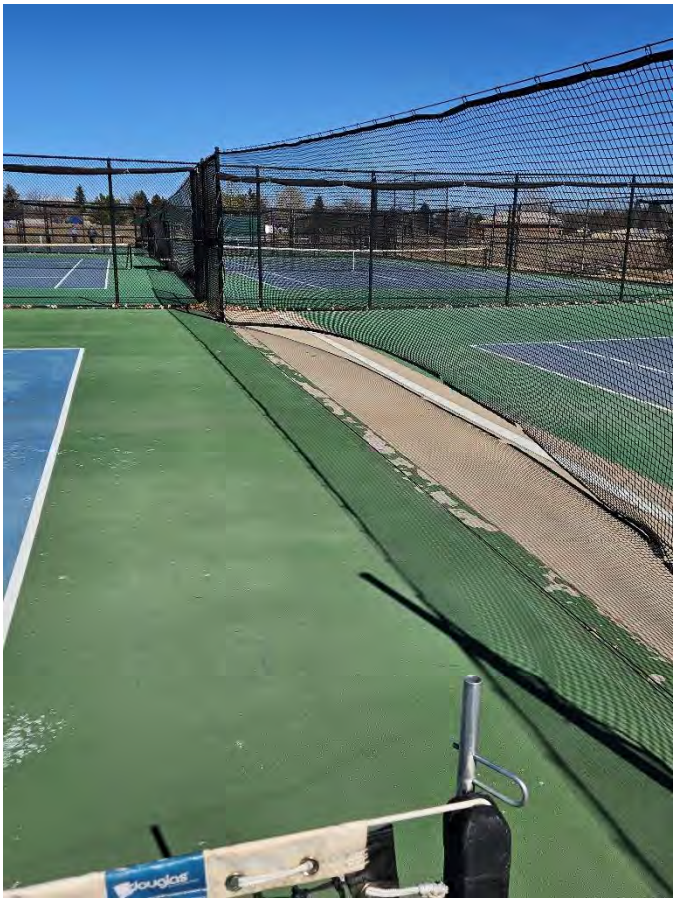
Attachment 3: Documentation of Opposition

There is no known opposition to the Utah Park Tennis Courts and Lighting Replacement at this time.

Attachment 4: Evidence of Commitment from Project Partners

This section is not applicable as there are no project partners.

The photos on this page illustrate the deficient state of many of the courts' surfacing.



There is a lack of appropriate spectator seating.The current seating is improvised and insufficent.

All light poles were removed in 2024 due to deficiencies and safety concerns.

ADA parking is in very poor condition and is almost nonexistant.

Utah Park Tennis Courts

Parks, Recreation & Open Space Department

April, 2025

Aerial Photography: Nearmap, Spring 2025

4/7/2025 K:\Dept\PROS\PD&C\GIS\GIS Misc\Grants\GrantMappingArcGIS_ProWorking.aprx\Utah Tennis Courts Site Map

ARAPAHOE COUNTY
OPEN SPACES

Site Visit Form

Aurora Parks, Recreation and Opens Spaces	Standard Grant
Applicant	**Grant Category**
City of Aurora - Utah Park Tennis Courts and Lighting Replacement	
Title of Grant Project	
Erick del Angel	edelange@auroragov.org; 469-338-6271
Site Visit Representative Name	**Site Visit Representative Email and Cell Phone #** *cell # will be used to contact you on site visit day if necessary (running late, weather issues, etc.)*

1. **Please provide the project address or the closest major intersection.**

1800 S Peoria St, Aurora, CO 80012
(directly adjacent to Utah Pool)

2. **Specify a meeting location at the project site.**

   Meet at the first court directly to the east of the entrance to the Utah Park Indoor Pool

3. **Provide other helpful information, for example parking instructions, availability of restrooms on site or nearby, necessary walking from parking to site, or other clarification.** *Driving directions from the ACOS office (6934 S. Lima St., Centennial) are not required, but may be included if the site is difficult to find.*

There is a large parking lot available at the entrance to the pool and tennis courts. Restrooms are available inside the Utah Park Indoor Pool building as well as just northwest of the courts following the concrete trail.

PIN:	031220840
AIN:	1973-24-3-11-002
Situs Address:	
Situs City:	

Full Owner List:	Aurora City Of
Ownership Type:	Fee Simple Ownership
Owner Address:	15151 E Alameda Pkwy Suite 3200
City/State/Zip:	Aurora, CO 80012-1555

Neighborhood:	Parker Jewell Mississippi
Neighborhood Code:	3096.00
Acreage:	9.9700
Land Use:	
Legal Desc:	Lot 2 Blk 1 Utah Park Sub

Notifications!

	Total	**Building**	**Land**
2024 Appraised Value	4,342,932	0	4,342,932
2024 Assessed Value	1,211,678	0	1,211,678
		2024 Mill Levy:	95.829

	Units	**Land Use**
Land Line	9.9700 AC	Recreation

Note: Land Line data above corresponds to the initial appraised value and does not reflect subsequent appeal related adjustments, if any.

* Not all parcels have available photos / sketches.

In some cases a sketch may be difficult to read. Please contact the Assessors Office for assistance. Measurements taken from the exterior of the building.

The Arapahoe County Assessors Office does not warranty the accuracy of any sketch, nor assumes any responsibility or liability to any user.

Although some parcels may have multiple buildings and photos, at this time our system is limited to 1 sketch and 1 photo per parcel number. Sorry for any inconvenience.

New Search

PIN:	031220831
AIN:	1973-24-3-11-001
Situs Address:	
Situs City:	

Full Owner List:	Aurora City Of
Ownership Type:	Fee Simple Ownership
Owner Address:	15151 E Alameda Pkwy Suite 3200
City/State/Zip:	Aurora, CO 80012-1555

Neighborhood:	Parker Jewell Mississippi
Neighborhood Code:	3096.00
Acreage:	34.8400
Land Use:	
Legal Desc:	Lot 1 Blk 1 Utah Park Sub

Notifications!

	Total	**Building**	**Land**
2024 Appraised Value	15,176,304	0	15,176,304
2024 Assessed Value	4,234,189	0	4,234,189
		2024 Mill Levy:	95.829

	Units	**Land Use**
Land Line	34.8400 AC	Recreation

Note: Land Line data above corresponds to the initial appraised value and does not reflect subsequent appeal related adjustments, if any.

* Not all parcels have available photos / sketches.

In some cases a sketch may be difficult to read. Please contact the Assessors Office for assistance. Measurements taken from the exterior of the building.

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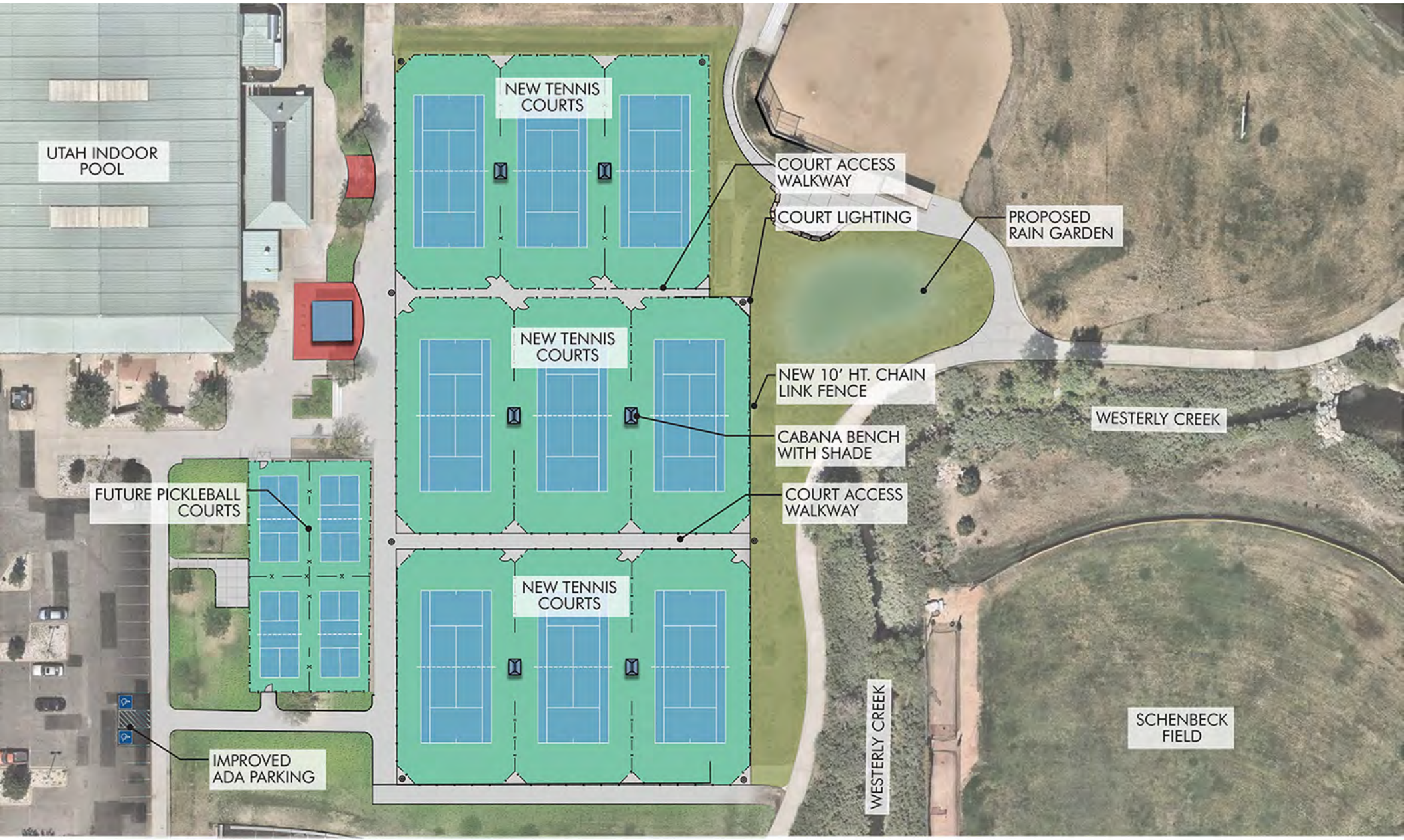
New Search



UTAH PARK TENNIS COURTS

CONCEPT PLAN

MARCH 14, 2025

NORTH

0 10 20 40

AURORA

DESIGN CONCEPTS
Community + Landscape Architects

UTAH PARK TENNIS COURTS

CONCEPT PLAN

MARCH 14, 2025

NOT TO SCALE

NORTH

DESIGN CONCEPTS
Community + Landscape Architects

Summary of feedback received from court users and residents

Over the past few years, we have had communication with players that frequent the tennis courts about the decaying state. In fact, a local tennis player let us know that he is part of a WhatsApp group with over 100 regular users of the Utah Park tennis courts. They took the time to thank us for being responsive and also brought up an important issue: the lighting. Specifically, they asked that we make sure all the light bulbs are working properly, as better lighting would go a long way in improving both the safety and overall experience during evening play. We let him know in early 2024 that we would be removing the poles for safety and that we were planning for the replacement of the lighting and complete reconstruction of the courts.

Beyond lighting, we've also heard from other users about cracks and wear on the courts. Several community members have shared concerns about how the surface conditions impact play and could pose safety risks. These kinds of comments helped reinforce that replacing and repairing the courts needed to be a top priority.

A few residents have also mentioned their interest in seeing pickleball added at Utah Park. While we have let them know that fixing the tennis courts is the main priority, we also communicated to them that we are planning to designate the standalone court for future conversion into four pickleball courts once the main improvements are taken care of.

UTAH PARK TENNIS COURTS

CONCEPT PLAN

MARCH 14, 2025

NORTH

0 10 20 40

AURORA

DESIGN CONCEPTS
Community + Landscape Architects

RESOLUTION NO. R2025- ____

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, EXPRESSING THE AURORA CITY COUNCIL'S APPROVAL OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF AURORA COLORADO AND ARAPAHOE COUNTY FOR THE REHABILITATION, ENHANCEMENT OF THE TENNIS COURTS, AND THE REPLACEMENT OF THE LIGHTING SYSTEM AT UTAH PARK USING A GRANT FROM THE ARAPAHOE COUNTY OPEN SPACE PROGRAM FUND

WHEREAS, on November 2, 2021, the voters of Arapahoe County ("County") permanently reauthorized, until repeal, a countywide sales and use tax to be deposited in the County Open Space Fund to be used for specified open space purposes as set forth in County Resolution No. 21-263 ("Open Space Resolution"); and

WHEREAS, the Open Space Resolution authorizes the County to award discretionary grants from its Open Space Fund to municipalities and special districts, as more fully set forth in the Open Space Resolution; and

WHEREAS, the City of Aurora, Colorado ("City") submitted a proposal to the County for the rehabilitation, enhancement of the tennis courts, and the replacement of the lighting system at Utah Park using grant funds from the County Open Space Fund; and

WHEREAS, on July 22, 2025, the County approved the City's grant proposal and authorized a grant of $600,000.00 for the rehabilitation, enhancement of the tennis courts, and the replacement of the lighting system at Utah Park ("Grant Project"); and

WHEREAS, the grant award to the City is contingent upon the City contributing the remaining 85% share of the total Grant Project cost.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, THAT:

Section 1. The Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Aurora Colorado and Arapahoe County for the rehabilitation, enhancement of the tennis courts, and the replacement of the lighting system at Utah Park using a grant of $600,000.00 from the Arapahoe County Open Space Program Fund is hereby approved.

Section 2. The Mayor and City Clerk are hereby authorized to execute the attached agreement in substantially the form presented at this meeting with such technical additions, deletions, and variations as may be deemed necessary or appropriate by the City Attorney.

Section 3. All resolutions or parts of resolutions of the City in conflict herewith are hereby rescinded.

Section 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately without reconsideration

RESOLVED AND PASSED this _____ day of _____, 2025.

_____
MIKE COFFMAN, Mayor

ATTEST:

_____
KADEE RODRIGUEZ, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

PETER A. SCHULTE, CITY ATTORNEY

By: _____
TIM JOYCE, Assistant City Attorney

CITY OF AURORA
Council Agenda Commentary

Item Title: Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with Arapahoe County for Grant Funding at Side Creek Park
Item Initiator: Thomas Cirillo, Landscape Architect, Parks, Recreation and Open Space
Staff Source/Legal Source: Nicole Ankeney, Manager of Planning, Design and Construction, Parks, Recreation and Open Space / Tim Joyce, Assistant City Attorney
Outside Speaker: N/A
Strategic Outcome: Connected and Engaged: Providing programming, learning resources, and amenities that reflect the rich history and contributions of our vibrant communities.

COUNCIL MEETING DATES:

Study Session: n/a

Regular Meeting: 9/8/2025

2nd Regular Meeting (if applicable): N/A

Item requires a Public Hearing: ☐ Yes ☒ No

ITEM DETAILS *(Click in highlighted area below bullet point list to enter applicable information.)*

- Waiver of reconsideration requested, and if so, why
- Sponsor name
- Staff source name and title / Legal source name and title
- Outside speaker name and organization
- Estimated time: (For Study Session items only indicate combined time needed for presentation and discussion)

R2025-100 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, EXPRESSING THE AURORA CITY COUNCIL'S APPROVAL OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF AURORA COLORADO AND ARAPAHOE COUNTY FOR THE RENOVATION OF SIDE CREEK PARK USING A GRANT FROM THE ARAPAHOE COUNTY OPEN SPACE PROGRAM FUND
Waiver of reconsideration is requested because Arapahoe County wants the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) executed within 60 days of the notice of award or by 9/28/25.
Nicole Ankeney, Manager of Planning, Design and Construction, Parks, Recreation and Open Space / Tim Joyce, Assistant City Attorney

ACTIONS(S) PROPOSED *(Check all appropriate actions)*

☐ Approve Item and Move Forward to Study Session
☐ Approve Item and Move Forward to Regular Meeting
☐ Information Only
☐ Approve Item as Proposed at Policy Committee
☐ Approve Item as Proposed at Study Session
☒ Approve Item as Proposed at Regular Meeting
☒ Approve Item with Waiver of Reconsideration
Reason for waiver is described in the Item Details field above.

PREVIOUS ACTIONS OR REVIEWS:

Policy Committee Name: N/A

Policy Committee Date: N/A

Action Taken/Follow-up: ***(Check all that apply)***

☐ Recommends Approval

☐ Does Not Recommend Approval

☐ Forwarded Without Recommendation

☐ Minutes Not Available

☐ Minutes Attached

HISTORY *(Dates reviewed by City council, Policy Committees, Boards and Commissions, or Staff. Summarize pertinent comments. ATTACH MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS, POLICY COMMITTEES AND BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS.)*

The requirements of the grant warrant execution of the IGA within 60 days of the notice of award or by 9/28/25. Due to this time constraint, Council Member Medina, Chair of the Parks, Foundations and Quality of Life Policy Committee, was agreeable to bringing this item straight to a regular City Council session, bypassing the standard process of policy committee to study session to regular session.

ITEM SUMMARY *(Brief description of item, discussion, key points, recommendations, etc.)*

Side Creek Park is a fully developed 12.8-acre neighborhood park that has not seen updates in over thirty years and is faced with aging park amenities. The proposed renovation includes widening park pathways, replacing the playground, picnic shelter, tennis court and basketball court. The new park plan will convert over 50,000 square feet of irrigated bluegrass to non-irrigated native grass. The goals for this project are to improve access to the outdoor environment, develop a space that aligns with environmental needs, and provide a safer, more inclusive experience for the neighborhood of Side Creek Park.

In April 2025, the City of Aurora Parks, Recreation and Open Space Department applied for a standard grant from Arapahoe County Open Spaces in the amount of $600,000, the maximum grant award. The grant request has been approved by Arapahoe County Open Spaces subject to the execution of an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between the County and the City. This grant solidifies funding for the proposed renovation and allows this design effort to become a reality.

The IGA outlines the roles and responsibilities of the parties, the use and dispersement of grant funds, reporting requirements, and maintenance requirements. Upon completion of the renovation and the handover of the project from the contractor to the City, Side Creek Park will be reinstated into the regular maintenance schedule of the Aurora Parks, Recreation and Open Space Department.

STAFF RECOMMENDS APPROVING THE IGA WITH ARAPAHOE COUNTY OPEN SPACES. This will allow for the use of grant funding in the renovation of Side Creek Park.

STAFF REQUESTS A WAIVER OF RECONSIDERATION. The waiver of reconsideration will facilitate approval of the IGA which Arapahoe County wants executed within 60 days of the notice of award or by 9/28/25.

FISCAL IMPACT

Select all that apply. (If no fiscal impact, click that box and skip to "Questions for Council")

☒ Revenue Impact ☒ Budgeted Expenditure Impact ☐ Non-Budgeted Expenditure Impact
☐ Workload Impact ☐ No Fiscal Impact

REVENUE IMPACT
Provide the revenue impact or N/A if no impact. (What is the estimated impact on revenue? What funds would be impacted? Provide additional detail as necessary.)

Arapahoe County Open Spaces grant: $600,000

BUDGETED EXPENDITURE IMPACT

Provide the budgeted expenditure impact or N/A if no impact. (List Org/Account # and fund. What is the amount of budget to be used? Does this shift existing budget away from existing programs/services? Provide additional detail as necessary.)

Grant match funds: $2,000,000 – Org 63745 Arapahoe County Open Space Shareback; $450,000 – Org 63746 Conservation Trust Fund; $107,129 – Org 63747 Park Development Fund. The total project budget with the grant and grant match is $3,157,129.

NON-BUDGETED EXPENDITURE IMPACT

Provide the non-budgeted expenditure impact or N/A if no impact. (Provide information on non-budgeted costs. Include Personal Services, Supplies and Services, Interfund Charges, and Capital needs. Provide additional detail as necessary.)

N/A

WORKLOAD IMPACT

Provide the workload impact or N/A if no impact. (Will more staff be needed or is the change absorbable? If new FTE(s) are needed, provide numbers and types of positions, and a duty summary. Provide additional detail as necessary.)

N/A

QUESTIONS FOR COUNCIL

Does Council Council approve the resolution and IGA between the City and Arapahoe County Open Spaces for the use of standard grant funds in the amount of $600,000 for the renovation of Side Creek Park?

LEGAL COMMENTS

Governmental entities may cooperate or contract with one another to provide any lawful function, service, or facility, including sharing of costs, the imposition of taxes, or the incurring of debt. (Colo. Const. Art. 14, § 18(2)(a) and Colo. Rev. Stat. § 29-1-203(1)). City Council may, by resolution, enter into agreements with other governmental units or special districts for the joint use of buildings, equipment or facilities, and for furnishing or receiving commodities or services. (City Charter, art. X, sec. 10-12). Upon authorization by a majority vote of the members of City Council voting thereon, the Mayor shall execute all intergovernmental agreements to which the City is a party. (Aurora, Colo. Code section 2-31(b)(2)). Any motion to approve shall include a waiver of reconsideration. (TJoyce)

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT REGARDING
2025 GRANT OF ARAPAHOE COUNTY OPEN SPACE PROGRAM FUNDS
PROJECT NAME: SIDE CREEK PARK RENOVATION

This Intergovernmental Agreement ("Agreement") is made and entered into by and between **THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF ARAPAHOE, STATE OF COLORADO** ("County"), and the **CITY OF AURORA,** a municipality and political subdivision of the State of Colorado ("Grantee") (collectively "Parties" and individually a "Party").

RECITALS

A. On November 2, 2021, the voters of the County permanently reauthorized, until repeal, a countywide sales and use tax to be deposited in the County Open Space Fund and used for specified open space purposes as set forth in County Resolution No. 21-263 ("Open Space Resolution").

B. The Open Space Resolution authorizes the County to award discretionary grants from its Open Space Fund to municipalities and special districts, as more fully set forth in the Open Space Resolution.

C. On July 22, 2025, the County approved by resolution the Grantee's grant proposal for the Side Creek Park Renovation ("Grant Project"), which is attached as Exhibit A, subject to the execution of an intergovernmental agreement.

D. This Agreement is authorized by Article XIV, Section 18 of the Colorado Constitution and C.R.S. § 29-1-203.

AGREEMENT

NOW, THEREFORE, the County and the Grantee agree as follows:

1. Amount of Grant. The County awards the Grantee up to 19% of the total Grant Project cost, not to exceed $600,000 ("Grant Funds"), from the County Open Space Fund. The County's contribution of the Grant Funds is contingent upon the Grantee contributing the remaining 81% share of the total Grant Project cost. The Grantee is responsible for any Grant Project costs in excess of the Grant Funds.

2. Use of Grant Funds. The Grantee agrees that it shall only use the Grant Funds for the Grant Project as described in Exhibit A.

3. Disbursement of Grant Funds. The County shall pay the Grant Funds via ACH transfer to the Grantee on a reimbursement basis upon receipt of the approved status report and documentation of expenditures as required by this Agreement and no more often than bi-annually. No more than 75% of the Grant Funds will be reimbursed prior to the final report

approval. The final 25% of Grant Funds will be reimbursed following the Grant Project inspection and review and approval of the final report and Grant Project deliverables.

4. Time for Use of Grant Funds. The Grantee agrees that the Grant Project will be completed and the Grant Funds will be expended no later than September 30, 2027, unless the County agrees in writing to a longer period of time. The Grantee understands and agrees that, if the Grant Project cannot be completed by the deadline above or by the end of the agreed-upon extension, the County may terminate the grant and this Agreement.

5. Interest on Grant Funds. The Grantee further agrees that, after receipt of the Grant Funds, the Grantee will use any interest earned on the Grant Funds only for the Grant Project.

6. Administration of Grant Project. The Grantee shall be responsible for the direct supervision and administration of the Grant Project. The County shall not be liable or responsible for any cost overruns on the Grant Project, nor shall the County have any duty or obligation to provide any additional funding for the Grant Project if the Grant Project cannot be completed as described in Exhibit A. The Grantee also agrees to comply with all local, state, and federal requirements while completing the Grant Project unless specifically waived.

7. Grant Project Site Visits. Upon 24 hours' written notice to the Grantee, the Grantee agrees to allow the County to make site visits before, during, at the completion of, and/or after the completion of the Grant Project.

8. Acknowledgement of County by Grantee. The Grantee agrees to acknowledge the County as a contributor to the Grant Project in all publications, news releases, and other publicity issued by the Grantee related to the Grant Project and agrees to allow the County to do the same. If any events are planned in regard to the Grant Project, the County shall be acknowledged as a contributor in the invitation to such events. The Grantee shall cooperate with the County in preparing public information pieces, providing photos of the Grant Project from time to time, and providing access to the Grant Project for publicity purposes. Event information, event materials, and press release information related to the Grant Project must be sent to the County Grants Program Administrator for review and filing.

9. Required Sign at Grant Project Site. The County agrees to provide a standard sign for the Grant Project. The Grantee agrees to erect and permanently maintain at least one County sign or a Grantee sign as described below in a publicly visible area in recognition of the grant from the Arapahoe County Open Space Program. The sign shall be erected prior to the completion of the Grant Project or its public opening, whichever is earlier. If the Grantee wishes to use its own sign and design, the Grantee must submit the design and wording to the County Grants Program Administrator for approval prior to manufacture and/or installation of such sign.

10. Report Requirements. On or before January 31 and July 31 annually, the Grantee agrees to provide the County with Grant Project Progress Reports that conform to the format provided by the County. Each Grant Project Progress Report shall include supporting financial documentation as requested in the form provided. Upon completion of the Grant

Project, the Grantee also agrees to submit to the County a Final Report that conforms to the format provided by the County; a final spreadsheet comparing the original budget to actual expenses that demonstrates Grant Funds were used in compliance with the Open Space Resolution; supporting financial documentation as requested in the County report form; and high-resolution photographs of the progress and finished results of the Grant Project. The Final Report shall be submitted within three months of Grant Project completion, unless the County agrees in writing to a longer period of time. The County shall be allowed to use information and images from these reports in publications, public information updates, and on the County's website.

11. Failure to Submit Required Reports. Upon written notice from the County's Open Space Grants Program Administrator informing the Grantee that it has failed to submit any required status report and/or final report, the Grantee shall submit such reports to the County's Open Space Grants Program Administrator within 30 days, and, if it fails to do so, the Grantee shall be deemed to be in violation of this Agreement.

12. Record-Keeping Requirements. The Grantee shall maintain a complete set of books and records documenting its use of the Grant Funds and its supervision and administration of the Grant Project. The County or any of its duly authorized representatives shall have reasonable access to any books, documents, papers, and records of the Grantee that are pertinent to the Grant Project for the purpose of making an audit, examination, or excerpts. The Grantee shall keep all books, documents, papers, and records pertinent to the Grant Project for a minimum of three years from the Grant Project completion date.

13. Changes to Grant Project. The Grantee agrees and understands that it must complete the Grant Project as it is described in Exhibit A; the Grant Project may not be changed without the County's prior written approval. Proposed changes must be formally requested using the applicable Grant Project Modification Form provided by the County. Changes may not begin until the County has issued a written approval, which may also require the execution of an amendment to this Agreement.

14. Maintenance. The Grantee agrees to assume responsibility for continuous maintenance and public safety of open space lands, parks, trails, recreation facilities, amenities, signage, and other projects funded by the Grant Funds for the useful life of the Grant Project and in accordance with applicable product warranties and/or the generally accepted standards in the parks and recreation community.

15. Change in Use. If the Grantee wishes to dispose of or sell the property purchased with the Grant Funds or if the Grantee wishes to use the Grant Project or property improved or purchased with the Grant Funds for purposes other than the purposes specified in Exhibit A, the Grantee shall provide written notice to the County. The Grantee shall obtain the County's written consent and shall present the proposed disposition, sale, or change in use in a public hearing and receive approval from its governing body prior to proceeding with such disposition, sale, or change in use. The County, in its sole discretion, may require the Grantee to make a partial or full refund to the County based on the amount of the Grant

Funds, the value of the Grant Project, or the value of the property purchased with the Grant Funds at the time of disposition, sale, or change in use.

16. Reimbursement of Grant Funds. The Grantee understands and agrees that the County may require the Grantee to reimburse the County if any portion of the Grant Funds is not used in accordance with its approved grant proposal and this Agreement.

17. Failure to Comply. Failure to comply with this Agreement shall result in default, and the County in its sole discretion may determine the Grantee is ineligible for any future grants until the violation is remedied or until such other time.

18. Remedies. The rights and remedies of the County as set forth in this Agreement shall not be exclusive and are in addition to any other rights or remedies provided by law.

19. No Waiver of Rights. A waiver by either Party of the breach of any term or provision of this Agreement shall not operate or be construed as a waiver of any subsequent breach by either Party.

20. Relationship of the Parties. The Grantee shall perform all duties and obligations under this Agreement as an independent contractor and shall not be deemed by virtue of this Agreement to have entered into any partnership, joint venture, employer/employee, or other relationship with the County.

21. No Third-Party Beneficiaries. Nothing in this Agreement shall give or allow any claim or right of action whatsoever by any third party, including, but not limited to, any agents or contractors of the Grantee.

22. Severability. The invalidity or unenforceability of any portion of this Agreement shall not affect the validity or enforceability of any other portion or provision. Any invalid or unenforceable portion or provision shall be deemed severed from this Agreement and, in such event, the Parties shall negotiate in good faith to replace such invalidated provision in order to carry out the intent of the Parties in entering into this Agreement.

23. Written Amendment Required. Except when the County issues a written approval permitted under another provision of this Agreement, this Agreement may be amended, modified, or changed, in whole or in part, only by written agreement duly authorized and executed by the Parties.

24. Applicable Law and Venue. This Agreement shall be construed and enforced in accordance with the laws of the State of Colorado. The venue for any legal action arising out of this Agreement shall be in Arapahoe County District Court, pursuant to the appropriate rules of civil procedure.

25. Notices. Notices under this Agreement shall be sent to:

COUNTY: Arapahoe County Open Spaces
Grants Program Administrator
6934 S. Lima St., Unit A
Centennial, CO 80112
askopenspaces@arapahoegov.com

and

Arapahoe County Attorney
5334 South Prince Street
Littleton, CO 80120-1136
attorney@arapahoegov.com

GRANTEE: City of Aurora
15151 E. Alameda Parkway
Aurora, CO 80012
parks@auroragov.org

26. Incorporation of Exhibits. Unless otherwise stated in this Agreement, any exhibits, applications, resolutions, or other documents referenced in this Agreement shall be incorporated by reference into this Agreement for all purposes. In the event of any conflicts between this Agreement and any attached documents, this Agreement shall control.

27. Section Headings. The headings for any section of this Agreement are only for the convenience and reference of the Parties and are not intended in any way to define, limit, or describe the scope or intent of this Agreement.

28. Assignment. The rights, or any parts of this Agreement, granted to the Parties in this Agreement may be assigned only with the prior written consent of the non-assigning Party.

29. Extent of Agreement. This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement of the Parties related to the Grant Project. The Parties agree that there have been no representations made regarding the subject matter of this Agreement other than those, if any, contained in this Agreement, and the various promises and covenants contained in this Agreement are mutually agreed upon and are in consideration of one another.

30. Signatures. The signatories to this Agreement represent that they are fully authorized to execute this Agreement and bind their respective entities.

31. Counterparts. This Agreement may be executed in multiple counterparts, each of which will be deemed to be an original and all of which taken together will constitute one and the same agreement.

32. Effective Date. This Agreement will become effective on the date of the Grantee's signature ("Effective Date").

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the County and the Grantee have executed this Agreement as of the Effective Date.

ATTEST:

By: _____
Kadee Rodriguez, City Clerk

CITY OF AURORA

By: _____
Mike Coffman, Mayor
Date: _____

APPROPVED AS TO FORM:

By: _____
Tim Joyce, Assistant City Attorney

COUNTY OF ARAPAHOE
STATE OF COLORADO

By: _____
Margina Pingenot, Director, Open Spaces
Pursuant to Resolution No. 25-078

EXHIBIT A

Side Creek Park Renovation

2025 Standard and Small Grant Application

City of Aurora

Mr Rian French

15151 E. Alameda Parkway, Ste 4600
Aurora, CO 80012

rfrench@auroragov.org
O: 303-739-7196

Application Form

Application Summary

Primary Contact Information*

Please provide information for the primary contact for this project in the following format.
Agency:
Name:
Title:
Telephone:
Email:

City of Aurora / Parks, Recreation & Open Space Department
Tom Cirillo
Landscape Architect
303-739-7596
tcirillo@auroragov.org

Grant Category*

Select One:

- **Standard Grant:** $150,001 - $600,000, requiring a minimum of 25% total project cost cash match
- **Small Grant:** $1,000 - $150,000, requiring a minimum of 10% total project cost cash match

Standard Grant

Project Type*

Select One:

- **Trail Project:** Trail/trailhead construction or improvement, including stream/road crossings and trailhead amenities (such as parking or shelters); on-street trails and sidepaths for the purposes of (a) connecting an isolated neighborhood or activity center to a park, trail, open space, or school, and (b) connecting to a trail system included in a regional, County, or special district planning document
- **Site Improvement Project:** New construction, improvement, repair, or replacement of outdoor recreation facilities or amenities (such as playgrounds, shelters, sports fields, restrooms, or interior trail connections)
- **Environmental/Cultural Education Project:** Eligible projects include outreach materials (such as printed materials, video, or displays), installations (such as signage), or associated outdoor amenities (such as shelters or native landscaping)
- **Acquisition Project:** Eligible projects include fee simple acquisition of land for public open space, parks, or trails; or acquisition of a trail or conservation easement. *Additional application materials are required. Contact grants program staff to discuss projects in advance.*
- **Other Project:** Other allowable projects include stream/habitat restoration, natural re-vegetation, and water quality improvement. *Contact grants program staff to discuss projects in advance.*

Site Improvement Project

Project Title*
Side Creek Park Renovation

Project Address*
19001 E Colorado Dr., Aurora, CO 80017

Project Location*
Select a Jurisdiction or Unincorporated Arapahoe County:

Aurora

GPS Coordinates (Latitude in Decimal Degrees)*
Example: 39.5773033 (Dove Valley Regional Park)

39.68742

GPS Coordinates (Longitude in Decimal Degrees)*
Example: -104.828850 (Dove Valley Regional Park)

104.76513

Grant Request Amount*
$600,000.00

Cash Match Amount*
$2,557,129.00

Total Project Amount*
Total project amount includes grant request and cash match only. Please do not include in-kind match.

$3,157,129.00

Cash Match Percentage*
Calculate cash match as % of total project cost.

81

Project Partners
List partner agencies if applicable.

Executive Summary*
Provide a brief summary highlighting key points of your proposal, such as project description, goals, need, partnerships, etc.

Side Creek Park is a fully developed 12.8-acre neighborhood park currently serving over 5,900 residents within a half-mile walking distance. The park has not seen updates in over 30 years and is faced with aging park features including cracked pavement in the tennis and basketball courts, holes in the picnic shelter roof, a narrow five-foot wide loop trail, and two separate play areas which are inaccessible. In its current condition, the park is outdated and underutilized.

The City of Aurora (COA) Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) 2020 Capital Infrastructure Needs Survey identified Side Creek Park as the facility in greatest need of updates and renovation. This project has four primary objectives that were defined at the outset of the planning process: 1) Ensure a safe environment for individuals of all ages and abilities to fulfill their recreational, social, and physical fitness requirements. 2) Develop a space that aligns with environmental needs. 3) Encourage outdoor play. 4) Establish a distinctive location that enhances community pride in the park.

The improvements planned for Side Creek Park include:
- Reconstructing the playground.
- Upgrading the basketball and tennis courts.
- Renovating the picnic shelter.
- Widening all park pathways from five feet to eight and ten feet.
- Establishing a new seating area with a shade shelter to enhance the views of the Side Creek Greenbelt.
- Converting over 50,000 square feet of turf from irrigated bluegrass to non-irrigated native grass.
- Adding additional seating throughout the park.
- Installing a new curb cut for maintenance access.

PROS Parks Operations & Management and Planning, Design & Construction is currently analyzing whether the existing portable toilet should be replaced by a vault privy and assessing the potential replacement of one tennis court which would enable the realignment of pathways along the west side of the park to provide a greater buffer between active recreation and adjacent private property.

Minimum Qualifications and Eligibility

Eligibility Question 1*
Please list your agency's ongoing Arapahoe County Open Spaces grant projects.

The City of Aurora Parks, Recreation and Open Space Department is in good standing with Arapahoe County Open Spaces. All grants received within the last 5 years were completed on time including the reports and closeout documents.

Open Grants include:
Murphy Creek Trail Renovation

Laredo Highline Access and Awareness Improvements
Triple Creek Trail Construction

In this cycle, Aurora is submitting 2 grant applications:
Utah Park Tennis Court Renovation
Side Creek Park Renovation

Eligibility Question 2*

How does this project align with the Arapahoe County Open Spaces Master Plan, Arapahoe County Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan, an agency master plan, or other approved planning documents?
Please refer to the current Arapahoe County Open Spaces Master Plan adopted in June 2021. Plans are available on the ACOS website.

The Side Creek Park Renovation aligns to the Objectives outlined in the ARCO Open Space Master Plan Section 4.3 as it will ensure a safer and more accessible walking environment for pedestrians, enhance the scenic views along the Side Creek Greenbelt to encourage outdoor activities. Turf conversion will expand the natural boundary of the Side Creek Greenbelt which will increase ecological resilience and contribute to water conservation efforts.

One of the primary goals of the ARCO Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan is to increase biking and walking opportunities. Expanding the pathways within Side Creek Park will create a safer and more enjoyable experience, while also encouraging individual health and well-being.

A guiding principle of the PROS Master Plan (Our Parks, Our Places) is to meet the evolving needs of the community while fostering a healthy lifestyle. The master plan identifies the need for providing safe access for all park users. An online survey revealed that a wider concrete loop trail was the most requested park improvement. Enhancing the loop trail within Side Creek Park will create a safer, more inviting environment while promoting a healthier way of life.

Eligibility Question 3*

How does this project address specific objectives in the Arapahoe County Open Space Resolution #21-263?
Please note that this resolution replaces the previous Open Space Resolutions #030381/110637. The resolution is available on the ACOS website.

This resolution authorizes the extension of the sales and use tax to support the development, maintenance, and enhancement of regional and community parks and trails, as well as to increase recreational opportunities for individuals of all ages, including children, youth, adults, and seniors. The renovation of Side Creek Neighborhood Park aims to enhance both active and passive recreational options. It will create a more inclusive play environment and introduce new seating areas that showcase the scenic views of the Side Creek Greenbelt. Additionally, it will help protect Side Creek's water quality by broadening the natural buffer zone along the western boundary adjacent to Side Creek Park.

Certification and Authorized Signature Form*

Please attach completed Certification and Authorized Signature Form as a PDF document. Form must be signed by highest authority in agency or authorized individual. *Forms are available on the ACOS website.*

Please name your file as follows: *Applicant_SignatureForm.pdf*

COA PROS Side Creek Park_SignatureForm.pdf

Project Timeline

Project Timeline Form*

Please attach completed Project Timeline Form as a PDF document. *Forms are available on the ACOS website.*

Please name your file as follows: *Applicant_ TimelineForm.pdf*

COA PROS Side Creek Park_TimelineForm.pdf

Project Budget

Budget Narrative*

Provide a clear and concise budget narrative. Include details about expenses in each budget category, justification for any unusual line items, and an explanation of how you arrived at these estimates. Include amount and sources of matching funds.

Aurora is requesting $600,000 in Arapahoe County Open Spaces grant funds for this project. The cash match comes from multiple PROS sources including $2,000,000 from the Arapahoe County Open Space Shareback, $450,000 from the Conservation Trust Fund and $107,129 from the Park Development Fund. All funds are readily available. The budget categories pertain exclusively to construction. Expenses related to the park will be funded in whole or in part by the PROS cash match. Grant funding will specifically support costs associated with the playground and concrete pathways. While the actual cost breakdown may be adjusted, the matching amounts from each funding source will remain unchanged.

There are two add alternate line items. Analysis is currently being conducted by PROS Parks Operations & Management and Planning, Design & Construction to assess whether the portable toilet and its surrounding area should be replaced with a vault privy and the potential replacement of one tennis court. This replacement would enable the realignment of pathways along the park's west side, creating a larger buffer zone between active recreational areas and adjacent private properties.

If funds are not utilized for the vault privy or tennis court, they will be reallocated towards the playground and site furnishings to provide more seating throughout the park.

Estimated costs were derived from recent bids for similar construction projects and direct quotes from equipment suppliers.

Budget Forms*

Please attach completed Summary Budget Form and Detailed Expense Budget Form as a single PDF document. *Forms are available on the ACOS website.*

Please name your file as follows: *Applicant_ BudgetForms.pdf*

COA PROS Side Creek Park_BudgetForms.pdf

Project Narrative

Question 1*

Describe the project goals, scope, and expected results. Describe project elements, including useful life. Discuss the current condition of the project site and the improvements that are proposed. Discuss how this project improves access to the outdoors, connectivity, and/or educational opportunities.

Since its original construction in 1985, Side Creek Park has seen only a few modifications. In 1989 a picnic shelter was added and in 1994 the lower playground was reconstructed. It is faced with aging park features including cracked pavement in the tennis and basketball courts, holes in the picnic shelter roof, and two separate play areas that are inaccessible. In its current condition, the park is unsafe and underutilized. The useful life of most park features typically spans between 20 to 25 years. It has been around 31 years since the park has been updated, with the last improvements made in 1994 over 30 years ago.

The renovation of Side Creek Park has four primary objectives that were defined at the outset of the planning process:

1) Ensure a safe environment for individuals of all ages and abilities to fulfill their recreational, social, and physical fitness requirements. Trail width within the park will be increased, providing a safer, more enjoyable outdoor experience. The tennis and basketball courts will be renovated, and the playground will be reconstructed to provide opportunities for active recreation. A new shaded seating area, picnic shelter and additional seating throughout the park will provide passive recreation opportunities and provide views down the Side Creek Greenbelt. All of these improvements encourage spending time outdoors and promote a healthy lifestyle.

2) Develop a space that aligns with environmental needs. More than 50,000sf of irrigated bluegrass will be converted to non-irrigated native grass, expanding the boundary of the Side Creek Greenbelt. The conversion increases the ecological resilience of Side Creek and helps contribute to water conservation efforts.

3) Encourage outdoor play. The entire park will be renovated to provide a safer and more enjoyable outdoor experience. Improvements align with the online survey carried out between December 2022 and April 2023 as the top priorities included a wider concrete loop trail and the renovation of the playground. The playground will provide a unique multi-level play experience that will encourage outdoor play and social interaction.

4) Establish a distinctive location that enhances community pride in the park. The new playground will utilize the site's natural topography to provide a one-of-a-kind, multi-level play experience that is inclusive for all. This design approach is intended to enhance social interaction and community spirit, enabling children, parents, and caregivers from different backgrounds to connect, develop relationships, and foster a sense of belonging.

The renovation of Side Creek Park will involve a complete overhaul of the entire site. All pathways within the park will be expanded to ensure a safer and more accessible walking environment for pedestrians. The existing picnic shelter will be replaced, and new shaded seating areas will be established to improve the scenic views along the Side Creek Greenbelt, encouraging outdoor activities. The proposed playground will take advantage of the site's natural topography, offering a unique and inclusive play experience.

The ARCO Open Space Master Plan identifies Side Creek Greenbelt as an environmentally sensitive area. This project involves converting more than 50,000 square feet of irrigated bluegrass turf into non-irrigated native grass. This transformation will expand the natural boundary of the Side Creek Greenbelt which will increase ecological resilience and contribute to water conservation efforts.

The renovation of Side Creek Park will improve access to the outdoor environment and provide a safer, more inclusive environment for the neighborhood of Side Creek.

Question 2*

Describe the community/neighborhood and user groups the project will serve. Discuss the type of users (children, families, seniors, sports leagues, etc.), and estimate the number of users that will benefit annually. How did you arrive at this estimate? Describe how this project will address inclusivity per Americans with Disabilities Act guidelines.

Community support letters are encouraged; include up to five in the Attachments section.

The City of Aurora is Colorado's third largest city with a population of over 404,000 (2024 Census). Aurora is a culturally rich community with citizens that speak over 50 different languages. Our economy is as diverse as its citizens and includes industries such as education, health care, retail, construction, finance, transportation, manufacturing and agriculture.

Side Creek Park is a 12.8-acre neighborhood park currently serving over 5,900 residents within a half-mile walking distance according to the 2024 ESRI Demographic and Income Profile. The report shows many of the residents are homeowners with 1,451 families in the half-mile service area and an average family size of 2.59 people. Of its population, 19.2% are children aged 0-14, 11.6% are youths aged 15-24, 57.3% are adults aged 25-64 and 12% are seniors aged 65 and above.

The service area of Side Creak Park is mostly residential. Immediately surrounding the park is the Side Creek Greenbelt to the east, a medium-density multifamily apartment complex to the south and northeast, low density single-family housing to the west and northwest.

For the last 30 years, all City of Aurora parks have been designed to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). These guidelines ensure that parks and recreational areas accommodate individuals with various disabilities by removing barriers that impede accessibility.

The current playground features distinct upper and lower play zones that are not connected. Both zones utilize engineered wood fiber, which complicates maintenance efforts to ensure a flat and accessible surface. Furthermore, neither the upper play area nor the swings in the lower area have an accessible entrance.

Pathways and trails: Newly constructed concrete pathways will provide equitable access to all park facilities, assuring stability, firmness, and slip resistance. They will comply with the required standards for slope and cross-slope.

Seating and picnic areas: Designated seating areas and benches will be thoughtfully placed throughout the park to ensure ample space for wheelchair users. Additionally, picnic tables will be designed to allow for knee and toe clearance for those in wheelchairs.

Playground and play equipment: The goal of the playground design is to provide an inclusive play experience. It will follow the seven principles of inclusive design to not only break down physical barriers to access but also break down barriers for people of all ages and abilities to socially participate. Play structures will provide inclusive access, featuring transfer systems for wheelchairs and environments rich in sensory experiences. Additionally, there will be tactile and interactive play components suitable for individuals of all

ability levels. The playground will include poured-in-place safety surfacing ensuring a unitary surface that is easy to maneuver for users with mobility difficulties, an orientation path for safe, easy access to park amenities, diverse play equipment that caters to different physical, sensory, and cognitive abilities and social interaction areas encouraging children to play together.

Question 3*

Discuss the need and urgency for this project. Is this part of a multiphase project? If so, describe the work already completed and plans for future phases. What opportunities will be lost if this project or phase is not funded now?

The City of Aurora (COA) Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) 2020 Capital Infrastructure Needs Survey identified Side Creek Park as the facility in greatest need of updates and renovation. The park has not seen updates in over 30 years since 1994 and is faced with aging park features including cracked pavement in the tennis and basketball courts, holes in the picnic shelter roof, a narrow five-foot wide loop trail, and two separate play areas which are inaccessible. In its current condition, the park is unsafe and underutilized. This project will encompass a complete park renovation and is not part of a multiphase project.

Should we fail to secure further grant funding, the project will continue, although the playground will be the most adversely affected. The loop trail has been identified as the most sought-after enhancement. The expenses associated with upgrading the tennis and basketball courts, along with the picnic shelter, are relatively stable, whereas the costs for the playground are more adaptable. Insufficient funding for the playground will hinder our ability to utilize the natural features of the site effectively. We recognize that creating an inclusive and distinctive playground necessitates an upfront investment, which the grant funding will help to provide.

Question 4*

Summarize any planning completed prior to submitting this grant proposal. Is design and engineering complete? Does the project necessitate a zoning change? List any permits or approvals that need to be obtained (county or city planning, stormwater, federal 404 permit, etc.) and their status.

Include any time needed for these efforts in the Project Timeline. Planning costs incurred up to 6 months prior to application submission may be eligible for inclusion in match with prior approval from grants program staff.

The City of Aurora (COA) Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) 2020 Capital Infrastructure Needs Survey identified Side Creek Park as the facility in greatest need of updates and renovation.

In December 2021, a topographic survey and preliminary site analysis were conducted. In 2022, I began to explore design concepts and develop preliminary cost estimates. The initial cost assessment revealed a funding shortfall. However, additional funding has been allocated to the project for 2024 and 2025.

In recent years, Aurora has prioritized community outreach and has seen positive results from this initiative. Side Creek is among the first park renovations to integrate public engagement without a formal requirement. The design development process is informed by public feedback, which was gathered through an online survey conducted from December 2022 to April 2023.

Currently the park is in design development, and we still require civil engineering drawings. Once construction drawings are completed, they will be submitted to the city's engineering review team. The review and approval process is expected to take several months, which has been accounted for in the project timeline. During this phase, various city departments will evaluate the construction drawings to ensure compliance with local, state, and federal regulations. This project does not require a zoning change or an amendment to the park master plan.

Anticipated permits for this project include a State of Colorado Stormwater Discharge Permit, a City of Aurora Stormwater Discharge Permit, a City of Aurora Building Permit for the picnic shelter and the seating area shade structure, and a ROW Permit. The City Stormwater Discharge Permit will be issued through our AMANDA review of the development plans, incorporating measures for erosion and sediment control while considering proximity to Side Creek and the floodplain. PROS will secure all necessary permits before construction begins.

Question 5*

Describe how the project will be completed within the required two-year timeframe. Discuss the agency's capacity to complete the project, including project management, resources, and experience implementing similar projects.
This description should match the Project Timeline.

City of Aurora Parks, Recreation and Open Space staff have recently completed similar improvement projects, including those at Hoffman Park, Canterbury Park, Fulton Park and Horseshoe Park. The project team will consist of a PROS Landscape Architect and Project Manager, PROS construction project managers, a consulting civil engineer, and an irrigation specialist. This project is a top priority to guarantee installation within the designated two-year period. Following August 2025, we intend to begin the preparation of construction documents. Construction is expected to begin in the fall of 2026, with an anticipated completion by the spring or summer of 2027.

Question 6*

Summarize any efforts to obtain public input, disseminate information to the public, develop partnerships, and garner community support for this project. Evidence of a transparent public process will be required. List the stakeholders that are involved. Discuss any known or anticipated opposition to this project and how this will be addressed.
If applicable, include letters, petitions, or other documents evidencing opposition in the Attachments section.

Recent observations indicate that online surveys engage a larger audience compared to virtual meetings. An online survey was conducted from December 2022 to April 2023. To promote community involvement, postcards were distributed to residents living within a one-mile radius of the park, and posters featuring a QR code linking directly to the survey were displayed in the park. Additionally, a link to the survey was made available on our PROS public-facing website.

The survey aimed to collect data regarding family size, current usage of the park, expectations for the renovation project, and preferences for playground equipment. It also allowed respondents to provide further comments. The design development process is being informed by the public feedback received. Community responses have shown strong support for the renovation of Side Creek Park.

Within PROS, stakeholders include Open Space & Natural Resources, Parks Operations & Management, and Forestry. There are no additional stakeholders involved. To date, we have not encountered, nor do we expect any opposition to this project.

Question 7*

How much of your cash match is secured? If applicable, what are your plans for securing additional funds? Describe cash and in-kind match partnerships established for this project.

Include partner support letters in the Attachments section and include cash match from partners on the Budget Forms. Grant recipients are responsible for cost overruns.

The City of Aurora's cash match of $2,557,129 is derived from various sources, including the Arapahoe County Open Space Tax Shareback, the Conservation Trust Fund, and the Park Development Fund. All funds have been secured and are readily accessible. The total funding is anticipated to fully finance the park renovation. Currently, there are no intentions to seek additional funding, although it is acknowledged that the City of Aurora is responsible for any cost overruns. There are no partnerships established for this project.

Question 8*

Describe any scenic, historic, or cultural values associated with the project site. Will they be impacted, preserved, or restored? Discuss natural resources at the site (habitat, water, wildlife, vegetation, etc.) and impacts to these resources as a result of this project. If applicable, discuss environmental sustainability benefits of this project (energy or water conservation, water quality improvement, etc.).

In the process of renovating a well-established park, the City of Aurora is committed to safeguarding the existing ecosystem while transforming the park into a more environmentally sustainable landscape. Although Side Creek Park lacks historical or cultural significance, it features a diverse array of over 90 mature deciduous and evergreen trees throughout its grounds. During the conceptual design phase, careful attention has been given to preserving each tree and adjusting park pathways and amenities to avoid disruption within drip lines whenever feasible.

Currently, visitors do not have the opportunity to fully appreciate the beauty of the Side Creek Greenbelt. However, from the newly created seating area near the upper play zone, individuals will be able to enjoy a broad and unobstructed view of the Greenbelt.

Environmental sustainability is a key focus of the park renovation. Approximately 95% of the park consists of irrigated, manicured bluegrass turf. To enhance water conservation, reduce costs, and improve ecological resilience, this project will convert over 50,000 square feet of irrigated bluegrass into non-irrigated native grass along the eastern boundary of Side Creek Park, adjacent to the Side Creek Greenbelt.

Historically, the maintenance cost for turf is estimated at around $6,000 per acre, while native grass maintenance is approximately $1,500 per acre. This conversion is expected to yield an annual savings of about $5,985 in maintenance expenses. Additionally, projected water usage is anticipated to decrease by 2.15 acre-feet, or roughly 700,580 gallons per year, resulting in an estimated cost reduction of about $5,065 in water expenses.

Question 9*

Discuss ownership and legal access at the proposed project site. Detail any third-party rights, easements, or other encumbrances that exist and their effect on the project.

Provide supporting documentation showing ownership, legal access, and/or permission from landowner in the Attachments section.

The parcel of land that comprises Side Creek Park is owned by the city of Aurora and managed by the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Department. There are no third-party easements or encumbrances that exist. Property information is attached.

Question 10*

Describe long-term plans for maintaining the project. Who will be responsible for maintenance? Estimate annual costs to maintain the project site and explain how maintaining the site will affect the responsible agency's budget.

The City of Aurora is responsible for the upkeep of this park and will continue to do so after the project is finalized and accessible to the public. The ongoing maintenance of the area is supported by the operating budget of the Parks and Forestry Division. The routine maintenance plan encompasses activities such as mowing and trimming, irrigation repairs and adjustments, litter collection, graffiti removal, playground inspections, and snow clearance.

Upon the completion of the renovation and the handover of the project from the contractor to the City, Side Creek Park will be reinstated into the regular maintenance schedule of the Aurora Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Department. Given the current size of this 12.8-acre park, the annual maintenance expense is estimated at $256,000. Expected savings in maintenance costs will arise from the transition from irrigated bluegrass turf to non-irrigated native grass.

Attachments

Attachment 1: Evidence of Support from Highest Authority*

Please attach evidence of support from the agency's highest authority (official letter or resolution) as a PDF document. At a minimum, this document must include: project title, amount of grant funds requested, statement that matching funds are secured and/or efforts to secure funds are underway (include the amount of matching funds committed), and certification that the project will be open to the public or serve a public purpose upon completion. *A sample resolution is available on the ACOS website.*

Please name your file as follows: *Applicant_SupportHighestAuthority.pdf*

COA PROS Side Creek Park_SupportHighestAuthority.pdf

Attachment 2: Evidence of Community Support*

Please attach up to 5 letters of support from users, working groups, community members, volunteers, schools, etc. as a single PDF document. Letters should be specific to the project and dated within the last 6 months.

Please name your file as follows: *Applicant_CommunitySupport.pdf*

COA PROS Side Creek Park_CommunitySupport.pdf

Attachment 3: Documentation of Opposition*

Please attach documentation of opposition to the project (such as letters, petitions, articles, etc.) as a single PDF document. If there is no known opposition, please attach a page stating that this section is not applicable.

Please name your file as follows: *Applicant_Opposition.pdf*

COA PROS Side Creek Park_Oppostion.pdf

Attachment 4: Evidence of Commitment from Project Partners*

Please attach evidence of commitment from project partners (such as partner support letters, commitment to provide cash/in-kind match, or maintenance agreements) as a single PDF document. There is no maximum allowable number of partner support letters. If there are no partners for this project, please attach a page stating that this section is not applicable.

Please name your file as follows: *Applicant_PartnerCommitments.pdf*

COA PROS Side Creek Park_PartnerCommitments.pdf

Attachment 5: Primary Project Photo*

Please attach one high resolution photo in JPG format. Please choose the photo that provides the best overall representation of your project. This photo will be used for presentations and/or publications.

Please name your file as follows: *Applicant_PrimaryPhoto.jpg*

COA PROS Side Creek Park_PrimaryPhoto.jpg

Attachment 6: Photos*

Please attach photos of existing conditions at the project site (including captions) as a single PDF document. Include conceptual drawings if applicable.

Please name your file as follows: *Applicant_Photos.pdf*

COA PROS Side Creek Park _Photos.pdf

Attachment 7: Maps*

Please attach a site map and a vicinity map as a single PDF document.

Please name your file as follows: *Applicant_Maps.pdf*

COA PROS Side Creek Park_Maps.pdf

Attachment 8: Site Visit Form*

Please attach a completed site visit form as a PDF document. *Forms are available on the ACOS website.*

Please name your file as follows: *Applicant_SiteVisitForm.pdf*

COA PROS Side Creek Park_SiteVisitForm.pdf

Attachment 9: Evidence of Property Ownership/Access*

Please attach evidence of property ownership/legal access (ArapaMAP parcel information, title commitment, etc.) as a PDF document.

Please name your file as follows: *Applicant_EvidenceofOwnership.pdf*

COA PROS Side Creek Park_ExidenceofOwnership.pdf

Attachment 10: Other Attachments

Please attach additional supporting documentation (news articles, cost estimates, etc.) as a single PDF document.

Please name your file as follows: *Applicant_OtherAttachments.pdf*

COA PROS Side Creek Park_OtherAttachments.pdf

Confirmation

Please click the "I Agree" button below to certify that your application is complete and ready to submit. Once submitted, applications are final and cannot be returned.*

I agree

File Attachment Summary

Applicant File Uploads

- COA PROS Side Creek Park_SignatureForm.pdf
- COA PROS Side Creek Park_TimelineForm.pdf
- COA PROS Side Creek Park_BudgetForms.pdf
- COA PROS Side Creek Park_SupportHighestAuthority.pdf
- COA PROS Side Creek Park_CommunitySupport.pdf
- COA PROS Side Creek Park_Oppostion.pdf
- COA PROS Side Creek Park_PartnerCommitments.pdf
- COA PROS Side Creek Park_PrimaryPhoto.jpg
- COA PROS Side Creek Park _Photos.pdf
- COA PROS Side Creek Park_Maps.pdf
- COA PROS Side Creek Park_SiteVisitForm.pdf
- COA PROS Side Creek Park_ExidenceofOwnership.pdf
- COA PROS Side Creek Park_OtherAttachments.pdf

ARAPAHOE COUNTY
OPEN SPACES

Certification and Authorized Signature Form

Please use this form for the Arapahoe County Open Spaces grant application.

By signing this form, I certify that:

- **The information included in this application is true to the best of my knowledge.**
- **If funded, the applicant commits to completing the proposed project.**
- **If funded, the applicant accepts responsibility for any cost overruns necessary to complete the project.**
- **If funded, the completed project will be open to the public or will otherwise serve a public purpose.**
- **If funded, the applicant agrees to maintain the completed project site or to continue its maintenance agreement with a partner agency as outlined in the application.**
- **I am authorized to sign on behalf of the applicant.**

Jason Batchelor

Authorized Signature (highest authority in agency or authorized individual)

03.19.25

Date

Jason Batchelor, City Manager

Printed Name and Title

2025 Open Space Grant - Side Creek Park Renovation

Grant Project or Joint Project Name

ARAPAHOE COUNTY OPEN SPACES

2025 Open Space Grant - Project Timeline Form

Use the sample timeline below as a guide to complete your proposed project timeline. Rows or columns may be added as necessary to include any milestones specific to your project. Timeline must be detailed, realistic, and coincide with details provided in the narrative portion of the grant application. Timeline must conclude within two years of project start date.

Task	Aug 2025	Sep 2025	Oct 2025	Nov 2025	Dec 2025	Jan 2026	Feb 2026	Mar 2026	Apr 2026	May 2026	Jun 2026	Jul 2026	Aug 2026	Sep 2026	Oct 2026	Nov 2026	Dec 2026	Jan 2027	Feb 2027	Mar 2027	Apr 2027	May 2027	Jun 2027	Jul 2027
Grant Award Notification	■																							
IGA Executed (Project Start Date)		■																						
Design Documents	■	■																						
Construction Documents			■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■														
Solicitation of Vendors											■													
Project Bid Award(s)												■												
Order Materials													■											
Ground/Site Prep													■	■										
Construction														■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■		
Installation															■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■		
Grand Opening																							■	
Final Report																								■

Summary Budget Form - STANDARD Grants (25% minimum cash match)

Source of Funds	Date Funds Secured	Grant Request	Cash Match	Total Project Funds
Arapahoe County Open Spaces Grant	8/1/2025	$600,000		**$600,000**
Applicant Cash Match	1/1/2025		$2,557,129	**$2,557,129**
Partner Cash Match/Other Funding Source (Specify)				**$0**
Partner Cash Match/Other Funding Source (Specify)				**$0**
Partner Cash Match/Other Funding Source (Specify)				**$0**
Totals		***$600,000***	***$2,557,129***	**$3,157,129**

MATCH REQUIREMENTS		
	Total Project Cost:	**$3,157,129.00**
	Cash Match % Required:	**25%**
	Cash Match % Budgeted:	**81%**
	Cash Match Amount Required:	**$789,282.25**
	Cash Match Amount Budgeted:	**$2,557,129.00**

**match fields calculate automatically*

Applicant: City of Aurora Parks, Recreation and Open Space

Project Title: Side Creek Park Renovation

** Please do not include in-kind match on the Budget Forms*

DETAILED EXPENSE WORKSHEET

	Budget Category	Line Item Detail Description	ACOS Grant	Grantee Cash Match	Partner Cash Match	TOTAL
1	Mobilization			$158,000.00		$158,000.00
2	Survey	Layout staking		$50,000.00		$50,000.00
3	Erosion Control	BMPs required for permitting		$60,000.00		$60,000.00
4	Site Prep & Demo	Clearing & grubbing, construction fence, tree protection, removal & disposal		$289,000.00		$289,000.00
		of playground, basketball & tennis courts, picnic shelter and concrete flatwork				
5	Earthwork			$128,000.00		$128,000.00
6	Playground	Play equipment, shade shelter, and fencing	$300,000.00	$189,329.00		$489,329.00
7	Safety Surfacing	Safety surfacing, base and underdrain system		$265,000.00		$265,000.00
8	Tennis Court	Base, post-tensioned concrete (5"), fencing, gates, windscreens, nets		$145,000.00		$145,000.00
9	Basketball Court	Reconstruction of basketball full-court and base		$94,500.00		$94,500.00
10	Picnic Shelter	Picnic shelter replacement and concrete flatwork		$92,000.00		$92,000.00
11	Concrete Flatwork and Trails	Concrete path, concrete ramps, curb ramps and curbs	$300,000.00	$373,100.00		$673,100.00
12	Site Furnishings	Benches, tables, BBQs, hot coal bin, trash receptacles		$68,000.00		$68,000.00
13	Landscape	Soil prep & native seeding (bluegrass conversion), bluegrass replacement,		$143,000.00		$143,000.00
		and plant material (trees & shrubs)				
14	Irrigation Sytem	Irrigation system renovation		$175,000.00		$175,000.00
15	Miscellaneous Project Costs	Park signs		$10,500.00		$10,500.00
		Security lights		$54,000.00		$54,000.00
		Materials testing		$32,000.00		$32,000.00
		Permit fees		$10,000.00		$10,000.00
		Traffic Control		$12,700.00		$12,700.00
16	Add Alternates:					
	Tennis Court	Base, post-tensioned concrete (5"), fencing, gates, windscreens, nets		$145,000.00		$145,000.00
	Vault Privy	Remove existing portable toilet, new vault privy, adjacent concrete flatwork		$63,000.00		$63,000.00
TOTALS			**$600,000.00**	**$2,557,129.00**	**$0.00**	**$3,157,129.00**

Applicant: City of Aurora Parks, Recreation & Open Space **Project Title:** Side Creek Park Renovation **Date:** March 20, 2025

15151 E. Alameda Parkway
Aurora, Colorado 80012

March 18, 2025

Arapahoe County Open Spaces
Open Space and Trails Advisory Board
6934 S Lima St, Unit A
Centennial, CO 80112

Re: 2025 Open Space Grant Application – Side Creek Park Renovation

Dear Arapahoe County Open Spaces and OSTAB Members:

Please accept this letter of commitment on behalf of the City of Aurora, Colorado for support of the Side Creek Park Renovation grant application. This project will provide a much-needed renovation to a well-used neighborhood park that has not seen significant updates in over 31 years. Some park amenities have not seen updates in 40 years.

Aurora is requesting $600,000 in grant funds from the Arapahoe County Open Space Tax program. The City of Aurora has secured a cash match of $2,557,129.00 comprised of Arapahoe County Open Space Tax Shareback funds, Conservation Trust Funds and Park Development Funds. The City will be responsible for any cost overruns. Maintenance and care of the facility will be managed as part of our ongoing maintenance budget.

If awarded, the City Manager is designated as the authorized signatory for the grant agreement. Grant reports will be authorized by the Director of Parks, Recreation and Open Space.

By approving this grant application for $600,000, the Arapahoe County Open Space and Trails Advisory Board will contribute to a unique site for citizens in an under-served area of Aurora. Thank you for your on-going support of our parks, open space and trail system.

Sincerely,

Jason Batchelor
City Manager

April 10, 2025

Arapahoe County Open Spaces

Open Space and Trails Advisory Board

6934 S Lima St, Unit A

Centennial, CO. 80012

Re: Open Space Grant Request- Side Creek Park Renovation

Dear Members of the Board,

I am writing to express my support for the grant application submitted by the City of Aurora's Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Department for the renovation of Side Creek Park, located at 19001 E Colorado Dr, Aurora, CO. 80017.

I have been a resident of the Side Creek Neighborhood for 7 years and have welcomed our two children while living in this community. We have always used and cherished the Side Creek Park for recreation, exercise, and enrichment activities for the children of the neighborhood. Prior to having children, my wife and I would take our two dogs to the park around 3-4 times a week, which was always a pleasant experience.

As we evolve as a family, we are noticing some elements of the park which could use repair and updating. The green to the south of the gazebo is uneven and ravaged by prairie dogs and other subterranean creatures. The playground equipment is old and could use some updating including more enriching and unique features while keeping child safety in mind. The tennis courts are cracked and have pieces of asphalt missing which creates hazards for players. The basketball courts seem to be the most used element by the neighborhood youth, but the hoops are uneven and unaesthetic, and the court is open on 2 sides allowing balls to roll away.

We are a family of four and live around .8 miles from the park and utilize the powerline trail or neighborhood streets to walk to the park. We would love to see some upgrades to the park features and appreciate any effort contributed by the county as well.

Thank you for your time!

Johnathan Harris

1408 S Bahama St

Aurora, CO. 80017

March 21, 202

Arapahoe County Open Spaces
Open Space and Trails Advisory Board
6934 S. Lima St., Unit A
Centennial, CO 80012

Re: Grant Request for Side Creek Park Renovation

Dear Members of the Board:

I am writing in support of the City of Auora's Parks, Recreation and Open Space Department Grant request for the renovation of Side Creek Park located at 19001 E. Colorado Dr., Aurora, CO 80017.

I have lived in Aurora for 66 years. I have grown up and raised my children in Aurora and supported my children and now my 8 year old grandson in being active at Aurora parks, recreation centers and open space areas.

I have witnessed and enjoyed what updating a park can do for a community. The basketball court, playground and tennis court were in bad shape in my community. The playground equipment was old and outdated. The park was updated by adding a modern playground structures, converting the tennis court into a mini pitch, painting and resurfacing the basketball court, and adding new hoops and a tall fence at either end. Park benches, new trees and a playground picnic shelter were added. Before the remodel very few people used the park. It was sad to see an empty park. The improvements brought life back to my community park. People of all ages use every part of the park now. It is wonderful to see how many people are using the park every day! As a 30 year retired school teacher, parent and grandma, I know how important it is to keep youth and adults active. The Aurora Parks and Recreation department did an awesome job! We love our "new" park!

Side Creek Park is a neighborhood park that includes similar amenities to my communities neighborhood park- a playground, a basketball court, tennis courts, a picnic shelter and a loop path. Just like my neighborhood park, due to age and wear, the park use has greatly diminished. Renovating the park will make the park more inviting for users of all ages and abilities. The renovation of Side Creek Park includes a new playground, renovation of the picnic shelter, tennis and basketball courts, and a wider loop path. Safety and accessibility will be improved. This project will ensure that Side Creek Park remains a vibrant, multi-use facility.

Please consider funding this grant application. I know for a fact that a park update can put life back into a park! People new to Aurora often comment to me about Aurora's well kept parks. We have an amazing Parks and Recreation Department in Aurora. I am confident they will do a great job renovating Side Creek Park.

Thank you!

Bobbie McClure
City of Aurora Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Chair

March 19, 2025

Arapahoe County Open Spaces
Open Space and Trails Advisory Board
6934 S. Lima St., Unit A
Centennial, CO 80012

Re: Side Creek Park Renovation

Dear Arapahoe County Open Space and Trails Advisory Board members,

I am writing to express support for the Aurora Parks, Recreation & Open Space Department's grant proposal for the Side Creek Park Renovation. This project will increase the width of all internal park paths from five feet to eight and ten feet, to promote active lifestyles and provide safer opportunities for mixed trail use. The wider paths will enable park visitors to not only better access facilities within Side Creek Park but also make it easier for trail users to pass through the park to reach nearby trails, including the Powerline, Conservatory West, Side Creek Greenbelt trails and the south entrance to Buckley Space Force Base.

Bicycle Aurora is a group of concerned volunteer citizens and businesses interested in improving the quality of bicycle trails and routes throughout Aurora. We advocate for, and strongly support, enhancing the existing trail network in the city to better serve the bicycling community as well as other trail uses.

Again, Bicycle Aurora is pleased to support a project that enhances our trail system and offers the surrounding neighborhood of Side Creek an alternative to driving. We request that Arapahoe County favorably consider grant support for this project.

Sincerely,

Tom Tobiassen,
Bicycle Aurora

Attachment 3: Documentation of Opposition

This section is not applicable as there is no known opposition to the Side Creek Park Renovation.

Attachment 4: Evidence of Commitment from Project Partners

This section is not applicable as there are no partners for this project.

Accessible curb cut at the corner of S Dukirk St. and E Colorado Dr.

Eastern park entrance looking north

Park path along E Colorado Dr looking west

Park path looking north along the Side Creek Greenbelt

Lower Play Area

Upper Play Area

Lower play area looking north towards upper play area

Concrete pavement at picnic shelter after running irrigation system

Picnic Shelter Roof

Picnic Shelter

Tennis Courts

Basketball Couts

Typical Concrete Picnic Table

Playground Seating

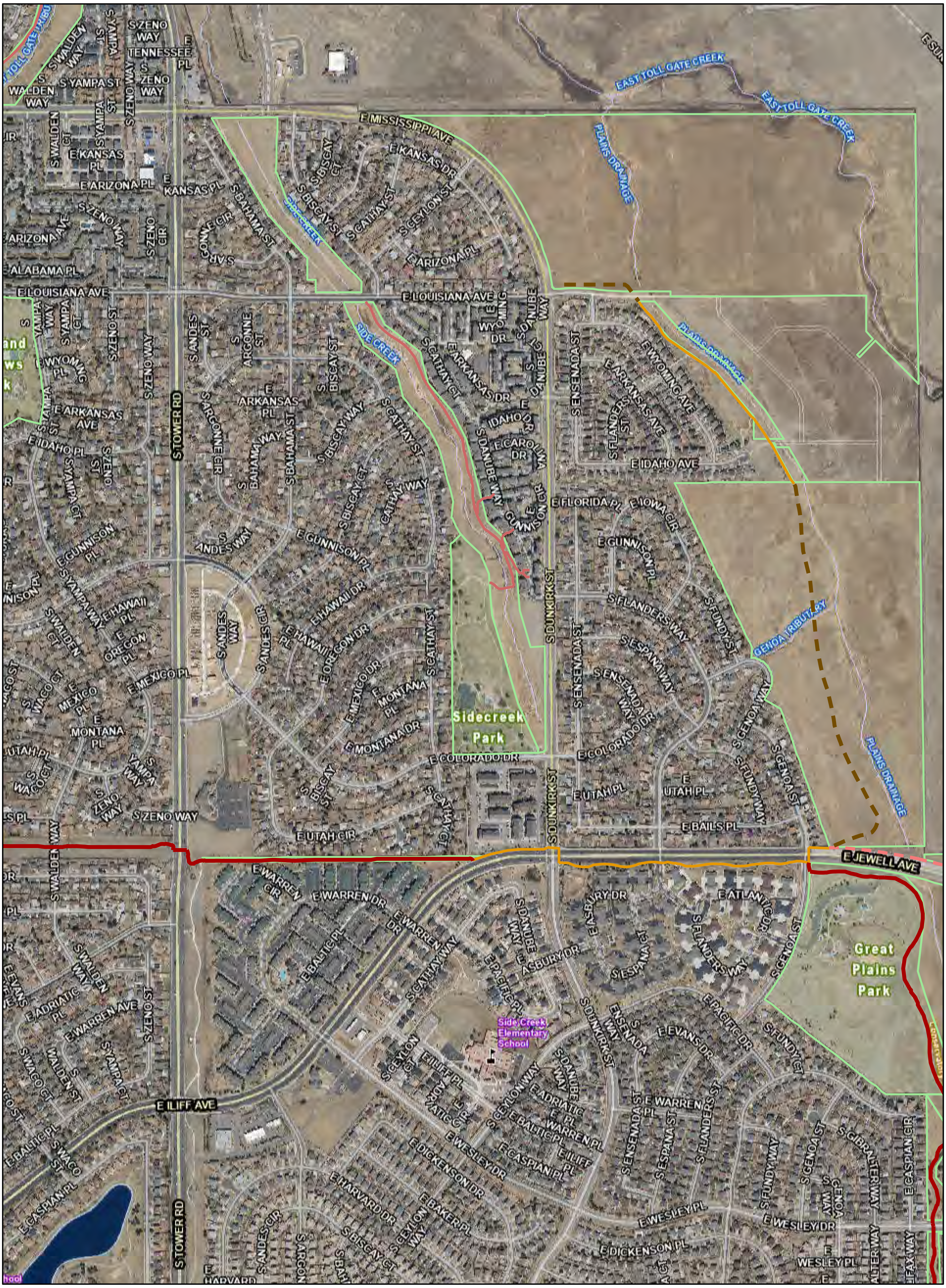
Path at playground entrance adjacent rules and regulations sign

Sculpture

Path at tennis courts looking south

Tennis court and upper playground entrances

Side Creek Park - Vicinity Map



3/21/2025, 1:48:23 PM

Existing Regional Trails

Hard Surface Regional Trail

Proposed/Planned/Programmed Regional Trails

Proposed Soft Surface Regional Trail

Existing Local Trails

Hard Surface Local Trail

Proposed/Planned/Programmed Local Trails

Proposed Hard Surface Local Trail

Existing Sidewalk Connectors

Parks / Open Space / Golf Course Outlines

1:8,000

0 455 910 1,820 ft

0 140 280 560 m

Aurora

Side Creek Park - Site Map

3/21/2025, 1:46:09 PM

Existing Local Trails

Hard Surface Local Trail

Parks / Open Space / Golf Course Outlines

1:2,000

0 115 230 460 ft

0 30 60 120 m

Aurora

ARAPAHOE COUNTY
OPEN SPACES

Site Visit Form

Aurora Parks, Recreation & Open Space
Applicant

Standard Grant
Grant Category

Side Creek Park Renovation
Title of Grant Project

Thomas Cirillo
Site Visit Representative Name

tcirillo@auroragov.org (718) 683-8690
Site Visit Representative Email and Cell Phone #
cell # will be used to contact you on site visit day if necessary (running late, weather issues, etc.)

1. **Please provide the project address or the closest major intersection.**

   19001 E Colorado Dr, Aurora, CO 80017
   E Colorado Drive & S Dunkirk Street

2. **Specify a meeting location at the project site.**

   Meet at the corner of E Colorado Drive & S Dunkirk Street
   (Southeast corner of the park)

3. **Provide other helpful information, for example parking instructions, availability of restrooms on site or nearby, necessary walking from parking to site, or other clarification.** *Driving directions from the ACOS office (6934 S. Lima St., Centennial) are not required, but may be included if the site is difficult to find.*

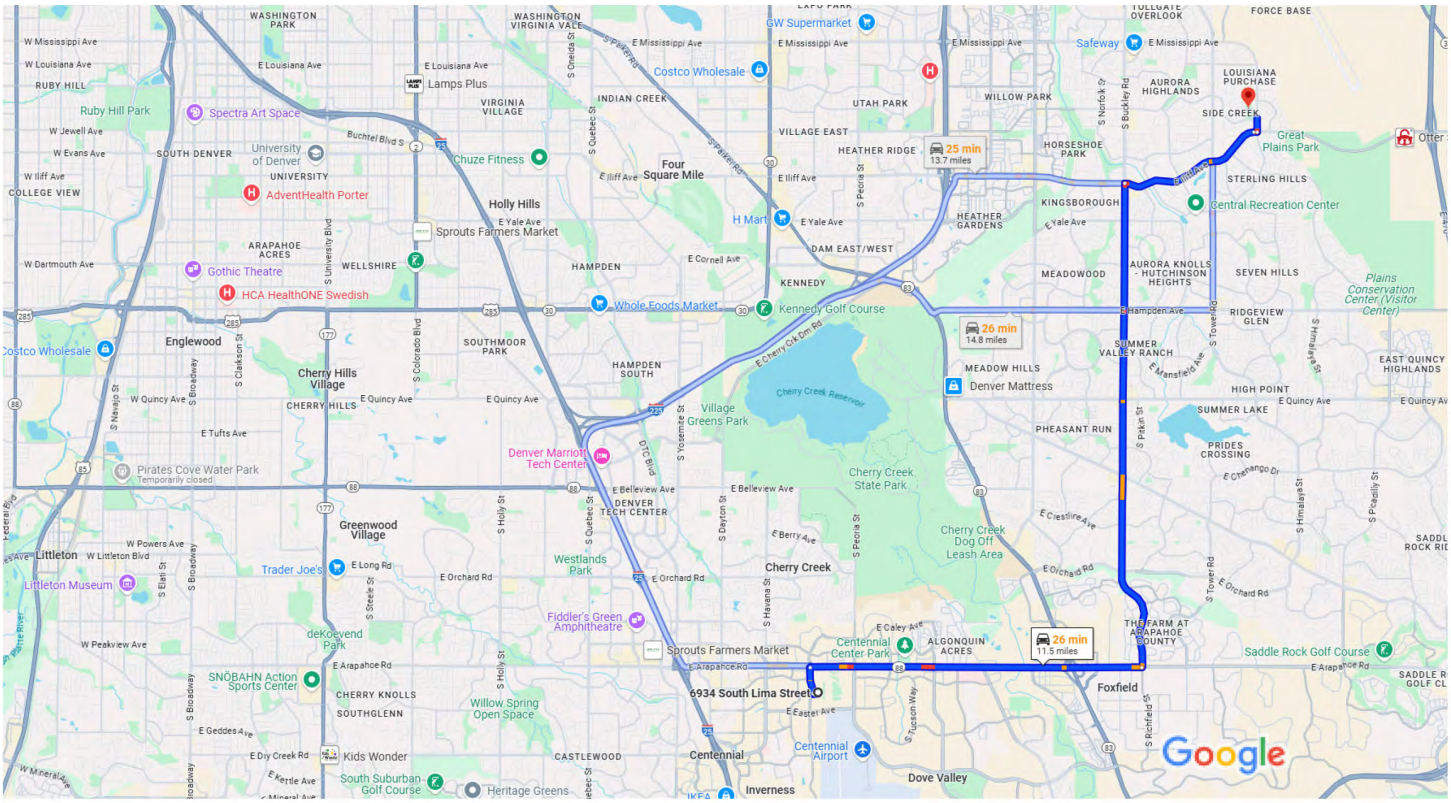
   On-street parking is available along the southern border of the park on E Colorado Drive

   There is a portable restroom near the entrance of the park

Google Maps

6934 S Lima St, Englewood, CO 80112 to Side Creek Park, Aurora, CO 80017

Drive 11.5 miles, 26 min



Map data ©2025 Google 1 mi

6934 S Lima St
Englewood, CO 80112

Continue to S Lima St

29 sec (358 ft)

1. Head west toward S Lima St

256 ft

2. Slight right toward S Lima St

102 ft

Take E Arapahoe Rd and S Buckley Rd to S Dunkirk St in Aurora

24 min (11.5 mi)

3. Turn right onto S Lima St

0.3 mi

4. Use the right 2 lanes to turn right onto CO-88 E/E Arapahoe Rd
   Continue to follow E Arapahoe Rd

3.7 mi

5. Use the left 2 lanes to turn left onto S Buckley Rd

5.6 mi

6. Turn right onto E Iliff Ave

1.7 mi

7. Continue onto E Jewell Ave

177 ft

8. Turn left onto S Dunkirk St

0.2 mi

Side Creek Park
Aurora, CO 80017

PIN:	032300701
AIN:	1975-22-3-14-004
Situs Address:	
Situs City:	

Full Owner List:	Aurora City Of
Ownership Type:	Fee Simple Ownership
Owner Address:	15151 E Alameda Pkwy Suite 3200
City/State/Zip:	Aurora, CO 80012-1555

Neighborhood:	Stone Ridge Park (East)
Neighborhood Code:	2131.00
Acreage:	12.8400
Land Use:	
Legal Desc:	Tract B Blk 1 Heather Ridge Village Sub 2nd Flg Deer Trail Park (Side Creek Park)

Notifications!

	Total	**Building**	**Land**
2024 Appraised Value	6,420	0	6,420
2024 Assessed Value	1,791	0	1,791
		2024 Mill Levy:	95.829

	Units	**Land Use**
Land Line	12.8400 AC	Tract

Note: Land Line data above corresponds to the initial appraised value and does not reflect subsequent appeal related adjustments, if any.

* Not all parcels have available photos / sketches.

In some cases a sketch may be difficult to read. Please contact the Assessors Office for assistance. Measurements taken from the exterior of the building.

The Arapahoe County Assessors Office does not warranty the accuracy of any sketch, nor assumes any responsibility or liability to any user.

Although some parcels may have multiple buildings and photos, at this time our system is limited to 1 sketch and 1 photo per parcel number. Sorry for any inconvenience.

New Search

Sidecreek Park: 1975-22-3-14-004

N W E S

0 195 390 780 1,170 1,560 Feet

Not to scale

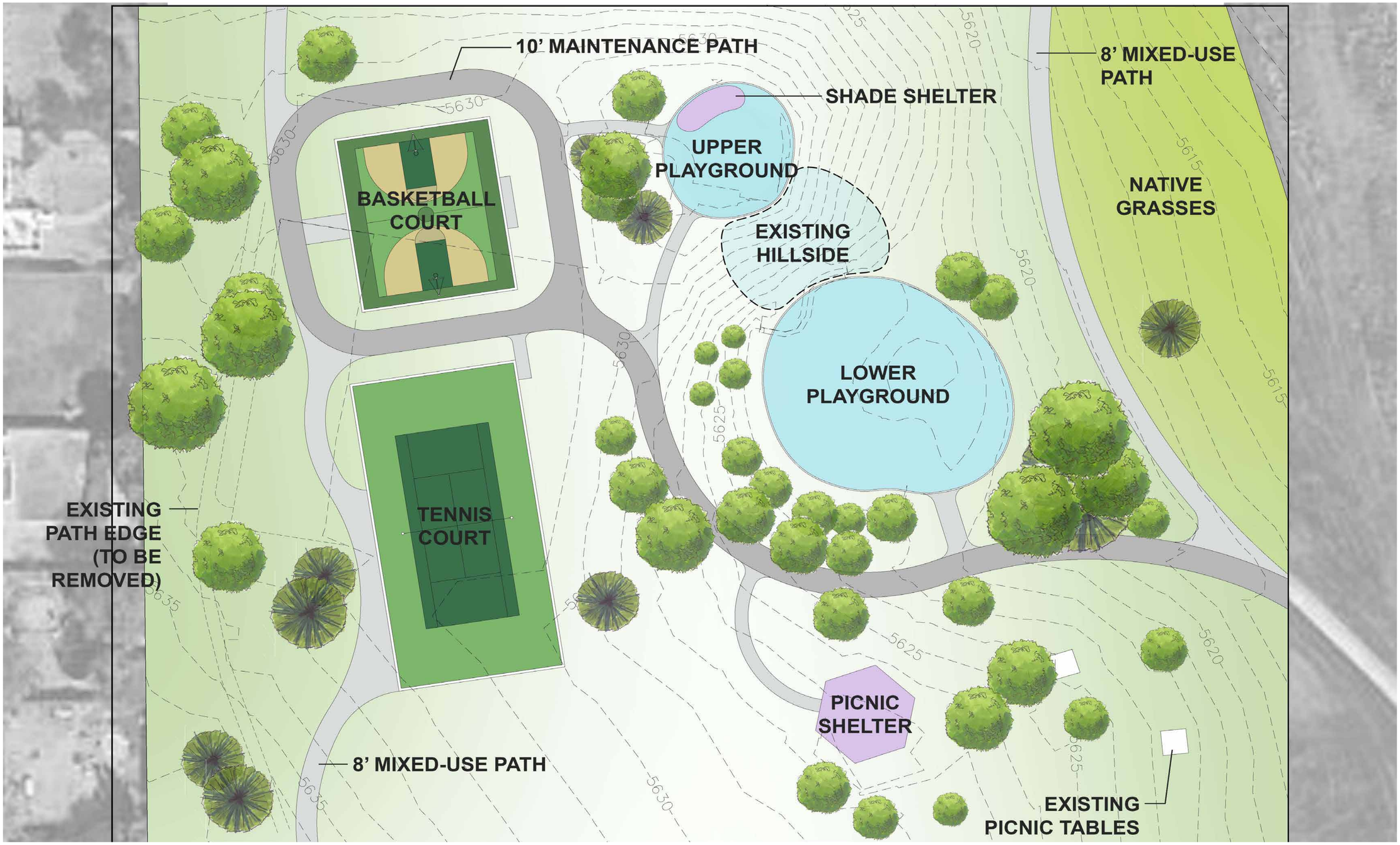
ARAPAHOE COUNTY MAKES NO REPRESENTATION
OR WARRANTY AS TO THE ACCURACY OF THIS MAP
OR THE DATA THAT IT DISPLAYS.
ARAPAHOE COUNTY ASSUMES NO RESPONSIBILITY
OR LIABILITY TO ANY USER.
THIS MAP IS NOT A LEGAL DOCUMENT.
IT IS INTENDED TO SERVE AS AN AID IN
GRAPHIC REPRESENTATION ONLY

Map Generated On: 3/14/2025

Generated by Arapahoe County's ArapaMAP

Map Location

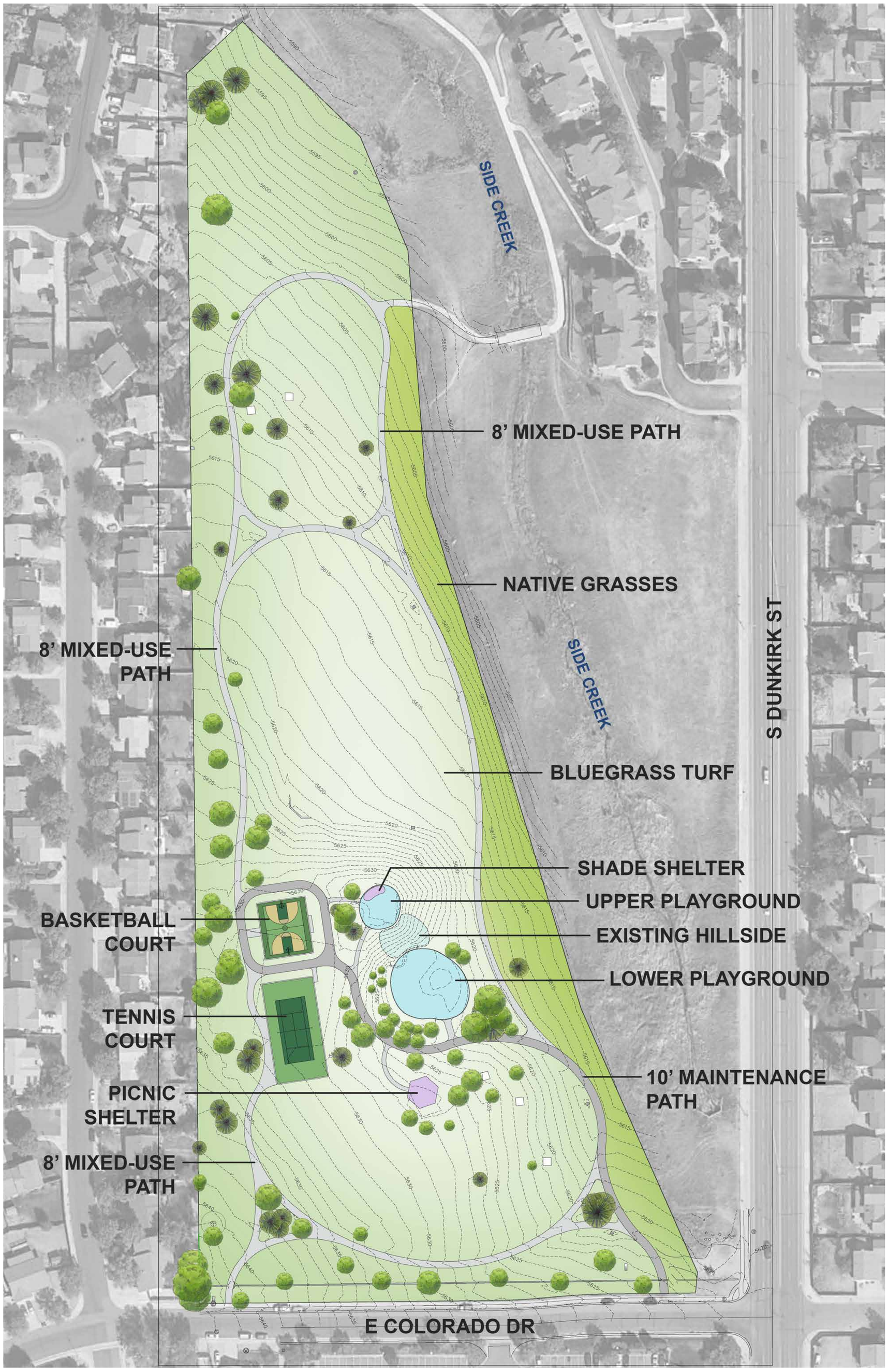
CONCEPT PLAN ENLARGEMENT



SIDE CREEK PARK RENOVATION

CITY OF AURORA PARKS, RECREATION & OPEN SPACE DEPARTMENT

CONCEPT PLAN



SIDE CREEK PARK RENOVATION

CITY OF AURORA PARKS, RECREATION & OPEN SPACE DEPARTMENT

RESOLUTION NO. R2025- ____

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, EXPRESSING THE AURORA CITY COUNCIL'S APPROVAL OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF AURORA COLORADO AND ARAPAHOE COUNTY FOR THE RENOVATION OF SIDE CREEK PARK USING A GRANT FROM THE ARAPAHOE COUNTY OPEN SPACE PROGRAM FUND

WHEREAS, on November 2, 2021, the voters of Arapahoe County ("County") permanently reauthorized, until repeal, a countywide sales and use tax to be deposited in the County Open Space Fund to be used for specified open space purposes as set forth in County Resolution No. 21-263 ("Open Space Resolution"); and

WHEREAS, the Open Space Resolution authorizes the County to award discretionary grants from its Open Space Fund to municipalities and special districts, as more fully set forth in the Open Space Resolution; and

WHEREAS, the City of Aurora, Colorado ("City") submitted a proposal to the County for the renovation of Side Creek Park using grant funds from the County Open Space Fund; and

WHEREAS, on July 22, 2025, the County approved the City's grant proposal and authorized a grant of $600,000.00 for the Side Creek Park Renovation ("Grant Project"); and

WHEREAS, the grant award to the City is contingent upon the City contributing the remaining 81% share of the total Grant Project cost.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, THAT:

Section 1. The Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Aurora Colorado and Arapahoe County for the Side Creek Park Renovation using a grant of $600,000.00 from the Arapahoe County Open Space Program Fund is hereby approved.

Section 2. The Mayor and City Clerk are hereby authorized to execute the attached agreement in substantially the form presented at this meeting with such technical additions, deletions, and variations as may be deemed necessary or appropriate by the City Attorney.

Section 3. All resolutions or parts of resolutions of the City in conflict herewith are hereby rescinded.

Section 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately without reconsideration.

RESOLVED AND PASSED this _____ day of _____, 2025.

_____
MIKE COFFMAN, Mayor

ATTEST:

_____
KADEE RODRIGUEZ, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

PETER A. SCHULTE, CITY ATTORNEY

By: Tim Joyce MK
_____
TIM JOYCE, Assistant City Attorney

CITY OF AURORA
Council Agenda Commentary

Item Title: Intergovernmental (IGA) with Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) for Maintenance of the Nine Mile Pedestrian Bridge Project
Item Initiator: Megan Cox, Project Coordinator, Public Works
Staff Source/Legal Source: Bret Banwart, Engineering Supervisor, Public Works / Michelle Gardner, Senior Assistant City Attorney
Outside Speaker: N/A
Council Goal: 2012: 3.0--Ensure excellent infrastructure that is well maintained and operated.

COUNCIL MEETING DATES:

Study Session: N/A

Regular Meeting: 9/8/2025

2nd Regular Meeting (if applicable): N/A

Item requires a Public Hearing: ☐ Yes ☒ No

ITEM DETAILS *(Click in highlighted area below bullet point list to enter applicable information.)*

- Agenda long title
- Waiver of reconsideration requested, and if so, why
- Sponsor name
- Staff source name, title, department / Legal source name and title
- Outside speaker name and organization
- Estimated time (For Study Session items only, indicate combined time needed for presentation and discussion)

R2025-101 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, APPROVING THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF AURORA AND THE COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (CDOT) FOR MAINTENANCE OF THE NINE MILE STATION BIKE AND PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE PROJECT
Waiver of reconsideration is requested as Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) has informed the city of their desire to execute this agreement prior to allowing the project to be bid for construction. With anticipated design and approvals being completed later this summer, allowing this maintenance Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) to move quickly through the execution process may prevent project delays.
Bret Banwart, Engineering Supervisor, Public Works / Michelle Gardner, Senior Assistant City Attorney

ACTIONS(S) PROPOSED *(Check all appropriate actions)*

☐ Approve Item and Move Forward to Study Session
☐ Approve Item as Proposed at Study Session
☐ Approve Item and Move Forward to Regular Meeting
☒ Approve Item as Proposed at Regular Meeting
☐ Information Only

☒ Approve Item with Waiver of Reconsideration
Reason for waiver is described in the Item Details field above.

PREVIOUS ACTIONS OR REVIEWS:

Policy Committee Name: Transportation, Airports & Public Works

Policy Committee Date: 8/21/2025

Action Taken/Follow-up: ***(Check all that apply)***

☒ Recommends Approval

☐ Does Not Recommend Approval

☐ Forwarded Without Recommendation

☒ Minutes Not Available

☐ Minutes Attached

HISTORY *(Dates reviewed by City council, Policy Committees, Boards and Commissions, or Staff. Summarize pertinent comments. ATTACH MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS, POLICY COMMITTEES AND BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS.)*

At the July 12, 2017 TAPS policy committee meeting, City Staff briefed the committee on DRCOG exploring the development of a Dual Model Project Selection process for the upcoming 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Project (TIP) cycle.

At the April 11, 2018 TAPS policy committee meeting, more information was provided on the process. Specifically, that the 2020-2023 TIP cycle would include Regional and Sub-regional Share Projects. Sub-regional County Forums would be responsible for soliciting, selecting, recommending and submitting a list of projects to the DRCOG Board.

At the January 16, 2019 TAPS policy committee meeting, an update was provided that IGAs with Adams and Arapahoe Counties had been executed by the City for the Sub-regional Forum TIP Selection Process. The call for projects had been completed and a total of eight projects totaling approximately $32M had been selected, including the Nine Mile Pedestrian Bridge Project.

At the April 23, 2020 TAPS policy committee meeting, staff presented a funding IGA with Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) for the City to receive the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) funds for the Nine Mile Bike and Pedestrian Bridge Project. TAPS committee approved the item up to Study Session which was then carried forward to the June 1st, 2020 Regular Council meeting and approved by Council.

At the March 3, 2022 TAPS policy committee meeting, staff presented a summary of the four current DRCOG TIP projects which additional federal stimulus money was allocated to. Committee was advised that minor IGA amendments would be required to receive these additional funds. The Nine Mile pedestrian bridge was one of those projects. The project's IGA Amendment #1 was then approved to move forward and subsequently approved at Regular Session on March 28th, 2022.

At Study Session, on March 6th, 2023, the City's Federal, State and Intergovernmental Relations (FSIR) Committee presented projects the City was able to pursue for Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) for FY2024, of which Nine Mile Bike & Pedestrian Bridge was one. On March 10, 2023, the City of Aurora requested CDS funds though Senator Michael Bennet's and Congressman Crow's offices. $850,000 was subsequently awarded to the Nine Mile Bike and Pedestrian Bridge project, allocated by FHWA to DRCOG/CDOT in May of 2024, and in turn, funding modifications to DRCOG's FY 2024-2027 TIP Project were published in June of 2024 adding these funds.

At the February 2024 winter budget workshop, a project re-design and additional funds for the Nine Mile Bike & Pedestrian Bridge Project were discussed to accommodate the project budget's shortfall due to construction price escalations. The project's redesign was discussed to include removal of the elevators and instead provide ADA compliant concrete ramps to save money. $4M of additional funds from the City for the Nine Mile Pedestrian Bridge were provided in the 2025 City Manager's Proposed Budget. Additional funds were also presented and discussed including developer contributions, City ARPA Funding, and the Congressionally Directed Spending award.

In June of 2024, the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) amended the project award to add $850,000 of funding to Nine Mile Bike and Pedestrian Bridge project after receiving additional federal funding via

Congressionally Directed Spending appropriations. A second Amendment to the Funding IGA was required to receive the funds. This second amendment was moved forward and approved at Regular Session on February 24, 2025 (Meeting Minutes Attached). Below is a general project description of the project and maintenance items.

At the August 21, 2025, TAPS policy committee meeting, staff presented a status update of the project and the Operations and Maintenance (O&M) IGA with CDOT. Staff also requested to skip Study Session due to time sensitivities with project start timelines. The project's O&M IGA with CDOT was approved to move forward, skipping study session, to appear at Regular Session on September 8th, 2022.

ITEM SUMMARY *(Brief description of item, discussion, key points, recommendations, etc.)*

Project Scope

The City of Aurora plans to construct a pedestrian and bicycle bridge that will span Colorado State Highway 83 (Parker Road) west of I-225. The bridge will provide a safer and more convenient connection between the RTD Nine Mile Rail and Bus Station and adjacent residences and business including a large urban renewal and redevelopment site (The Point at Nine Mile Station) on the north side of Parker Road. This is an area Metro Vision has identified as an emerging Urban Center.

The single span bridge will be covered with a 11'-6" wide path and will include pedestrian lighting to ensure full visibility. The landing structures for the project will include covered stairs and concrete ramps on both sides of the bridge, providing Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) access. The stairs will have bicycle wheel troughs for ease of use by cyclists.

Additional Amenities include Aurora Art In Public Places integrated art enhancements and landscaping installed at the north landing as part of The Point at Nine Mile Station Master Development site.

Schedule

Dates listed below are approximate and subject to change. Project milestones include:

- Complete Final Design and obtain City, RTD, CDOT, and FHWA Approvals
- Advertise Project: Fall 2025
- Construction (18 Months): Winter 2025 - Summer 2027

Project Budget

The funding for the project is outlined in the table below:

SOURCES

Project Funding:		
Revised Fed. TIP Grant:	$	5,766,000
Revised TIP Match:	$	1,634,000
Overmatch	$	1,400,000
Adnl Approved City CIP Funds	$	4,000,000
AIPP Contribution (Art/Aesthetics)	$	450,000
Federal CDS/Earmark Funds	$	850,000
Future City CIP Funds (Developer Reimbursed)	$	1,600,000
City SLRF FUNDS	$	650,000

TOTAL SOURCES:	**$**	**16,350,000**

USES

Costs:		
Design Costs	$	1,410,000
Construction Contract	$	13,250,000
Adnl Constr. Phase Costs (CM/CI, Utilities, Permits)	$	1,000,000
SubTotal:	**$**	**15,660,000**
Contingency (4%)	$	690,000

TOTAL USES:	**$**	**16,350,000**

Maintenance Item

The larger improvements to be constructed with the 9 Mile Pedestrian Bridge Project are to be owned and maintained by the City of Aurora. These include the bridge itself spanning over Parker Rd, and the Landing structures at each end (i.e. the concrete ADA Ramps, stairs, and associated canopies). However some minor improvements within Parker Rd. will remain the as CDOT's to maintain including median barrier, relocated sign structure and modified inlet. Further details and map of these improvements can be found in Exhibit A of the attached IGA.

FISCAL IMPACT

Select all that apply. (If no fiscal impact, click that box and skip to "Questions for Council")

☐ Revenue Impact ☒ Budgeted Expenditure Impact ☐ Non-Budgeted Expenditure Impact
☐ Workload Impact ☐ No Fiscal Impact

REVENUE IMPACT
Provide the revenue impact or N/A if no impact. (What is the estimated impact on revenue? What funds would be impacted? Provide additional detail as necessary.)

N/A

BUDGETED EXPENDITURE IMPACT
Provide the budgeted expenditure impact or N/A if no impact. (List Org/Account # and fund. What is the amount of budget to be used? Does this shift existing budget away from existing programs/services? Provide additional detail as necessary.)

City Match and CIP funds are budgeted in 49675 – Nine Mile Ped Bridge, and in 25536 – ARPA Funds

NON-BUDGETED EXPENDITURE IMPACT
Provide the non-budgeted expenditure impact or N/A if no impact. (Provide information on non-budgeted costs. Include Personal Services, Supplies and Services, Interfund Charges, and Capital needs. Provide additional detail as necessary.)

N/A

WORKLOAD IMPACT
Provide the workload impact or N/A if no impact. (Will more staff be needed or is the change absorbable? If new FTE(s) are needed, provide numbers and types of positions, and a duty summary. Provide additional detail as necessary.)

N/A. Workload will be absorbed into FTE positions in Transportation Project Delivery unit of Public Works Engineering.

QUESTIONS FOR COUNCIL

Does Council approve the Resolution for the Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Aurora and the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) for Maintenance of portions of the Nine Mile Pedestrian Bridge Project with the requested waiver of reconsideration?

LEGAL COMMENTS

Governments may cooperate or contract with one another to provide any function, service, or facility lawfully authorized to each of the cooperating or contracting units only if such cooperation or contracts are authorized by each party thereto with the approval of its legislative body or other authority having the power to so approve. (Colo. Rev. Stat. Section 29-1-203(1)). City Council may, by resolution, enter into intergovernmental agreements with other governmental units or special districts for the joint use of buildings, equipment or facilities, and for furnishing or receiving commodities or services. (City Charter Section 10-12). (M. Gardner)

Motion to approve shall include a waiver of reconsideration.

RESOLUTION NO. R2025-_____

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, APPROVING THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF AURORA AND THE COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (CDOT) FOR MAINTENANCE OF THE NINE MILE STATION BIKE AND PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE PROJECT

WHEREAS, the City of Aurora, Colorado (the "City"), and the State of Colorado Department of Transportation ("CDOT"), collectively "the Parties", as government agencies, are authorized by the provisions of Colo. Const., art. XIV, § 18(2)(a) and C.R.S. §§ 29-1-201, et seq., to contract with one another to provide any function, service or facility lawfully authorized to each; and

WHEREAS, the City has designed and constructed improvements for the Nine Mile Station Bike and Pedestrian Bridge Project over Parker Road in Aurora, Colorado ("Project"); and

WHEREAS, the Parties recognize the importance and benefit to their respective systems by the City's operation and maintenance of a portion of the Project; and

WHEREAS, the Parties desire to agree upon the division of responsibility for their respective maintenance and operation obligations (the "Work") on the Project as shown in Exhibit A to the Intergovernmental Agreement; and

WHEREAS, Section 10-12 of the City Charter authorizes City Council to approve, by resolution, the execution of contracts, and amendments thereto, with other governmental units for furnishing or receiving commodities or services; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Aurora finds and determines that it is in the best interests of the City and its citizens to authorize the execution of the Intergovernmental Agreement by and between the parties for maintenance of the Nine Mile Station Bike and Pedestrian Bridge Project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO:

Section 1. The Resolution approving the Intergovernmental Agreement between the City and CDOT for maintenance of the Nine Mile Station Bike and Pedestrian Bridge Project is hereby approved.

Section 2. The Mayor and the City Clerk are hereby authorized to execute and deliver the Intergovernmental Agreement on behalf of the City in substantially the form presented at this meeting, with such technical additions, deletions, and variations as the City Attorney may deem necessary or appropriate and not inconsistent with this Resolution.

Section 3. All resolutions or parts of resolutions of the City in conflict herewith are hereby rescinded.

Section 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately without reconsideration.

RESOLVED AND PASSED this ____ day of _____, 2025.

_____
MIKE COFFMAN, Mayor

ATTEST:

_____
KADEE RODRIGUEZ, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

PETER A. SCHULTE, CITY ATTORNEY

RLA
Michelle Gardner
_____
MICHELLE GARDNER, Sr. Assistant City Attorney

STATE OF COLORADO INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT
Signature and Cover Page

State Agency
Department of Transportation

Agreement Routing Number
25-HA1-XC-00045

Local Agency
City of Aurora

Agreement Effective Date
The later of the Effective Date or 4/22/2025

Agreement Description 9 MILE STA BIKE/PED BRDG OVER PARKER RD

Project #	**Region**	**Agreement Writer**	**Agreement Maximum Amount**
STU M055-056 (23594)	# R1	DM	$0.00

THE PARTIES HERETO HAVE EXECUTED THIS AGREEMENT

Each person signing this Agreement represents and warrants that he or she is duly authorized to execute this Agreement and to bind the Party authorizing his or her signature.

LOCAL AGENCY
City of Aurora

By:_____
*Signature

Name:_____
(Print Name)

Title:_____
(Print Title)

Date:_____

STATE OF COLORADO
Jared S. Polis, Governor
Department of Transportation
Shoshana M. Lew, Executive Director

_____
Keith Stefanik, P.E., Chief Engineer

Date: _____

SECOND LOCAL AGENCY SIGNATURE, IF NEEDED
Local Agency Legal Name

By:_____
*Signature

Name:_____
(Print Name)

Title:_____
(Print Title)

Date:_____

STATE OF COLORADO LEGAL REVIEW
Philip J. Weiser, Attorney General

By:_____
Assistant Attorney General

Date:_____

AGREEMENT

This Agreement, is entered into by and between the State of Colorado for the use and benefit of the COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (the "State" or "CDOT"), and the City of Aurora (the "Local Agency"); CDOT and the Local Agency individually shall be referred to as a "Party", and together shall be referred to as the "Parties." This Agreement shall not be valid or enforceable until the Effective Date as shown on the Signature and Cover Page of this Agreement.

RECITALS

Local Agency has designed and constructed improvements for the 9 MILE STA BIKE/PED BRDG OVER PARKER RD project in Aurora, Colorado, ("Project"); and

The Parties recognize the importance and benefit to their respective systems by the Local Agencies' operation and maintenance of a portion of the Project; and

The Parties desire to agree upon the division of responsibility for their respective maintenance and operation obligations (the "Work") on the Project as shown in **Exhibit A** pursuant to §43-2-135, C.R.S.; and

The Local Agency is adequately staffed and suitably equipped to undertake and satisfactorily carry out its operations and maintenance responsibilities under this Agreement; and

Required approval, clearance and coordination has been accomplished from and with appropriate agencies; and

This Agreement is executed by the State under authority of §§43-1-106, 43-1-110, 43-1-201, et seq., 43-2-102, and 43-2-144, C.R.S., as amended; and

The Local Agency agrees by its execution hereof that it is duly authorized to enter into this Agreement. Authorization may be evidenced by an appropriate ordinance/resolution or authority letter. A copy of any such ordinance/resolution or authority letter may be attached as **Exhibit B**. The provision by the Local Agency to CDOT of such ordinance/resolution or authority letter is at the Local Agency's discretion; and

These recitals are hereby incorporated into the terms of this Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is hereby agreed that:

I. Scope of Work

The Work under this Agreement shall consist of the inspection, operations, maintenance, and repair responsibilities of the Project as set forth and depicted in **Exhibit A.**

II. Exhibits

The Exhibits attached to this Agreement are:
Exhibit A- Scope of Work of the Project
Exhibit B- Local Agency Resolution **Exhibit C-** PII Certification (N/A no access to PII)

III. Order of Precedence

In the event of conflicts or inconsistencies between this Agreement and its exhibits, such conflicts or inconsistencies shall be resolved by reference to the documents in the following order of priority:

1. Special Provisions contained in Section IX of this Agreement
2. This Agreement
3. **Exhibit A**- Scope of Work of the Project
4. **Exhibit B**- Local Agency Resolution
5. **Exhibit C**- PII Certification

IV. Term

This Agreement shall begin the date approved by all Parties and shall extend for the useful life of the improvements, unless earlier modified or terminated by written agreement of the Parties.

V. CDOT Commitments

A. CDOT shall accept inspection, operation, maintenance, and repair responsibilities for the portions of the Work identified as CDOT's area of responsibility shown in **Exhibit A.**

B. CDOT shall, at its own cost and expense, inspect, operate, maintain, repair, and make ample provision each year for said activities for those portions of the Work identified as CDOT's area of responsibility in **Exhibit A.**

C. CDOT grants the Local Agency access to enter CDOT Right of Way ("ROW") to perform inspection and maintenance duties. Though a separate access permit will not be required, notification to CDOT of a Local Agency approved and CDOT accepted Method of Handling Traffic shall be required for any work impacting traffic.

D. CDOT (and FHWA, if applicable) may make periodic inspections of the Project and/or Facilities to verify that they are being adequately operated, maintained, and repaired. If CDOT inspections indicate the Project are not functioning as designed, CDOT may issue a written notice to the Local Agency to cure deficiencies. In the event the deficiencies are not remedied within the Project timeline after written notice from CDOT to the Local Agency, CDOT may take whatever steps CDOT deems necessary to maintain the Project. The Local Agency shall reimburse CDOT its actual and documented costs for such maintenance and repair work including labor, equipment, supplies, and materials. If CDOT repairs any deficiencies, it is under no obligation to maintain or repair in the future.

E. Emergency Situations: Notwithstanding the foregoing, if CDOT believes a condition affecting the Project poses an immediate and imminent danger to

public health or safety, CDOT may, without notice and without awaiting lapse of any cure period, rectify the condition if within Local Agency's responsibility under this Agreement, at Local Agency's cost, and so long as CDOT undertakes such action in good faith, even if under a mistaken belief in the occurrence of such deficiency, such action shall not expose CDOT to liability to Local Agency and shall not entitle Local Agency to any other remedy. CDOT's good faith determination of the existence of such danger shall be deemed conclusive in the absence of clear and convincing evidence to the contrary.

VI. Local Agency Commitments

A. The Local Agency shall accept inspection, operation, maintenance, and repair responsibilities for the portions of the Work identified as the Local Agency's area of responsibility for the Work shown in **Exhibit A.**

B. The Local Agency shall, at its own cost and expense, inspect, operate, maintain, repair, and make ample provision each year for those portions of the Work identified as the Local Agency's area of responsibility, as shown in **Exhibit A.**

C. All Work by the Local Agency must be performed by a person experienced in the inspection, operation, and maintenance of the Project. This is to ensure that the Project are operating as designed. Any inspection form may be used if it is acceptable by agreement of the Parties.

D. The Local Agency grants CDOT access to enter Local Agency ROW to perform CDOT's inspection, operation, maintenance, and repair duties of the Work.

E. If after inspection of the Project, CDOT may issue a written notice to cure deficiencies if the Local Agency fails to inspect, report, or properly maintain the Project identified in **Exhibit A.** In the event the deficiencies are not remedied within the Project timeline after written notice from CDOT to the Local Agency, CDOT may take whatever steps CDOT deems necessary to maintain the Project. The Local Agency shall reimburse CDOT its actual and documented costs for such maintenance and repair work including labor, equipment, supplies, and materials. If CDOT repairs any deficiencies, it is under no obligation to maintain or repair in the future.

VII. Joint Commitments

A. CDOT and the Local Agency will provide liaison through the representatives listed below. If the representatives or contact information changes the Party is to give written notice regarding the substitution of representatives or contact information to the other Party's Liaisons.

CDOT Project Liaison
Michael Kania, PE I
Region 1

18500 E Colfax Ave
Aurora, CO 80011
Phone: 303-365-7262
Email: michael.kania@state.co.us

Local Agency Project Liaison
Bret Banwart, PE
City of Aurora
15151 E. Alameda Parkway Suite 3200
Aurora, CO 80012
Phone: 303-739-7339
Email: bbanwart@auroragov.org

B. If safety concerns are identified relating to the Project, the Parties will partner with each other and any other affected local jurisdictions to identify the appropriate response to maintain safe and functional Project.

C. Prior to commencing any activities, the Parties shall coordinate with each other to minimize impacts to landscaping and/or enhancements that were installed by the Local Agency. CDOT will not be responsible for replacing any enhanced landscaping or irrigation installed by the Local Agency.

D. In the event of an emergency, defined as a situation which becomes known to Local Agency or CDOT as presenting an immediate threat to the public health or safety ("Emergency"), the responsible Party shall respond immediately to any reasonable maintenance requests made by the other Party. Such request may be made by telephone but shall be followed by a written Notice. If the responsible Party fails or is unavailable to respond to an Emergency request within 24 hours, or if that response fails to resolve the Emergency, then the other Party may make such minimum necessary repairs to correct the Emergency.

E. In the event the Project fail due to surpassing their useful life cycle, the Parties will be responsible for improvements that are not covered by maintenance responsibilities of the Local Agency pursuant to **Exhibit A**.

F. Any fines levied against CDOT, or the Local Agency shall be the responsibility of the Party whose action or inaction is the cause of the fine, regardless of which Party the fine is levied against.

G. The Parties shall make, keep, maintain, and allow inspection and monitoring by CDOT, of a complete file of all records, documents, communications, notes, and other written materials, electronic media files, and communications pertaining in any manner to the Work. The Parties shall maintain such records for the useful life of the Project, following federal, State, and Local Agency record retention policies in either paper or electronic form.

VIII. General Provisions

A. Assignment

Local Agency's rights and obligations under this Agreement are personal and may not be transferred or assigned without the prior, written consent of the State. Any attempt at assignment or transfer without such consent shall be void. Any assignment or transfer of Local Agency's rights and obligations approved by the State shall be subject to the provisions of this Agreement.

B. Captions and References

The captions and headings in this Agreement are for convenience of reference only, and shall not be used to interpret, define, or limit its provisions. All references in this Agreement to sections (whether spelled out or using the § symbol), subsections, exhibits or other attachments, are references to sections, subsections, exhibits, or other attachments contained herein or incorporated as a part hereof, unless otherwise noted.

C. Entire Understanding

This Agreement represents the complete integration of all understandings between the Parties related to the Work, and all prior representations and understandings related to the Work, oral or written, are merged into this Agreement.

D. Modification

The State may modify the terms and conditions of this Agreement by issuance of an updated Agreement, which shall be effective if Local Agency accepts Agreement Funds following receipt of the updated letter. The Parties may also agree to modification of the terms and conditions of the Agreement in a formal amendment to this Agreement, properly executed and approved in accordance with applicable Colorado State law and State Fiscal Rules.

E. Statutes, Regulations, Fiscal Rules, and Other Authority

Any reference in this Agreement to a statute, regulation, State Fiscal Rule, fiscal policy, or other authority shall be interpreted to refer to such authority then current, as may have been changed or amended since the Agreement Issuance Date. Local Agency shall strictly comply with all applicable Federal and State laws, rules, and regulations in effect or hereafter established, including, without limitation, laws applicable to discrimination and unfair employment practices.

F. Digital Signatures

If any signatory signs this Agreement using a digital signature in accordance with the Colorado State Controller Contract, Agreement and Purchase Order Policies regarding the use of digital signatures issued under the State Fiscal Rules, then any agreement or consent to use digital signatures within the electronic system through which that signatory signed shall be incorporated into this Agreement by reference.

G. Severability

The invalidity or unenforceability of any provision of this Agreement shall not affect the validity or enforceability of any other provision of this Agreement, which shall remain in full force and effect, provided that the Parties can continue to perform their obligations under the Agreement in accordance with the intent of the Agreement.

H. Survival of Certain Agreement Terms

Any provision of this Agreement that imposes an obligation on a Party after termination or expiration of the Agreement shall survive the termination or expiration of the Agreement and shall be enforceable by the other Party.

I. Third Party Beneficiaries

Except for the Parties' respective successors and assigns described above, this Agreement does not and is not intended to confer any rights or remedies upon any person or entity other than the Parties. Any services or benefits which third parties receive as a result of this Agreement are incidental to the Agreement, and do not create any rights for such third parties.

J. Waiver

A Party's failure or delay in exercising any right, power, or privilege under this Agreement, whether explicit or by lack of enforcement, shall not operate as a waiver, nor shall any single or partial exercise of any right, power, or privilege preclude any other or further exercise of such right, power, or privilege.

K. Accessibility

i. Local Agency shall comply with and the work provided under this Agreement shall be in compliance with all applicable provisions of §§24-85-101, *et seq.*, C.R.S., and the *Accessibility Standards for Individuals with a Disability,* as established by OIT pursuant to Section §24-85-103 (2.5), C.R.S. Local Agency shall also comply with all State of Colorado technology standards related to technology accessibility and with Level AA of the most current version of the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG), incorporated in the State of Colorado technology standards.

ii. The State may require Local Agency's compliance to the State's Accessibility Standards to be determined by a third party selected by the State to attest to Local Agency's work and software is in compliance with §§24-85-101, *et seq*., C.R.S., and the *Accessibility Standards for Individuals with a Disability* as established by OIT pursuant to Section §24-85-103 (2.5), C.R.S.

IX. COLORADO SPECIAL PROVISIONS (COLORADO FISCAL RULE 3-3)

These Special Provisions apply to all contracts (agreements). Contractor refers to Local Agency and Contract refers to Agreement.

A. Statutory Approval §24-30-202(1), C.R.S.

This Contract shall not be valid until it has been approved by the Colorado State Controller or designee. If this Contract is for a Major Information Technology Project, as defined in §24-37.5-102(19), then this Contract shall not be valid until it has been approved by the State's Chief Information Officer or designee.

B. Fund Availability §24-30-202(5.5), C.R.S.

Financial obligations of the State payable after the current State Fiscal Year are contingent upon funds for that purpose being appropriated, budgeted, and otherwise made available.

C. Governmental Immunity

Liability for claims for injuries to persons or property arising from the negligence of the Parties, its departments, boards, commissions committees, bureaus, offices, employees and officials shall be controlled and limited by the provisions of the Colorado Governmental Immunity Act, §24-10-101, *et seq*., C.R.S.; the Federal Tort Claims Act, 28 U.S.C. Pt. VI, Ch. 171 and 28 U.S.C. 1346(b), and the State's risk management statutes, §§24-30-1501, *et seq*. C.R.S. No term or condition of this Contract shall be construed or interpreted as a waiver, express or implied, of any of the immunities, rights, benefits, protections, or other provisions, contained in these statutes.

D. Independent Contractor

Contractor shall perform its duties hereunder as an independent contractor and not as an employee. Neither Contractor nor any agent or employee of Contractor shall be deemed to be an agent or employee of the State. Contractor shall not have authorization, express or implied, to bind the State to any agreement, liability or understanding, except as expressly set forth herein. **Contractor and its employees and agents are not entitled to unemployment insurance or workers compensation benefits through the State and the State shall not pay for or otherwise provide such coverage for Contractor or any of its agents or employees. Contractor shall pay when due all applicable employment taxes and income taxes and local head taxes incurred pursuant to this Contract. Contractor shall (i) provide and keep in force workers' compensation and unemployment compensation insurance in the amounts required by law, (ii) provide proof thereof when requested by the State, and (iii) be solely responsible for its acts and those of its employees and agents.**

E. Compliance with Law

Contractor shall comply with all applicable federal and State laws, rules, and regulations in effect or hereafter established, including, without limitation, laws applicable to discrimination and unfair employment practices.

F. Choice of Law, Jurisdiction, and Venue

Colorado law, and rules and regulations issued pursuant thereto, shall be applied in the interpretation, execution, and enforcement of this Contract. Any provision included or incorporated herein by reference which conflicts with said laws, rules, and regulations shall be null and void. All suits or actions related to

this Contract shall be filed and proceedings held in the State of Colorado and exclusive venue shall be in the City and County of Denver.

G. Prohibited Terms

Any term included in this Contract that requires the State to indemnify or hold Contractor harmless; requires the State to agree to binding arbitration; limits Contractor's liability for damages resulting from death, bodily injury, or damage to tangible property; or that conflicts with this provision in any way shall be void ab initio. Nothing in this Contract shall be construed as a waiver of any provision of §24-106-109 C.R.S. Any term included in this Contract that limits Contractor's liability that is not void under this section shall apply only in excess of any insurance to be maintained under this Contract, and no insurance policy shall be interpreted as being subject to any limitations of liability of this Contract.

H. Software Piracy Prohibition

State or other public funds payable under this Contract shall not be used for the acquisition, operation, or maintenance of computer software in violation of federal copyright laws or applicable licensing restrictions. Contractor hereby certifies and warrants that, during the term of this Contract and any extensions, Contractor has and shall maintain in place appropriate systems and controls to prevent such improper use of public funds. If the State determines that Contractor is in violation of this provision, the State may exercise any remedy available at law or in equity or under this Contract, including, without limitation, immediate termination of this Contract and any remedy consistent with federal copyright laws or applicable licensing restrictions.

I. Employee Financial Interest/Conflict of Interest §§24-18-201 and 24-50-507, C.R.S.

The signatories aver that to their knowledge, no employee of the State has any personal or beneficial interest whatsoever in the service or property described in this Contract. Contractor has no interest and shall not acquire any interest, direct or indirect, that would conflict in any manner or degree with the performance of Contractor's services and Contractor shall not employ any person having such known interests.

THE REMAINDER OF THIS PAGE IS INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

Exhibit A: Scope of Work

Maintenance Responsibilities

Ownership and Maintenance of the new bridge structure built as part of the 9 Mile Station Bike and Pedestrian Bridge over Parker Rd. (Sub. Acct: 23594) over State Highway 83 (Parker Road) project approximately 500 feet west of I-225 will be performed by the City of Aurora (The City) and any existing infrastructure, and depicted modifications as shown in Exhibit A- Map, within the Hwy 83 corridor will be maintained by the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) or per any existing agreements in place further defining existing infrastructure responsibilities. Please refer to the below lists under each entity for a more detailed delegation of responsibilities.

Maintenance responsibilities for the parts of the bridge, landing structures, and associated improvements outside of the Parker Road right-of-way will be further defined within separate maintenance agreements between City of Aurora and the associated entities including The Point Metropolitan District to the north and Regional Transportation District (RTD) to the south.

Improvements within State Highway 83 (Parker Road) Right-of-Way

Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) Responsibilities:

At the Nine Mile Pedestrian Bridge overpass, CDOT will be responsible for ownership and maintenance of the following as shown in the Exhibit A- Map:

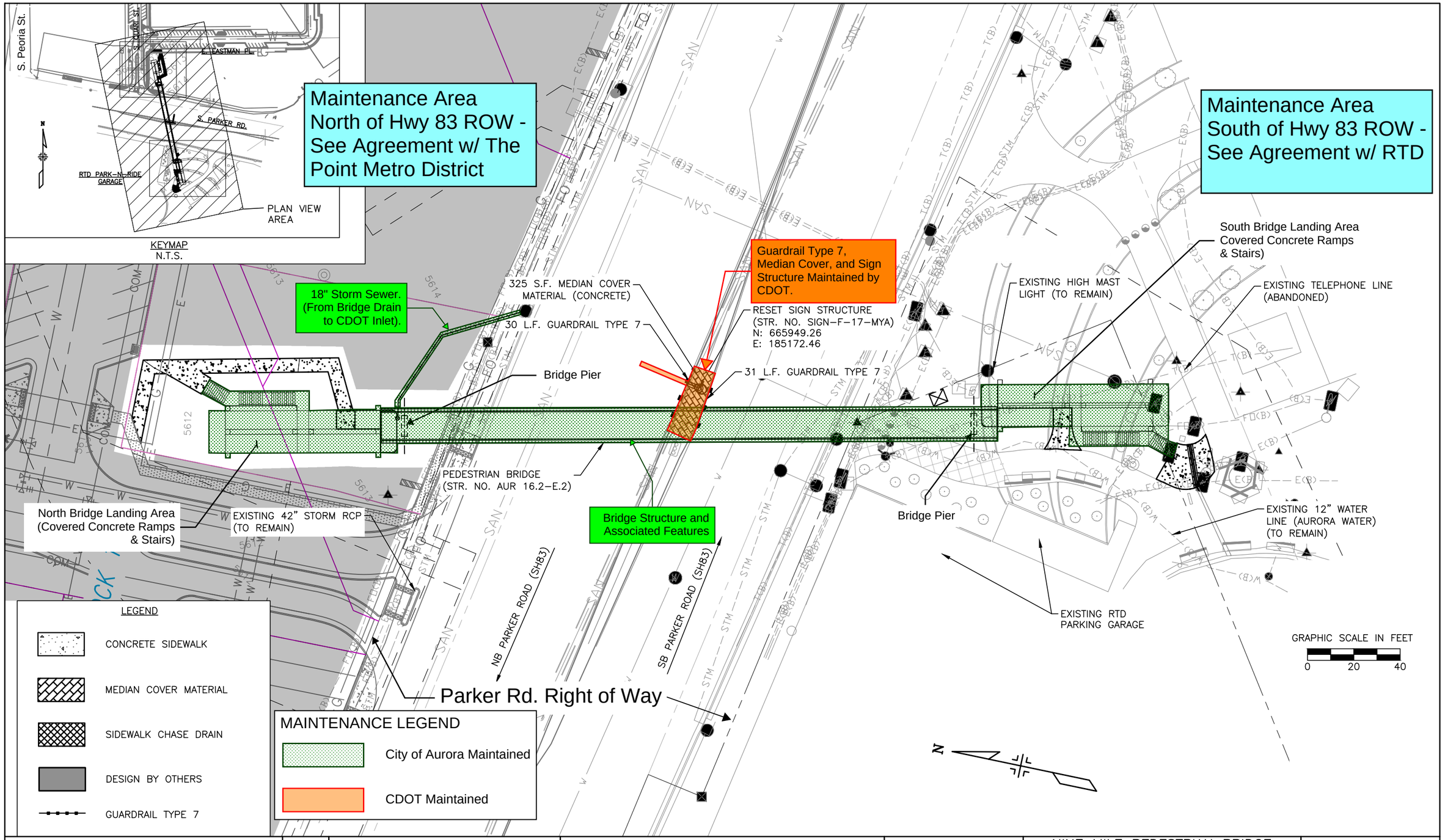
a. Type 7 Guardrail
b. Median cover
c. Sign structure SIGN-F-17-MYA,
d. Existing inlet that the new 18" Storm Sewer ties into from the north landing of the bridge

City of Aurora Responsibilities:

The City will be responsible for ownership and maintenance of the Nine Mile Pedestrian Bridge over Parker Rd (Hwy 83), Structure Number AUR16.2-E.2 (including repair, rehabilitation, and replacement) of the structure and associated features such as bridge related drainage infrastructure, according to City of Aurora standards. This also includes general maintenance and facility operations such as but not limited to:

a. Snow and ice removal for the pedestrian overpass bridge
b. Graffiti removal/management
c. General debris removal (trash/sweeping)
d. Lighting (attached to the bridge)
e. Bridge signage
f. Painting
g. Vagrancy (within the bridge)
h. Installation, repair, and replacement of Camera/Security Systems
i. Storm sewer pipe at north landing draining bridge downspouts tying into back of CDOT inlet)
j. Bridge features including foundations, piers, abutments, ramps, stairs, leveling pads, roof, canopies, beams, truss bridge deck, expansion joints, cladding (wire mesh and plastic paneling), handrails, and downspouts.

EXHIBIT A - Map



Print Date:		Sheet Revisions			DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS	As Constructed	NINE MILE PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE SITE PLAN OVERALL	Project Number
File Name:	(R-X)	Date	Comments	Initials	15151 E. ALAMEDA PARKWAY AURORA, CO 80012 PHONE: (303) 739-7300	No Revisions:		STU-M055-056
Horizontal Scale: 1"=40' Vertical Scale: N/A						Revised:	Designer: / Detailer: / Sheet Subset: / Structure Numbers / Subset Sheets:	23594
						Void:		Sheet Number

Exhibit B

Local Agency Resolution (if applicable)

EXHIBIT C

PII Certification (N/A no access to PII)

STATE OF COLORADO

LOCAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION FOR ACCESS TO PII THROUGH A DATABASE OR AUTOMATED NETWORK

Pursuant to § 24-74-105, C.R.S., I, _____, on behalf of _____ (legal name of Local Agency) (the "Local Agency"), hereby certify under the penalty of perjury that the Local Agency has not and will not use or disclose any Personal Identifying Information, as defined by § 24-74-102(1), C.R.S., for the purpose of investigating for, participating in, cooperating with, or assisting Federal Immigration Enforcement, including the enforcement of civil immigration laws, and the Illegal Immigration and Immigrant Responsibility Act, which is codified at 8 U.S.C. §§ 1325 and 1326, unless required to do so to comply with Federal or State law, or to comply with a court-issued subpoena, warrant or order.

I hereby represent and certify that I have full legal authority to execute this certification on behalf of the Local Agency.

Signature: _____

Printed Name: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

MINUTES

Regular Meeting of the Aurora City Council

Monday, February 24, 2025

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:	Mayor Coffman Françoise Bergan Alison Coombs Curtis Gardner Stephanie Hancock	Danielle Jurinsky Amsalu Kassaw Angela Lawson Ruben Medina Steve Sundberg
COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:	Crystal Murillo	

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1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Coffman reconvened the regular meeting of the City Council at 6:30 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

3. INVOCATION/MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mayor Coffman led in prayer for the February 25, 2025 meeting.

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

(All Standing)

Mayor Coffman read a land acknowledgement.

5. EXECUTIVE SESSION UPDATE

Mayor Coffman provided an update on the Executive Session, stating using eminent domain, real estate acquisition, sales tax incentive agreement, and a development agreement were discussed.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

6.a February 10, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Moved by: Curtis Gardner

Second by: Stephanie Hancock

Does Council wish to approve the minutes of the February 10,2025 meeting?

Voting Aye: (10): Mayor Coffman, Françoise Bergan, Alison Coombs, Curtis Gardner, Stephanie Hancock, Danielle Jurinsky, Amsalu Kassaw, Angela Lawson, Ruben Medina, and Steve Sundberg

The City Charter prescribes the Mayor may vote on resolutions and ordinances only to create or break a tie vote of Council Members present. The Mayor Pro-Tem is always permitted to vote on all items.

Any member of Council may request an item be removed from Consent Calendar and considered separately. Removed items are considered immediately following the adoption of the Consent Calendar.

Moved by: Steve Sundberg

Second by: Curtis Gardner

Does Council wish to approve the Resolutions and Ordinances Consent Calendar?

Voting Aye: (9): Françoise Bergan, Alison Coombs, Curtis Gardner, Stephanie Hancock, Danielle Jurinsky, Amsalu Kassaw, Angela Lawson, Ruben Medina, and Steve Sundberg

Absent: (1): Crystal Murillo

10.a Resolutions

10.a.1 The Avenues Metropolitan District Nos. 1-5 Dissolution and Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) Termination

R2025-19 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, CONSENTING TO THE DISSOLUTION OF THE AVENUES METROPOLITAN DISTRICTS NOS. 1-5

Michael Kerrigan, Special District Administrator, Development Services / Brian Rulla, Assistant City Attorney

10.a.2 Second Amendment to Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) for the Nine Mile Bike and Pedestrian Bridge Project

R2025-20 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, APPROVING THE SECOND AMENDMENT TO THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF AURORA AND THE COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (CDOT) FOR FUNDING OF THE NINE MILE BIKE AND PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE PROJECT

Bret Banwart, Engineering Supervisor, Public Works / Michelle Gardner, Senior Assistant City Attorney

10.a.3 The Sale of City-Owned Surplus Property in Adams County

R2025-21 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, APPROVING THE SALE OF SURPLUS CITY-OWNED LAND IN ADAMS COUNTY, COLORADO, LOCATED AT 12202 E. 168TH AVE., BRIGHTON, COLORADO IN ADAMS COUNTY

Hector Reynoso, Manager of Real Property Services, Public Works / Michelle Gardner, Senior Assistant City Attorney

10.b Finalizing of Ordinances

Ordinances approved unanimously at first reading.

11. PUBLIC HEARINGS

Public hearings with or without related ordinances.

11.a Painted Prairie Business Improvement District No. 1 Boundary Adjustment

2025-17 A PUBLIC HEARING AND CONSIDERATION OF AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, INCLUDING AND EXCLUDING CERTAIN PROPERTY FROM THE BOUNDARIES OF PAINTED PRAIRIE BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NUMBER ONE

Michael Kerrigan, Special District Administrator, Development Services / Brian Rulla, Assistant City Attorney

Mayor Coffman opened the public hearing.

Staff gave a brief presentation on the item.

Mayor Coffman closed the public hearing.

Moved by: Steve Sundberg

Second by: Françoise Bergan

Does the Council wish to support an ordinance of the City Council of the City of Aurora, Colorado, including and excluding certain property from the boundaries of Painted Prairie Business Improvements District one?

Voting Aye: (9): Françoise Bergan, Alison Coombs, Curtis Gardner, Stephanie Hancock, Danielle Jurinsky, Amsalu Kassaw, Angela Lawson, Ruben Medina, and Steve Sundberg

Absent: (1): Crystal Murillo

11.b Painted Prairie Business Improvement District No. 2 Boundary Adjustment

2025-18 A PUBLIC HEARING AND CONSIDERATION OF AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, INCLUDING AND EXCLUDING CERTAIN PROPERTY FROM THE BOUNDARIES OF PAINTED PRAIRIE BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NUMBER TWO

Michael Kerrigan, Special District Administrator, Development Services / Brian Rulla, Assistant City Attorney

Mayor Coffman opened the public hearing.

Staff gave a brief presentation on the item.

Regular Council Meeting

Nine Mile Pedestrian Bridge

Request for Approval of Maintenance IGA with CDOT & Project Update

September 8, 2025

Bret Banwart, Transportation Project Delivery, Engineering Supervisor, Public Works

Project Overview

Objectives:

- Mobility options for vulnerable populations
- Transportation safety and security
- Help reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- Support and contribute to economic health and vitality
- Pedestrian and bicycle connectivity improvements

ORIGINAL DESIGN

$10M over Budget

- Elevators & Stairs
- Arch Feature
- Enclosed

Project Overview Continued

- Covered (Wire Mesh & Color Panel Enclosures)
- Covered Ramps & Stairs (No Elevators)
- Security Cameras (After Construction Complete)
- Art Integration (AIPP)
  - Wire Mesh Integrated w/ Steel Prairie Grass Panels
  - Color Paneling (Moved Greens to Outside per CDOT)
  - Concrete Enhancements

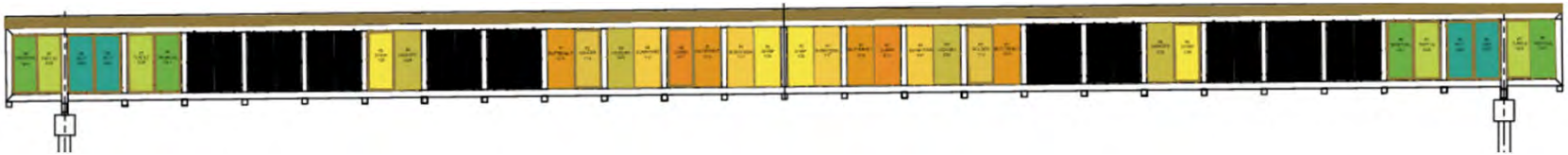
FINAL DESIGN

Project Overview Continued

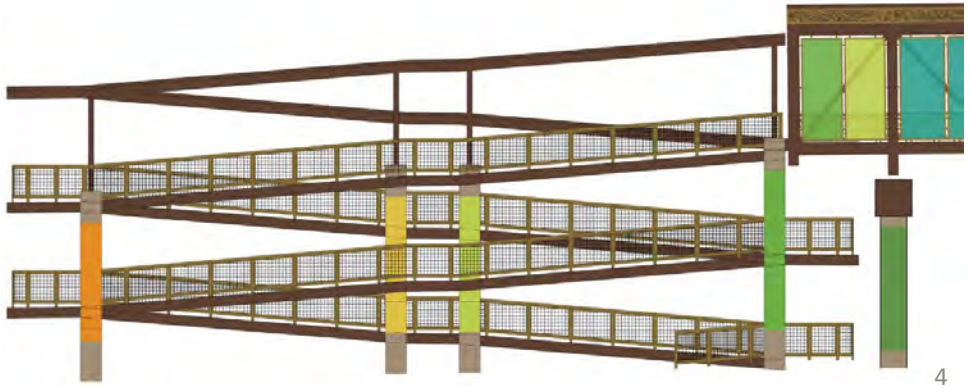
PUBLIC ART (AIPP) INTEGRATION

Preliminary Color Scheme:

Final Color Scheme:



- KodaXT Panels – Color shift
  - Moved Greens to Outside per CDOT/Traffic
- Alternating with Wire Mesh Panels integrated with Steel Prairie Grass Panels below Handrail
- Ramps w/ color wraps on Concrete Columns



Project Timeline

SCHEDULE:

Dates listed below are approximate and subject to change.

Project Milestones:

- Complete Final Design: Summer/Fall 2025
  - Final Design Reviews/Approvals (Aurora, RTD, CDOT, & FHWA): 1st Round already Begun
- Advertise Project: Fall 2025
- Construction (18 Months): Winter 2025 – Spring 2027

Project Budget

- Federal Funds (41%):
  - DRCOG – TIP
  - Congressional Discretionary Spending (CDS) / Earmark
- Local Funds (59%)
  - DRCOG TIP Match
  - TIP Overmatch
  - CDS Match
  - Additional CIP
  - Development Reimbursement
  - SLRF Funds

SOURCES

Project Funding:

Revised Fed. TIP Grant:	$	5,766,000
Revised TIP Match:	$	1,634,000
Overmatch	$	1,400,000
Adnl Approved City CIP Funds	$	4,000,000
AIPP Contribution (Art/Aesthetics)	$	450,000
Federal CDS/Earmark Funds	$	850,000
Future City CIP Funds (Developer Reimbursed)	$	1,600,000
City SLRF FUNDS	$	650,000
TOTAL SOURCES:	**$**	**16,350,000**

USES

Costs:

Design Costs	$	1,410,000
Construction Contract	$	13,250,000
Adnl Constr. Phase Costs (CM/CI, Utilities, Permits)	$	1,000,000
SubTotal:	**$**	**15,660,000**
Contingency (4%)	$	690,000
TOTAL USES:	**$**	**16,350,000**

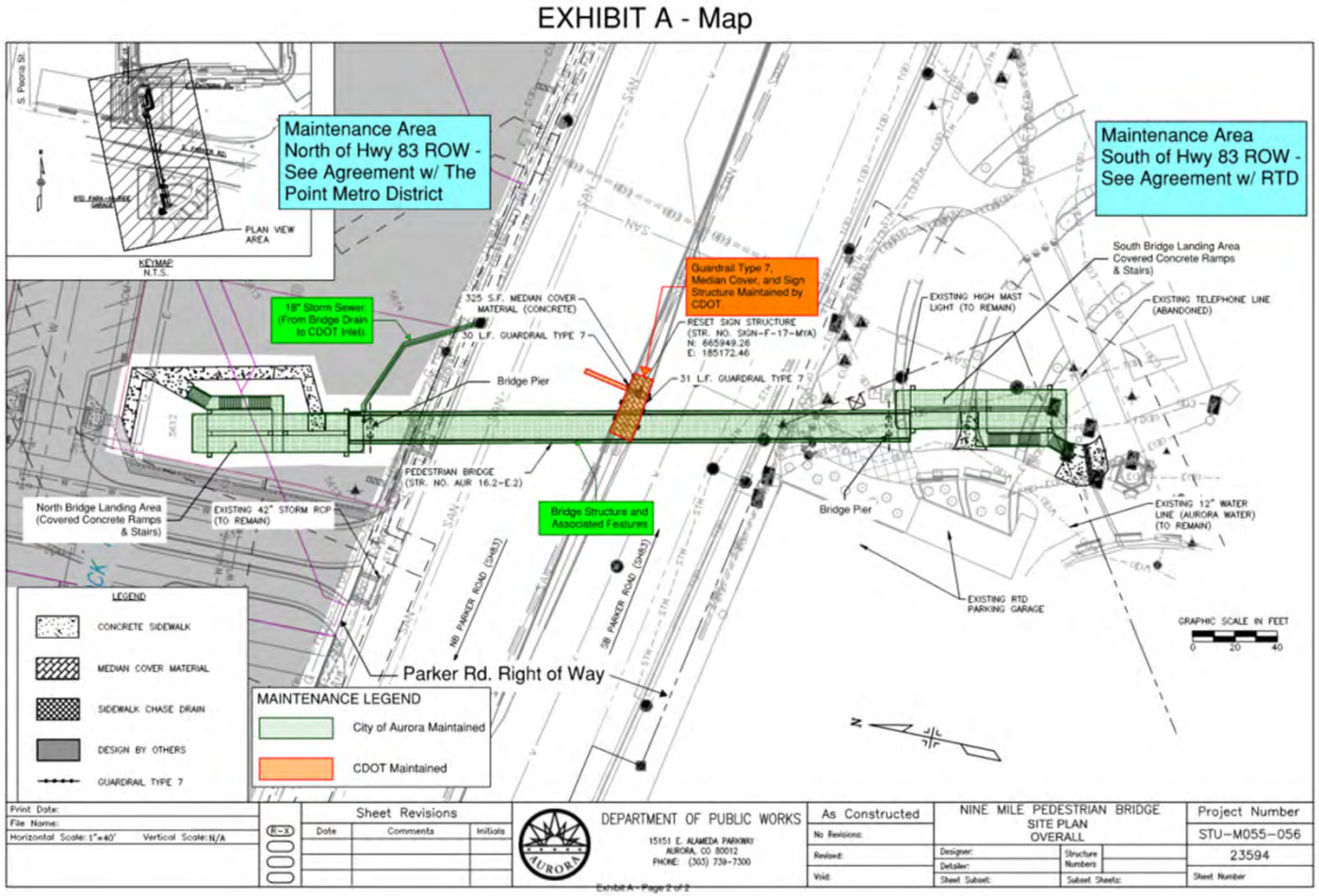
Ownership & Maintenance IGA with CDOT

City of Aurora O&M Responsibilities:

- Bridge, Ramps, Stairs & Associated Infrastructure and Includes:
  - Repair & Replacement
  - Graffiti & Trash Removal
  - Painting
  - Vagrancy (within the bridge)

CDOT O&M Responsibilities:

- Existing Infrastructure w/in Hwy 83 corridor including modifications of:
  - Overhead Sign Structure
  - Existing Inlet (modified)
  - Guardrail
  - Median Cover



QUESTIONS

- Does Council Approve the Maintenance IGA with CDOT?
- Does Council Approve Waiver of Reconsideration?

CITY OF AURORA
Late Submission Approval for Agenda Item

Item Title:
A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, TO AMEND THE RULES OF ORDER AND PROCEDURE FOR THE AURORA, COLORADO, CITY COUNCIL CONCERNING THE START TIME OF REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

Item Initiator: Council Member Curtis Gardner

Staff Source/Legal Source: Kadee Rodriguez, City Clerk/Andrea Wood, Assistant City Attorney

Outside Speaker: N/A

Council Goal: 2012: 4.0--Create a superior quality of life for residents making the city a desirable place to live and work

CRITERIA - PLEASE CONSIDER ITEM FOR LATE SUBMISSION FOR THE FOLLOWING REASON:

☐ There is a time-sensitive legal requirement that must be met and cannot be met by a future meeting date

☐ The delay will result in an adverse financial impact to the city

☐ The item is related to a disaster and must be addressed before the next available meeting

☒ The item has been requested by Council Member Curtis Gardner

COUNCIL MEETING DATES FOR LATE SUBMISSION:

Study Session: N/A

Regular Meeting: 9/8/2025

EXPLANATION:

Council Member Curtis Gardner, made this request at the August 25th Council Meeting.

I understand the agenda item will not be added to the agenda without submitting this completed form as an attachment in e-Scribe. The agenda item will not be added to the agenda if the workflow is not completed by the WORKFLOW COMPLETED date indicated on the agenda deadline calendar.

_____	Jason Batchelor _____
Agenda Item Initiator Name	Late Submission Approver Name (Deputy City Manager)
_____	Jason Batchelor 09.02.25 _____
Agenda Item Initiator Signature Date	Late Submission Approver Signature Date

CITY OF AURORA
Council Agenda Commentary

Item Title: Rules of Order and Procedure: Start Time of Regular Council Meetings
Item Initiator: Curtis Gardner, Council Member
Staff Source/Legal Source: Kadee Rodriguez, City Clerk / Andrea Wood, Assistant City Attorney
Outside Speaker: N/A
Strategic Outcome: Well-Managed: High performing organization, committed to great customer service, innovation, continuous improvement, fiscal stewardship, and maintaining critical infrastructure.

COUNCIL MEETING DATES:

Study Session: N/A

Regular Meeting: 9/8/2025

2nd Regular Meeting (if applicable): N/A

Item requires a Public Hearing: ☐ Yes ☒ No

ITEM DETAILS *(Click in highlighted area below bullet point list to enter applicable information.)*

- Waiver of reconsideration requested, and if so, why
- Sponsor name
- Staff source name and title / Legal source name and title
- Outside speaker name and organization
- Estimated time: (For Study Session items only indicate combined time needed for presentation and discussion)

R2025-102 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, TO AMEND THE RULES OF ORDER AND PROCEDURE FOR THE AURORA, COLORADO, CITY COUNCIL CONCERNING THE START TIME OF REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS
Sponsor: Curtis Gardner, Council Member
Kadee Rodriguez, City Clerk / Andrea Wood, Assistant City Attorney

ACTIONS(S) PROPOSED *(Check all appropriate actions)*

☐ Approve Item and Move Forward to Study Session
☐ Approve Item as Proposed at Policy Committee
☐ Approve Item and Move Forward to Regular Meeting
☐ Approve Item as Proposed at Study Session
☐ Information Only
☐ Approve Item as Proposed at Regular Meeting
☐ Approve Item with Waiver of Reconsideration
Reason for waiver is described in the Item Details field above.

PREVIOUS ACTIONS OR REVIEWS:

Policy Committee Name: N/A

Policy Committee Date: N/A

Action Taken/Follow-up: ***(Check all that apply)***

☐ Recommends Approval ☐ Does Not Recommend Approval

☐ Forwarded Without Recommendation ☐ Minutes Not Available

☐ Minutes Attached

HISTORY *(Dates reviewed by City council, Policy Committees, Boards and Commissions, or Staff. Summarize pertinent comments. ATTACH MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS, POLICY COMMITTEES AND BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS.)*

A motion was made and approved during the 8/25/2025 Council meeting.

ITEM SUMMARY *(Brief description of item, discussion, key points, recommendations, etc.)*

This Resolution ratifies the motion that was made and approved at the 8/25/2025 regular Council meeting to amend the Counci rules to have regular Council meetings start 10 minutes after the public comment session is finished, but not before 6:10pm and not after 6:45pm.

FISCAL IMPACT

Select all that apply. (If no fiscal impact, click that box and skip to "Questions for Council")

☐ Revenue Impact ☐ Budgeted Expenditure Impact ☐ Non-Budgeted Expenditure Impact
☐ Workload Impact ☐ No Fiscal Impact

REVENUE IMPACT
Provide the revenue impact or N/A if no impact. (What is the estimated impact on revenue? What funds would be impacted? Provide additional detail as necessary.)

BUDGETED EXPENDITURE IMPACT
Provide the budgeted expenditure impact or N/A if no impact. (List Org/Account # and fund. What is the amount of budget to be used? Does this shift existing budget away from existing programs/services? Provide additional detail as necessary.)

NON-BUDGETED EXPENDITURE IMPACT
Provide the non-budgeted expenditure impact or N/A if no impact. (Provide information on non-budgeted costs. Include Personal Services, Supplies and Services, Interfund Charges, and Capital needs. Provide additional detail as necessary.)

WORKLOAD IMPACT
Provide the workload impact or N/A if no impact. (Will more staff be needed or is the change absorbable? If new FTE(s) are needed, provide numbers and types of positions, and a duty summary. Provide additional detail as necessary.)

QUESTIONS FOR COUNCIL

Does Council wish to support this Resolution?

LEGAL COMMENTS

The council shall prescribe rules of procedure to govern meetings. (Article 3-8 City Charter). The council shall determine its own rules and procedures and order of business and shall keep a journal of its proceedings. (Section 2-32 City Code). (A.Wood)

RESOLUTION NO. R2025- ____

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, TO AMEND THE RULES OF ORDER AND PROCEDURE FOR THE AURORA, COLORADO, CITY COUNCIL CONCERNING THE START TIME OF REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS.

WHEREAS, the Aurora City Council (Council) believes the election of an individual to the Council imposes a heavy responsibility to observe those tenets and requirements which flow from the solemn oath administered at the time of installation to office; and

WHEREAS, the Council wants the Rules for the Council to facilitate the fulfillment of the duties and responsibilities contained in the oath of office; and

WHEREAS, as authorized under Article III, Section 8 of the City Charter, the Council promulgates the Rules to govern meetings; and

WHEREAS, the Council desires to make certain changes to the Rules in order to promote safety and order during public comment sessions and Council meetings; and

WHEREAS, the Council, at its meeting held on August 25, 2025, considered and approved a motion regarding the start time of regular meetings of the Aurora City Council, and now desires to formally ratify and confirm that action through this resolution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, THAT:

Section 1. The Aurora City Council hereby amends Section A.1. of the Council Rules of Order and Procedure to read as follows:

> Regular City Council Meetings. The City Council will meet in regular session in the Council Chambers of the Aurora Municipal Center on designated Mondays ~~at~~ **ten minutes after the public listening session has finished, but no earlier than 6:10 p.m. and no later than** 6:45 p.m., and on such other days and at such other times as may be chosen by City Council at the last meeting of the calendar year, unless otherwise determined at a prior meeting. Once defined, changes to the calendar can only occur under the Special Meeting Rules set forth in A(2) or with a 2/3 vote of the City Council. At least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the meeting, the City Council shall post the agenda of the meeting in the entryway at the east entrance of the Aurora Municipal Center. The posting location shall be redesignated annually at the last regular City Council meeting of each calendar year.

Section 2. All resolutions or part of resolutions of the City in conflict herewith are hereby rescinded.

RESOLVED AND PASSED this _____ day of _____ 2025.

_____
MIKE COFFMAN, Mayor

ATTEST:

_____
KADEE RODRIGUEZ, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

PETER A. SCHULTE, CITY ATTORNEY

By: Andrea Wood
ANDREA WOOD, Assistant City Attorney

CITY OF AURORA
Council Agenda Commentary

Item Title:	**Sandy Point – Zoning Map Amendment**
Item Initiator:	Rachid Rabbaa, Planner III, Planning and Business Development
Staff Source/Legal Source:	Rachid Rabbaa, Planner III, Planning and Business Development / Lena McClelland, Assistant City Attorney
Outside Speaker:	Norris Design (Beccah Bailey); Airport Logistics (Jon Savignano); Norris Design (Diana Rael)
Strategic Outcome:	Economically Strong: Building a conducive development climate, a diverse mix of industries and housing options, and fostering economic growth so that our community thrives and remains resilient.

COUNCIL MEETING DATES:

Study Session: N/A

Regular Meeting: 8/25/2025

2nd Regular Meeting (if applicable): 9/8/2025

Item requires a Public Hearing: ☒ Yes ☐ No

ITEM DETAILS *(Click in highlighted area below bullet point list to enter applicable information.)*

- Waiver of reconsideration requested, and if so, why
- Sponsor name
- Staff source name and title / Legal source name and title
- Outside speaker name and organization
- Estimated time: (For Study Session items only indicate combined time needed for presentation and discussion)

2025- A PUBLIC HEARING AND CONSIDERATION OF AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, INITIALLY ZONING A PARCEL OF LAND MEASURING 242 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, LOCATED NORTH OF EAST 56TH AVENUE AND WEST OF FUTURE HAYESMOUNT ROAD, TWO MILES EAST OF JACKSON GAP STREET TO AIRPORT DISTRICT (AD) AND AMENDING THE ZONING MAP ACCORDINGLY (SANDY POINT ZONING MAP AMENDMENT)
Rachid Rabbaa, Planner III, Planning and Business Development / Lena McClelland, Assistant City Attorney

ACTIONS(S) PROPOSED *(Check all appropriate actions)*

☐ Approve Item and Move Forward to Study Session
☐ Approve Item as Proposed at Policy Committee
☐ Approve Item and Move Forward to Regular Meeting
☐ Approve Item as Proposed at Study Session
☐ Information Only
☒ Approve Item as Proposed at Regular Meeting
☐ Approve Item with Waiver of Reconsideration
Reason for waiver is described in the Item Details field above.

PREVIOUS ACTIONS OR REVIEWS:

Policy Committee Name: Planning and Zoning Commission

Policy Committee Date: 7/23/2025

Action Taken/Follow-up: ***(Check all that apply)***

☒ Recommends Approval

☐ Does Not Recommend Approval

☐ Forwarded Without Recommendation

☐ Minutes Not Available

☒ Minutes Attached

HISTORY *(Dates reviewed by City council, Policy Committees, Boards and Commissions, or Staff. Summarize pertinent comments. ATTACH MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS, POLICY COMMITTEES AND BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS.)*

The Planning and Zoning Commission held a public hearing to review the Zoning Map Amendment request at a regular meeting held on July 23, 2025. Following staff's presentation, the Commission voted to make recommendation of approval for the Zoning Map Amendment. A copy of the Planning Commission Meeting Minutes are attached for reference

ITEM SUMMARY *(Brief description of item, discussion, key points, recommendations, etc.)*

Airport Logistics LLC, as the applicant, seeks a Zoning Map Amendment for the initial zoning to Airport District (AD) for a parcel of land consisting of approximately 242 acres. The subject property is currently situated within unincorporated Adams County and is currently zoned Agriculture (A-3). This initial zoning is being requested with an annexation for the same area and is bordered to the north and west by unincorporated land in Adams County. The City of Aurora bounds the parcel to the south and east, with Airport District (AD) zoning. The proposal and the surrounding areas are within the Industry Hub placetype, according to the Aurora Places Comprehensive Plan. The proposal is approximately two miles east of Jackson Gap Street. The parcel and surrounding properties are mostly undeveloped. The adjacent 56th Avenue is developed as a rural, two-lane asphalt road.

This proposed initial zoning, and annexation would result in consistent zoning and jurisdiction in this developing area of Aurora. Such consistency in zoning and jurisdiction is essential for clarifying development responsibilities, maintenance of public infrastructure, and the provision of services.

The proposed Airport District (AD) zoning aligns well with the existing surrounding zoning and supports the future development goals laid out for the "Industry Hub" placetype in the Aurora Places Comprehensive Plan.

FISCAL IMPACT

Select all that apply. (If no fiscal impact, click that box and skip to "Questions for Council")

☐ Revenue Impact ☐ Budgeted Expenditure Impact ☐ Non-Budgeted Expenditure Impact
☐ Workload Impact ☒ No Fiscal Impact

REVENUE IMPACT
Provide the revenue impact or N/A if no impact. (What is the estimated impact on revenue? What funds would be impacted? Provide additional detail as necessary.)

N/A

BUDGETED EXPENDITURE IMPACT
Provide the budgeted expenditure impact or N/A if no impact. (List Org/Account # and fund. What is the amount of budget to be used? Does this shift existing budget away from existing programs/services? Provide additional detail as necessary.)

N/A

NON-BUDGETED EXPENDITURE IMPACT

Provide the non-budgeted expenditure impact or N/A if no impact. (Provide information on non-budgeted costs. Include Personal Services, Supplies and Services, Interfund Charges, and Capital needs. Provide additional detail as necessary.)

N/A

WORKLOAD IMPACT

Provide the workload impact or N/A if no impact. (Will more staff be needed or is the change absorbable? If new FTE(s) are needed, provide numbers and types of positions, and a duty summary. Provide additional detail as necessary.)

N/A

QUESTIONS FOR COUNCIL

Does the City Council wish to approve the ordinance to a zoning map amendment for the initial zoning of 242 acres to Airport District (AD) for the Sandy Point – Zoning Map Amendment?

LEGAL COMMENTS

The City Council is the governing body of the City and has the authority to approve the Official Zoning Map and amendments to that map. (UDO §146-5.1.1.B)
The City Council shall conduct a public hearing on the application. (UDO §146-5.4.1.C.2.c)
Changes to the Zoning Map for individual parcels shall only be approved if City Council finds that the change to the Zoning Map is required because of changed conditions or circumstances on the property or the surrounding area and (a) the applicant has demonstrated that the proposed rezoning is consistent with the spirit and intent of the Comprehensive Plan, the other policies and plans adopted by the City Council, and with the purpose statement of the proposed new zone district(s); (b) the applicant has demonstrated that the size, scale, height, density, and multi-modal traffic impacts of the proposed rezoning are compatible with surrounding development or can be made compatible through approval conditions; and (c) the application demonstrates that the change in zoning will not create significant dislocations of tenants or occupants of the property, or that any impacts are outweighed by other public benefits or progress toward other Comprehensive Plan goals that would be achieved by approval of the application. (UDO §146-5.4.1.C.3.a.ii) (McClelland)

Planning and Business Development

15151 E. Alameda Parkway
Aurora CO 80012 USA
AuroraGov.org
303.739.7250
GIS@auroragov.org

City of Aurora, Colorado

Sandy Point
Zoning Map Amendment

Miles 0 0.225 0.45

ACCESSIBILITY STATEMENT
Please know that, while the city is working to make all information accessible, PDF map products are primarily visual in nature. If you have trouble accessing this document, please visit www.AuroraGov.org/Accessibility or call the Office of Accessibility (303-326-8858) and let us know how best to assist you.

Case Number: 2025-2002-00
Development Application: #2419-00

7/8/2025 I:\GIS\ArcGIS_Pro_Projects\Planning\Development Review\Data Services\VicinityMap_Pro\VicinityMap_Pro_Arial.aprx

ORDINANCE NO. 2025- _____

A BILL

FOR AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, INITIALLY ZONING A PARCEL OF LAND MEASURING 242 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, LOCATED NORTH OF EAST 56TH AVENUE AND WEST OF FUTURE HAYESMOUNT ROAD AND TWO MILES EAST OF JACKSON GAP STREET TO AIRPORT DISTRICT (AD) AND AMENDING THE ZONING MAP ACCORDINGLY (SANDY POINT ZONING MAP AMENDMENT)

WHEREAS, the applicant has requested that approximately 242 acres of land, more or less, generally located north of East 56th Avenue and west of future Hayesmount Road and two miles east of Jackson Gap Street to Airport District (AD); and

WHEREAS, Section 146-5.4.1.C.3 of the City Code provides that all applications for the initial zoning of property within the City of Aurora, Colorado (the "City"), shall be presented for a public hearing, both to the Planning and Zoning Commission, who shall render a recommendation to City Council, and to City Council for final decision; and

WHEREAS, on July 23, 2025, following a public hearing, the Planning and Zoning Commission voted to recommend the zoning of the parcel.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO:

Section 1. Based on the evidence presented at tonight's public hearing, City Council finds and determines that: the zoning is consistent with the spirit and intent of the Comprehensive Plan, is compatible with surrounding development, and would not result in a significant dislocation of tenants or occupants of the property.

Section 2. The parcel, as more particularly described in "Exhibit A," attached hereto and incorporated herein, is hereby zoned Airport District (AD), and the City zoning map is hereby amended in accordance with said zoning.

Section 3. All ordinances or parts of ordinances of the City in conflict herewith are expressly repealed. This repealer shall not be construed as reviving any resolution, ordinance, or part thereof, heretofore repealed.

Section 6 Pursuant to Section 5-5 of the Charter of the City of Aurora, Colorado, the second publication of this Ordinance shall be by reference, utilizing the ordinance title. Copies of this Ordinance are available at the Office of the City Clerk.

INTRODUCED, READ AND ORDERED PUBLISHED this _____ day of _____, 2025.

PASSED AND ORDERED PUBLISHED this _____ day of _____, 2025.

_____
MIKE COFFMAN, Mayor

ATTEST:

_____
KADEE RODRIGUEZ, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM BY CITY ATTORNEY PETE SCHULTE:

Lena McClelland RLA
_____
LENA MCCLELLAND, Assistant City Attorney

SANDY POINT

LEGAL DESCRIPTION

A PARCEL OF LAND BEING A PART OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER AND THE EAST HALF OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 10, TOWNSHIP 3 SOUTH, RANGE 65 WEST OF THE 6TH PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, COUNTY OF ADAMS, STATE OF COLORADO, BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

BEGINNING AT THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF SAID SECTION 10, BEING MONUMENTED BY A FOUND 2-3/8 INCH DIAMETER ALUMINUM PIPE WITH A 3-1/4 INCH ALUMINUM CAP STAMPED, "T3S R65W, S10/S11/S15/S14, PLS 13155-1991", FROM WHICH THE SOUTH QUARTER CORNER OF SECTION 10, BEING MONUMENTED BY A FOUND 2-3/8 INCH DIAMETER ALUMINUM PIPE WITH A 3-1/4 INCH ALUMINUM CAP STAMPED, "T3S R65W 1/4 S10/S15 PLS 13155-1991" IS ASSUMED TO BEAR SOUTH 89°26’43" WEST, A DISTANCE OF 2653.30 FEET, WITH ALL BEARINGS HEREIN BEING RELATIVE THERETO;

THENCE SOUTH 89°26'43" WEST ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 10, A DISTANCE OF 2653.30 FEET TO SAID SOUTH QUARTER CORNER OF SAID SECTION 10;

THENCE SOUTH 89°25'39" WEST ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID EAST HALF OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 10, A DISTANCE OF 1330.52 FEET TO THE WEST 1/16TH CORNER OF SAID SECTION 10, BEING MONUMENTED BY FOUND A 3-1/4" ALUMINUM CAP STAMPED "REAMS & PATTERSON INC. W 1/16 S10/S15 1990 LS 13239" IN RANGE BOX;

THENCE NORTH 00°28'16" WEST ALONG THE WEST LINE OF SAID EAST HALF, A DISTANCE OF 2648.20 FEET TO THE CENTER WEST 1/16TH CORNER OF SAID SECTION 10, BEING MONUMENTED BY A FOUND 3-1/4" ALUMINUP CAP STAMPED "REAMS PATTERSON W 1-16 C-C S10 1990 LS NO. 13239";

THENCE NORTH 89°22'53" EAST ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF SAID EAST HALF, A DISTANCE OF 1328.24 FEET TO THE CENTER QUARTER CORNER OF SAID SECTION 10, BEING MONUMENTED BY A FOUND NO. 6 REBAR WITH A 3-1/4" ALUMINUM CAP STAMPED "T3S R65W C 1/4 2021 PLS 38534";

THENCE NORTH 89°22'53" EAST ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF SAID SOUTHEAST QUARTER, A DISTANCE OF 2648.67 FEET TO THE EAST QUARTER CORNER OF SAID SECTION 10, BEING MONUMENTED BY A FOUND 2" PIPE WITH A 3-1/4" ALUMINUM CAP STAMPED "JR DEVELOPERS LTD RLS 10377 10/11 DO NOT DISTURB SURVEY MONUMENT;

THENCE SOUTH 00°37'14" EAST ALONG THE EAST LINE OF SAID SOUTHEAST QUARTER, A DISTANCE OF 2652.21 FEET TO SAID SOUTHEAST CORNER OF SAID SECTION 10 AND THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

SAID PARCEL CONTAINING A CALCULATED AREA OF 10,548,233 SQUARE FEET OR 242.154 ACRES, MORE OR LESS AND BEING SUBJECT TO ANY EXISTING EASEMENTS AND/OR RIGHTS OF WAY OF WHATSOEVER NATURE.

I, JEAN P. HALPIN, A SURVEYOR LICENSED IN THE STATE OF COLORADO, DO HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE ABOVE LEGAL DESCRIPTION AND ATTACHED EXHIBIT WERE PREPARED BY ME OR UNDER MY DIRECT SUPERVISION AND CHECKING.

JEAN P. HALPIN, PLS 38474
FOR AND ON BEHALF OF
WESTWOOD PROFESSIONAL SERVICES, INC.
10333 E. DRY CREEK ROAD, SUITE 400
ENGLEWOOD, CO 80112

NORRIS DESIGN
PEOPLE + PLACEMAKING
1101 Bannock Street
Denver, Colorado 80204
303.892.1166

May 7, 2025

City of Aurora
Attn: Cesarina Dancy
15151 E Alameda Parkway
Aurora, CO 80012

RE: SANDY POINT ANNEXATION AND ZONING - LETTER OF INTRODUCTION

Dear Ms. Dancy,

On behalf of the applicant, Airport Logistics LLC, we are pleased to submit this Letter of Introduction to accompany the Annexation Submittal package and introduce the Initial Zoning Application.

SITE CONTEXT

The Sandy Point site is currently in the process of being annexed from Unincorporated Adams County to the City of Aurora. Sandy Point is proposed to include +/- 242 acres and is generally located at the northwest corner of East 56th Avenue and the future Hayesmount Road.

ANNEXATION

Sandy Point is currently in review for Annexation with the City of Aurora. The remaining parcels to the north, east, and the west are not a part of this annexation. This application is in conformance with the following Criteria of Approval in Section 146.5.1.B.2 of the UDO:

Three-Mile Plan

This site is located directly adjacent to the City of Aurora city boundary and is well within the three-miles dictated in the Three-Mile Plan. Additionally, this site currently provides adequate public utilities and infrastructure, such as: public right-of-way access, water connections, utility and sewer connections, etc.

Annexation Procedures

The applicant and their team have followed all the Annexation procedures outlined in Section 146-5.4.1.B in the UDO and submitted all required items by the City of Aurora Annexation Process.

INITIAL ZONING

The applicant is in conformance with the following Criteria of Approval in Section 146-5.1. C.3.ii of the UDO:

A. The applicant has demonstrated that the proposed initial zoning or rezoning is consistent with the spirit and intent of the Comprehensive Plan, with other policies and plans adopted by the City Council, and with the purpose statement of the proposed new zone district(s).

Response: The proposed Sandy Point Annexation and future Master Plan is located within the "Industry Hub" area dedicated by the Aurora Places Comprehensive Plan. The Industry Hub land use designation is proposed to include uses such as Light Industrial / Business Parks, Heavy Industrial, and/or Urban Agriculture. The Sandy Point Master Plan is proposed to include class A industrial buildings as well as on-site detention and water quality pond to accommodate the needs of the project.

NORRIS DESIGN
PEOPLE + PLACEMAKING
1101 Bannock Street
Denver, Colorado 80204
303.892.1166

B. The applicant has demonstrated that the size, scale, height, density, and multi-modal traffic impacts of the proposed initial zoning or rezoning are compatible with surrounding development or can be made compatible with surrounding development through approval conditions.

Response: The current zoning for the surrounding parcels is generally, AD (Airport District) and/or proposed to be Industry Hub by the Aurora Places Comprehensive Plan. The surrounding uses are generally industrial or open space as moving northwest towards the Denver International Airport and west to existing industrial uses. To the east of the property is vacant or undeveloped land, providing a cohesive transition from the large industrial uses and airport. The Sandy Point Master Plan will include a full traffic impact report, detailing the ability of roadway infrastructure to handle to future vehicular additions.

C. The application demonstrates that the change in zoning will not create significant dislocations of tenants or occupants of the property, or that any impacts are outweighed by other public benefits or progress toward other Comprehensive Plan goals that would be achieved by approval of the application.

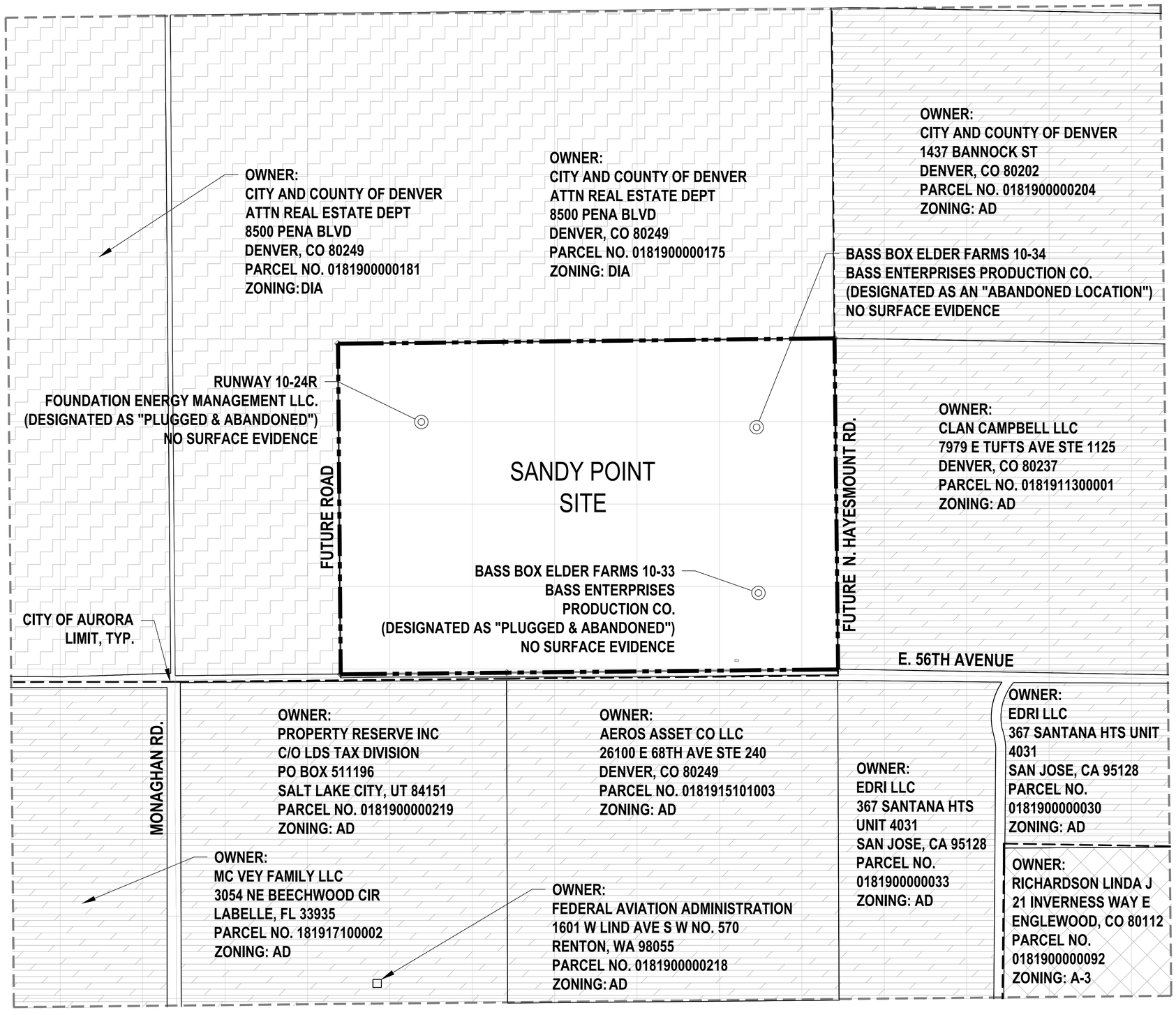
Response: This application will not create any dislocation of tenants or occupants of the property, as the property is currently vacant.

We are looking forward to working with the City of Aurora to make this project a success.

Sincerely,
Norris Design

Diana Rael
Principal

EXHIBIT C



LEGEND

- PROJECT BOUNDARY
- HALF-MILE EXTENTS
- HALF-MILE EXTENTS
- CITY OF AURORA - AIRPORT DISTRICT ZONING
- ADAMS COUNTY - DIA ZONING
- ADAMS COUNTY - A-3 ZONING

NOTES:

1. PROPERTY IS WITHIN THE 65+ LDN AIRPORT NOISE CONTOUR.
2. PROPERTY IS WITHIN THE AIRPORT INFLUENCE ZONE.
3. GRID IS 10X10 ACRES

NORTH

0 200 400 800

SCALE 1" = 400'

NORRIS DESIGN
PEOPLE + PLACEMAKING
1101 BANNOCK STREET
DENVER, CO 80204
P 303.892.1166
NORRIS-DESIGN.COM

SANDY POINT MASTER PLAN

EAST 56TH AVE. AND N. HAYESMOUNT RD.
AURORA, COLORADO

OWNER:
AIRPORT LOGISTICS, LLC

501 S. CHERRY CREEK STREET, STE 570
DENVER, CO 80246

NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

DATE:
07/24/2024

SHEET TITLE:
TAB-4
CONTEXT MAP

CHECKED BY: DL
DRAWN BY: CQ

SANDY POINT

LEGAL DESCRIPTION

A PARCEL OF LAND BEING A PART OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER AND THE EAST HALF OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 10, TOWNSHIP 3 SOUTH, RANGE 65 WEST OF THE 6TH PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, COUNTY OF ADAMS, STATE OF COLORADO, BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

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THENCE SOUTH 89°26'43" WEST ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 10, A DISTANCE OF 2653.30 FEET TO SAID SOUTH QUARTER CORNER OF SAID SECTION 10;

THENCE SOUTH 89°25'39" WEST ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID EAST HALF OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 10, A DISTANCE OF 1330.52 FEET TO THE WEST 1/16TH CORNER OF SAID SECTION 10, BEING MONUMENTED BY FOUND A 3-1/4" ALUMINUM CAP STAMPED "REAMS & PATTERSON INC. W 1/16 S10/S15 1990 LS 13239" IN RANGE BOX;

THENCE NORTH 00°28'16" WEST ALONG THE WEST LINE OF SAID EAST HALF, A DISTANCE OF 2648.20 FEET TO THE CENTER WEST 1/16TH CORNER OF SAID SECTION 10, BEING MONUMENTED BY A FOUND 3-1/4" ALUMINUP CAP STAMPED "REAMS PATTERSON W 1-16 C-C S10 1990 LS NO. 13239";

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I, JEAN P. HALPIN, A SURVEYOR LICENSED IN THE STATE OF COLORADO, DO HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE ABOVE LEGAL DESCRIPTION AND ATTACHED EXHIBIT WERE PREPARED BY ME OR UNDER MY DIRECT SUPERVISION AND CHECKING.

JEAN P. HALPIN, PLS 38474
FOR AND ON BEHALF OF
WESTWOOD PROFESSIONAL SERVICES, INC.
10333 E. DRY CREEK ROAD, SUITE 400
ENGLEWOOD, CO 80112

Planning and Zoning Commission
DRAFT MINUTES
July 23, 2025

Commissioners Present **Garrett Walls**
Becky Hogan
Sonda Banka
Robert Gaiser
Gayle Jetchick
Melvin Bush
Michael Riley

1. **Study Session – 5:00 p.m. – Colfax Business and Property Guidebook by Trevor Vaughn, Manager of Licensing, Finance**

2. **Regular Meeting – Call to Order 6:10 p.m.**

3. **Roll Call**

4. **Pledge of Allegiance**
   Not Conducted Due to Virtual Meeting

5. **Approval of the Planning Commission Minutes**
   5.a. July 9, 2025, Draft Minutes
   A MOTION WAS MADE BY CHAIR WALLS AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BUSH

   TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS SUBMITTED.

   MINUTES APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. **Adoption of Agenda**
   A MOTION WAS MADE BY CHAIRMAN WALLS AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HOGAN 8a-b.

   MOVE TO APPROVE THE DRAFT AGENDA AS THE PERMANENT AGENDA. AGENDA ITEMS 8a-b WILL BE HEARD AT THIS MEETING. ALL OTHER AGENDA ITEMS HAVE EITHER BEEN WITHDRAWN, ARE INACTIVE, OR ARE BEING CONTINUED TO A LATER DATE.

   MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

7. **Consent Agenda**
   Not Conducted Due to Lack of Items.

8. General Business

8a. SANDY POINT – ZONING MAP AMENDMENT

Airport Logistics LLC, as the applicant, seeks a Zoning Map Amendment for the initial zoning to Airport District (AD) for a parcel of land consisting of approximately 242 acres. The subject property is currently situated within unincorporated Adams County and is currently zoned Agriculture (A-3). The site is located north of E. 56th Avenue and west of future Hayesmount Road. This initial zoning is being requested with an annexation for the same area and is bordered to the north and west by unincorporated land in Adams County. The City of Aurora bounds the parcel to the south and east, with Airport District (AD) zoning. The proposal and the surrounding areas are within the Industry Hub placetype, according to the Aurora Places Comprehensive Plan. The proposal is approximately two miles east of Jackson Gap Street. The parcel and surrounding properties are mostly undeveloped. The adjacent 56th Avenue is developed as a rural, two-lane asphalt road.

This proposed initial zoning and annexation would result in consistent zoning and jurisdiction in this developing area of Aurora. Such consistency in zoning and jurisdiction is essential for clarifying development responsibilities, maintenance of public infrastructure, and the provision of services.

The proposed Airport District (AD) zoning aligns well with the existing surrounding zoning and supports the future development goals laid out for the "Industry Hub" placetype in the Aurora Places Comprehensive Plan.

Five (5) adjacent property owners and two (2) registered associations were notified of the rezoning application. No comments were received during the review of the application; therefore, no neighborhood meeting was held.

Testimony Given at the Hearing:

Chair Walls and Commissioners Banka, Bush, Riley, Gaiser, and Jetchick visited the site.

Rachid Rabbaa, Case Manager, gave a presentation of the item, including the staff recommendation.

Commissioner Riley asked if the zoning map amendment and the annexation need to take place at the same time. R. Rabbaa confirmed that the annexation is currently on the second reading with the City Council.

Commissioner Hogan wanted to know if the City of Aurora Water has committed to serving this parcel with water. Diana Rael, Norris Design, Denver, CO, spoke on behalf of the applicant. D. Rael stated that the Zoning Map Amendment, if the Planning Commission recommends approval, would be taken to the City Council with the first reading of the annexation in a couple of weeks for the second reading. She stated that they are currently working through state statute timelines for the annexation. She confirmed that they have been working closely with Aurora Water, and there has been no indication that they would not be able to serve the parcel, and she does not believe City Council would have approved the annexation during the Compliance Hearing if there was an issue. She added that dedications would deed the water rights to the City of Aurora as part of the annexation.

Commissioner Bush asked how close this parcel is to Aerotropolis and if the construction of the warehouses and manufacturing plants could impact planes landing, and whatnot. D. Rael stated that the property is about a mile south of the runways for Denver International Airport. She added that industrial is consistent for the area and that there are larger format buildings.

There was no public comment.

Planning Commission Results

AGENDA ITEM 8a – ZONING MAP AMENDMENT

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER BANKA AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BUSH.

MOVE TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL TO THE AURORA CITY COUNCIL OF CENTRAL SANDY POINT ZONING MAP AMENDMENT FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:

1. THE PROPOSED INITIAL ZONING IS SUPPORTED BY AURORA PLACES AS PART OF THE "INDUSTRIAL HUB" PLACETYPE AND WILL CONTRIBUTE TO THE ECONOMIC AND FISCAL SUCCESS OF THE CITY;
2. THE POTENTIAL SIZE, SCALE, AND HEIGHT OF THE PROPOSED INITIAL ZONING TO AD ARE COMPATIBLE WITH THE CURRENT IMPACTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE SAME SURROUNDING AD ZONING;
3. THE PROPERTY IS CURRENTLY VACANT; THEREFORE, THERE IS NO DISLOCATION OF TENANTS OR OCCUPANTS.

Further Discussion:

Chair Walls expressed support for the project, noting that it makes a lot of sense as it will create contiguous parcels that are in the city.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

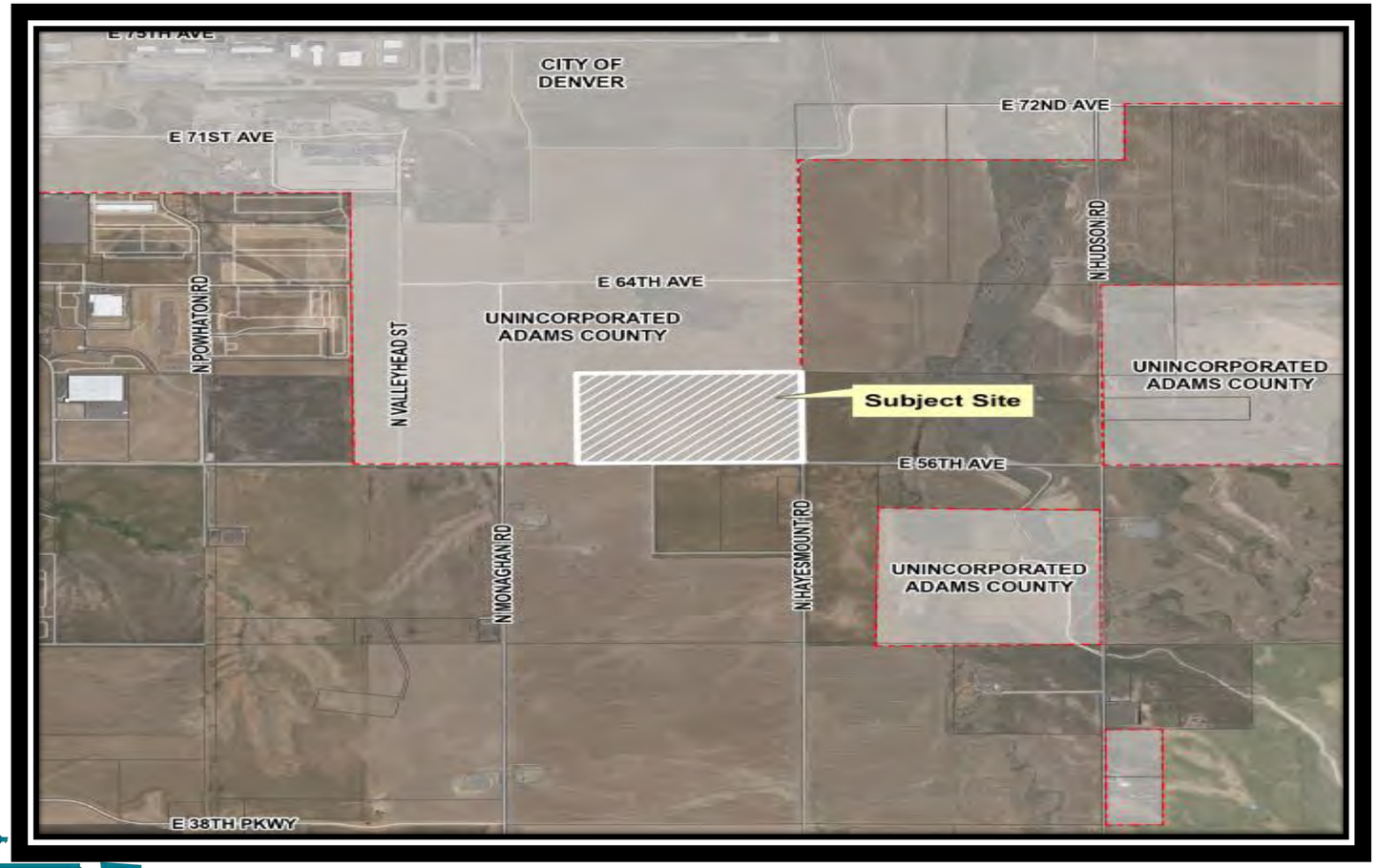
Sandy Point - Zoning Map Amendment

Project No: DA-2413-00
Public Hearing
City Council
August 25, 2025

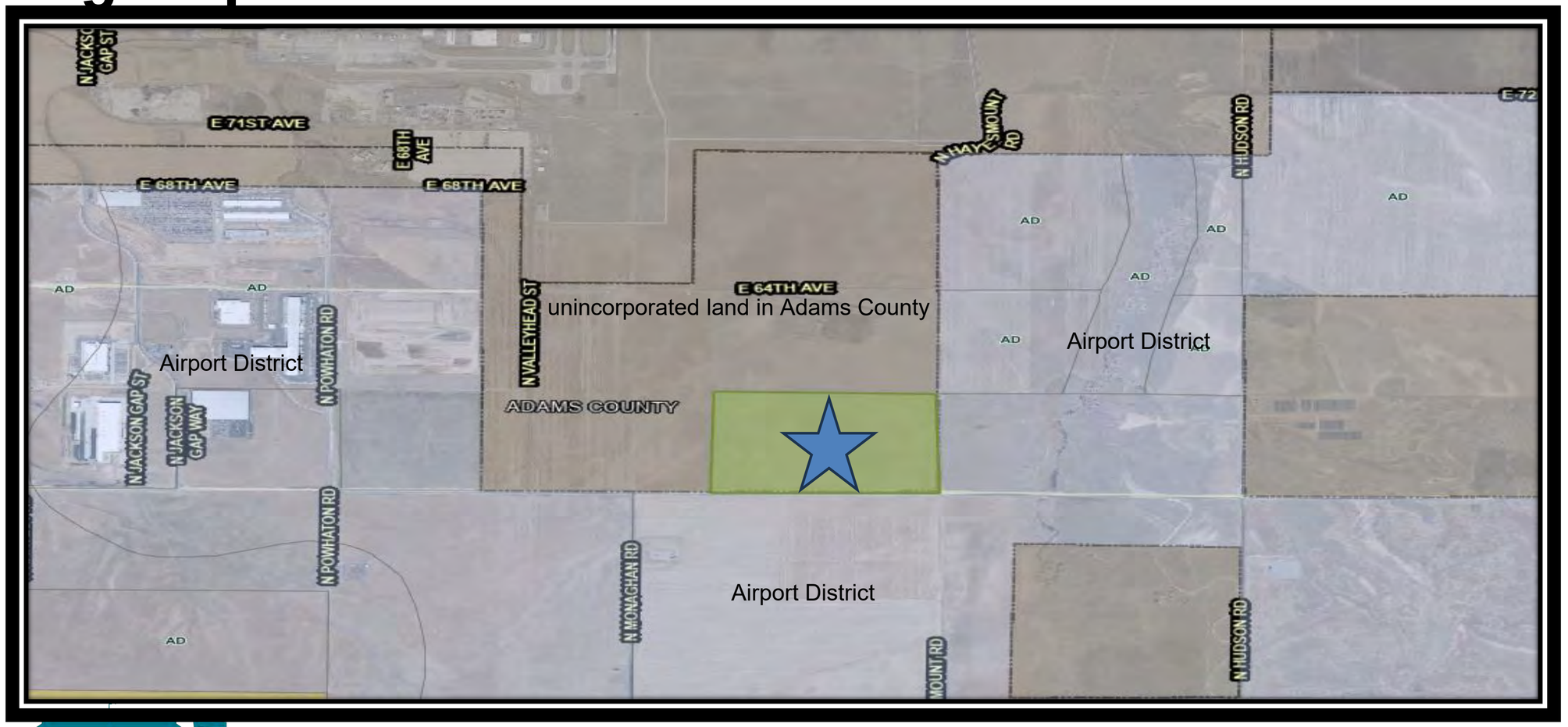
Request

- Initial Zoning (Zoning Map Amendment) to Airport District (AD)

Vicinity Map



Zoning Map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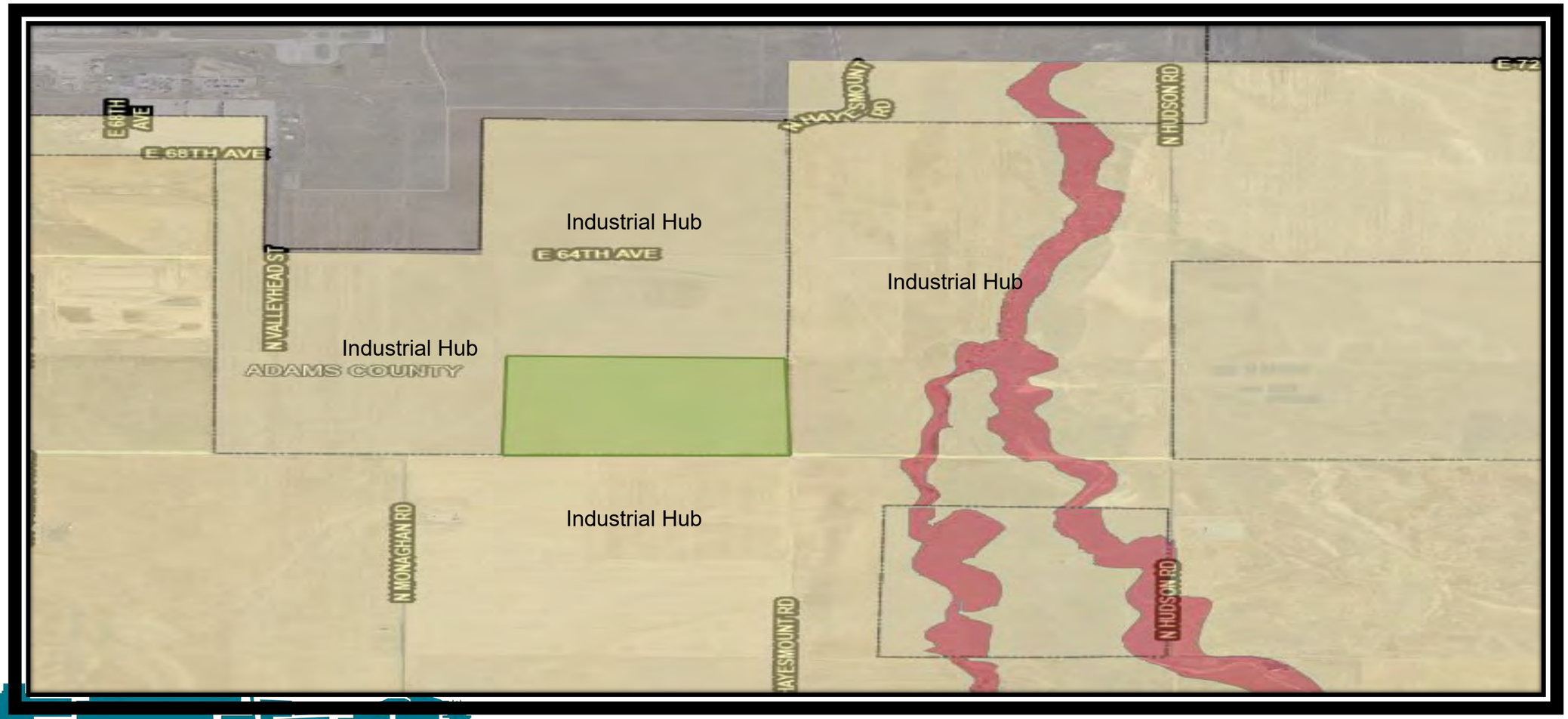
Place Type Map



Community Response

5 adjacent property owners and 2 registered neighborhood organizations were notified. No comments were received during the review of the application

A neighborhood meeting was not held.

Notice of Hearing Boards and Mailings were posted and sent.

No comments were received when Notice of Hearing Boards were posted.

Consistency with the Comprehensive Plan

The Aurora Places Comprehensive Plan is designed to serve as a foundation for decision-making related to growth and development in Aurora. This plan describes future development and land use in terms of “placetypes.” The Plan and Placetype Map, adopted in 2018, identifies the subject property as “Industrial Hub” placetype. The Industry Hub includes areas typically dedicated to manufacturing, warehousing, distribution, fulfillment centers, freight operations and renewable energy enterprises. This placetype plays an important role in the city's employment base and economy.

The proposed AD, Airport district zoning is intended to take advantage of the nearby regional and national transportation hubs and infrastructure, to expand employment opportunities created by the strategic location of these lands near the airports operating in or near Aurora, and to ensure that development is located and designed to be consistent with the continued efficient operation of those airports. Industry hubs and a variety of commercial, light manufacturing (e.g., assembly and technology centers), distribution uses (e.g., freight forwarders, warehousing/distribution), and research and development campuses are anticipated to be developed in this classification.

Zoning Map Amendment Approval Criteria

Per Section 146-5.4.1.C.3, an application for changes to the Zoning Map shall only be recommended for approval to City Council if the Planning and Zoning Commission finds that the following criteria have been met and shall only be approved if City Council finds that the following criteria have been met:

1) The change to the Zoning Map is needed to correct an error; or

2) The change to the Zoning Map is required because of changed conditions or circumstances on the property or in the surrounding area and:

- *The proposed initial zoning is supported by Aurora Places as part of the "Industrial Hub" placetype and will contribute to the economic and fiscal success of the city.*
- *The potential size, scale and height of the proposed initial zoning to AD are compatible with the current impacts associated with the same surrounding AD zoning.*
- *The property is currently vacant, therefore there is no dislocation of tenants or occupants.*

CITY OF AURORA
Council Agenda Commentary

Item Title: Colfax and 13th Avenue Station Area Plan 2025 Update to Comp Plan
Item Initiator: Daniel Krzyzanowski, Planning Supervisor, Planning and Business Development
Staff Source/Legal Source: Daniel Krzyzanowski, Planning Supervisor, Planning and Business Development / Lena McClelland, Assistant City Attorney
Outside Speaker: N/A
Strategic Outcome: Economically Strong: Building a conducive development climate, a diverse mix of industries and housing options, and fostering economic growth so that our community thrives and remains resilient.

COUNCIL MEETING DATES:

Study Session: N/A

Regular Meeting: 8/25/2025

2nd Regular Meeting (if applicable): 9/8/2025

Item requires a Public Hearing: ☒ Yes ☐ No

ITEM DETAILS *(Click in highlighted area below bullet point list to enter applicable information.)*

- Waiver of reconsideration requested, and if so, why
- Sponsor name
- Staff source name and title / Legal source name and title
- Outside speaker name and organization
- Estimated time: (For Study Session items only indicate combined time needed for presentation and discussion)

2025-84 A PUBLIC HEARING AND CONSIDERATION OF AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, AMENDING THE 2018 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TO ADOPT BY REFERENCE THE "COLFAX AND 13TH AVENUE STATION AREA PLAN" ("13TH AVENUE STATION PLAN")
Daniel Krzyzanowski, Planning Supervisor, Planning and Business Development / Lena McClelland, Assistant City Attorney

ACTIONS(S) PROPOSED *(Check all appropriate actions)*

☐ Approve Item and Move Forward to Study Session

☐ Approve Item and Move Forward to Regular Meeting

☐ Information Only

☐ Approve Item with Waiver of Reconsideration
Reason for waiver is described in the Item Details field above.

☐ Approve Item as Proposed at Policy Committee

☐ Approve Item as Proposed at Study Session

☒ Approve Item as Proposed at Regular Meeting

PREVIOUS ACTIONS OR REVIEWS:

Policy Committee Name: Planning & Economic Development

Policy Committee Date: 4/9/2025

Action Taken/Follow-up: ***(Check all that apply)***

☐ Recommends Approval

☐ Does Not Recommend Approval

☒ Forwarded Without Recommendation

☐ Minutes Not Available

☒ Minutes Attached

HISTORY *(Dates reviewed by City council, Policy Committees, Boards and Commissions, or Staff. Summarize pertinent comments. ATTACH MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS, POLICY COMMITTEES AND BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS.)*

This item was presented at the September 2023 Planning & Economic Development Policy Committee as a two-part process that would include (1.) an update to the 2009 Fitzsimons-Colfax and 13th Avenue Station Plan and (2.) the creation of a new urban renewal plan around the 13th Avenue Station. The proposed plan was presented at the April 9, 2025, Planning & Economic Policy Committee and staff was directed to move forward with the plan adoption process. Meeting minutes for both dates are attached.

Staff also provided project briefings to the Planning and Zoning Commission in February 2024 and January 2025. At their April 23, 2025, meeting, the Commission voted unanimously to recommend approval of the plan to City Council. Meeting minutes are attached.

ITEM SUMMARY *(Brief description of item, discussion, key points, recommendations, etc.)*

Since the original station area plan was developed in 2009, the area around the Colfax Station and 13th Avenue Station has seen significant growth and development. Updating this outdated plan can encourage and facilitate new development, investment, and neighborhood improvement through three main approaches:

1. Update the station area plan to reflect city land use plans, policies, and strategies

Since the station area plan was originally adopted 15 years ago, the city has developed and adopted several major planning and policy studies, including the Aurora Places Comprehensive Plan (2018), Unified Development Ordinance (2019), Aurora Housing Strategy (2020), and 13th Avenue Multimodal Mobility Study. This updated station area plan is intended to incorporate these plans and policies, respond to development in the area, and support new, near-term development opportunities. The proposed plan articulates the city's housing strategy to encourage new affordable and/or mixed-income residential development and protect and enhance existing affordable neighborhoods.

2. Clarify and streamline zoning and development standards

The vision of a mixed-use, transit-oriented district has not changed since the original 2009 plan. The area is still intended to include a mix of shopping, services, employment, and housing to meet the needs of those who live, work, and visit the area. However, the updated plan provides more streamlined and effective land use recommendations and development standards that will shape future development in the area. The updated plan language is more consistent with the 2019 Unified Development Ordinance, giving more clear direction to prospective developers, while continuing to shape development in support of the overall vision.

3. Support the establishment of an Urban Renewal District

Furthermore, the updated station area plan lays the foundation for creation of an urban renewal plan that supports funding of public infrastructure improvements that is needed for new development in the area. City Council has recently been briefed on the proposed urban renewal plan for the area and the near-term development opportunities that exist. Through an urban renewal district, the city will be able to encourage and support new residential development by providing necessary infrastructure improvements in the area.

The proposed station area plan also recommends a series of actions improve the neighborhood for current and future residents, employees, and visitors. These items address infrastructure improvements to better and more safely serve drivers, pedestrians, and bicyclists; expansion of housing options in the area, including new affordable housing opportunities; and identifying opportunities for new parks to serve local residents.

COMMUNITY INPUT

City staff conducted a community engagement element to the planning process. City staff hosted two community meetings as well as conducted an online survey to better understand the experiences and priorities of local residents, business owners, and other stakeholders. Early in the process, mailed notification of these meetings was sent to property owners and tenants within and near the planning area, registered neighborhood organizations within one mile of the planning area, providing project information and an invitation to participate in the process. A project website was set up on EngageAurora.org and shared through the city's online communication channels.

Through these various methods, the community voiced support for additional housing options, more safe and convenient transportation options, neighborhood beautification, and a need for more neighborhood parks. Appendix C of the plan document provides an overview of the public outreach and response.

AGENCY REFERRAL RESPONSE(S)

In preparation for this adoption process, referral notices were sent to applicable public agencies to invite review and written comments on the plan document. The city received one written response, from RTD, which is as follows:

"Given the significance of the East Metro bus facility for continued bus service to the City of Aurora and eastern portion of RTD's service area, RTD is concerned about the direction of the Colfax and 13th Ave Station Area Plan and its formal referral into the City of Aurora Comprehensive Plan. The plan envisions zone district designations that are not compatible with RTD's facility and even envisions a future where the bus facility does not exist. RTD staff will continue to work with Aurora staff to resolve these concerns."

As stated in a May 21, 2025, letter to the city, RTD stated three (3) topics of concern:

1. Zoning classification of the East Metro Bus Maintenance Facility and RTD's allowance under code to make repairs, upgrades, or expansions to the facility
2. Illustrations of future street or pedestrian connections across RTD's property
3. Illustrations of a future Dillon Way connection along the east property boundary

Regarding item #1, the city has researched the permitting history of the property and found a solution in response to RTD's concerns about the future use of the property as a transit maintenance facility. The city has provided RTD with a formal zoning letter that outlines the previous land use approvals for the current use of the property, describes in detail its rights under code to make improvements or repairs to the property (as a Redevelopment Plan under UDO Section 5.4.3(B)(3)), and a clear, administrative approval process by which the city can permit these. It is staff's opinion that this solution will meet RTD's long-term needs and allow continued use of the property. This letter was delivered to RTD for their review.

The city has addressed items #2 and #3 by completely removing those specific illustrated concepts. In an email dated July 31, 2025, RTD conveyed to city staff that these objections have been resolved.

ADOPTION CRITERIA AND PROCEDURE

Criteria for Approval:

A Comprehensive Plan, or an amendment to the Comprehensive Plan, shall be recommended for approval and shall be approved, only if it promotes long-term economic, social, and environmental health of the City and protects the public health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Aurora. (Article 146-5.4.1(A)(3))

Adoption Process:

The City Council shall conduct a public hearing on the application and shall make a decision on the application pursuant to all applicable provisions of Section 146-5.3. City Council may approve amendments to the Comprehensive Plan by an ordinance approved by a vote of not less than two-thirds of the entire membership of City Council. (Article 146-5.4.1(A)(2)(c))

FISCAL IMPACT

Select all that apply. (If no fiscal impact, click that box and skip to "Questions for Council")

☐ Revenue Impact ☐ Budgeted Expenditure Impact ☐ Non-Budgeted Expenditure Impact
☐ Workload Impact ☒ No Fiscal Impact

REVENUE IMPACT
Provide the revenue impact or N/A if no impact. (What is the estimated impact on revenue? What funds would be impacted? Provide additional detail as necessary.)

N/A

BUDGETED EXPENDITURE IMPACT
Provide the budgeted expenditure impact or N/A if no impact. (List Org/Account # and fund. What is the amount of budget to be used? Does this shift existing budget away from existing programs/services? Provide additional detail as necessary.)

N/A

NON-BUDGETED EXPENDITURE IMPACT
Provide the non-budgeted expenditure impact or N/A if no impact. (Provide information on non-budgeted costs. Include Personal Services, Supplies and Services, Interfund Charges, and Capital needs. Provide additional detail as necessary.)

N/A

WORKLOAD IMPACT
Provide the workload impact or N/A if no impact. (Will more staff be needed or is the change absorbable? If new FTE(s) are needed, provide numbers and types of positions, and a duty summary. Provide additional detail as necessary.)

N/A

QUESTIONS FOR COUNCIL

Does Council wish to support the Ordinance to amend the city's comprehensive plan to adopt by reference the Colfax and 13th Avenue Station Area Plan?

LEGAL COMMENTS

The City Council is the governing body of the City and has the authority to approve the Comprehensive Plan and amendments to the Comprehensive Plan. (UDO §146-5.1.1.E)
The City Council shall conduct a public hearing on the application. The City Council may approve amendments to the Comprehensive Plan by an ordinance approved by a vote of not less than two-thirds of the entire membership of City Council. (UDO §146-5.4.1.A.2.c)
A Comprehensive Plan amendment shall be approved only if it promotes the long term economic, social, and environmental health of the City and protects the public health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Aurora. (UDO §146-5.4.1.A.3) (McClelland)

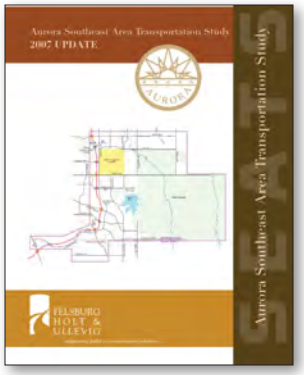
Draft Revision

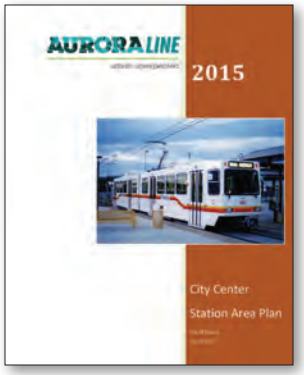
PREVIOUSLY ADOPTED OR COMPLETED PLANS AND STUDIES

The city has completed and adopted a number of studies, plans, and policies that support city goals and objectives. When projects are proposed, these documents should be referenced alongside this plan when relevant and appropriate.

The following plans are adopted by reference in the Aurora Places Comprehensive Plan.

- Our Parks, Our Places: A Plan for Aurora's Parks, Recreation and Open Space (2024) (Ord. 2024-11)
- Southeast Area Transportation Study (SEATS), 2007
- Northeast Area Transportation Study (NEATS) Refresh, 2018
- Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan, 2012 (Ord. 2012-37)
- Public Art Master Plan, A Vision for the Future, 2009
- Station Area Plans:
  Gateway Park East Station Area Plan, 2008 (Ord. 2008-79)
  Iliff Station Area Plan, 2009 (Ord. 2009-43)
  Abilene Station Area Plan, 2009 (Ord. 2009-44)
  Peoria-Smith Station Area Plan, 2009 (Ord. 2009-53)
  Florida Station Area Plan, 2011 (Ord. 2011-44)
  Nine Mile Station Area Plan, 2012 (Ord. 2013-01)
  City Center Station Area Plan, 2015 (Ord. 2015-16)
  Fitzsimons Station Area Plan, 2016 (Ord. 2016-40)
  Colfax and 13th Avenue Station Area Plan, 2025 (Ord. 2025-__)
- Urban Renewal Plans
- Westerly Creek Village Community Plan, 2003





Colfax and 13th Avenue Station Area Plan

A Framework for Transit-Oriented Development

2025 Update

2009 Station Area Plan

City of Aurora

Bob Watkins, Director of Planning and Development Services

Consultant Team

Crandall Arambula

Navjoy Consulting

Hartwig & Associates

2025 Station Area Plan Update

City of Aurora

Jeannine Rustad, Director of Planning and Business Development

Daniel Krzyzanowski, Project Manager

Jennifer Orozco, Project Manager

Approved by the Aurora City Council as an amendment to the Aurora Places Comprehensive Plan by Ordinance _____ effective on _____.

Author: City of Aurora, Colorado, Planning and Business Development Department

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How to Use the Colfax and 13th Station Area Plan

Implementation of the plan will be achieved through a series of actions, improvements, and investments that align with the vision and concepts found in the plan. Especially in infill or redevelopment areas, such as this one, implementation is opportunistic and incremental. The vision will not be realized through a *single* project or budget item, but rather as the sum of decisions made by various decision-makers and stakeholders. The plan acts as a guide for specific actions as they are prioritized and pursued. The plan also serves as a measure for progress toward intended outcomes for the area.

Telling the Station Area's Story and Sharing Its Vision

This plan conveys the community's vision for how it can evolve and change to support future development and preserve established neighborhoods. The plan identifies the station area priorities and charts a path for the station area's long-term growth.

Evaluate and Inform Development Proposals

The plan guides and assists in the evaluation of public and private development proposals and helps ensure that proposed developments support the city's long-term objectives.

Regulatory Framework

The plan serves as a foundation for zoning regulations and infrastructure decisions and offers a framework for financial decisions guided by these plan recommendations. Amendments to these can be revisited as necessary to support the long-term objectives of the plan. The plan provides a vision for this station area. The fundamental concepts and land use framework are intended to be flexible in their details and application, while upholding the city's overall vision for the area. Such alternatives must conform to the key principles for transit-oriented development as outlined in the Aurora Places Comprehensive Plan**.** Such alternatives shall conform to the general design guidance and guidelines described in this plan and meet all standards defined by the underlying zone districts.

Coordinate Local and Regional Initiatives

The plan should inform and coordinate local and regional planning initiatives at the city, county and regional levels. The plan aids and informs efforts related to development, density, housing, transportation, transit, trails, and economic development in the station area.

CIP, Grants and Funding Mechanisms

The plan should inform the needs associated with the area's capital improvement needs, urban renewal plans, help establish priority expenditures, and outline grant opportunities in partnership with area property owners to realize the vision. As a Denver Regional Council of Government (DRCOG) designated "Urban Center" and a Transit Oriented Community (TOC), the station area is primed for local, state and federal grant opportunities to facilitate development and supportive infrastructure.

Aurora Places Relationship and its Amendment

The Aurora Places Comprehensive Plan established a path forward for the development of the city's station areas, but did not address site specific needs. It specifically identified our Transit Oriented Development as areas of focus and the need for future action steps to realize the community's vision for a dense, mixed use, transit supportive district.

Inform, Educate and Market

The plan is a valuable source of information for policy makers, local boards and commissions, developers, organizations, businesses and residents. This broad spectrum of interests should use the plan to inform, educate and market the vision to members and stakeholders and provide important information that can assist with future development initiatives.

1. Existing Conditions and Background Information

Conditions at this Colfax/13th Avenue station area have evolved, and progress continues to be made. This updated version of the station area plan builds on the original plan as well as new policy direction derived from the *Aurora Places Comprehensive Plan* (2018), the *Unified Development Ordinance* (2019), and the *Aurora Housing Strategy* (2020). While the overarching vision for the area has not changed from a mixed-use, transit-oriented district, this updated version identifies new opportunities to further the vision, guide development, and identify public improvements that facilitate compact, mixed-use development that is transit-supportive. It offers a renewed strategic approach for the city, its partners, and the community to realize this shared vision and desired outcome.

Initially in 2008, the City of Aurora and RTD collaborated on the environmental evaluation process that refined the location of the I-225 light rail line and stations. During this time, the city conducted planning studies at several of the stations. Initially, the city retained a design team led by Crandall Arambula to prepare a station area plan for an area approximately one-half mile around the proposed Colfax and 13th Avenue station areas.

At the time of the original station area plan development, the planning, construction and opening of the I-225 light rail transit corridor was eagerly anticipated by businesses and residents in Aurora. The introduction of light rail stations has provided opportunities for changes in land use, creation of employment districts, and new residential neighborhoods and housing choices. Through the original station area planning process, now 15 years ago, the City of Aurora worked closely with the Regional Transportation District (RTD), property owners, neighborhood associations and residents to identify the planning principles that guided this plan.

I "Bikenado" by Chris Fennell. Located at the 13th Avenue Station.

The light rail station at Colfax near the Anschutz-Fitzsimons campus and the 13th Avenue station are two of ten stations located in the City of Aurora along the I-225 corridor. The Colfax Station is an elevated station that spans Colfax Avenue with convenient access on the north and south sides of Colfax Avenue. This station serves the eastern portion of the Anschutz-Fitzsimons medical campus and developments along Colfax Avenue. The 13th Avenue Station provides commuter parking and supports existing residential areas.

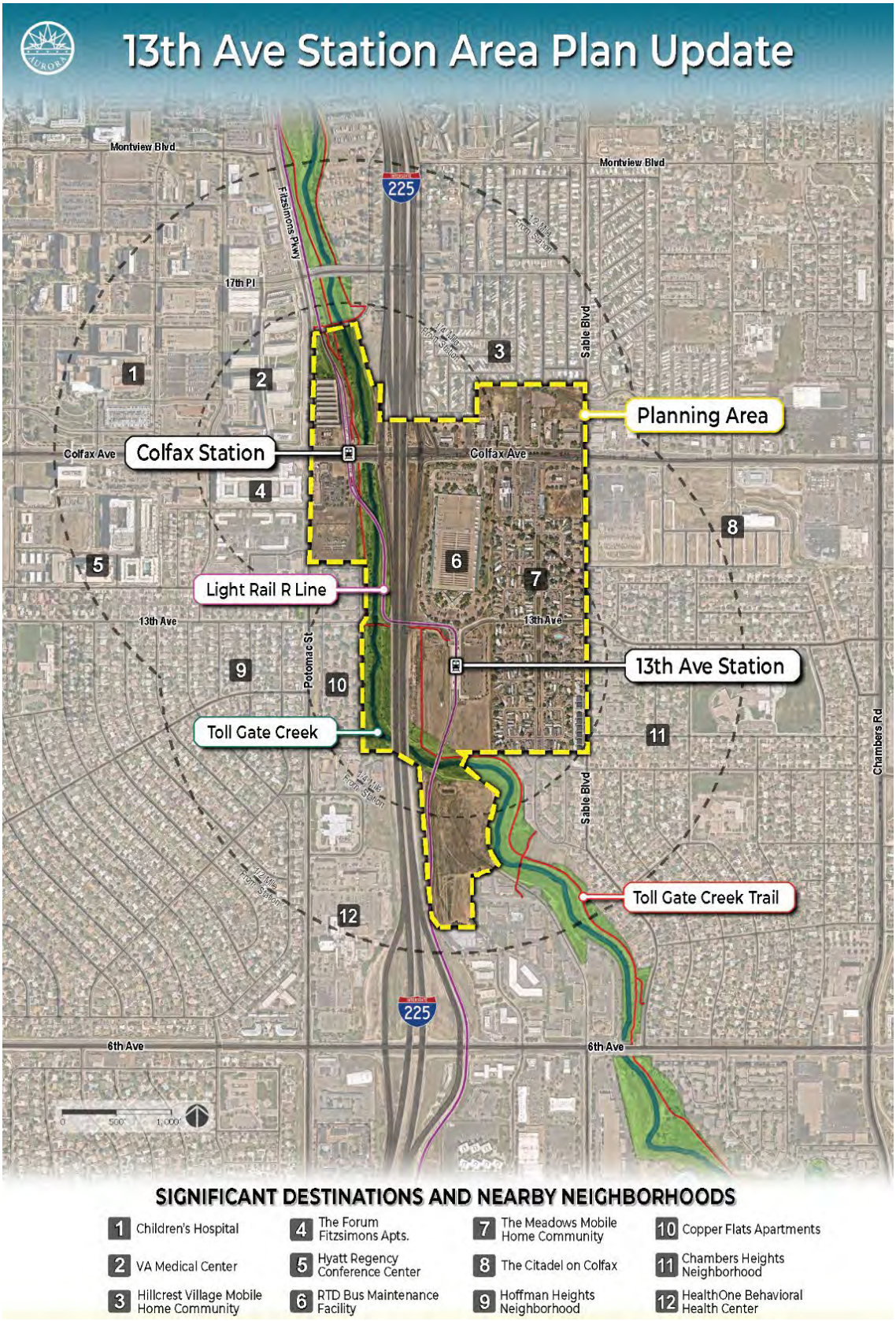
The purpose of this updated Colfax and 13th Avenue Station Area Plan is to build on past investments, to continue planning for development and growth within the corridor, and to identify new opportunities to improve transit service and multimodal access through the corridor. Implementation of the vision into reality will occur incrementally as opportunities present themselves and property owners initiate investments in their properties. The plan provides a framework for that future development.

This updated plan builds on the principles and concepts of the original plan, but renews the vision based on stakeholder input collected through a series of public meetings and workshops.

As identified through this process, the objectives of this plan are to:

- Create a high-density, transit supportive community with a housing focus to meet increased demand
- Enhance direct, convenient, and attractive pedestrian and bicycle connections to the transit stations and stops
- Identify long-term development concepts of undeveloped or underdeveloped land adjacent to the 13th Avenue Station area that is accessible to the Colfax Station and the Anschutz Medical Campus
- Define traffic circulation patterns and an appropriate street system within the 13th Avenue station area with strategies to mitigate any negative transportation impacts to the surrounding residential neighborhoods
- Preserve and enhance the adjacent, established mobile home communities

Figure 1: Existing Context Map



Existing Conditions Summary

The station area is illustrated in Figure X on the previous page and comprises areas within roughly one-half mile surrounding both the 13th Avenue Station and Colfax Station, with a total area of approximately 187 acres. The area is generally north of 6th Avenue, west of Sable Boulevard, south of 16th Street, and east of Potomac Street.

Existing land uses within and adjacent to the study area include hospital and medical office facilities, commercial and retail uses, and low-density housing in established neighborhoods to the east and west. The Meadows is a mobile home community that is immediately adjacent to the east of the 13th Avenue Station while Hillcrest Village is one of the largest mobile home communities in the city, located just north of Colfax and the study area.

Anschutz Medical Campus

The Anschutz Medical Campus and the Fitzsimons Innovation Campus (FIC), one of the largest job centers in the region. This urban center is projected to have 45,000-50,000 employees at build-out. The campus is served by two light rail stations, the Colfax Station which serves as the eastern gateway to the campus, at I-225 and Colfax Avenue, and the Fitzsimons Station is located on the north side of the campus at Fitzsimons Parkway and Scranton Court.

Colfax Corridor

Low density retail, services, and hospitality dominate the Colfax Avenue corridor east of I-225, while new mixed-use developments are found on the corridor west of the highway. Commercial development east of I-225 is a mix of retail, restaurant, hotel, and other services that serve local residents and cater to employees and visitors to the campus. A handful of undeveloped parcels exist just off Colfax Avenue. Additionally, the RTD bus maintenance facility is located on Colfax Avenue, immediately north of the 13th Avenue Station.

Some major new developments can be found west of I-225. These include several large-scale, high-density, mixed-use projects, several of which were realized and supported by urban renewal planning and incentives. The Forum at Fitzsimons and Fitzsimons Village are two such redevelopment/infill projects that have been built since the 2009 station area plan was originally adopted.

Toll Gate Creek Corridor

Toll Gate Creek traverses through the area, passing under I-225 at the 13th Avenue Station, and serves as an important north-south regional trail corridor and open space amenity. Recent improvements allow for comfortable and convenient trail connection north to the 14-mile Sand Creek Regional Greenway Trail and south to the High Line Canal, Aurora Municipal Center, and neighborhoods further south. This off-street trail connection puts the 13th Avenue Station about a half-mile walk from the Anschutz Medical Campus entry. (Need graphic of trail here)

Colfax and 13th Avenue Stations and Transit Connections

Colfax Ave and Sable Blvd offer several bus routes, including the highly utilized 15/15L connecting to downtown Denver. This corridor is planned for future bus rapid transit (BRT) service. The location of the 13th Avenue Station offers a bus-to-light rail transfer opportunity. However currently no bus service is available at the 13th Avenue Station itself, though bus stops are conveniently walkable from both rail stations.

The existing RTD park-and-ride facility at the 13th Avenue station currently provides 242 surface parking spaces for rail transit patrons. However, since the station's opening, parking usage has been lower than expected and few spaces are regularly used. This has allowed a reevaluation of parking needs to better balance transit rider convenience and future development opportunities.

2 . The Concept Plan: Land Use and Mobility Frameworks

Since the original plan was developed in 2009, the area has seen significant growth and development. Additionally, during this period, the city has developed and adopted several major planning and policy studies, including the **Aurora Places Comprehensive Plan (2018)**, **Unified Development Ordinance (2019)**, **Aurora Housing Strategy (2020),** and **13th Avenue Multimodal Mobility Study**. This updated plan is intended to consider and incorporate these adopted plans, policies, and practices into the local vision for the station areas.

The following key principles that were found in the 2009 station area plan are still highly applicable and continue to be foundational:

1. **The TOC (Transit Oriented Community) works as an "urban district".** The one-half mile area around the transit station is considered to be the area of influence. These areas can become new neighborhoods where development draws value from the transit stations, parks and plazas are gathering places, and the mix of uses allows pedestrians to easily reach their destinations.

2. **TOCs must be walkable**. TOCs are to create an urban scale where the pedestrian is important. Attractive and safe pedestrian connections are a priority in TOCs.

3. **Central spaces give identity to TOCs**. Public spaces are very important in TOCs, and parks, plazas and main streets that are beautiful and useful can become important identifying elements.

4. **TOCs connect to the surrounding neighborhoods**. The pedestrian network of the TOC should allow easy pedestrian connections to surrounding neighborhoods. The relatively small size of the blocks should allow for an attractive and convenient pedestrian experience.

5. **Density is important**. TOCs should have density sufficient to create an active center for an existing or new neighborhood. Higher densities take advantage of the massive public investment in transit. Density also creates the potential for diversity of housing types, a range of land uses, and the possibility of neighborhood-serving retail. Density should transition from the highest densities in the core of the TOC around the transit station to lower densities next to existing residential neighborhoods.

6. **Design matters**. The quality of building architecture and the design of streets, parks and plazas are important elements that create the identity of a station area.

7. **Promoting sustainability**. Compact development promotes efficiency in infrastructure and may require innovative approaches to detention and water quality.

Relationship to the City's adopted Comprehensive Plan

The Aurora Places Comprehensive Plan uses the concept of "placetypes" to define various types of districts and neighborhoods, describing typical land uses, transportation networks, economic activities, public improvements, and development character. The Colfax and 13th Avenue station areas include four placetypes as illustrated:

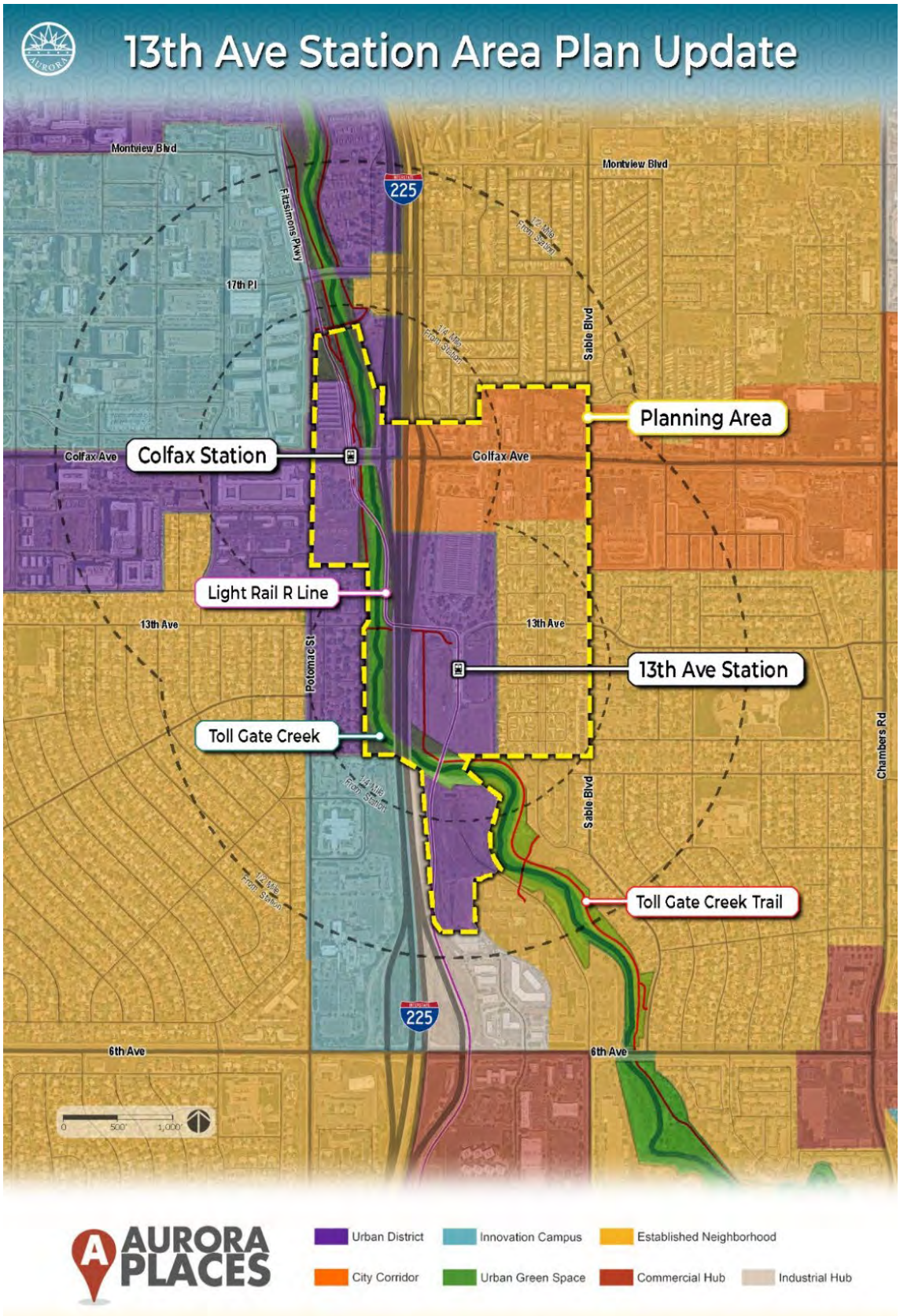
- **Urban District**: Urban Districts are Aurora's signature destination that offer a unique, vibrant urban experience. These districts are critical to the economic and fiscal health of the city as centers of employment, culture, and activity. The Urban District is the city's most intensely developed area with mixed-use, entertainment, institutional, retail, restaurant and multifamily residential as defining uses. This district is distinguished from other placetypes by density, scale, and the prioritization of multimodal transportation options.

- **Established Neighborhood**: Established Neighborhoods are predominantly residential, but supported by retail, services, multifamily and office uses along perimeter streets and intersections. This placetype's primary uses includes single-family detached and attached, and multifamily housing of various densities, along with schools, parks, and religious institutions.

- **City Corridor**: The focus of the City Corridor is commercial activity along the primary street, with connected, mixed residential types supporting this vibrant district. This placetype is generally auto oriented, but should also accommodate pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit service. The focus of the placetype is commercial activity, and as such, its primary uses are restaurants, retail, office, and commercial services. Multifamily residential uses are secondary uses, appropriate in areas not prioritized for commercial development, and allow for development of mixed-use projects.

- **Urban Green Space**: Regionally significant areas of natural environment and developed parks define the Urban Green Space placetype. This placetype is largely defined by three land uses: parks, trails, and open space. Through this placetype, Aurora's residents are connected to parks and open spaces through a comprehensive network of trails, linear parks, bicycle routes, and sidewalks.

Figure 2: Comprehensive Plan Placetype Map

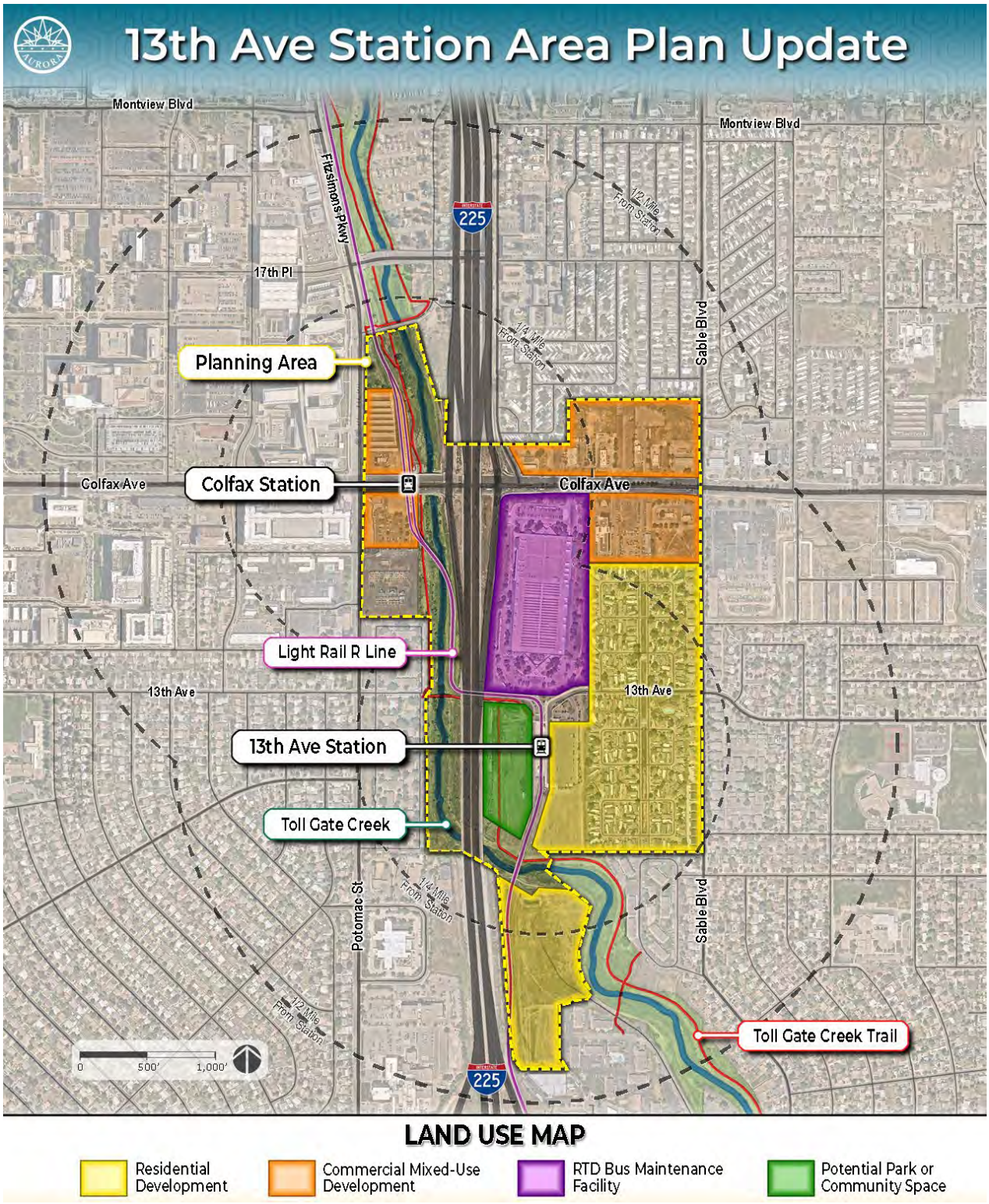


The Land Use Framework

To create a vision for long-term development, a number of concepts were developed to determine the form and type of complementary uses. The fundamental concept for the area is a more intense mixed-use East Colfax Avenue corridor, with mid- or high-density residential development south of the corridor, adjacent to the surrounding existing neighborhoods. These areas support the Anschutz Medical Campus by providing complementary retail, services, and office uses along highly visible and accessible portions of the Colfax Avenue and Potomac Street / Fitzsimons Parkway corridors, with residential infill in more interior neighborhood areas, the back side of the commercial Colfax Avenue properties, and at the 13th Avenue Station.

The concept illustrated in the Land Use Framework (Figure 3) was developed with a focus on extending the city grid and using new streets and block sizes to support new building developments. Parks and trail connections are identified as important amenities for new neighborhood residents and there is minimal surface parking.

Figure 3: Land Use Framework



Commercial Mixed-Use Development

Commercial uses should be located along East Colfax Avenue and provide shopping, dining, and services for the area's residents, workers, and visitors. These commercial uses in the corridor benefit from both drive-by visibility and safe, convenient pedestrian accessibility from nearby neighborhoods, hotels, offices, and transit stops. Common commercial uses should include retail, restaurants, personal services, business services, hospitality, and ancillary medical services.

Ground Floor Uses

Active, commercial uses are recommended as ground-floor uses for those new developments with frontage on East Colfax Avenue, Potomac Street, Fitzsimons Parkway, and Sable Boulevard, preferably within mixed-use buildings. Even in the limited cases of single-use or single-story development, buildings should be oriented toward the street and located along the street frontage. Parking should be located to the rear or internal of these properties. Figure 4 illustrates this concept and how it should be applied to future development.

Residential Development

Housing is a fundamental element of transit-oriented neighborhoods. Locating mid- or high-density residential uses adjacent to light rail stations enables and encourages residents to use transit and provides housing options in areas with access to services, employment, and amenities. Renter- and owner-occupied housing types are appropriate in all residential portions of the planning area and mixed-income developments are highly encouraged in order to provide housing options that serve a variety of household types and preferences.

Colfax Corridor

While the Colfax corridor offers opportunities for further commercial and office development, residential uses are also desired to meet plan goals for mixed-use. Residential uses in this area should be medium- or high-density and either integrate ground floor non-residential uses along the main street frontages or be located to the rear of properties. Residential density of 60 dwelling units per acre, or higher, is envisioned along East Colfax Avenue, in order to support the transit-oriented vision for the area and maximize land and location value. Figure 4 illustrates how residential development should be located and oriented in this planning area.

13th Avenue Station Area

Transit-supportive housing is essential at the 13th Avenue Station area to create higher-density housing options for all income levels to capitalize on the proximity to the light rail station as well as the employment opportunities at the medical campus and along Colfax Avenue. Residential density should be 60 dwelling units per acre, or higher, at or adjacent to the station, and at least 30 dwelling units per acre south of the creek, to comply with current zoning. Townhouses or attached housing are appropriate in the peripheral areas serving as transitional forms adjacent to existing development and public amenities.

Existing Mobile Home Community

The existing Meadows mobile home community, located immediately east of the 13th Avenue Station, is a valuable resource of affordable owner-occupied housing. *Preservation of this established neighborhood is a priority*. However, due to its proximity to the station, Colfax corridor, and medical campus, the market interest in this property is likely to increase,

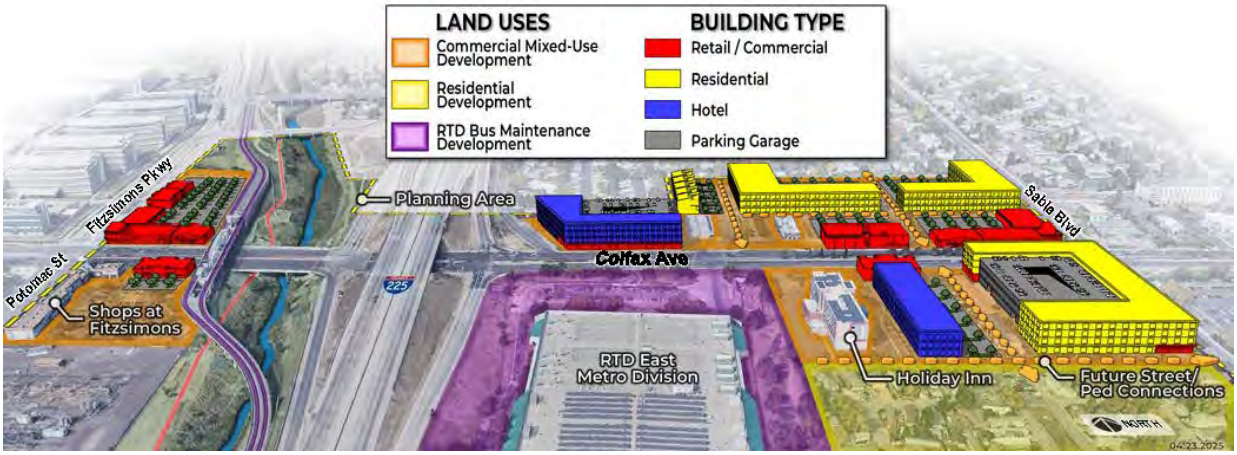
potentially introducing pressures for redevelopment or displacement of current residents, as has occurred in northwest Aurora and other communities in the region.

The city would not support the loss of this important naturally-occurring affordable housing or displacement of its residents. Furthermore, the city would support improvements to the mobile home community to improve its desirability, livability, affordability, and to ensure the long-term viability of this important housing asset.

Development Concepts

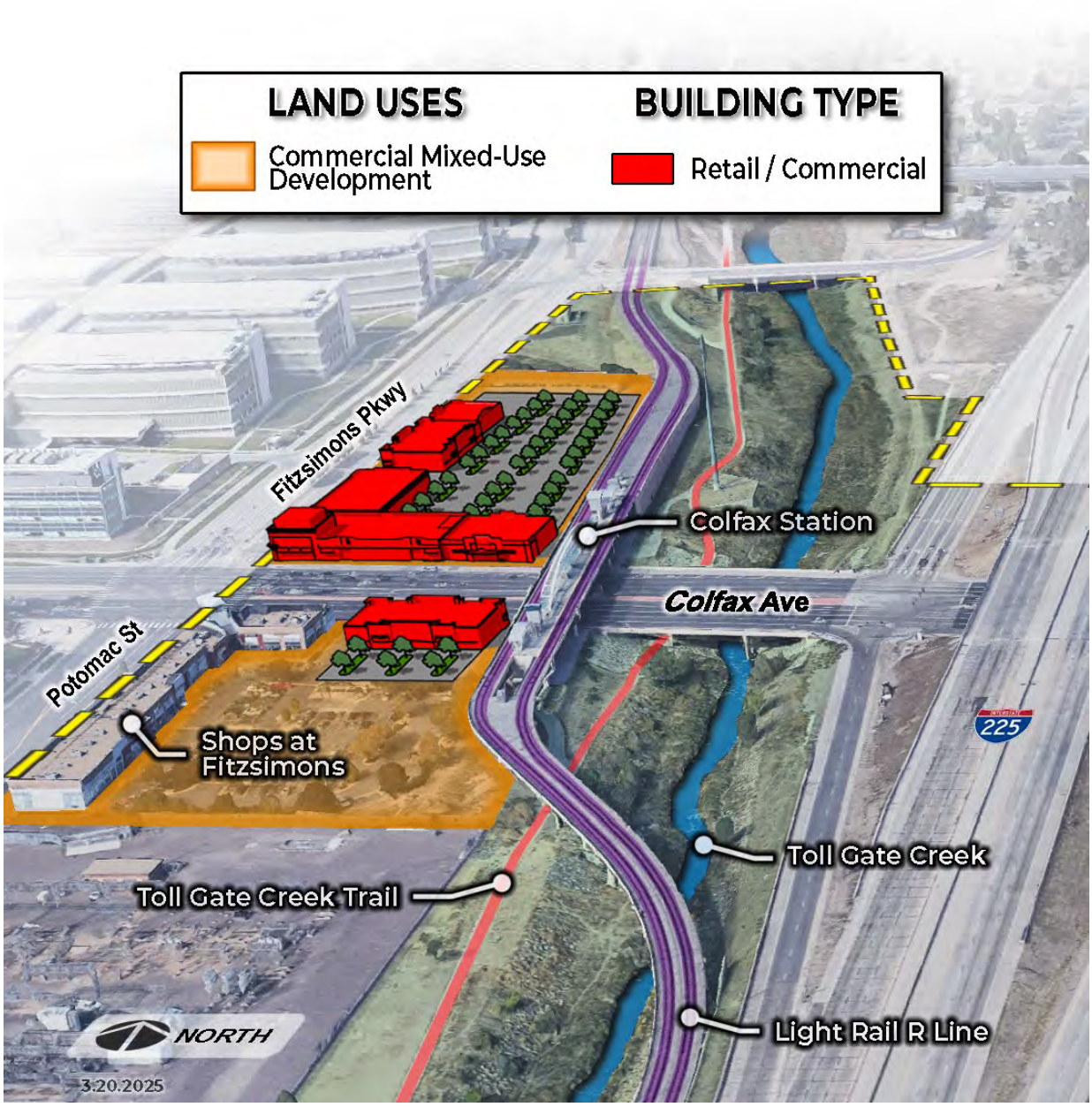
Infill and redevelopment are anticipated to take place incrementally and opportunistically, as property owners and the development community identify possibilities for investment in the area. The city can play a role in supporting new development that meets the defined vision and needs of the community.

Figure 4: Future Development Concepts Illustrated for East Colfax Avenue Corridor



This figure is intended to illustrate the general land use, development, and mobility concepts described in this plan. Specific development projects must meet all applicable codes and standards and be approved through all applicable processes and permits.

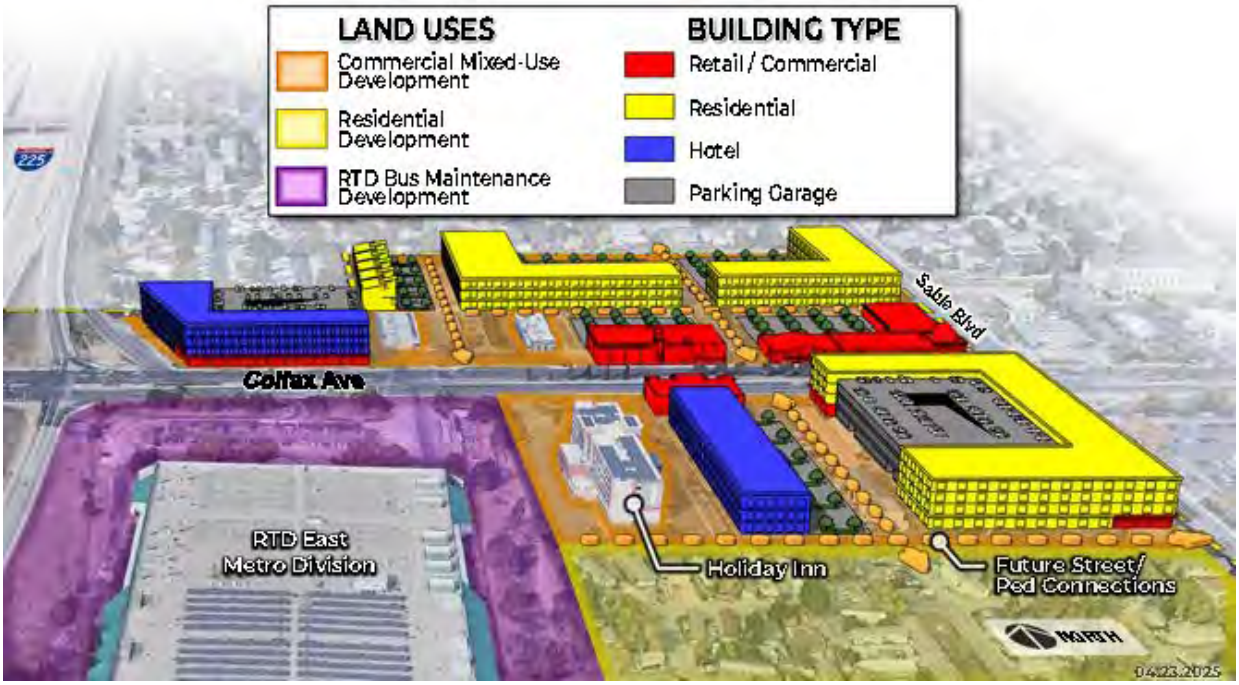
Figure 5: Future Development Concepts Illustrated for East Colfax Avenue Corridor (west)



This figure is intended to illustrate the general land use, development, and mobility concepts described in this plan. Specific development projects must meet all applicable codes and standards and be approved through all applicable processes and permits.

Development near the Anschutz Medical Campus should be built to the street frontage with enhanced pedestrian access along the major streets, as illustrated above. Crossings should be enhanced to facilitate customer access from the campus to safely and conveniently visit surrounding shopping and dining options.

Figure 6: Future Development Concepts Illustrated for East Colfax Avenue Corridor (east))



This figure illustrates the land use, development, and mobility concepts described in this plan. Specific development projects must meet all applicable codes and standards and be approved through all applicable processes and permits.

The Colfax Avenue frontage, east of I-225, offers opportunities to redevelop and increase the density of both residential and non-residential uses that benefit the Anschutz Medical Campus and surrounding neighborhoods. While some properties are new, others may be opportunities for redevelopment. Retail, restaurants, and hospitality uses may be especially desirable to campus employees and visitors. These should be located directly along Colfax Avenue, either in stand-alone buildings or as part of mixed-use buildings with parking located internally, as illustrated above.

New, urban-scale residential development could add housing choices that are convenient to this major employment center, public transit, and local amenities and services. New residential uses should be medium or high density to take advantage of this demand. This illustration shows a mix of residential formats with both surface, garage, and structured parking, or a combination of formats. New development offers opportunities to re-establish a street and pedestrian network with required life safety and fire access.

Parks, Trails, and Open Space Amenities

Public spaces include parks, trails, open space, and other recreational or community amenities. These amenities enhance the quality of life for area residents, visitors, and employees, as well as serve as a draw for new development and economic activity.

Existing Toll Gate Trail Corridor

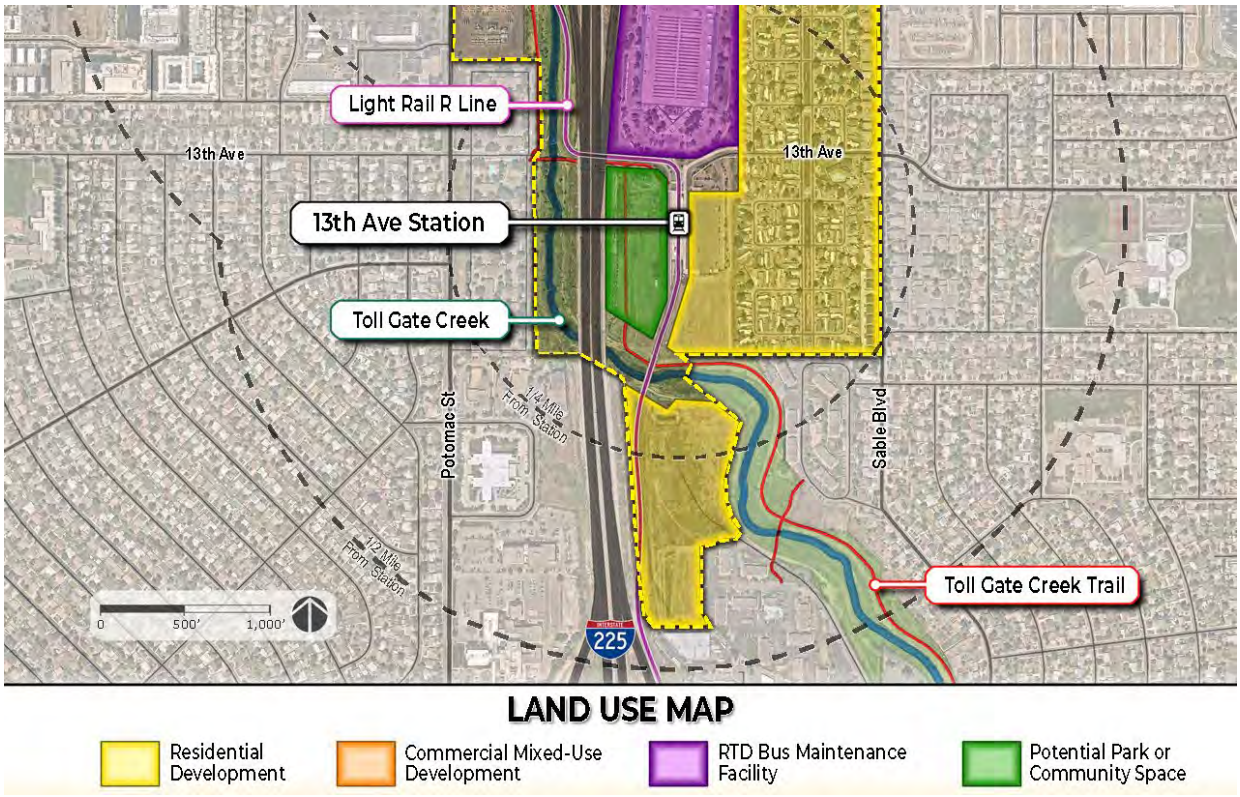
Since the 2009 station area plan was developed, the city has completed major trail improvements along Toll Gate Creek. These improvements include a paved trail along the creek, connections to the 13th Avenue Station, and bridge improvements across the creek

and connecting to 13th Avenue to the west. The result is safe, convenient pedestrian and bicycle access connecting the Anschutz campus, neighborhoods on both sides of I-225, and to the Colfax and 13th Avenue Stations. Any future Dillon Way street extension should integrate the trail facility and creek corridor so that the area continues to fully benefit from this important regional amenity.

Future Park Opportunities

While Toll Gate Creek offers regional trail connections, park space in the vicinity is fairly limited. The RTD-owned property immediately west of the 13th Avenue Station platform is inaccessible to regular vehicle traffic, making it exceptionally challenging to develop with residential or commercial uses. This site could provide an opportunity for a park, community garden, or other outdoor amenities to serve residents of new and existing development as well as surrounding neighborhoods, trail users, or even transit riders. New development in the area will be required to meet the PROS park dedication standards.

Figure 7: Land Use Framework and Potential Park Property



RTD Bus Maintenance Facility and Park and Ride

The RTD East Metro Maintenance facility is located at 14100 E Colfax Avenue, immediately north of the 13th Avenue Station and south of East Colfax Avenue. This facility is currently used for bus maintenance activities. This facility is important for RTD's current and future operations in Aurora and ensuring that bus service is safe and reliable.

The Mobility Framework

The Mobility Framework (Figure 5) supports the Land Use Framework for a transit-oriented neighborhood and provides vision for improved mobility networks that need to be strengthened with additional infill development or redevelopment, along with supportive public improvements. This connected network supports the vision with safe and convenient multimodal access between surrounding neighborhoods, the retail/services along East Colfax Avenue, employment at the Anschutz Medical Campus, and high-frequency transit services.

Street Network and Design

Existing access for drivers, pedestrians, and bicyclists through the area is mixed. Major street corridors, like Potomac Street, Sable Boulevard, and East Colfax Avenue connect the area to the community beyond, however these tend to be very auto-focused in their design and access and very busy in terms of traffic volumes. Alternative or parallel street connections are limited, which pushes high volumes of travelers and competing transportation modes together on the few main streets.

One evident challenge to the area is the limited connectivity from the surrounding neighborhoods to the Colfax Avenue shopping, services, and transit connections. Public, permanent, and improved connections for pedestrians and bicyclists should be considered in future redevelopment or improvement of properties in the area to supplement the walkable street connections required as part of redesigned site plans. Block dimensions, lot design and layout, and through-connectivity are design elements that should be planned appropriately in order to meet this desired outcome and condition. Ultimately, a mix of on-street and off-street connections should be reestablished to create an urban-scaled network of mobility for drivers, pedestrians, and bicyclists.

Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities

The 13th Avenue Station is located at an important pedestrian junction that connects surrounding neighborhoods and regional transportation corridors. The Toll Gate Creek trail is an important, regional corridor and connects the extensive trails network of central Aurora with the Anschutz Medical Center and Sand Creek Trail corridor to the north. Intersecting this corridor is 13th Avenue, which runs east-west through the adjacent neighborhoods and has been identified as a desirable pedestrian and bicycle corridor and planned for enhancements to support this use.

Figure 8: Mobility Framework

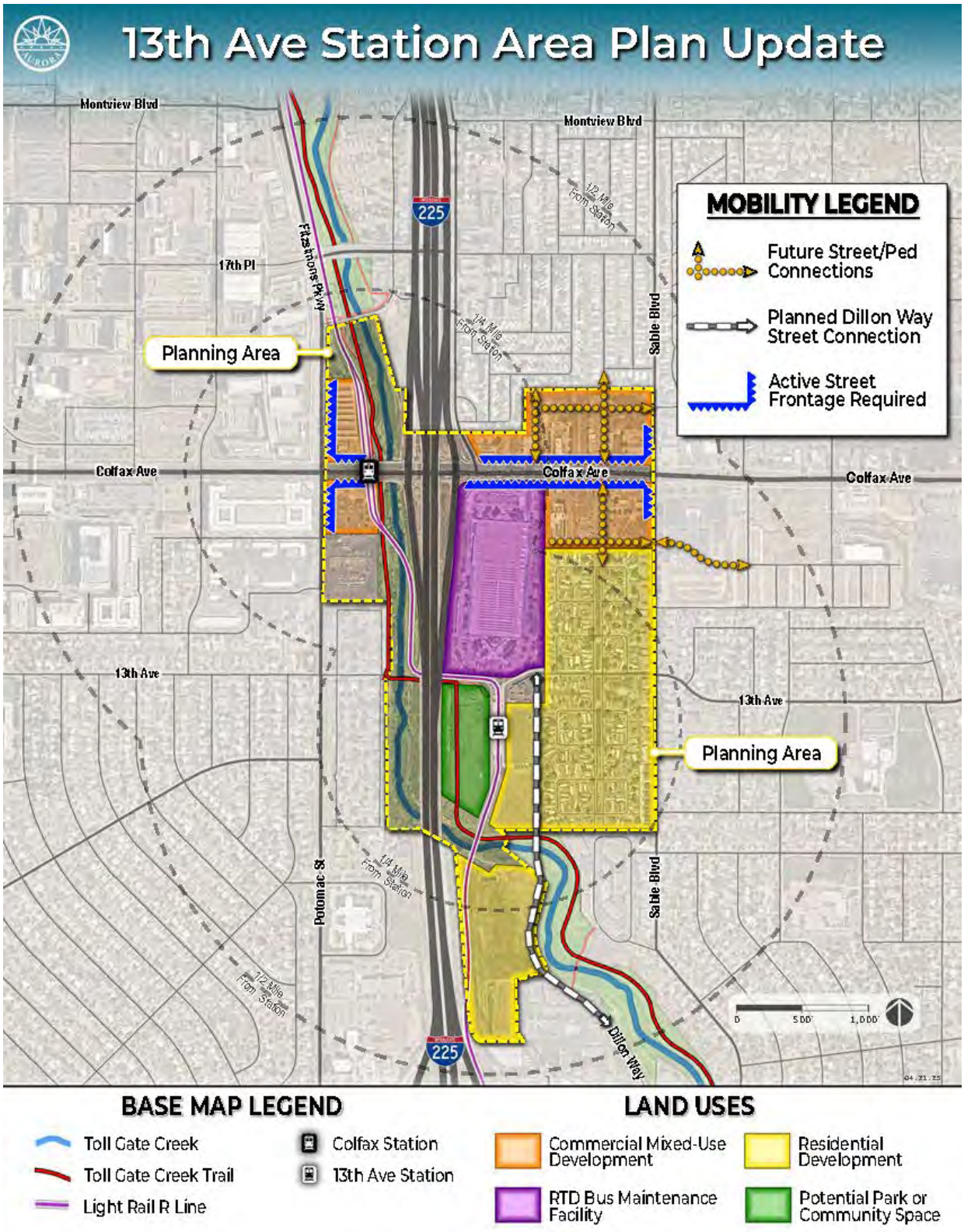


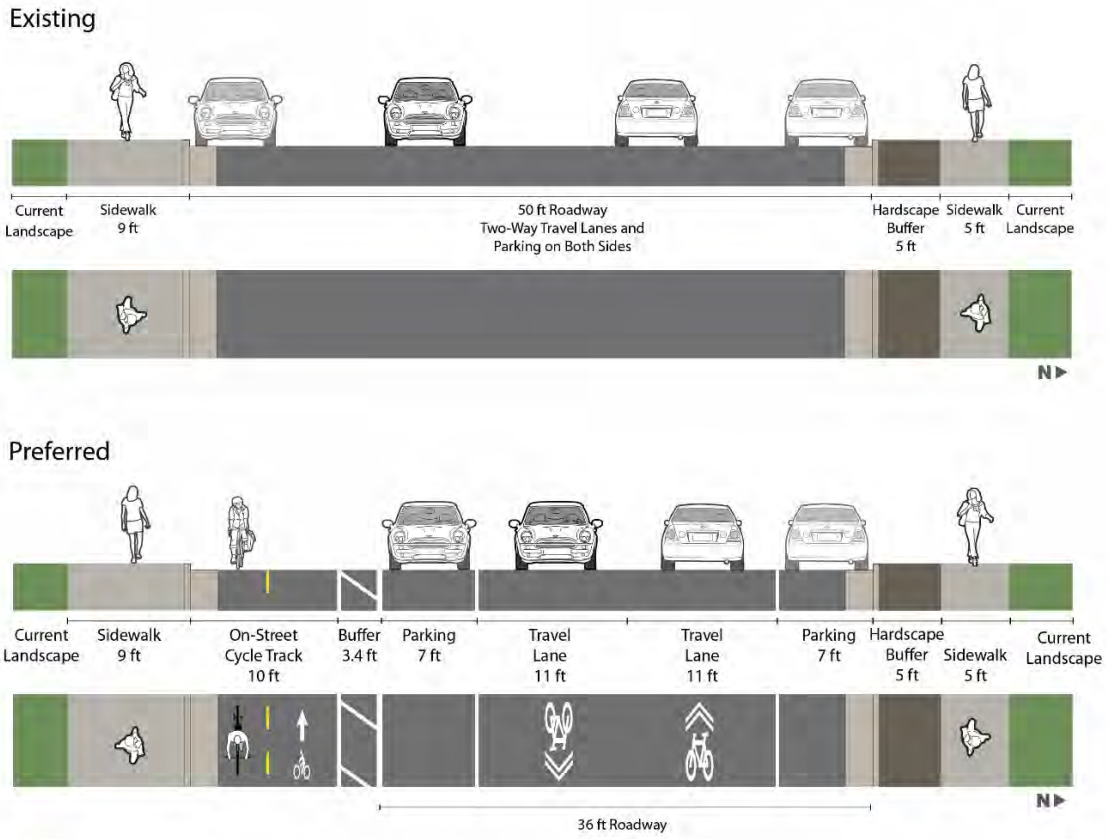
Figure 9: Key Pedestrian and Bicycle Junction (as currently built)

The 13th Avenue Multimodal Corridor Study was completed in 2023 and provides a vision and plan for improving 13th Avenue as an important west-east multimodal corridor connecting neighborhoods, shopping areas, schools, and other destinations in the area. While the full study examined a larger distance, from Yosemite Street to Chambers Road, a critical section of the corridor falls within the planning area of this station area plan.

Figure 10: 13th Avenue Multimodal Corridor Study Area

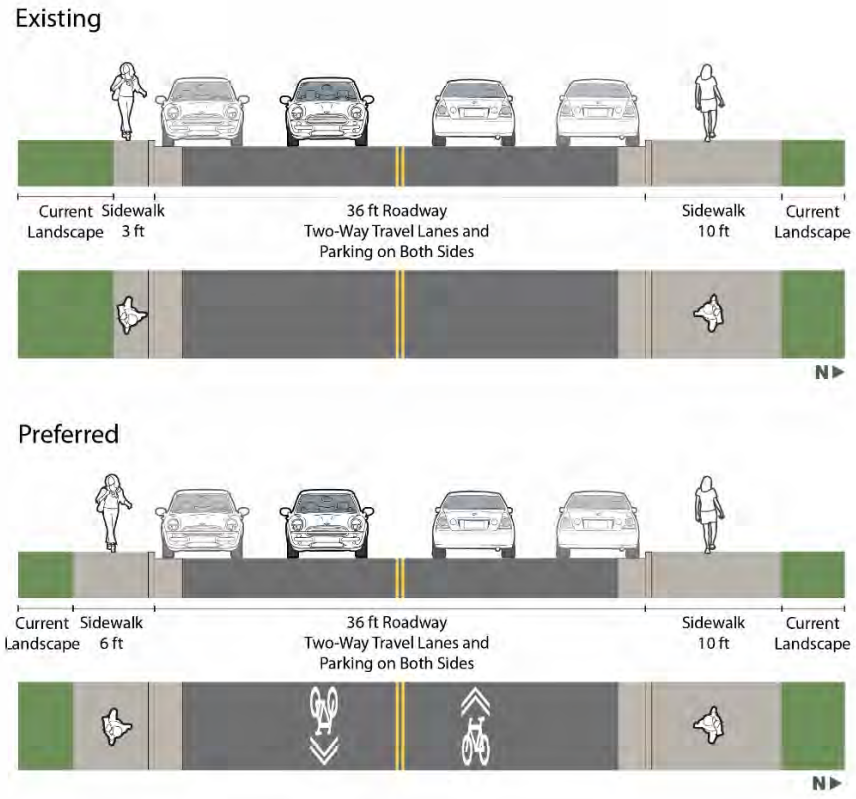
Section 6: 13th Avenue from Potomac Street to 13th Avenue Light Rail Station (0.25 miles)
From the 13th Avenue Multimodal Corridor Study (page 44):
"Sidewalks are already eight feet wide in this segment. However, the street is much wider than in other segments, providing space for potential streetscape improvements on the south side. An improved southern curb and streetscape would still allow enough roadway width for parking to be maintained on both sides of the street. This block could be a separate project, or included in Segment 5 for funding. This segment also includes the existing shared use path underneath I-225 that connects to the western side of the light rail station; however, no improvements are proposed for the path."

Figure 11: 13th Avenue Multimodal Corridor Study | Existing and Preferred Street Section for Section 6



Section 7: 13th Avenue from Cimarron Circle to Sable Boulevard (0.1 miles)
From the 13th Avenue Multimodal Corridor Study (page 45):
"This segment features only widened sidewalks on the south side of the street. This segment could be a stand-alone project or grouped with other segments, such as Segment 8, given the adjacency. This segment could be enlarged to extend the southern sidewalk improvements west to the light rail station parking lot pending redevelopment of the existing trailer park. There would be no parking impacts on this segment."

Figure 12: 13th Avenue Multimodal Corridor Study | Existing and Preferred Street Section for Section 7



Transit Services and Facilities

Transit reliability and utilization are a fundamental element in transit-oriented development. The area is served by both RTD light rail and bus service. The "R Line" is accessed through the two stations – Colfax Station and 13th Avenue Station – and connected north to Peoria Station, with connecting service to the "A Line", and south through Aurora and the Denver Tech Center, with connecting service to additional rail lines in the south metro area. Several local bus lines traverse the study area.

Colfax Station

The Colfax Station is elevated above the street and offers access to the doorstep of the Anschutz Medical Campus at the VA Medical Center, as well as convenient access to shopping, dining, and residential along Potomac Street and Colfax Avenue. There is no transit patron parking at the station. A number of existing bus routes (10, 15, 15L, 20, FF5) and the future Colfax Avenue BRT are conveniently accessible from this station.

13th Avenue Station

This station is located immediately east of I-225 and south of the RTD East Metro Division maintenance facility. The station is conveniently accessible from surrounding residential neighborhoods, such as Chambers Heights and The Meadows mobile home community to the east and Hoffman Heights to the west. East Colfax Avenue, and its variety of commercial services, is a quarter-mile walk from the station. There is no bus service directly to the station, however bus routes 6 and 15L are conveniently accessible from the station.

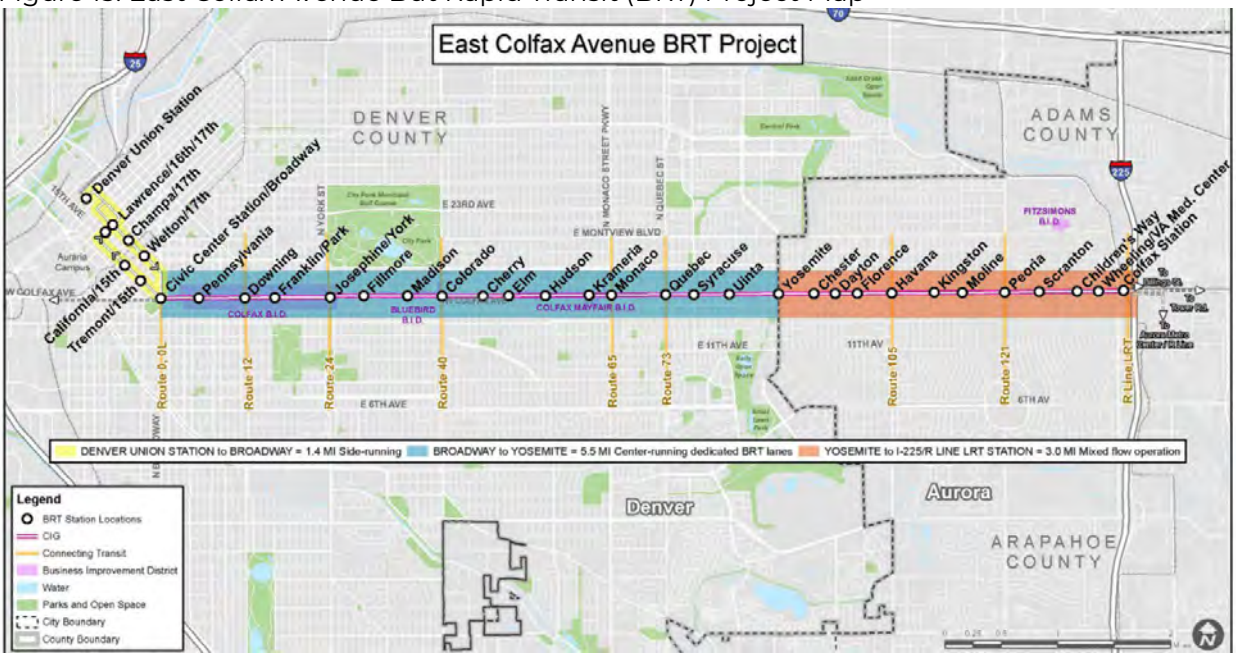
Station Parking

The existing RTD park-and-ride facility at the 13th Avenue station currently provides 242 surface parking spaces for rail transit patrons. However, since the station's opening, parking usage has been much lower than expected and many parking spaces are rarely used. This has allowed a reevaluation of parking needs to better balance transit rider convenience and future development opportunities. Future transit patron parking needs at the station will be coordinated with RTD if portions of the land area is developed.

Colfax Bus Rapid Transit

The East Colfax Avenue corridor between Union Station and I-225 will soon be served by bus rapid transit (BRT) service. Because of the strong demand for service on the 15/15L route that runs through the area, this corridor was identified as a priority candidate for upgraded service. The new BRT service will include enhanced bus stops, new vehicles, and more frequent service, making trips to or from the Colfax Station area even more convenient, comfortable, and regular.

Figure 13: East Colfax Avenue But Rapid Transit (BRT) Project Map



Additionally, there is currently underway (at time of plan adoption) an effort led by the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) and in partnership with Arapahoe County and the City of Aurora, to study a potential extension of the Colfax BRT from I-225 east to Picadilly/E-470. This study is called Colfax BRT Next and could set a pathway for securing funding for further project development and implementation. An extended BRT service would even further expand transit accessibility to and from the station area.

Both bus rapid transit projects would significantly improve transit service within the Colfax Avenue corridor and provide more frequency, convenience, and comfort to residents, employees, and visitors in the area, which is supported by this plan and reinforces the need for improving connections between adjacent neighborhoods with the Colfax Avenue corridor and light rail stations.

3 . Zoning and Design Standards

This site is presently comprised of multiple zone districts: **Mixed Use Transit-Oriented Development (MU-TOD), Mixed Use Commercial (MU-C), Mixed Use Fitzsimons Boundary (MU-FB), High Density Multifamily (R-4) and Manufactured Housing (R-MH)**. The primary zone districts with opportunities for development or redevelopment are zoned MU-TOD, MU-C, and MU-FB, all of which are intended to support high-density, mixed-use development that aligns with the land use concepts outlined in this station area plan. The design guidance and standards outlined in this plan should be adhered to ensure the vision and land use concepts are realized. This plan summarizes standards within the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) and for more specific guidance please refer to the following UDO code sections:

4.2 Dimensional standards, heights, density, setbacks by zone district
4.3 Subdivision
4.5 Access and connectivity
4.8 Building design

Transit Oriented Development Zoning District

A Mixed-Use Transit-Oriented Development (MU-TOD) Zoning District is used in Aurora around the light rail and commuter transit stations. The MU-TOD district provides for land uses and development patterns that uphold the TOD principles discussed earlier in this document, and the district references the station area plan to provide guidance concerning building form, residential density, street and lot layout, and other development standards. This station area plan is to be used in conjunction with the city's MU-TOD zoning district, as described in UDO Section 2.4.6(B), which may modify specific standards found within the UDO to meet those found within this station area plan.

Unified Development Ordinance, Section 2.4.6(B):

Relationship to Station Area Plans. Where there are conflicting standards between the TOD district and the Station Area Plan, the standards of the Station Area Plan shall take precedence.

Unified Development Ordinance, Section 2.4.6(C):

The MU-TOD zoning district includes two sub-districts, as generally described in the Unified Development Ordinance:

- **Core Subdistrict.** This subdistrict is adjacent to the rail station or other high-capacity transit service station and generally extends no more than one-quarter mile from the station. It includes high intensity businesses and high-density residential uses. The variety of uses is often greater than the other subdistricts and may include civic and entertainment uses. Ground Floor Commercial Uses will occur along most street frontages.

- **Edge Subdistrict.** This subdistrict creates a transition in building height, development density, and range of uses between the Core subdistrict and the adjacent non-TOD developments and neighborhoods. This subdistrict contains mixed-use development but is primarily characterized by residential uses.

Development Standards

Block Size and Street Grid. Blocks shall meet the length and perimeter standards contained in UDO Section 2.4.6(H). Blocks may be divided by public streets and/or public pedestrian-only access easements in order to create smaller blocks and frequent pedestrian connections. In MU-TOD and MU-FB the code requires 1. To create smaller blocks and frequent pedestrian connections, blocks shall be between 300 feet and 500 feet in length, and no more than 1,800 feet around the perimeter.

Also in UDO Section 4.3.9.A Block Dimensions. For the other zone districts in this plan Subarea A, the length and width of new blocks created through subdivision shall be within 25 percent of the typical length and width of blocks nearest adjacent subdivided land, or, if none of the adjacent land has been subdivided, shall not exceed 330 feet in width and 660 feet in length, to the maximum extent practicable in light of topographic conditions.

UDO Section 4.3.12 A. All properties shall provide an interconnected system of sidewalks that directly connect all lots to and within commercial centers, employment areas, designated parks and open spaces, and other uses. All lots shall include or directly abut a sidewalk. Additionally, UDO Section 4.5.4. Access and Connectivity contains more standards for internal circulation.

A walkable, connected mobility network is a critical element to transit-oriented or mixed-use districts. Streets shall align with and connect with streets in adjacent areas, or preserve the opportunities for future connections, unless the Planning Director or the Director of Public Works jointly determine that the connection is impractical or a threat to public safety.

Residential Density. The MU-TOD Core and Edge subareas are required to meet minimum residential densities. This section provides modifications to Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) Section 4.2.2(B) Mixed-Use Districts Dimensional Standards:

MU-TOD Core Subdistrict: 60 dwelling units per acre (minimum)
MU-TOD Edge Subdistrict: 30 dwelling units per acre (minimum)

Building Height. There is no height limit in the Core area. Minimum height must meet the standards as defined in Section 4.2.2(B) Mixed-Use Districts Dimension Standards. Additionally, building heights and orientation should consider summer shade and winter sun exposure to create a desirable condition in outdoor areas, allow for safe and comfortable mobility, and create comfortable and enjoyable public or private open spaces.

Urban Form. Building forms should be related to the width and activity on the street that fronts them, so that a sense of enclosure is created. The active space shall be organized in relation to a logical pedestrian flow, without isolating retail activities from public spaces and streets. Landscape and streetscape shall be urban in character, allowing for pedestrian traffic and seating, and for visual relief from the urban environment.

In the MU-TOD Core and Edge Subdistricts, buildings shall be built to the property line, defined as the back of sidewalk, with allowances made for shallow setbacks, consistent with a uniform street frontage, as defined in the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) Section 4.2.2(B) Mixed-Use Districts Dimensional Standards.

Ground floor uses shall consist of active commercial uses, including, but not limited to, retail, restaurant, personal services, indoor recreation, entertainment, hospitality, offices, civic and cultural facilities, and similarly public-serving uses, in areas identified as likely to be frequented by pedestrians and local customers. Limited exceptions for unique uses or specific operations, such as vehicle circulation for the existing bus maintenance facility, may be made in order to allow necessary operations for those facilities. This section provides modifications to Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) Section 2.4.6(C) Subdistricts:

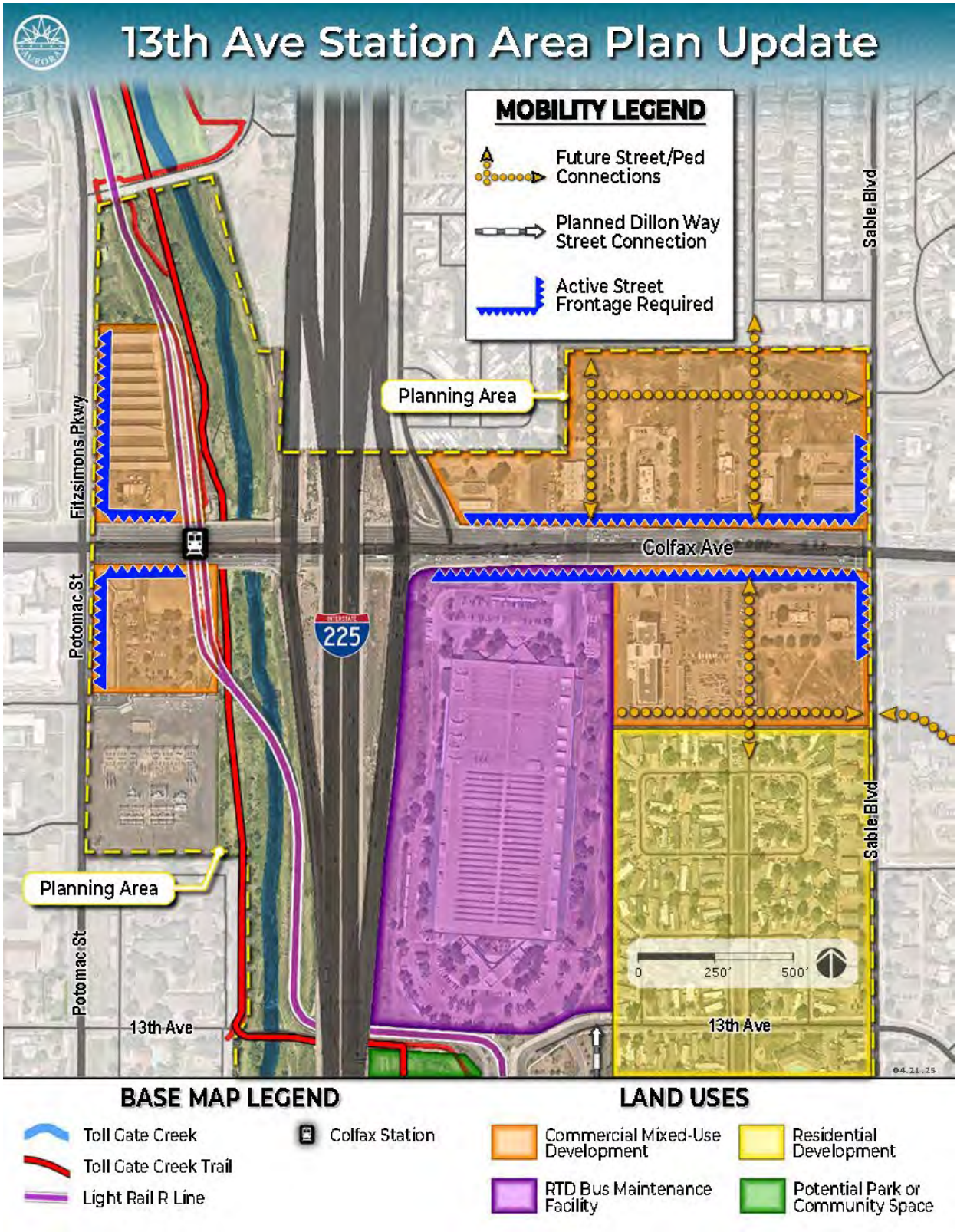
> C. Core Subdistrict. [...] Ground Floor Commercial Uses shall occur along those street frontages as identified in Figure 14, identified as portions of Fitzsimons Parkway, Potomac Street, East Colfax Avenue, and Sable Boulevard.

Building Design and Orientation. The following UDO development standards shall apply. For the purposes of this section, “major streets” include Colfax Avenue, Sable Boulevard, Potomac Street, Fitzsimons Parkway, 13th Avenue, and Dillon Way. UDO Section 4.8.4.B.1. Building Orientation and Spacing Standards for Mixed Use, Residential and Commercial Uses requires a street orientation. Building Entry Standards, Massing and Articulation, Building Materials and Four-Sided Design are defined in UDO Sections 4.8.5, 4.8.6, 4.8.7. More specific standards for this station area are outlined below:

a. Continuous building frontage is required on major streets.
b. Clear windows at grade are required for a minimum of sixty (60) percent of the façade length except for residential uses.
c. Quality materials on the ground floor façade are required on all buildings on major streets.

d. Sixty (60) percent of the building façade facing a public park or plaza must be brick, stone or cultured stone.
e. Entries shall front on the major streets and shall be generously proportioned and defined with architectural features. Awning and structural canopies for weather protection at building entrances are desirable.
f. Blank walls are not permitted on any façade. All façades shall have architectural details that add visual interest.
g. Loading docks and service entrances shall not be located on the major streets. These should be screened from view and located to mitigate negative impacts on surrounding uses.
h. Alternative uses for building roofs such as terraces, roof gardens, and green roofs are encouraged.

Figure 14. Required Active Ground Floor Street Frontages



Design Guidelines

The following design guidelines have been developed to establish high quality requirements for design of all projects within the station area.

Sustainability:
Sustainability of the Colfax and 13th Avenue Station Core Sub-Districts should be encouraged by promoting the use of the well-established Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) rating system, established by the US Green Building Council (USGBC). Buildings in the Colfax and 13th Avenue station areas are encouraged to achieve a minimum of LEED-NC Certified rating (NC refers to New Construction). Refer to the USGBC web site for a full description of the LEED ratings that are available. Certified is the lowest of all ratings, which progress upward to Silver, Gold and Platinum.

Pedestrian Connections:

- Walkways, bridges and pedestrian crossings shall constitute a network that interconnects all transit, commercial and residential buildings. Figure 4 illustrates this concept applied to the area, highlighting opportunities to reestablish or strengthen the mobility network through infill development, redevelopment, or public improvement projects.
- Hidden areas and blind corners shall be avoided in favor of open, visible gathering places and unobstructed paths with clear visual connections to destinations beyond.
- Pedestrian walkways should avoid doubling back or acute changes in the travel path, and should have good visual connection with the surroundings at all times. Active uses should be located along the pedestrian paths.

Public Spaces:
There should be a central open space as a focus in the Core Sub-District. This space should be a focal point and public gathering space, containing pedestrian amenities that make it comfortable and aesthetically pleasing. Street trees should provide shade in summer, and elements such as public art should provide winter interest. These spaces should consider summer shade and winter sun exposure to create a desirable condition in outdoor areas.

Landscape and Streetscape:
Streetscape and open space areas should add a distinctive identity to the area, using planting, paving, lighting, signage and street furnishings as cohesive elements. Features should be coordinated throughout the development. The landscape treatment on each development parcel shall be coordinated with the public space streetscape design.

The station area should contain a hierarchy of streets which reflect different streetscape treatments, according to the Aurora Urban Street Standards.

Site Furnishings and Lighting Fixtures:
Site furnishings and public lighting should be incorporated as part of the building design and architectural style and express a hierarchy from the TOD core to outlying areas. These elements should be durable and appropriate for the climate. Lighting should illuminate all sidewalks and pedestrian pathways with uniform light levels and not cast light directly into residential windows.

Landscape Materials: Materials should be provided based on the following considerations:

- Safety – avoid visual obstructions especially at circulation intersections;
- Local microclimate – provide summer shade and open canopies for warmth in winter;
- Low watering requirements – 75% of plant material should be drought resistant;
- Ease of maintenance – minimize litter from plant materials and trees;
- Attractiveness – intensify in key locations with seasonal color, texture, scale;
- Screening – screen service areas, parking lots, meters and garbage dumpsters.

Parking:

- Surface parking lots are limited in the Core Sub-District and must meet standards contained in the Unified Development Ordinance, Section 2.4.6(F). Parking in the Edge Sub-District is encouraged to be within parking garages and limit the amount and size of surface parking lots.
- Shared parking arrangements are encouraged and allowed per the Unified Development Ordinance, Section 4.6.4(I).
- Parking structures should be wrapped with residential or commercial buildings to minimize visual impact on public streets and spaces.
- Vehicle access to parking should be avoided on high-traffic pedestrian frontages.
- Parking access shall be well-identified by a wayfinding signage system.
- Parking structures shall not be exposed to streets or public areas in the interior of the TOD block.

Architecture

Architectural design along the Colfax corridor should complement the styles established in the Anschutz/Fitzsimons medical campus. Architectural design throughout the entire district should be timeless with attention to detailing and the streetscape character. Long building profiles shall be broken up with relief in the façades and rooflines to minimize apparent bulk and mass.

360 Degree Architecture: To create an urban environment that is visually pleasing from all points of view, all sides of a building shall exhibit design continuity, with no unimproved sides being visible from public rights-of-way. Early phase buildings which will have buildings abutting them may have building faces that are without fenestration or other façade design features.

Solar Orientation, Shading and Solar Access: Building façades shall be environmentally responsible by adapting fenestration, shading and materials individually to respond to the environmental conditions of each façade's orientation. Buildings shall minimize the negative impact of winter shade on public open spaces and sidewalks. Buildings shall not contain gold glass coating or other first surface coatings that are highly reflective or mirrored.

Fenestration: Clear glass storefronts on ground floor façades should be provided to ensure visibility of active uses. On upper levels, façades should respond to their orientation by individualized treatment of façades to accommodate sun shading and solar gain as appropriate. Clear, low E or slightly tinted glazing should be used. Clear glass shall not have a reflectance rating of greater than 0.20.

Awnings and Canopies: Awnings and canopies shall be an integral part of the architectural design.
Canopies shall not extend more than ten feet beyond the faces of buildings, and no less than six feet. Awnings shall be solid colors. Awnings or canopies shall not be supported from the sidewalk.

Materials and Finishes: Materials, finishes and detailing shall enrich the Station Area's visual and tactile qualities. Regionally-appropriate and compatible materials shall be used, carefully detailed and combined. The building materials shall establish a consistent and high level of quality that is durable and appropriate to pedestrian contact at the street level. Materials used shall convey a high level of visual amenity that is commensurate with the urban character of the station area.

Storefront Design: Storefront entry thresholds shall be at the adjacent sidewalk level. Storefronts shall be scaled and detailed to break down large façades of buildings into small units. A variety of small-scale storefront designs shall predominate over a uniform series of longer storefronts. A high proportion of clear glass shall be used in storefronts, consistent with energy conservation requirements and to increase visibility.

Equipment and Service: All rooftop equipment and ground floor equipment, trash storage and utilities shall be screened from view from public rights-of-way.

Building Signage: Signage shall comply with Aurora codes and ordinances. Signs directly related to a business shall be allowed to extend over the sidewalk, at a height of no less than 9'-0" above the sidewalk.

External Building and Site Lighting:
External lighting of buildings shall be minimized, except for accent lighting of building entries or features. The impact of lighting on the night sky shall be minimized by cutoff fixtures, downward projecting fixtures and minimizing light energy. Exterior light fixtures shall confine direct light rays to the premises, and the light source shall not be directly visible from any adjacent property or beyond two mounting heights distance from the fixture. Power consumption for external building lighting shall be minimized.

Minimum light levels at building entries shall be 5.0 foot-candles and at loading docks 15.0 footcandles. Levels elsewhere shall comply with Aurora code and ordinances and shall be as uniform as possible on pedestrian sidewalks.

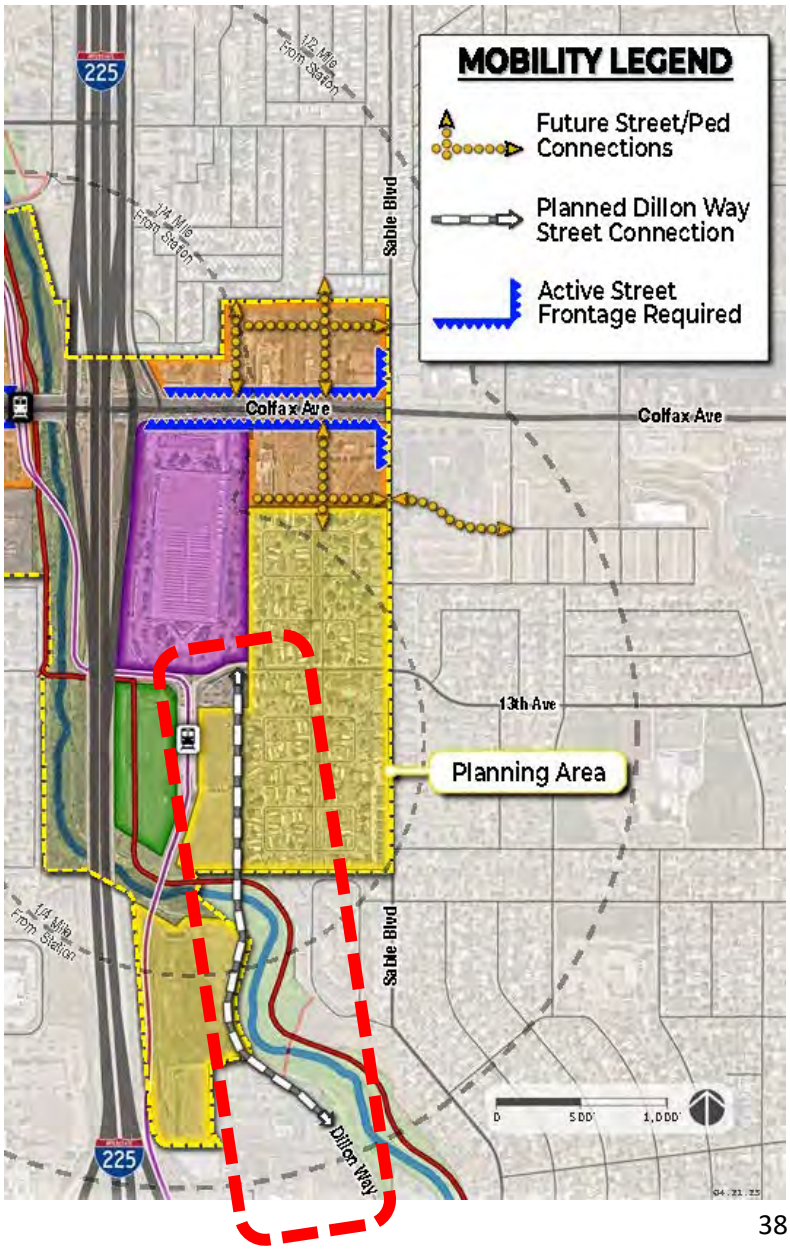
4 . Implementation

The Colfax and 13th Avenue Station Area Plan presents the vision developed through a collaborative process between the City of Aurora, partner agencies, property owners, business owners, residents, and the development community. However, a series of specific actions may be undertaken to turn that vision into reality.

Improve multi-modal infrastructure and improve connectivity in the area

Extend Dillon Way from its current terminus north to 13th Avenue

Near-term development opportunities require an extension of Dillon way from its current terminus, north over Toll Gate Creek, to 13th Avenue, as indicated in red in the illustration to the right. This will provide a second point of access for emergency responders (and residents) to development sites at the 13th Avenue Station and the property immediately south of Toll Gate Creek. Without this critical second point of vehicle access, the near-term development opportunities would be severely limited, if not prohibited, due to public safety restrictions. This extension also improves local access to transit service at the 13th Avenue Station and future Colfax BRT and better connects local residents and workers to commercial services on East Colfax Avenue, to the north, and Sixth Avenue, to the south.



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Establish a new urban renewal area and plan to support major public infrastructure improvements

The city should pursue the creation of an urban renewal district to support development of workforce and affordable housing in the planning area. Establishment of an urban renewal district will support planning, design, and construction of critical infrastructure that is necessary to enable development of the area. This updated station area plan can serve as support and guidance for the establishment of a district.

Establish a connected street and pedestrian network through infill and redevelopment opportunities

As future development occurs, the city will work with private property owners and/or developers to integrate street and pedestrian connections into projects, as generally illustrated in Figure 4, and required by applicable city codes and standards. New roadway or pedestrian corridors should be designed in such a way as to allow for continued expansion of the network as future development opportunities present themselves.

Support continued bus and rail transit service to the area

Transit access, service, and reliability are hallmarks of transit-oriented development districts. The City of Aurora should continue to support safe, convenient, and reliable transit options to serve the area and connect to the city and region. Support for expanded transit service also extends to the planned Colfax BRT (bus rapid transit) and proposed Colfax BRT extension.

Implement the 13th Avenue Mobility Plan improvements in the area

Appendix B contains select pages from the 2023 mobility plan that highlight recommended improvements to the area. These improvements include sidewalk widening and improvements, the installation of bike lanes, wayfinding, and intersection improvements for pedestrians and bicyclists. Installation of these improvements supports the vision and function of this area as a mixed-use, transit-oriented district. The city should identify and dedicate funding and implement these improvements.

Identify and implement improvements to Sable Boulevard to enhance safety for residents and travelers

Building on the improvements identified by the 13th Avenue Mobility Plan for Sable Boulevard, the city should investigate additional improvements to Sable Boulevard to improve the safety, comfort, and convenience for all road users, including drivers, transit users, pedestrians, and bicyclists. Speeding, bus traffic and noise, and unsafe driving practices, and difficulty for children to walk safely to school across Sable Boulevard were frequently cited as concerns by local residents throughout the planning process. The extension of Dillon Way may alleviate some of the local traffic on Sable Boulevard and provide alternative routes for pedestrians and bicyclists, however there may be improvements to Sable Boulevard to consider in order to improve the neighborhood.

Improve housing options through protection or enhancement of existing neighborhoods, and expand housing choices through infill development

Pursue opportunities for new residential development through infill or redevelopment of vacant or underperforming commercial properties

Support new residential development that meets the density, design, and needs for the area. Priority should be given to mixed-income, mixed-use, or affordable housing. The city should work with current property owners to identify opportunities for further investment or redevelopment of properties, to recruit interested developers, or acquire property though the city's land banking program.

Residential Development at 13th Avenue Station

The city should partner with RTD to explore and pursue development of a portion of the 13th Avenue Station under RTD's Equitable Transit-Oriented Development Policy (2021). This approach should build on the preliminary concepts of the 2022 design charrette and seek proposals from developers to build new housing that meets the design and density vision described in this plan.

Protect existing housing stock and support improvements to established homes and neighborhoods

Protection and improvement of existing housing in the area is important to neighborhood stability and providing safe and desirable housing options for current and future residents. The existing mobile home community adjacent to the 13th Avenue Station provides a relatively affordable homeownership opportunity in this desirable area of Aurora and should be protected and enhanced to ensure its continued livability. The city should pursue a study of best practices and explore funding opportunities to improve existing housing within the neighborhood.

Update zoning and development standards to more effectively shape future development

Adopt the recommended zoning map

Appendix A is a recommended zoning map for the area. The intent of these map amendments is to better plan for future land development, more effectively implement the development standards and guidelines contained in this plan, and make minor map clean up revisions. Adoption of the recommended zoning map amendments should be considered in the future as development opportunities present themselves and in consultation and coordination with affected property owners.

Enhance or expand parks, trails, and community spaces that serve the neighborhood

Explore the possibilities of developing a park or other community space at the 13th Avenue Station

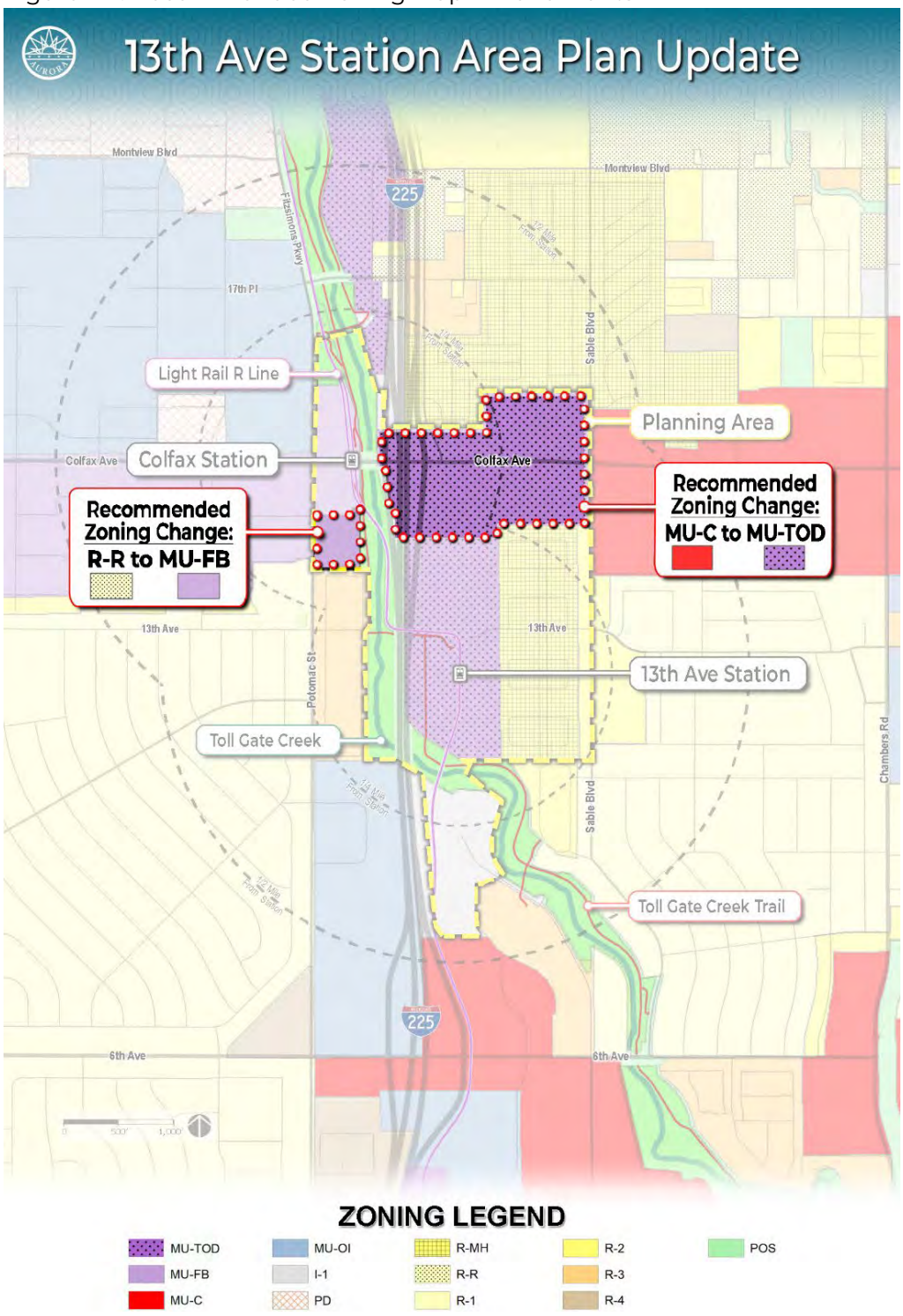
Because of the new residential development planned in the immediate area, and a perceived shortage of parks and other outdoor spaces, the city should engage with RTD to investigate the feasibility of developing a new park, open space, recreational amenity, or outdoor community space on the west side of the 13th Avenue Station, along the existing Toll Gate Creek Trail. Planning for a new amenity should include community engagement and an assessment of the needs and desires of current and future residents, employees, visitors, and transit riders who may be future users of the space. The city should also explore funding opportunities or tools, such as grants, development agreements, or special districts, to support a project.

Support continued enhancement of the Toll Gate Creek Trail corridor and trail

Toll Gate Creek is an important recreational amenity and mobility corridor that serves both the surrounding neighborhoods and residents and visitor throughout Aurora. New development or public improvements in the area should enhance the Toll Gate Creek corridor by highlighting and protecting the creek corridor and providing expanded access to the trail and creek.

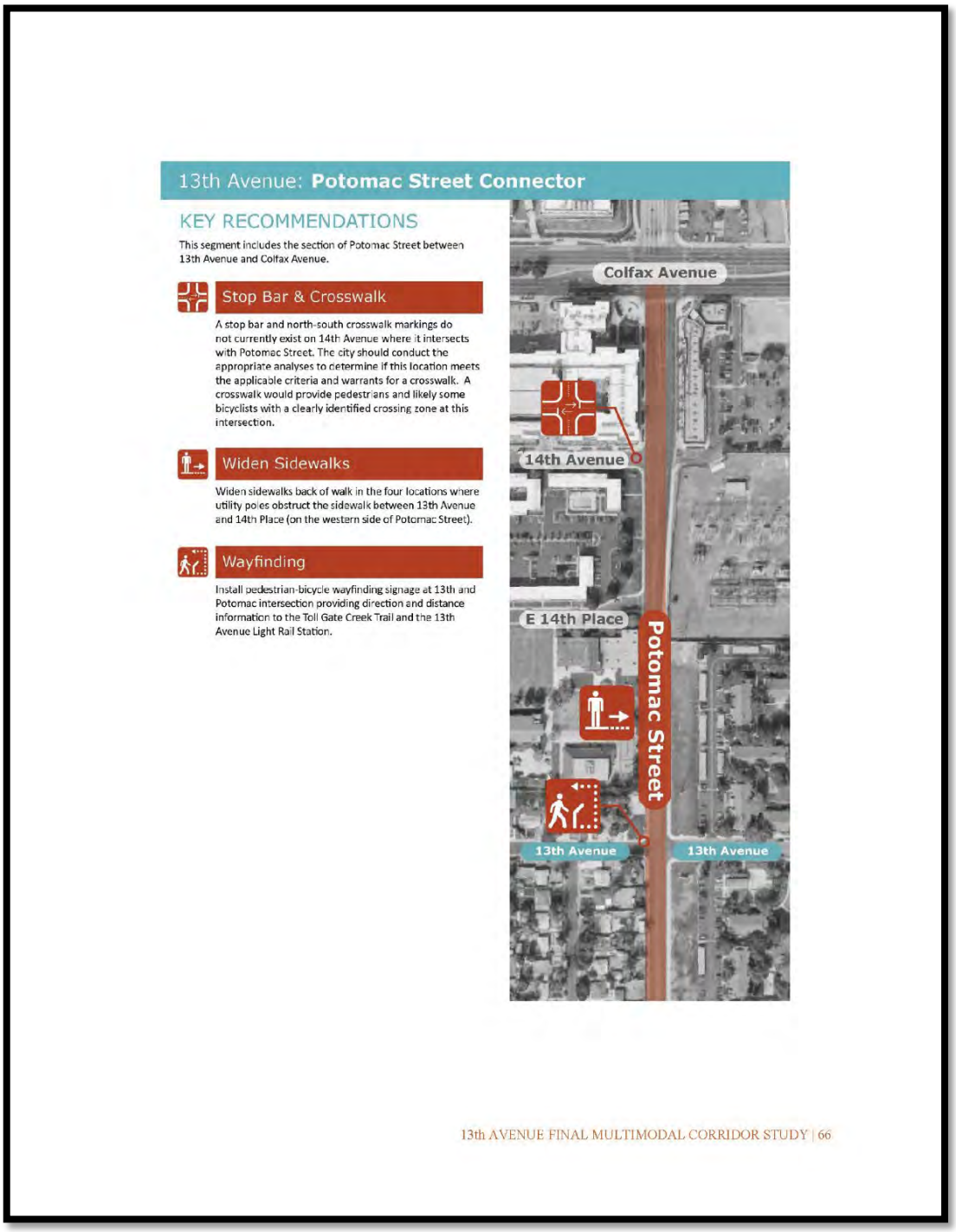
Appendix A

Figure A-1: Recommended Zoning Map Amendments



Appendix B

Figure B-1: Selected pages from 13th Avenue Multimodal Corridor Study (2023)



13th Avenue: **Potomac Street Connector**

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

This segment includes the section of Potomac Street between 13th Avenue and Colfax Avenue.

Stop Bar & Crosswalk

A stop bar and north-south crosswalk markings do not currently exist on 14th Avenue where it intersects with Potomac Street. The city should conduct the appropriate analyses to determine if this location meets the applicable criteria and warrants for a crosswalk. A crosswalk would provide pedestrians and likely some bicyclists with a clearly identified crossing zone at this intersection.

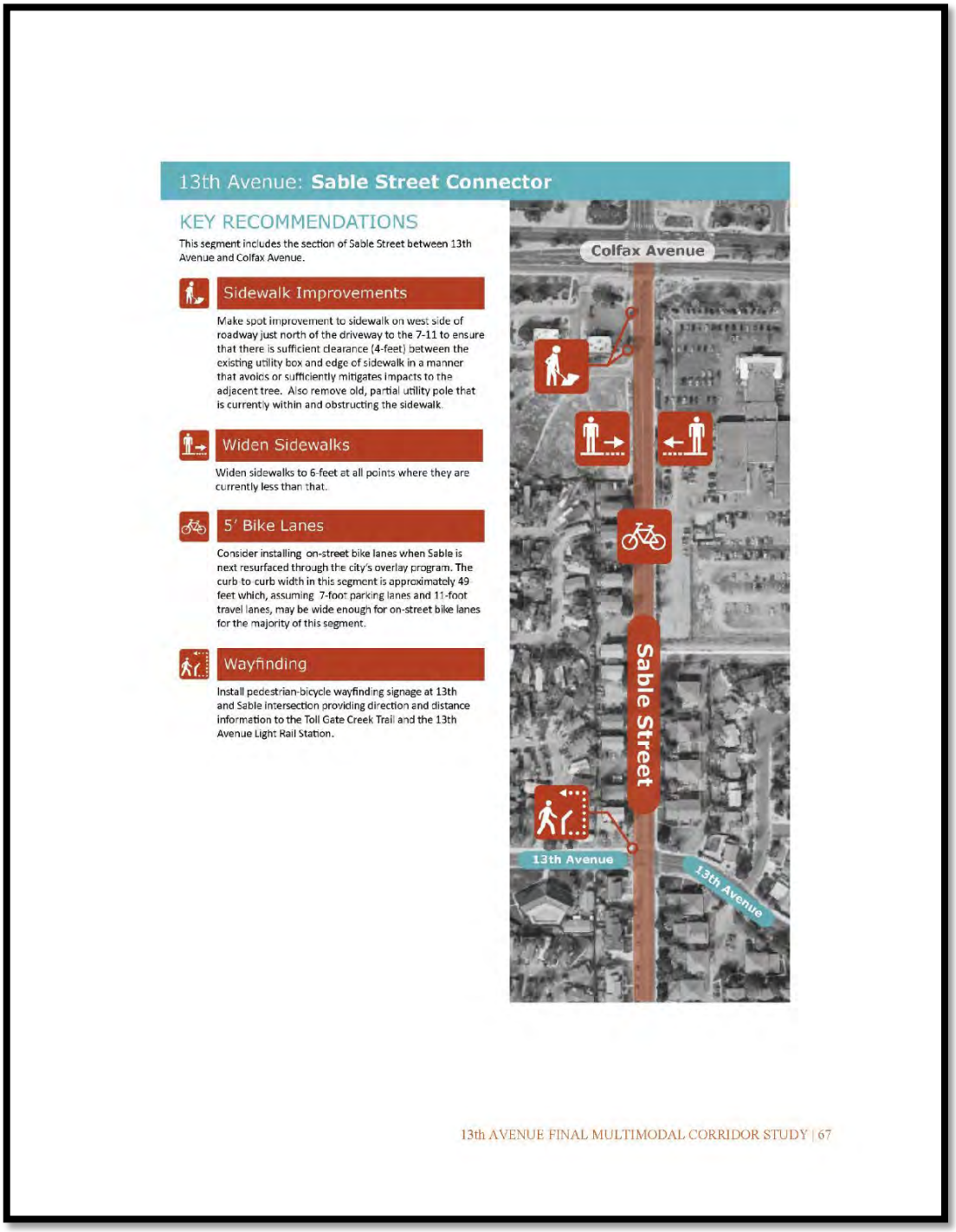
Widen Sidewalks

Widen sidewalks back of walk in the four locations where utility poles obstruct the sidewalk between 13th Avenue and 14th Place (on the western side of Potomac Street).

Wayfinding

Install pedestrian-bicycle wayfinding signage at 13th and Potomac intersection providing direction and distance information to the Toll Gate Creek Trail and the 13th Avenue Light Rail Station.

Figure B-2: Selected pages from 13th Avenue Multimodal Corridor Study (2023)



13th Avenue: **Sable Street Connector**

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

This segment includes the section of Sable Street between 13th Avenue and Colfax Avenue.

Sidewalk Improvements

Make spot improvement to sidewalk on west side of roadway just north of the driveway to the 7-11 to ensure that there is sufficient clearance (4-feet) between the existing utility box and edge of sidewalk in a manner that avoids or sufficiently mitigates impacts to the adjacent tree. Also remove old, partial utility pole that is currently within and obstructing the sidewalk.

Widen Sidewalks

Widen sidewalks to 6-feet at all points where they are currently less than that.

5' Bike Lanes

Consider installing on-street bike lanes when Sable is next resurfaced through the city's overlay program. The curb-to-curb width in this segment is approximately 49 feet which, assuming 7-foot parking lanes and 11-foot travel lanes, may be wide enough for on-street bike lanes for the majority of this segment.

Wayfinding

Install pedestrian-bicycle wayfinding signage at 13th and Sable intersection providing direction and distance information to the Toll Gate Creek Trail and the 13th Avenue Light Rail Station.

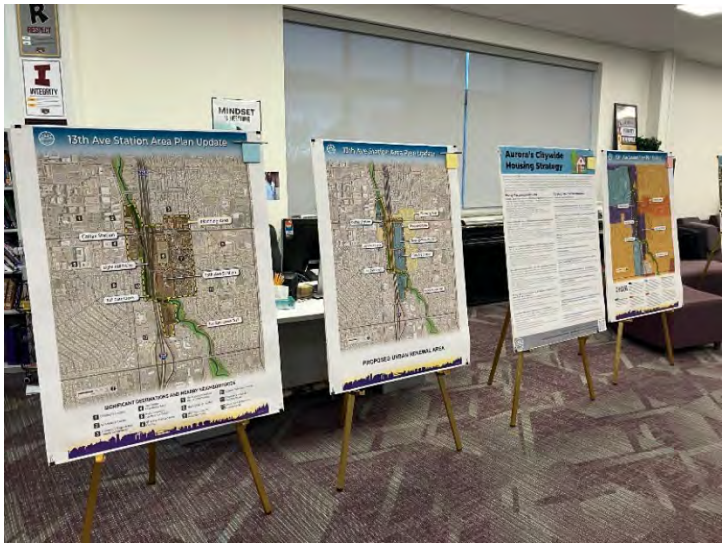
Appendix C

Community Engagement Summary

This plan was developed with input from community members, including residents, neighborhood organization representatives, local developers, business owners, partner agency representatives, and others interested in the well-being and future of this area. City staff hosted two community meetings to provide information about the 2009 plan, an update on existing conditions within the planning area, and future development opportunities in the area.

Community Meetings

Feedback from meeting attendees included questions about housing affordability, impacts of new development, concerns about driver, pedestrian, and bicycle safety in the neighborhood, interest in new park or open space amenities, and concerns about public safety near the station and I-225 underpass.

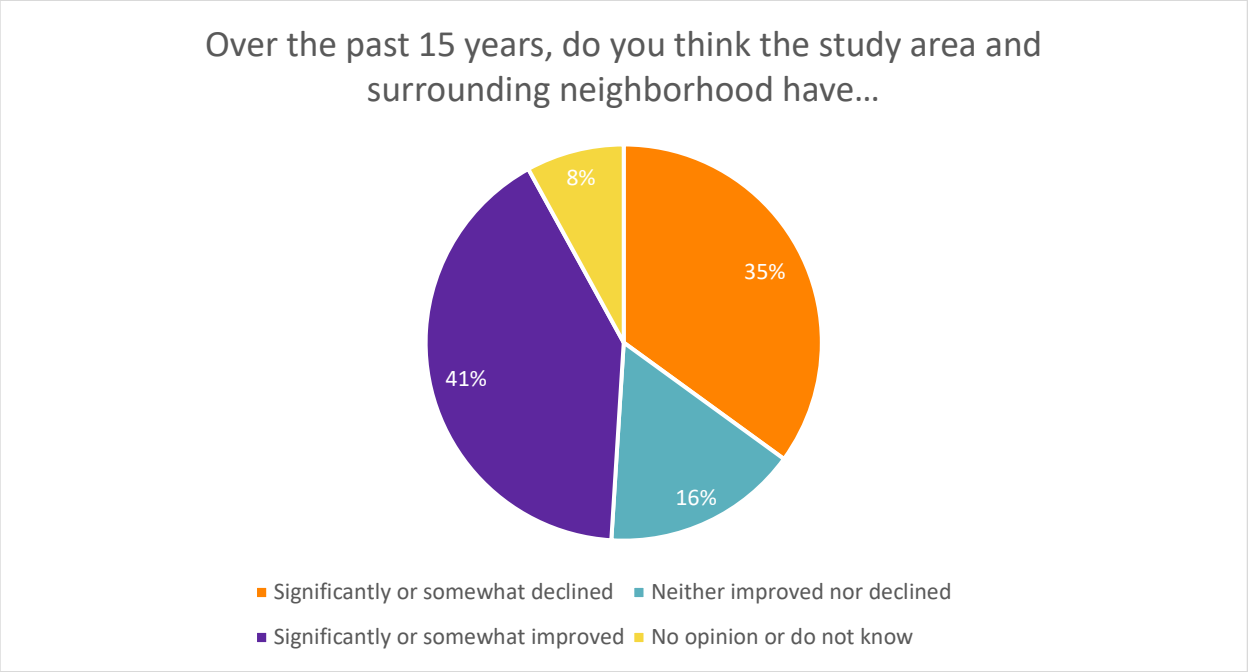


Online Survey

The city received 246 responses to an online survey that was published in and available in both English and Spanish.

Respondents to the survey self-reported that they were very familiar (55 percent) or somewhat familiar (32 percent) with the neighborhood and planning area. Because of the importance of transit in the neighborhood, survey respondents were asked about their use of RTD bus and light rail use. Over half of respondents shared that they board at the Colfax Station or 13th Avenue Station either occasionally (31 percent) or once a month or more (24 percent). Moreso, over 70 percent of survey respondents stated that they board at any location once a month or more (38 percent) or occasionally (33 percent).

Survey respondents were asked if over the past 15 years, conditions the study area and surrounding neighborhood have improved or declined. The results were mixed, with 41 percent responding that conditions have “significantly or somewhat improved” while 35 percent responded that conditions have “significantly or somewhat declined”. A portion of respondents (16 percent) stated that conditions have “neither improved nor declined”.



When asked for more details about what types of changes or improvements were most important for the future, survey response echoed much of the feedback from the community meetings, and respondents highly rated:

- Safety for pedestrians, and bicyclists, and those using assisted devices
- Safety for drivers
- Crime and personal safety
- Neighborhood appearance and cleanliness
- Access to transportation options

Respondents stated that the following were also important improvements to the area:

- Access to parks or other recreational amenities
- Housing affordability
- Housing choices
- Shopping, dining, and entertainment choices

This community feedback played an important role in shaping the vision and recommendations of this plan. It reconfirmed some elements of the previous plan, including the importance of access to bus or light rail transit service, and highlighted more contemporary priorities and needs to be addressed, such as safety and housing affordability.

Appendix D

Development Concepts for Infill Housing at 13th Avenue Station

In 2022, the City of Aurora hosted a design workshop to brainstorm potential development types and designs within the planning area. Attendees included city staff from various departments as well as representatives from the development community and RTD. A local architect facilitated the discussion, which explored the 13th Avenue Station property, physical and regulatory constraints, and development opportunities.

The workshop yielded several possible development scenarios that accommodated between 190 and 400 new housing units at the RTD property. Concepts included mixed-income housing, including workforce and/or permanently affordable housing, with opportunities for a mix of renter- and owner-occupied units. An incremental, phased development approach seemed most feasible. Accommodating parking for transit users was part of all potential development scenarios.

A short report of the results of the workshop is available upon request from the City of Aurora Planning and Business Development Department.

Figure D-1: Selected pages from 13th Avenue Design Workshop (2022)

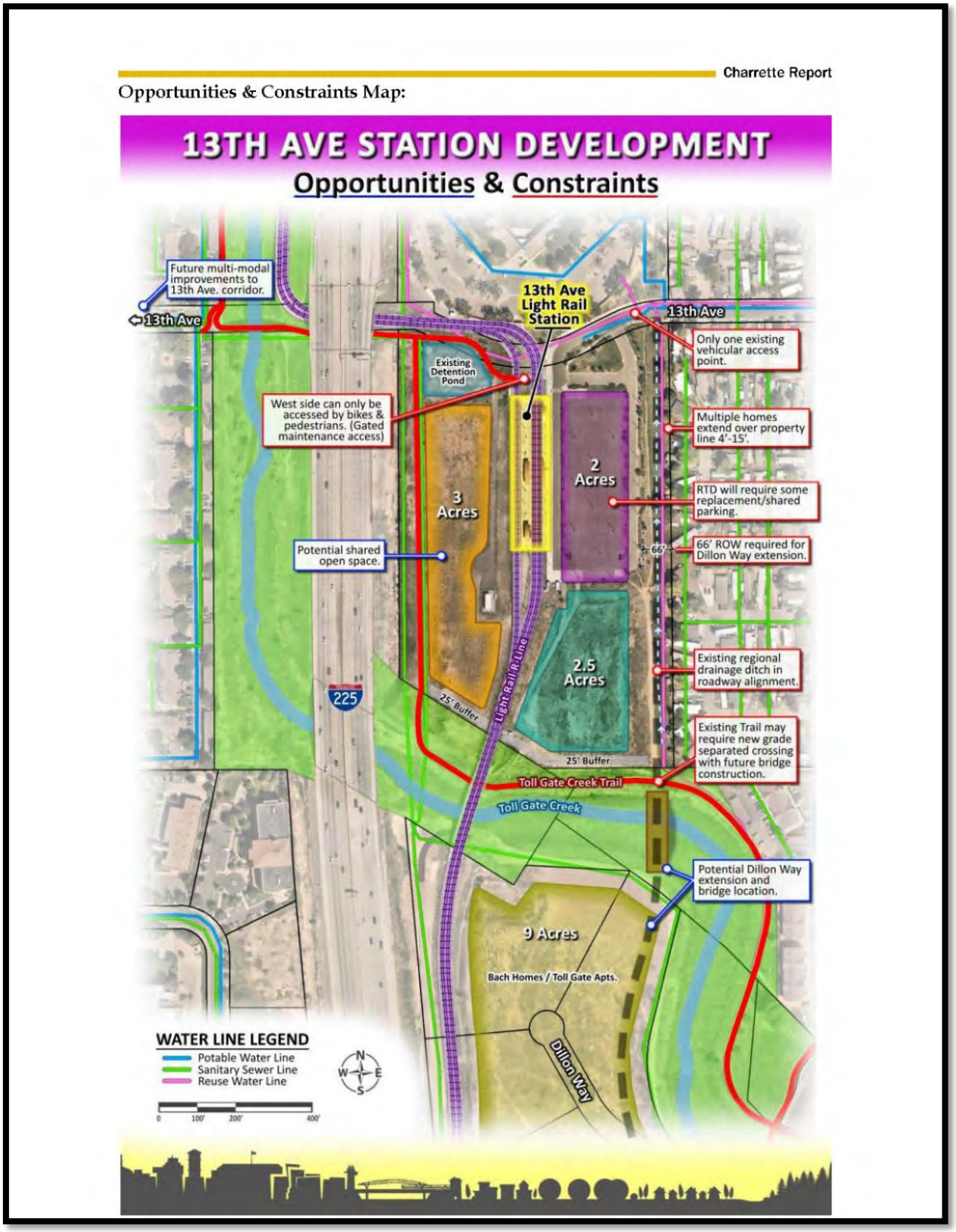


Figure D-2: Selected pages from 13th Avenue Design Workshop (2022)

Design Test Fit Schemes

Scheme 1: Medium Density. 4-5 Story Affordable Housing. 190-240 units.

Figure D-3: Selected pages from 13th Avenue Design Workshop (2022)

Scheme 2a: High Density. Variety of Buildings. 3-story Townhomes for-sale affordable, 4-story PSH, 4-story Wrap attainable. 240-280 units.

Figure D-4: Selected pages from 13th Avenue Design Workshop (2022)

Scheme 2b: High Density. As a Phase 2, a mixed-income mixed-use building with a large parking garage and 150 units could be added. 340-400 units.

City of Aurora
Planning and Business Development Department
15151 East Alameda Parkway
Aurora, Colorado 80012
www.auroragov.org

PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Date: **September 13, 2023**
Time: **8:30 am**

Members Present: Chair: Council Member Francoise Bergan, Council Member Angela Lawson

Others Present: Adrian Botham, Alicia Montoya, Andrea Amonick, Andrea Barnes, Ariana Muca, Becky Hogan, Brad Pierce, Brandon Cammarata, Brian Rulla, Bruce Dalton, Cathy DeWolf, Chance Horiuchi, Crystal Vigil, Curtis Gardner, Daniel Krzyzanowski, Danni Danko-Holloway, Darcy Dodd, Elena Vasconez, Jacob Cox, Jason Batchelor, Jeannine Rustad, Jeffrey Moore, Jennifer Orozco, Johnny Watson, Jonathan Woodward, Julie Patterson, Laura Perry, Laurie Womer, Leah Ramsey, Lynn Baca, Mac Callison, Marcia McGilley, Marisa Noble, Mark Witkiewicz, Melissa Rogers, Melvin Bush, Michelle Gardner, Michelle Teller, Mindy Parnes, Morgan Cullen, Nicole Ankeney, Rachel Allen, Rian French, Robert Oliva, Scott Berg, Tod Kuntzelman, Tom Oldenburg

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. APPROVAL OF AUGUST 2, 2023, DRAFT MINUTES–COUNCIL MEMBER BERGAN

2.a. The minutes were approved.

3. GENERAL BUSINESS

3.a. Fitzsimons-Colfax and 13th Avenue Station Area Plan Update

Summary of Issue and Discussion:
Daniel Krzyzanowski, Planning Supervisor

Daniel Krzyzanowski and Jennifer Orozco presented this item. D. Krzyzanowski mentioned exciting development opportunities in and around the Colfax and 13th Avenue Station Areas. The presentation covered several points, including background information on past planning and development activities in the area. Information was also provided about the process schedule and public engagement for future planning efforts.

During the presentation, a map was shown highlighting the study area and the area that surrounds the Fitzsimons-Colfax Station Area and the 13th Station Area. Their area of focus was situated about a quarter to half a mile surrounding these stations, mainly on the east side of 225 and straddling north and south of Colfax.

Over the past 15 years, significant activity has taken place in this area. Notably, the current Station Area Plan was adopted in 2009, in anticipation of the light rail service to Aurora. Besides the introduction of light rail service, there were notable developments, including the opening of the Hyatt Regency in 2016 and the Rocky Mountain VA Medical campus in 2018, as well as various developments along the Colfax corridor. In 2021, RTD, the transit provider, adopted an equitable transit-oriented development policy. These policy changes opened opportunities for developing housing, especially affordable housing, in underutilized transit properties and station areas. This policy shift aligned with the city's goals of housing development within transit-oriented development areas. Between 2021 and 2023, the city conducted a 13th Avenue Multimodal Corridor study aimed at improving transit, bike, pedestrian, and other modes of transportation in the area. During this time frame, discussions with property owners in the vicinity of the 13th Avenue Station began regarding residential development. In 2022, city staff and professionals held a design charrette to explore development opportunities near the 13th Avenue Station.

D. Krzyzanowski stated that the primary reason for presenting before the committee was to provide a preview of an update to the Station Area Plan, which had been in place for 15 years. This plan was initially developed before the introduction of light rail service, before the adoption of the city's Comprehensive Plan and Unified Development Ordinance, and before the implementation of the city's housing strategy. Consequently, an update to the Station Area Plan was deemed necessary to incorporate these new plans and policies and effectively apply them to the area. Furthermore, she emphasized that there were several near-term development opportunities near these stations. The planning discussed that morning aimed to pave the way for the city to shape and support new residential developments in the area.

J. Orozco continued with a detailed discussion of the development opportunities, the process, and the timeline. She mentioned the city's active involvement in the Urban Renewal in the area and highlighted how the Station Area Plan and a potential Urban Renewal Plan would complement each other. She then discussed two development opportunities. First, she talked about future development possibilities on both the RTD property and Bach Homes property, situated south of the RTD station area across Toll Gate Creek. These properties were substantial, each spanning over 14 acres. However, they faced a challenge in terms of access, as there was only one access point to each property, which did not support dense development from a safety perspective. To maximize these sites' potential, a bridge connecting them was necessary, providing secondary access to both sites. Such a bridge could unlock the potential for up to 1,000 housing units, depending on the

site plans. She showed a concept diagram of the bridge created by the Public Works Department in 2019-2020, which estimated the cost at approximately 7.6 million at that time, acknowledging that inflation might have increased this figure. She emphasized the site's strategic location, surrounded by employment opportunities like the Fitzsimons Campus, Buckley, logistics along the I-70 corridor, and the airport. It was well-suited for workforce housing and potentially market-rate housing, addressing the city's pressing need for housing. She highlighted the completed 13th Avenue Multimodal Corridor Study and recent infrastructure improvements at the station, such as trail extensions, making biking more efficient without the need to cross surface streets. She also emphasized that this housing initiative aligned with the city's housing strategy by utilizing publicly owned land, promoting sustainability, expanding housing inventory, and introducing innovation, as the city had not previously undertaken a project on RTD property.

J. Orozco reiterated RTD's TOD and Equitable TOD Policy, highlighting RTD's increased flexibility in using its sites for housing. She mentioned that RTD was more accommodating with replacement parking and shared parking, aiming for 35 percent of units on RTD property to be affordable housing, aligning with the city's housing goals. She stated funding sources for affordable housing, including grants from DOLA (Department of Local Affairs) like the Strong Communities Infrastructure Grant Program, which the city had applied for. There was also funding from Proposition 123, which the city had committed to and was accepted. She mentioned the governor's proposal, even though it hadn't advanced in the last session, indicating that it might resurface in the future, aligning with state goals. She presented a map showing an area previously declared blighted by the Council in a 2019 study, with plans to establish an Urban Renewal Area. Tax increment financing would be used to cover infrastructure costs, including a bridge.

J. Orozco reiterated that a Housing Charrette was held in October 2022, jointly hosted by Housing and Community Development and Development Services. They each shared the cost and hired an external consultant to assess the site, with a specific focus on the RTD site. The goal was to explore housing possibilities and determine the suitable capacity for the site. External consultants, Bach Homes, a neighboring entity from Utah, RTD representatives, and various city staff members from different departments participated in this effort. They conducted on-site visits, evaluated challenges and opportunities, and spent half a day at city hall to experiment with different concept scenarios. The result of their intensive work was refined by their architect, resulting in Scheme 1, a medium-density proposal of approximately 200 to 240 units. This scheme retained half of the RTD parking and incorporated four-story affordable housing with tuck-under and surface parking. Scheme 2 was a two-phase plan, initially preserving half of the RTD parking. In the southern portion, it proposed townhomes along the creek, potentially for sale as affordable housing. Above that, there were plans for Permanent Supportive Housing and a four-story development of attainable housing. The second phase involved replacing all RTD parking with a structure and adding parking for higher-density

residential units, potentially mixed-income, on the northern side, totaling 340 to 400 units across both phases.

A preview of Bach Homes' ideas for their southern property was also presented. It included townhomes, podium-style structures, and tuck-under configurations. They planned a phased approach for their development, with a vision of approximately 600 market-rate units in the area. J. Orozco mentioned that Bach Homes' rezoning was unanimously approved by the Council in June, a significant achievement that they were enthusiastic about. Funding for the bridge was being pursued through state grants, and Bach Homes was willing to design, construct, and front-fund the bridge, with the expectation of reimbursement through an agreement with the Urban Renewal Authority using property tax increment financing (TIF). Additionally, the Station Area Plan was highlighted as a crucial factor in guiding the development proposals for both sites, as it outlined the desired design and character of the development in the city, complementing the efforts related to Urban Renewal.

D. Krzyzanowski then provided details about the proposed project schedule. He mentioned that, in response to the committee's direction to proceed with the project, they planned to kick off the Station Area Plan and Urban Renewal Plan concurrently. They intended to engage the public in the process, with the first public meeting scheduled for the fall and a second one in winter or early next year, aiming to finalize the Station Area Plan by Quarter 1 of 2024. The Urban Renewal Plan, being a more complex process, would continue into 2024, with the exact completion date depending on agreements and the timeline of the development partner, Bach Homes.

Regarding public engagement, two rounds of engagement were proposed, including reaching out to adjacent neighborhoods, such as The Meadows mobile home park residents, and established neighborhoods to the east and west of the area. They also planned to engage with major property owners, RTD, Anschutz (a major employer in the area), area developers, and businesses.

Additionally, D. Krzyzanowski mentioned the formation of an internal working group within the city, which would involve various departments, including Housing and Community Services, Public Works, Parks, Recreation, and Open Space, as necessary to collaborate on the project.

- CM Lawson expressed her support for the project, emphasizing its uniqueness and potential for various types of developments in the area. She had a couple of general questions about the bridge. She noted that, based on the presentation, the funding for the bridge would rely on state funding grants and contributions from developers. She inquired whether there were plans to seek federal grants, specifically mentioning the National League of Cities and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, which included programs aimed at reconnecting communities and neighborhood access equity. She wanted to know if the project would

explore federal grant opportunities to support the bridge project. J. Orozco mentioned that they had looked into federal transportation dollars but were informed that the bridge might not be a strong candidate for such funding because it typically goes towards regional improvements, whereas this project was more focused on a neighborhood-level improvement. However, J. Orozco acknowledged that other federal avenues, such as HUD (Department of Housing and Urban Development), might be more suitable, and they were actively searching for such opportunities. She highlighted the advantage of having Bach as a partner in the project, as their involvement in the design and construction could help keep costs down. She also mentioned that federalizing projects could lead to longer timelines and higher labor costs, potentially increasing the project's overall expenses. Despite this, she assured CM Lawson they were exploring various options for funding.

- CM Lawson brought up her previous advocacy efforts in Washington, D.C., related to regional projects like the Alameda corridor, which connected to 225, highlighting the potential for federal funding in such cases. She acknowledged that securing federal grant dollars could be challenging but considered it a valuable opportunity. Her next question pertained to dense areas and potential challenges with street parking and signage visibility. She expressed the need for proactive measures, especially in dense areas like the one under consideration. She hoped that the project would address the issue of signage and traffic patterns early on, as dense development could lead to increased movement and traffic. She also noted the likelihood of people continuing to use cars, even with efforts to promote public transit, especially for those commuting to work. She inquired about when the project's planning would incorporate considerations for the actual traffic patterns and related concerns, recognizing the upcoming engagement meetings and discussions in the planning process. D. Krzyzanowski acknowledged that residents were an essential source of information regarding what was currently working or not working in terms of transportation and traffic. He emphasized the importance of engaging with the people who live in the area, as they experience these issues daily. He also recognized that redevelopment projects involve fitting something new into an existing environment, which necessitates an assessment of how things currently function and how they will change. To address this, they planned to involve their Transportation Planning Department and Public Works Department to determine necessary signage or other improvements to accommodate new residents or transit users. Furthermore, he mentioned that all projects like these must go through the city's development process, where they are reviewed for their impact on traffic and transportation, ensuring that any potential issues are addressed and mitigated.

- CM Lawson expressed her satisfaction that the area's density and potential traffic issues would be considered in the project. She mentioned that the area was indeed very dense, with people parking along the streets, leading to accidents. She stressed the importance of being proactive in addressing these concerns during development. She believed that taking proactive measures could make safety in the area better and prevent the need for additional stop signs and similar measures in the future. She emphasized the significance of addressing such issues in tight development projects.
- CM Bergan sought clarification regarding parcel ownership. She asked to confirm that Bach Homes owned approximately 14 acres and RTD owned the other portion, and J. Orozco and D. Krzyzanowski affirmed this.
- CM Bergan then asked about the development of the RTD site, specifically who would be responsible for it. J. Orozco explained that RTD would issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) to seek development partners for their site. While the city would provide significant input and assistance in crafting the RFP, RTD would lead the process since it was their property. Any development on the RTD site would also require approval from the RTD Board. J. Orozco emphasized that they were actively demonstrating their interest in the site and working proactively to address development challenges, particularly related to access. They aimed to make a compelling case for RTD, highlighting that the current use of the land, as a grassy area and empty parking lot, wasn’t the highest and best use and proposed building homes for people in need.
- CM Bergan sought clarification on the handling of the land by RTD, inquiring whether they were conveying it to the city. J. Orozco explained that RTD's approach varied by site, with a preference for long-term leases. This arrangement would work well for affordable housing, where the land would be leased for housing purposes. However, it would complicate ownership housing options. She mentioned that negotiations with RTD were yet to be finalized.
- CM Bergan asked about the initial step in the process, suggesting that making it an Urban Renewal area might be the first step. J. Orozco confirmed this and mentioned they had a draft Urban Renewal Plan in progress. They needed to present it to the AURA Board and engage in negotiations with taxing partners, which required detailed calculations based on Bach Homes' development plans.
- CM Bergan asked if Bach Homes planned to establish a metro district. J. Orozco replied that it was an option, though the final decision was not yet determined.
- CM Bergan concluded her questions and comments by expressing hope that their vision for the project would be recognized at the state level, referring to the governor's involvement. She thanked the presenters for their presentation.

Outcome:
Information only.

Follow-up Action:
None required.

3.b. Original Aurora Special District Discussion with a Community Development Plan

Summary of Issue and Discussion:
Andrea Amonick, Development Services Manager & Mindy Parnes, Long-Range Planning Manager

Mayor Pro Tem Gardner introduced the item. He introduced the proposal to hire Progressive Urban Management Associates (PUMA), an outside consultant, for two specific tasks related to northwest Aurora, often referred to as Original Aurora, which includes the area from Colfax Avenue from Yosemite to Florence. The first task was to create a Small Area Plan, a document commonly used in various cities, including Denver, to guide development.

Mayor Pro Tem Gardner explained that over the years, there have been multiple plans and ideas for the area's development, but a Small Area Plan would provide a comprehensive vision based on community feedback and stakeholder input. He emphasized the importance of having a clear plan to guide development, as it would prevent ad hoc development and ensure a consistent vision. While there has been positive momentum in the area with the introduction of businesses like Bánh & Butter, Baba & Pop's Pierogis, Lady Justice Brewing, and Cerebral Brewing, much of the development has occurred on an ad hoc basis. The Small Area Plan would help create a vision for the area's development, involving input from various stakeholders, developers, business groups, and existing businesses. He highlighted the potential for the area to become a revenue-generating hub for the city, emphasizing the importance of balancing arts and culture with revenue-generating businesses like bars and restaurants. He stressed the need for a clear development plan, expressing confidence in the district's potential for economic growth.

Mayor Pro Tem Gardner proceeded to discuss the second part of the project, which involved the establishment of a taxing district. He mentioned two potential district opportunities outlined in the provided document: an improvement district and a Downtown Development Authority (DDA). He explained that the DDA was a less common concept, and each municipality could only have one identified DDA. Aurora did not currently have an identified DDA, while Denver had Union Station as its designated DDA. Creating a taxing district would allow for revenue capture and funding of improvements within the district. He noted that over the past several months, meetings had taken place involving city staff, himself, and local businesses in the area. Many of these businesses expressed interest in forming a taxing district to fund necessary improvements. He highlighted some of the businesses, such as Bánh & Butter, owned by Thoa, who had decades of experience with New Saigon

Bakery in Denver. He also mentioned Cerebral Brewing, which had relocated 90 percent of its operations from Denver to Aurora's Arts District. He emphasized the presence of high-caliber businesses in the area and their active participation in discussions about creating a taxing district. He expressed excitement about the group's commitment to making the project successful and seizing the opportunities ahead.

Mindy Parnes, the Long-Range Planning Manager, discussed the extensive planning history related to the Colfax corridor and the need to take action now. The focus was on exploring the potential for a Special District, and she referred to the Previous Focus Area where community meetings were held to gather input.

M. Parnes presented a list of plans dating back to 1974 that highlighted various efforts to enhance the area, including market studies and arts plans. She emphasized the emergence of community organizations, businesses, and the strengthening of the arts community. These entities had defined visions and missions, all aiming to strengthen the community in different ways. The presentation also featured past visioning efforts, including input from community members like Mr. Medina. The latest Vision Statement was discussed, emphasizing the need for a Special District along the Colfax corridor. She pointed out that a Special District should reflect the community's needs and serve as a centralized repository and marketing platform for various groups. She mentioned legal requirements for establishing the Special District and stressed the importance of quickly moving forward to establish a Community-Focused Action Plan with input from trusted voices in the community.

Andrea Amonick, Development Services Manager, discussed the forum and the specifics of the Special District. She acknowledged the extensive planning and redevelopment efforts spanning over 20 years. She emphasized the collaborative nature of the current effort, involving the city's Planning Department and the Aurora Urban Renewal Authority, with special recognition for Commissioner Lynn Baca and Johnny Watson from the Authority Board, who joined the meeting. She outlined the four Urban Renewal Areas associated with the Original Aurora Area, both in Adams County and Arapahoe County. She mentioned that the initiative began as a community-driven effort in 2021 and 2022 to address issues along the Colfax corridor, focusing on safety improvements, the activation of public spaces, homelessness, housing, and community engagement. She highlighted the importance of community engagement and noted that the Special District discussion was driven by the community's desire to actively participate in shaping the area's future. She clarified that the initiative would be a bottom-up effort led by a third-party consultant, PUMA, with Brad Segal, the principal of the firm, having over 35 years of experience in similar projects.

A. Amonick explained that creating a Special District is a legal process with specific requirements, and the goal was to meet those requirements by the end of 2024. PUMA proposed a three-step process, starting with addressing district feasibility, followed by outreach and community development planning, and finally,

meeting the legal requirements. She mentioned the importance of educating the community about different Special District options, their boundaries, and revenue sources. She outlined the proposed timeline, initiating the process in the fall and commencing community outreach at the beginning of the following year. She also mentioned that funding for this initiative would come from the Urban Renewal Authority, and the next step would involve presenting the outlined components to the Aurora Urban Renewal Authority Board for an allocation of funding if the committee recommended moving forward.

- CM Bergan sought clarification regarding the proposed taxing district options, specifically business improvement districts (BID) and DDA. She wanted to understand who would be taxed under these arrangements. A. Amonick explained that BIDs typically tax businesses, not homeowners or renters. On the other hand, DDAs have more flexibility; they can use tax increment financing and, depending on the authority granted by the City Council, may use property taxes from all property owners, potentially including homeowners and renters. DDAs can fund a broader range of improvements beyond just businesses. A. Amonick explained that in the case of a new taxing jurisdiction, taxes within that area would be allocated similarly to how they are done within an Urban Renewal Area. She mentioned that there's an overlapping Urban Renewal Area where the tax increment financing provision would be closed to enable a broader increment to be used.
- CM Bergan asked about the four overlapping Urban Renewal Areas and how the city generates revenue from sales and property taxes. A. Amonick clarified that when establishing a new taxing jurisdiction, a base would be set, and the existing base of property and sales taxes would continue to be collected, ensuring some revenue for the city.
- CM Bergan inquired if the funds generated would be adequate to develop the necessary infrastructure for the plan. A. Amonick clarified that the DDA would have the authority to propose using those funds for implementing items outlined in the Community Development Plan associated with this initiative.
- CM Bergan asked about the previous initiative called FAX Aurora and why it didn't succeed. A. Amonick explained that the key difference with the current initiative is that it has more interest and a more stable financial structure. FAX Aurora was a voluntary membership-based model, whereas the new initiative, whether it's a DDA or a BID, relies on a taxation system, making it financially more stable in comparison to the previous membership-based approach.
- CM Bergan raised concerns about the Arts District's contribution to the BID since they receive subsidized rent. A. Amonick explained that the Arts District, while having its location and generating some revenue through sales, would still be considered a stakeholder in the BID. Many BIDs and DDAs in other communities allocate a portion of their funds to support neighborhood infrastructure, and the presence of the Arts District could

contribute indirectly by drawing people to the area and increasing taxes through events, shows, and other activities.

- CM Bergan acknowledged that businesses were now showing more interest in the area, recognizing that a thriving business community is essential for the success of the Arts District, and A. Amonick agreed with her statement.
- Mayor Pro Tem Gardner joined in the discussion and answered CM Bergan's question on FAX Aurora. He explained the history of various organizations in Aurora, including FAX Aurora, Pam Wilson, the North Aurora Business Alliance, and the Aurora Economic Opportunity Coalition. He noted that these groups often seemed to be working in different directions. He envisioned that the government could bring everyone together and create a unified plan. He explained that organizations like FAX Partnership, North Aurora Business Alliance, and Aurora Economic Opportunity Coalition had different missions but were somewhat similar to a Chamber of Commerce for their respective areas. He envisioned the government's role in getting everyone on the same page and rowing in the same direction. Regarding the Arts District, he compared it to RiNo in Denver, highlighting the importance of complementary businesses. He mentioned that an Arts District alone might struggle, but with complementary businesses like restaurants and entertainment venues, it could thrive. He emphasized the need to generate such complementary businesses to make the Arts District a revenue-generating area for the city, similar to successful arts districts in the metro area.
- CM Lawson expressed support for the idea, especially in light of the upcoming Bus Rapid Transit implementation in the corridor. She raised a question about businesses in the area surrounding those listed as interested in the tax district, wondering if they would be automatically included in the tax district even if they didn't want to be. A. Amonick explained that the boundaries and participation of businesses in the district would be determined through outreach and the Community Action Plan. It would be a collaborative process with PUMA to identify who would be part of the initiative. She also emphasized the importance of ensuring that the community embraces the plan.
- CM Lawson raised concerns about businesses in the corridor, mentioning that some might have reservations or resistance to joining the district due to potential extra taxation, even though there could be benefits. She inquired about the process in case not all businesses were willing to participate. M. Parnes mentioned the example of the Havana BID as a similar case. CM Lawson clarified if this scenario was comparable to what they were discussing, and M. Parnes affirmed this. A. Amonick explained that outreach and education to the community, led by PUMA, would be a crucial part of the process. She mentioned that in BID, businesses generally had to opt in, and there was a formal election. The goal was to engage the community and provide information so that businesses, residents, nonprofits, and others could understand their role in the proposed structures and make informed decisions.

- CM Lawson inquired about the approximate cost of using the organization for the Havana BID. A. Amonick answered that the estimated cost was $200,000, which could be funded through the Aurora Urban Renewal Authority if the commissioners decided to proceed with it.
- CM Bergan raised the issue of safety, which had been a significant concern for both existing and potential businesses in the area. She inquired whether the BID or DDA could allocate funds to address security. A. Amonick responded affirmatively, explaining that the BID or DDA could use funds to hire private security, which was a practice employed by some other districts.

Outcome:
Council Member Bergan and Council Member Lawson approved this item to move forward.

Follow-up Action:
Staff will add this item to an AURA Meeting Agenda

3.c. Our Parks, Our Places- A Plan for Aurora's Parks, Recreation and Open Space

Summary of Issue and Discussion:
Michelle Teller, Senior Planner, and Rian French, Project Manager

Michelle Teller, Senior Planner, presented this item. She outlined the purpose of the meeting, which was to provide an update on the Our Parks, Our Places master plan. She mentioned the intention to highlight upcoming approval processes related to the plan and to provide key dates for public review and comments.

The Our Parks, Our Places master plan was designed to set a vision for the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) department for the next 5 to 10 years. The plan was based on five key objectives derived from the Aurora Places Comprehensive Plan, including community connections, equitable access, health and safety, sustainable growth, and operational efficiencies. The project began in May of the previous year and went through four phases, which included baseline assessment, gaps analysis, recommendations drafting, and culminated in the current phase of assembling the draft document.

M. Teller discussed the approval processes for the master plan. She mentioned that there were two main approval processes in place. The first involved approving the master plan as the guiding master plan for the department. The second process required amending the Aurora Places Comprehensive Plan to include a reference to the master plan. The committee will be approached in the future to seek an advisory recommendation for this second process.

M. Teller then provided an overview of the different phases of the master plan development. The first phase focused on creating an existing conditions and inventory report, which served as the foundation for the master plan. During this

phase, they conducted a thorough review of various data sources and regional planning documents, including county and regional plans. They also engaged in extensive community outreach, including surveys, open houses, focus groups, and participation in special events to gather feedback from the community. During the first phase of the project, the team collaborated with the community to establish six guiding principles. These principles were an extension of the initial five objectives outlined in the Aurora Places Comprehensive Plan. The principles were refined based on community feedback received through open-house events.

The six guiding principles that shaped the document and future recommendations included: Meeting the Evolving Needs of the Community, Strengthening Connectivity to PROS Assets, Serving as Stewards to the Environment, Providing Opportunities for Lifelong Education, Proactively Investing in the Present and Future, and Providing Welcoming and Safe Spaces. The project also aimed to explore the relationship between the PROS system and real estate, land use, and economic development. The consultant's findings indicated that within a two to three-minute walk from any PROS-developed spaces, there was a 20 percent premium in real estate value, encompassing businesses. Within a five-minute walk, there was a 10 percent increase in value. Consequently, the project sought to establish partnerships with various businesses and entities to leverage these findings for future collaboration.

During Phase 2 of the project, the focus was on comprehensively understanding the gaps and needs within the PROS system while keeping equity as a central concern throughout the process. Instead of having a single recommendation dedicated to equity, an Equity Value Statement was created to serve as an overarching framework for all the recommendations and strategies. With input from the public, equity was defined as both a means to create and sustain healthy communities and an end that benefits everyone, acknowledging the varying circumstances, resources, and opportunities that individuals have. In alignment with the equity principle, a Gap Analysis and Needs Assessment were conducted to assess how the existing PROS system aligned with the identified needs in Aurora. The assessment considered factors such as access to parks, recreation areas, and amenities. Additionally, community input played a vital role in understanding where the gaps and needs were perceived within the community. A map highlighting the highest-need neighborhoods was created to assist in this analysis.

M. Teller discussed the process of creating a map to identify key factors in assessing the needs of Aurora's neighborhoods within the PROS system. They considered three key factors: Density, which focused on neighborhoods with existing residential areas, Demographic Vulnerability, comprised of social vulnerability and health indicators, including childhood obesity rates, to pinpoint areas with high needs for parks and open spaces, and Park Acreage Per 1,000 residents, which helped evaluate park availability. Additional analyses were conducted, such as examining Tree Equity to identify areas with a greater need for city trees, gathering Community Feedback to understand community preferences

and gaps, analyzing Program Seasonality to assess program distribution and reach, and studying Ecological Connectivity to support habitat corridors. Throughout these phases, there were over 16,000 interactions with the community, eventually reaching approximately 17,000 individuals. The team ensured accessibility by translating materials into Aurora's top six most-used languages and providing interpreters at open houses. The community's input was integral in shaping the vision for the PROS system, reflecting their needs and priorities. The engagement efforts were seen as a significant achievement in involving a broad spectrum of the community.

During Phase 3 of the project, M. Teller mentioned the team began refining ideas based on information gathered in Phases 1 and 2. Recommendations and strategies were drafted with the assistance of a consultant, prioritizing key recommendations and creating an action plan around them. Additionally, a Dog Park Study was conducted alongside the master plan, focusing on developing design standards and recommendations for dog parks within the system. This study was integrated into the public engagement and needs assessments. Moving on to Phase 4, the team compiled all the gathered information into a document. They shared key upcoming dates with the committee, indicating that the draft would be made available for public review and comment between 10/02 and 10/16. Staff were already reviewing a copy, and once it was deemed complete, it would be distributed to various stakeholders for further refinement based on their feedback.

Looking ahead, in the first quarter of the following year, M. Teller anticipated starting the approval processes involving several committees, including the Planning and Economic Development Policy Committee and would provide more information to the committee at that time.

- CM Lawson expressed gratitude for M. Teller's presentation and acknowledged the extensive community engagement efforts. She raised concerns about safety in city parks, mentioning that there had been reports of people not feeling safe in some of them. She noted that the presentation mentioned health and safety but did not provide specific details on how safety would be addressed. She questioned whether measures like increased lighting, cameras, or park rangers were needed. M. Teller explained that the presentation was meant to provide a high-level overview. However, she mentioned that safety concerns had been discussed with the consultants. The master plan did address safety concerns through design changes aimed at creating more welcoming spaces, including signage and modifications to park entrances. She assured CM Lawson that these safety considerations would be included in the draft document based on feedback received during open houses and community discussions.
- CM Lawson expressed the need for additional safety measures in parks, including increased lighting and other considerations to make people feel comfortable. She emphasized the importance of safety to encourage park usage. M. Teller acknowledged the need for such measures. She mentioned

that they would be part of a separate initiative. The Director, Brooke Bell, tasked them with conducting a lighting study and exploring various alternatives. These efforts would be more strategic and detailed than what was covered in the master plan, but the master plan would serve as a foundation for addressing these specific safety elements in the future.

- Laura Perry responded to CM Lawson's question regarding safety in parks. She emphasized that safety was a top priority for the parks and outlined several measures they had taken. These included actively tracking data, deploying mobile camera units to hotspots, engaging a nighttime security patrol for areas with reported crimes, and maintaining direct coordination with APD on park-related crime tracking. Regular updates on these efforts were provided to the Parks, Foundations & Quality of Life Policy Committee. L. Perry offered to forward the latest update from the previous month, which detailed the strategies being deployed. She also mentioned the need for flexibility and adaptability to address community issues and noted that the planning initiative M. Teller mentioned would complement their ongoing work.
- CM Bergan expressed concerns similar to those of CM Lawson regarding park safety. She appreciated the mobile cameras but suggested allocating additional funding for more of them due to the city's size and the number of parks. She also inquired about equity and mentioned the absence of a dog park in Ward VI, noting that constituents frequently ask for one. M. Teller responded by mentioning the existence of a private dog park in Ward VI but clarified that it wasn't city owned. She added that the demand for dog parks was widespread, and people wanted more of them in various locations. The goal was to distribute dog parks throughout neighborhoods and ensure access in every ward.
- CM Bergan expressed her interest in understanding what plans were in place to complete and develop existing parks. She mentioned an example of a park, which she referred to as Dome Park, that had remained mostly grass and dirt for the 21 years she had lived in the area. She also raised questions about regional parks and the trail system, seeking clarification on whether these were separate initiatives. M. Teller responded by explaining that the project included the development of a Geographic Information Systems Tool (GIS) to track undeveloped spaces and identify areas of greatest need. She cited Dome Park as an example and mentioned that the master plan aimed to establish a foundation for tracking and addressing such gaps and needs in park development.
- Nicole Ankeney, the Manager of Planning, Design, and Construction, provided an update regarding Dome Park. She mentioned that they had recently engaged a consultant to initiate the site master planning process for Dome Park. They were in the process of creating a schedule and a plan for public engagement, which would be shared on Engage Aurora soon. She clarified that the current master plan was a high-level overview, setting the goals and vision for the entire park system. In the following year, they planned to develop a strategic plan with more detailed information. She

noted that they were actively assessing undeveloped parks across the city, utilizing GIS and analysis tools. Additionally, they were working on filling staffing vacancies within the planning team to ensure they could address the development of undeveloped park effectively.

- CM Bergan raised a point about Phase 2 gaps and needs in the park system. She mentioned that park fees and impact fees played a significant role in funding and noted that some of these funds needed to remain within the area where they were collected. This added complexity to the funding process. N. Ankeney acknowledged the importance of this issue and mentioned that she was working on an RFP to address it. She specifically referred to the PROS dedication and development criteria manual and explained that they were planning to conduct a deeper analysis of fees and be responsive to both the development community and the community at large. She noted that this analysis would be undertaken in the coming year.
- CM Bergan inquired about the timeline for presenting the Comprehensive Plan changes to the PED Committee. M. Teller confirmed that the changes to the Comprehensive Plan, specifically referencing the document discussed, would likely come before PED early the following year.

Outcome:
Information only.

Follow-up Action:
None required.

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4. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

4. a. Aurora Economic Development Council

- Yuri Gorlov

NO REPORT

4.b. Havana Business Improvement District

- Chance Horiuchi

C. Horiuchi announced the upcoming Halloween events. She mentioned various activities, including a drive-in movie, a Halloween costume contest, a networking event in partnership with the African Chamber, and a trick-or-treat event at The Gardens in Havana. The annual meeting was scheduled for November 15 at the Stampede, and catering would be provided by an Argentinian caterer. She noted that this year's presentation would be shorter, and they had a videographer to create a video overview of the events held in 2023.

4.c. Aurora Chamber of Commerce

- Naomi Colwell

NO REPORT

4.d. Planning Commission

- Becky Hogan

NO REPORT

4.e. Oil and Gas Committee

- Brad Pierce

NO REPORT

4.f. Business Advisory Board

- Garrett Walls

NO REPORT

4.g. Retail

- Bob Oliva

NO REPORT

4.h. Small Business

- Elena Vasconez

E. Vasconez mentioned that since the fall of 2022, the SBDC has been part of a collaborative effort involving 13 community and business organizations led by the Center for Community Wealth Building. They developed an online marketplace called ShopBIPOC to support businesses owned by Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC), including Asian, Latino, biracial, and multiracial individuals. She reported that ShopBIPOC currently featured 415 BIPOC small businesses from the entire Denver Metro Area, including Aurora. The marketplace aimed to connect consumers and anchor institutions such as the University of Colorado, Anschutz Medical Center, and Metro State University with BIPOC-owned businesses to enhance their growth opportunities. She shared the success of the online marketplace's launch event on August 31 at The People's Building, attended by approximately 300 people. Five Aurora caterers, who were SBDC clients, provided catering for the event. She mentioned that CM Marcano represented the city and delivered a welcoming speech. She recognized several individuals and organizations for their support, including Aaron Vega, the curator for The People's Building, A. Amonick, and the SBDC Team. She also noted the city's efforts to raise awareness among different departments about BIPOC small businesses and shopping locally in Aurora. She highlighted a recent Lunch and Learn Session conducted by the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, the SBDC, and Community Wealth Building for city employees. This session aimed to educate them on purchasing from local small businesses to support community growth. Prieto's Catering, an Aurora food truck owner and SBDC business, provided catering for the training, which received a positive response. Due to its success, they planned to hold another training event in the coming months. She concluded by mentioning that she would provide a comprehensive report on all SBDC outreach efforts during the November PED Meeting and thanked everyone for their time.

4.i. Visit Aurora

- Bruce Dalton

NO REPORT

- CM Bergan announced that Southlands would be hosting a Wine Walk the following evening, describing it as a fun event for those who hadn't experienced it before.

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5. CONFIRM NEXT MEETING DATE

Scheduled for October 11, 2023, at 8:30 AM MT.

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6. ADJOURNMENT

APPROVED:

Francoise Bergan, Committee Chair

PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Date: **April 9, 2025**
Time: **8:30 am**

Members Present	Chair: Council Member Francoise Bergan, Council Member Danielle Jurinsky
Others Present	Aja Tibbs, Alison Lueck, Andrea Amonick, Ani Karabashian, Ashvina Patel, Becky Hogan, Brad Pierce, Brandon Cammarata, Brenda Kenney, Brian Rulla, Brit Vigil, Bruce Dalton, Caitlynn Fortner, Cathy DeWolf, Cesarina Dancy, Chad Giron, Chance Horiuchi, Chris Fellows, Claude Boiteau, Connor Bailey, Crystal Vigil, Dan Harrington, Daniel Krzyzanowski, David Schoonmaker, David Scott, Deborah Bickmire, Diana Rael, Gayle Jetchick, Jacob Cox, Jake Calegari, James Schireman, Jeannine Rustad, Jeffrey Moore, Jennifer Orozco, Jeremiah Fettig, Jessica Prosser, Jonathan Woodward, Jose Rodriguez, Julie Patterson, Kelly Bish, Laura Perry, Laurie Womer, Leah Ramsey, Lena McClelland, Leticia Callanen, Mac Callison, Maria Alvarez, Marisa Noble, Maurice Healy, Michael Kerrigan, Morgan Cullen, Morgan Jennings, Naomi Colwell, Rachel Allen, Robert Oliva, Sarah Pulliam, Sarah Wile, Stacy Wasinger, Stephen E. Rodriguez, Stephen Gubrud, Steve Nichols, Steve Timms, Susan Chapel, Thomas Blevins, Tod Kuntzelman, Tom Oldenburg, Trevor Vaughn, Wendy Vue

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1. CALL TO ORDER

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2. APPROVAL OF March 12, 2025, DRAFT MINUTES–COUNCIL MEMBER BERGAN

2.a. The minutes were approved.

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3. GENERAL BUSINESS

3.a. UDO Amendment for Multifamily Parking in Applicable Transit Service Areas

Summary of Issue and Discussion:
Sarah Wile, Senior Planner III

Sarah Wile opened the presentation by greeting committee members and attendees and introducing herself as a Senior Planning and Business Development Department planner. She thanked the committee for the opportunity to speak and presented updates to the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) in response to House Bill 24-1304, which was passed in 2024.

She explained that the amendment was required to bring the city's zoning code into compliance with new state legislation to improve housing attainability. The bill specifically prohibited municipalities from requiring minimum off-street parking for new multifamily developments, mixed-use projects containing residential units, and adaptive reuse of buildings with at least 50% residential space, but only within designated applicable transit service areas.

She clarified that this legislation did not prevent developers from including parking if they chose to, and the city would not impose any maximums. The intent was to allow flexibility, letting developers assess and provide parking based on their own needs, financial models, and site constraints.

To help illustrate the scope of the impact, S. Wile presented a map highlighting all applicable transit service areas across Aurora. She noted that most of the affected zones were concentrated in the city's western and central districts, where transit infrastructure was most dense. However, she also pointed out limited affected areas in the southeast, such as near Smoky Hill Road, and in the northeast, near 56th Avenue and Piccadilly Road. She shared that a public-facing interactive map was available online to help developers and residents check parcel-level impact.

She then explained that the city's current UDO was not compliant with the new law. Presently, Aurora requires all multifamily developments to provide off-street parking for residents and guests, with most projects including between 1.2 and 1.5 spaces per unit. She emphasized that while these requirements supported current parking availability, they also increased construction costs, consumed land that could be used for more units or open space, and ultimately contributed to higher rents.

S. Wile stated that despite the policy change, staff expected that most market-rate developers would continue providing roughly the same parking levels, since lenders often required it for financing. However, affordable housing projects might provide less parking, given different funding structures and target populations. These assumptions were based on feedback from the city's Parking Roundtable Forum held in the prior year.

She informed the committee that any development outside of a transit area would still need to follow current parking rules under the proposed amendment. Developers would no longer be required to meet a minimum within transit areas. However, all voluntarily provided off-street parking would still need to comply with ADA requirements and design standards, and developers would also be required to include bicycle parking provisions.

She closed by stating that a draft of the UDO changes would be published on the Engage Aurora website by the end of April, and that the city had been actively working with stakeholder groups, including the Joint Task Development Review Advisory Board, Park Aurora, and DOLA, to develop the language. The goal was to have the amendment adopted by the end of June.

- Chair Bergan thanked S. Wile and opened the floor for questions.
- CM Jurinsky indicated that she had no questions.
- Chair Bergan acknowledged that other jurisdictions were considering legal action against the state, characterizing the legislation as a clear overreach of Aurora's home rule authority. She pointed out that whenever multifamily housing was proposed in Aurora, residents consistently raised complaints about traffic and limited parking, even with current ratios of 1.2 to 1.5 spaces per unit. She warned that reducing or eliminating these requirements could result in significant public backlash. She speculated that the city might end up limiting multifamily housing altogether as a form of resistance to the state's mandate.
- Chair Bergan referred to the legislation requiring a compliance report to be submitted to the state. She asked if staff would submit such a report and whether the city planned to seek exceptions.
- J. Rustad responded, confirming that the city was preparing a compliance report. She explained that the proposed UDO amendment was written to align fully with the law. She reiterated that during previous discussions with developers, most indicated that financing requirements would continue to compel them to build the same amount of parking they already do. She cited one recent affordable housing development as an example- despite being fully leased, it had only four vehicles parked on-site, suggesting that not all multifamily residents needed parking.
- Chair Bergan asked for clarification on whether developers would still be permitted to provide parking if desired.
- J. Rustad confirmed that they could and noted that this version of the bill differed from earlier versions that might have penalized the inclusion of parking.
- CM Jurinsky questioned the purpose of the legislation as it wouldn't meaningfully change how developers approached parking. She suggested that the law was aimed at denser cities like Denver with more robust transit systems. She criticized the state legislature for imposing a one-size-fits-all policy on communities like Aurora. She agreed with Chair Bergan's earlier comments and emphasized her support for ending high-density residential development in the city as a potential response.
- Chair Bergan acknowledged CM Jurinsky's comment and moved to the following agenda item.

Outcome:
Council Member Bergan and Council Member Jurinsky approved this item to move forward to Study Session.

Follow-up Action:
Staff will add this item to the May 19, 2025, Study Session meeting agenda.

3.b. UDO Amendment for Accessory Dwelling Units
Summary of Issue and Discussion:
Jeremiah Fettig, Planner II

Jeremiah Fettig opened his presentation by thanking the committee for the opportunity to present and introduced himself as a Planner within the Planning and Business Development Department. He began by explaining that the purpose of his presentation was to provide an overview of proposed amendments to the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) in response to House Bill 24-1152, which was passed by the Colorado state legislature in 2024.

He stated that the bill required all subject jurisdictions, municipalities with populations over 1,000 located within a Metropolitan Planning Organization, to permit accessory dwelling units (ADUs) on any lot currently zoned for single-family detached housing. The legislation mandated administrative approval processes for ADUs and required municipalities to allow units between 500 and 750 square feet. Moreover, the law limited a city's ability to impose architectural or dimensional design restrictions beyond what was required for the primary dwelling.

Before moving forward, Chair Bergan interrupted to pose a question regarding one of the points in the presentation, specifically a bullet indicating that homeowner associations (HOAs) would be unable to enforce restrictive covenants preventing ADUs. She expressed concern, noting that the bill itself did not explicitly reference HOAs or metro districts, and instead limited the definition of local government to municipalities, counties, and tribal nations. She referenced past conversations with legal counsel and a legislator who had confirmed that HOAs retained certain private property rights, and she strongly objected to including any statements about HOA restrictions in the city's presentation. Chair Bergan emphasized that this would likely be challenged and that HOAs offered a lifestyle choice with defined covenants that many residents intentionally opted into.

J. Rustad acknowledged the concern and said the city would revise future presentations accordingly. She affirmed that it was not within the city's purview to issue legal interpretations about HOA governance. She agreed that whether the law affected HOA covenants would likely be resolved through legal challenges. Chair Bergan reiterated that the city should not imply an interpretation one way or the other and thanked J. Rustad for the clarification. J. Fettig thanked the chair and agreed to remove the reference in future materials.

Resuming the presentation, J. Fettig clarified the three types of ADUs defined in the legislation: internal units located within a primary residence, attached units extending from the structure, and detached units, such as backyard cottages or converted

garages. He noted that ADUs must contain independent living facilities, including a kitchen, sleeping area, sanitation, and eating space, and must be located on the same lot as a primary dwelling.

He connected the legislative requirements to the goals of the Aurora Places Comprehensive Plan, noting that the expansion of ADUs supported the plan's housing for all principle. He cited the state's rationale for the bill, which included promoting more minor, more affordable housing units in areas with existing infrastructure. ADUs, he said, could serve multigenerational families, help lower-income households, and offer seniors opportunities to age in place while also creating income-generating possibilities for homeowners. He added that the construction of ADUs could potentially raise property values.

J. Fettig continued, outlining what types of ADU regulations the city was still allowed to implement under the bill. These included permitting more than one ADU per lot, allowing ADUs to be smaller or larger than the 500–750 square foot range, and setting maximum size ratios relative to the primary dwelling. The city could also choose whether or not to permit RVs or trailers as ADUs, require that an existing parking space be designated for the ADU, and enforce compliance with local building and life safety codes.

Conversely, he listed restrictions placed on municipalities by the legislation. Cities could not require either the ADU or the primary unit to be owner-occupied, could not mandate additional off-street parking, and could not apply subjective architectural or landscaping standards. Lot size and setback requirements were also limited to those already in place for single-family homes, with rear setbacks capped at five feet. Cities were also prohibited from excluding any of the three ADU types defined in the law.

J. Fettig then explained how ADUs had been permitted in Aurora since 2018, although under highly restrictive conditions. They were only allowed in three zoning districts, in Original Aurora, and required a conditional use permit and a public hearing before the Planning and Zoning Commission. He noted that the city's existing administrative building permit process already conformed to the state's legislation. However, the use-specific standards were not compliant, as they limited ADUs to detached units in rear yards, restricted their size, and required alley access.

To achieve compliance, J. Fettig stated that staff were preparing an amendment to expand the permitted use table, eliminate the conditional use process, and broaden the districts where ADUs would be allowed. Subjective design standards would be removed, and the definition of ADUs would be updated to reflect all three permitted types. Staff also ensured that new parameters were tailored to Aurora's context while staying within legislative constraints.

He shared that a draft of the proposed changes would be available for public review on Engage Aurora by the end of April. The city had already launched an informational site for both UDO projects, complete with frequently asked questions

and public resources. Staff had initiated meetings with internal stakeholders and technical advisory groups representing departments such as fire, engineering, life safety, and building services. Public hearings with the Planning Commission and City Council were expected as the amendment process moved forward.

J. Fettig concluded the presentation and invited questions from the committee.

- Chair Bergan asked CM Jurinsky if she had any questions.
- CM Jurinsky declined.
- Chair Bergan offered brief final remarks, expressing disappointment with the legislation. She emphasized that Aurora already permitted ADUs and that the state's move to impose further mandates represented another erosion of local home rule authority. She hoped the bill would face challenges from other jurisdictions. She then moved the committee on to the following item.

Outcome:
Council Member Bergan and Council Member Jurinsky approved this item to move forward to Study Session.

Follow-up Action:
Staff will add this item to the May 19, 2025, Study Session meeting agenda.

3.c. Colfax and 13th Avenue Station Area Plan
Summary of Issue and Discussion:
Daniel Krzyzanowski, Planning Supervisor

Daniel Krzyzanowski began his presentation by greeting the committee and introducing himself as a Planning Supervisor in the city's Planning Department. He explained that the purpose of this item was to present the completed draft of the Colfax and 13th Avenue Station Area Plan and to request approval for it to move forward for formal adoption.

He reminded the committee that this plan was first introduced in late 2023 and that staff were returning with a final version. The area covered by the plan spanned approximately 187 acres in north-central Aurora and included two RTD light rail stations: the Colfax Station, which featured the signature bridge over Colfax Avenue near the Anschutz Medical Campus, and the 13th Avenue Station, located southeast of Colfax on the east side of I-225.

D. Krzyzanowski described the surrounding context, noting that the plan area sat adjacent to key medical employers such as the Anschutz Medical Campus and the HealthONE Behavioral Health Center. Established residential neighborhoods, including Hoffman Heights, Chambers Heights, and the Meadows Mobile Home Community bordered it. He explained that the plan served two primary purposes: to update the original 2009 station area plan, which was outdated and predated the light rail infrastructure, and to prepare the area for near-term development by laying the groundwork for a future urban renewal plan.

He emphasized that the updated plan reaffirmed the area's vision as a transit-oriented, mixed-use community, consistent with the earlier plan, but with refreshed zoning tools, land use designations, and development standards to reflect current conditions. He shared that the document outlined specific action items to support this vision and was intended to directly inform the structure of a forthcoming urban renewal plan to address infrastructure needs and facilitate investment in the area.

Displaying a visual of the proposed land use framework, D. Krzyzanowski noted that the plan preserved the Colfax corridor as a commercial mixed-use zone intended to serve residents, employees, and visitors. South of Colfax, the plan envisioned a mix of residential development, with particular attention to two significant redevelopment opportunities: the site surrounding the 13th Avenue Station and another parcel located south of Tollgate Creek. He added that a new park or recreational amenity was being considered near the 13th Avenue Station, which could serve new residents and surrounding neighborhoods.

He then moved to the mobility framework and outlined how the plan proposed future street and pedestrian connections to improve access between neighborhoods and Colfax Avenue’s transit and services. One key improvement was the extension of Dillon Way, which would connect 13th Avenue to development sites south of Tollgate Creek, facilitating public safety access and resident mobility. Other proposed enhancements included incremental pedestrian or street links to re-stitch the area over time, creating a more walkable, integrated environment.

After the presentation, D. Krzyzanowski displayed the adoption schedule. If the committee approves, the next step would be a public hearing with the Planning and Zoning Commission on April 23, followed by City Council consideration in early June. He reiterated that finalizing the station area plan was critical in enabling the city to proceed with an urban renewal plan later in the summer. He concluded his remarks by opening the floor for questions.

- Chair Bergan thanked D. Krzyzanowski for the presentation and asked if there were any questions.
- CM Jurinsky asked whether a fiscal note was associated with the plan.
- D. Krzyzanowski responded that it was not. He clarified that the document was a policy and planning framework only and that any actual improvements, such as infrastructure construction or further studies, would be brought back to the City Council individually, each with its funding request and detailed fiscal note. He reiterated that the plan served to set the vision and strategy, but did not carry an immediate financial commitment.
- CM Jurinsky followed up with a question about RTD’s involvement in the process. She expressed skepticism about RTD’s safety and ridership issues and asked whether the agency genuinely participated in development discussions. She stressed that while the city could invest in infrastructure and beautification, RTD needed meaningful engagement and responsibility to improve the area’s overall viability.

- D. Krzyzanowski affirmed that RTD had been involved throughout the planning process. He stated that the agency had supported the plan and aligned with RTD's broader strategy of encouraging development around underutilized station areas. He explained that RTD had direction from its board to identify opportunities for station-area development, particularly on properties where it owned excess land or parking capacity. He characterized the city and RTD as aligned in their goals for this corridor.
- J. Rustad added that the city held quarterly meetings with RTD, during which the Colfax and 13th Avenue area had been discussed in detail. She noted that RTD had proposed using the site for a bus barn at one point, but through continued dialogue, the city had persuaded RTD that such a use was not the highest and best use for the location. She shared that staff would continue to work with RTD as planning advanced. She added that a joint presentation at an upcoming TAPS meeting would further outline RTD's progress toward improving transit service reliability.
- CM Jurinsky responded that she would appreciate being informed about RTD's role and commitment to the project.
- Chair Bergan acknowledged the discussion, thanked D. Krzyzanowski for his presentation, and moved the committee to the following agenda item.

Outcome:
Council Member Bergan and Council Member Jurinsky approved this item to move forward to City Council.

Follow-up Action:
Staff will add this item to the May 5, 2025, City Council meeting agenda.

3.d. Housing Analysis Small Lot Update

Summary of Issue and Discussion:
Jeannine Rustad, Director of Planning & Business Development and Steve Timms, Planning Supervisor

Jeannine Rustad introduced the update by announcing that the city had received three high-quality responses to its recent Request for Proposals (RFP) for a comprehensive analysis of small lot housing development within Aurora. She expressed satisfaction with the outcome and reported that one of the proposals had been selected. However, she refrained from disclosing the name of the chosen firm, noting that the contract had not yet been finalized. She added that staff anticipated completing the contracting process in the next few weeks.

The selected proposal outlined a robust schedule for the project, aiming to begin work in late April or early May and conclude with final adoption by January. She acknowledged that, while the timeline might appear lengthy, the city was committed to a process that emphasized continuous engagement with the development community, transparency, and outreach to the public. She noted that this initiative balanced Aurora's ongoing need for attainable housing with the community's desire to maintain a well-designed, livable city.

J. Rustad addressed Chair Bergan's earlier comments from Agenda Item 3.b, in which Chair Bergan had stressed the importance of controlling the city's built environment. She affirmed that those concerns were top of mind for staff and that maintaining Aurora's character was a core part of the project's scope. The consultant team, she explained, would be tasked with helping the city strike a careful balance between housing flexibility and aesthetic integrity.

She elaborated that the consultant would work closely with internal city departments and private development stakeholders to conduct a code audit. This audit would identify barriers and opportunities related to small lot housing development. The city also intended to pursue a robust community education effort, helping residents understand the implications of zoning changes through technical code updates, compelling visual materials, and design briefs.

J. Rustad referenced lessons learned from other jurisdictions, noting that Aurora staff had recently attended a session at the National Planning Conference in Denver, where small lot reform was a key topic. She cited the City of Englewood as a cautionary example, explaining that their process to reform small lot zoning had taken three years and faced intense public opposition. She described how four Englewood council members had faced recall attempts, though ultimately unsuccessful, and how a public referendum had been launched in response to the zoning changes. She emphasized that while Aurora's process would be completed in months, rather than years, the team was committed to engaging the public early and meaningfully to avoid similar backlash.

She noted that what impressed the selection committee most about the winning consultant was their awareness of how incremental code decisions could affect a city's long-term livability and economic diversity. The team demonstrated an understanding that small zoning changes could significantly impact affordability, neighborhood character, and community trust.

- Chair Bergan responded positively and asked when the project was expected to begin.
- J. Rustad replied that the team hoped to launch the project by the end of April or early May with a kickoff meeting. Initial steps would include refining the scope of work, conducting site tours to familiarize the consultant with Aurora's existing housing stock and development patterns, and diving into the technical code audit.
- Chair Bergan supported the approach, particularly the strong emphasis on community engagement. She stressed that if residents were not brought into the process early, they often felt blindsided by development decisions. She appreciated that the project avoided that dynamic by involving the public.
- CM Jurinsky also weighed in, affirming that resident outreach was essential. She shared that she had owned property in Englewood during their minor lot zoning controversy and witnessed firsthand how quickly public opinion had turned when residents felt excluded or uninformed. She explained that much of the opposition had stemmed from a lack of understanding and frustration

over rapid change. She commended the city's proactive strategy and reiterated the importance of transparency and education.

- J. Rustad assured the committee that staff would keep them updated throughout the process and immediately flag any challenges or resistance encountered.

Outcome:
Information only.

Follow-up Action:
None required.

3.e. Resolution for Amendments to Exhibit A and B of the Crestone Peak Resources Operator Agreement

Summary of Issue and Discussion:
Jeffrey S. Moore, Manager, Energy & Environment Division

Jeffrey Moore opened the presentation by greeting the committee and introducing himself as the Energy and Environment Division manager. He stated that the item's purpose was to review proposed revisions to Exhibits A and B of the Crestone Peak Resources Operator Agreement, and to request committee approval for the resolution to move forward to Study Session.

He explained that Exhibits A and B of the agreement outlined the list and location of well sites permitted under the city's agreement with Crestone Peak Resources. While the base contract remained unchanged, revisions to these exhibits were allowed, provided they were approved through a public hearing at the City Council. Previous amendments were made in January 2021 and again in January 2023.

J. Moore stated that Crestone was now requesting three changes: first, to cancel a previously approved well site near Jewell Avenue; second, to reduce the overall number of well sites and permitted wells in the city; and third, to increase the number of wells at the existing Reserve North site, located just north of I-70. He emphasized that these changes, if approved, would result in fewer total wells and fewer sites overall, while concentrating drilling operations in a more industrially appropriate area.

He outlined several key benefits to the city. Canceling the site near Jewell would eliminate a location less than 2,000 feet from two residential homes and located in an R-2 residential zone. By removing this site, the city would avoid future drilling activity near housing. In contrast, the proposed expansion at the Reserve North site would occur on land zoned for airport use and is adjacent to I-70, offering superior infrastructure access and minimal residential exposure. He added that by consolidating activity, the city could reduce long-term surface impacts, road wear from truck traffic, and potential public health concerns.

J. Moore noted that any new wells added at the Reserve North location would still need to go through the standard permitting process with the city and the Colorado Energy and Carbon Management Commission. He emphasized that this review process remained rigorous and would allow for continued oversight to protect public health, safety, and environmental resources.

He concluded his portion of the presentation by informing the committee that the city's Oil and Gas Advisory Committee had reviewed the proposal just the day before and issued a formal letter of support. Although the letter had not been included in the committee's packet due to time constraints, it would be added to the materials submitted for City Council review.

J. Moore then introduced D. Harrington, Asset Development Manager at Civitas Resources, to provide additional detail about the proposal from the operator's perspective.

D. Harrington began by thanking the committee for the opportunity to present and the city's ongoing collaboration. He stated that Civitas was proposing to amend Exhibits A and B of the Operator Agreement solely to adjust the number and location of well sites. He clarified that no changes to the core contract language were being proposed.

He directed the committee's attention to a series of slides showing the locations of the two affected sites. The Reserve North site—already active and containing nine wells—was located just north of I-70 along Hudson Road. The site Civitas proposed to remove, Cottonwood Creek North, was located significantly farther south along Jewell Avenue and had not yet been developed. D. Harrington noted that this southern site would have required new surface construction in an area closer to homes and would have significantly increased truck traffic on city roads.

Under the proposed changes, the Reserve North site would be expanded from nine wells to fifteen. The site layout currently includes a gap between existing well rows, providing space to add the new wells without materially enlarging the site footprint. He emphasized that this design efficiency would allow for the development of additional subsurface resources without increasing surface impact. He said the expansion would include a new phase three construction and drilling.

D. Harrington shared that the added wells would allow Civitas to access underground mineral rights east of the Reserve North site, which had been challenging to reach due to surface use conflicts, including residential development, floodplain areas, and nearby infrastructure. He explained that due to these constraints, there were no viable pad sites east of Reserve North, and that co-locating the additional wells at an already built, well-managed site was the most responsible and efficient alternative.

He then displayed a revised version of Exhibit A with the Cottonwood Creek North site removed and showed the revised Exhibit B with the six new well slots added to the Reserve North layout. He emphasized that the net impact of the proposed

revisions was one fewer well site and one fewer total well, even with the new additions.

D. Harrington concluded his presentation by reiterating that the changes aligned with the city's goals of reducing residential impacts and optimizing industrial zoning areas for energy development. He expressed Civitas's commitment to continuing its partnership with the city and stood ready to answer questions.

- Chair Bergan thanked both presenters and opened the floor for committee discussion.
- CM Jurinsky responded first, stating she had no questions and fully supported the proposal.
- Chair Bergan also expressed support, stating that removing the site near Jewell was a good decision, especially given its proximity to homes. She noted that expanding at Reserve North made sense, particularly since the additional wells could be placed between existing pads and would not dramatically increase the site's surface footprint. She commended the plan as an innovative and balanced approach and confirmed her support for moving it forward.
- J. Moore and D. Harrington thanked the committee for their time and feedback.

Outcome:
Council Member Bergan and Council Member Jurinsky approved this item to move forward to Study Session.

Follow-up Action:
Staff will add this item to the April 21, 2025, Study Session meeting agenda.

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4. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

4. a. Aurora Economic Development Council

- Yuri Gorlov

NO REPORT

4.b. Havana Business Improvement District

- Chance Horiuchi

NO REPORT

4.c. Aurora Chamber of Commerce

- Naomi Colwell

NO REPORT

4.d. Planning Commission

- Becky Hogan

NO REPORT

4.e. Oil and Gas Committee

- Brad Pierce

4.f. Business Advisory Board

- Garrett Walls

NO REPORT

4.g. Retail

- Bob Oliva

NO REPORT

4.h. Small Business

- Ashvina Patel

NO REPORT

4.i. Visit Aurora

- Bruce Dalton

B. Dalton provided a brief report, highlighting the ongoing Cheers Aurora beer program (running through June 15) and announcing the 2025 Aurora Borealis Festival, scheduled for October 10–11 at High Prairie Park in Painted Prairie.

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5. CONFIRM NEXT MEETING DATE

Scheduled for May 14, 2025, at 8:30 AM MT.

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6. ADJOURNMENT

APPROVED: _____

Francoise Bergan, Committee Chair

Planning and Zoning Commission
April 23, 2025

Commissioners Present	**Garrett Walls** **Robert Gaiser** **Sonda Banka** **Gayle Jetchick** **Melvin Bush**
Commissioners Absent:	**Becky Hogan**

1. **Study Session – 5:00 p.m.**
   UDO Amendments for Multi-Family Parking
   UDO Amendments Accessory Dwelling Units

2. **Regular Meeting – Call to Order 6:10 p.m.**

3. **Roll Call**

4. **Pledge of Allegiance**
   Not Conducted Due to Virtual Meeting

5. **Approval of the Planning Commission Minutes**
   5.a. April 9, 2025, Draft Minutes
   A MOTION WAS MADE BY CHAIR WALLS AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BANKA TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS SUBMITTED.

   MINUTES APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY WITHOUT OBJECTION.

6. **Adoption of Agenda**
   A MOTION WAS MADE BY CHAIRMAN WALLS AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER JETCHICK

   MOVE TO APPROVE THE DRAFT AGENDA AS AMENDED AS THE PERMANENT AGENDA. AGENDA ITEMS 8a – 8e WILL BE HEARD AT THIS MEETING. ALL OTHER AGENDA ITEMS HAVE EITHER BEEN WITHDRAWN, ARE INACTIVE, OR ARE BEING CONTINUED TO A LATER DATE.

   MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITHOUT OBJECTION.

7. **Consent Agenda**
   Not Conducted Due to Lack of Items.

8. General Business

8a. KICKIN' CHICKEN FITZSIMONS BOUNDARY AREA DISTRICT – SIGN ADJUSTMENT

The applicant, Ivy Pham, owner of Kickin Chicken, is proposing a major adjustment to increase the total allowable square footage of canopy signs on the east and north elevations of a ground-floor commercial unit in the Forum at Fitzsimons development. The subject property is approximately 90 feet east of the intersection of East Colfax Avenue and Xanadu Street on the south side of Colfax. The tenant space is in the northwestern corner unit of The Forum at Fitzsimons mixed-use building. The zoning is Mixed-Use Fitzsimons Boundary (MU-FB) District, designed to include the redevelopment area surrounding the Fitzsimons Army Medical Center.

The applicant is proposing two 23 square foot canopy signs for a total of 46 square feet of canopy signage. Per city code an additional canopy sign can and has been granted administratively for a total of two permitted canopy signs; however, the proposed increase to total square footage is greater than what can be granted administratively, up to 10%, and requires Planning Commission approval.

The Forum at Fitzsimons Master Site Plan was approved in 2015. The Forum at Fitzsimons is a mixed-use development that includes over 26,000 square feet of retail and restaurant space and 397 residential units. Kickin Chicken is an existing restaurant in the retail portion of the development. The signage allowed per code for businesses located in the MU-FB zone includes one canopy sign, a maximum of 10 square feet per tenant.

Five adjacent property owners and fifteen registered neighborhood organizations were notified of the application. No comments were received. A neighborhood meeting was not held based on the lack of comments.

Testimony Given at the Hearing:
Commissioners Banka, Bush, Gaiser, and Jetchick visited the site.

Caitlynn Fortner, Case Manager, gave a presentation of the item, including the staff recommendation.

Ivy Pham, Kickin' Chicken, the applicant, was available for questions.

The Commission did not have any questions for staff or the applicant.

Planning Commission Results
AGENDA ITEM 8a – SIGN ADJUSTMENT

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER BUSH AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BANKA.

MOVE TO APPROVE THE MAJOR (SIGN) ADJUSTMENT TO INCREASE THE TOTAL ALLOWED CANOPY SIGN SQUARE FOOTAGE FOR TWO (2) SIGNS TO 23 SQUARE FEET EACH. THE APPLICATION COMPLIES WITH THE CRITERIA FOR APPROVAL OF CODE SECTION 146-5.4.4.D.3. OF THE UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:

1. THE ADJUSTMENT WILL HAVE A MINIMAL VISUAL EFFECT ON THE SURROUNDING NEIGHBORHOOD DUE TO THE SIGNS' PLACEMENT 28 FEET ABOVE GRADE;
2. THE ADJUSTMENT DOES NOT VIOLATE ANY CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL SPECIFICALLY APPLIED TO DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROPERTY BY THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION OR CITY COUNCIL;
3. THE PROPOSED SIZE AND LOCATION IS REASONABLE DUE TO THE UNIQUE ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES OF THE BUILDING FAÇADE THAT OTHERWISE LIMIT THE SIZE AND LOCATION OF POTENTIAL SIGNAGE;
4. THE SIGNS ARE NECESSARY TO ALLOW SIGN VISIBILITY FOR VEHICLES TRAVELING ON E COLFAX AVENUE; AND,
5. THE SIZE, DESIGN, AND PLACEMENT ARE SIMILAR TO OTHER APPROVED SIGNS IN THE DEVELOPMENT INCLUDING THE IHOP LOCATED AT EAST 13650 COLFAX AVE SUITE L WHICH HAVE THE SAME UNIQUE ARCHITECTURAL LIMITATIONS.

Further Discussion:
Chair Walls stated that the sign design is great, and the adjustment makes sense. Chair Walls also encouraged staff to keep working on the Unified Development Ordinance so that projects like these can be approved administratively and not require a Planning Commission public hearing.

Commission Bush stated that he agrees with the staff's recommendation and that this sign adjustment will allow for more competition in an area where there is dominance by some businesses.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

8b. AURORA PLACES – COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENT TO ADOPT BY REFERENCE THE COLFAX AND 13TH AVENUE STATION AREA PLAN

Aurora Places, the city's comprehensive plan, serves as a foundation for decision-making related to growth and development in Aurora. It presents a vision for the future, with long-range goals and recommended actions for a variety of public activities. The plan addresses topics including land use, transportation, housing, economic development, natural resources, parks and open space, community identity, and more.

Colorado state law (§ 31-23-206) requires cities to adopt a master plan as an advisory document to guide land development decisions. In addition to traditional land use and development elements like streets, highways, mass transit, utilities, public facilities, public rights-of-way, and zoning.

While the current comprehensive plan provides an overall vision, policies, and practices related to land use, transit services, and development in transit corridors, the city's collection of station area plans provides a more locally focused examination and plan for these important centers and corridors. Station area plans further refine the community's vision, planning, and policy goals and provide more details on specific implementation of these small areas.

Colfax and 13th Avenue Station Area Plan Update. Since the original station area plan was developed in 2009, the area around the Colfax and 13th Avenue Station has seen significant growth and development. Additionally, during this period, the city has developed and adopted several major planning and policy studies, including the Aurora Places Comprehensive Plan (2018), Unified Development Ordinance (2019), Aurora Housing Strategy (2020), and 13th Avenue Multimodal Mobility Study. This updated station area plan is intended to incorporate these plans and policies, respond to development in the area, and support new, near-term development opportunities.

The vision of a mixed-use, transit-oriented district has not changed since the original 2009 plan. The area is still intended to include a mix of shopping, services, employment, and housing to meet the needs of those who live, work, and visit the area. However, the updated plan provides more streamlined and effective land use recommendations and development standards that will shape future development in the area. The plan's updated language is more consistent with the Unified Development Ordinance, giving clearer direction to prospective developers, business owners, and property owners, while continuing to effectively shape the type and character of development in support of the vision.

Furthermore, the updated station area plan lays the foundation for the adoption of an urban renewal plan that supports funding of public infrastructure improvements that is needed for new development in the area. The Aurora City Council has recently been briefed on the proposed urban renewal plan for the area and the near-term development opportunities that exist.

In addition to supporting the urban renewal plan, the updated station area plan recommends a series of action items to implement the vision and improve the neighborhood. These items address infrastructure improvements to better serve drivers, pedestrians, and bicyclists;

expansion of housing options in the area, including new affordable housing opportunities; and identifying opportunities for new parks to serve local residents.

Testimony Given at the Hearing:
Commissioners Gaiser, Bush, and Banka visited the site.

Daniel Krzyzanowski, Planning Supervisor, gave a presentation of the item, including the staff recommendation.

Chair Walls asked about the extension of Dillon Way and the development of the parcels in that area. D Krzyzanowski explained that Dillon Way will be extended in the future, noting that it would be logical to connect those internal areas to Colfax Avenue. D Krzyzanowski also noted that for the extension to occur, coordination with RTD would be needed. Currently, there are no plans for development or to fund development for those parcels.

Planning Commission Results
AGENDA ITEM 8b – COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENT TO ADOPT BY REFERENCE THE COLFAX AND 13TH AVENUE STATION AREA PLAN

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER GAISER AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BUSH.

MOVE TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL TO THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE AMENDMENT TO THE AURORA PLACES COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TO ADOPT BY REFERENCE THE "COLFAX AND 13TH AVENUE STATION AREA PLAN" BECAUSE THE PROPOSAL COMPLIES WITH THE CRITERIA IN CODE SECTION 146-5.4.1(A) OF THE UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE.

Further Discussion:
Chair Walls stated this is a needed amendment to the Comprehensive Plan and commended staff for their work. The amendment not only meets the needs of the community now, but will also do so in the future.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

8cd. BANK OF AMERICA AT AURORA PLAZA – CONDITIONAL USE AND SITE PLAN

The applicant, Suncap Real Estate Investment, is proposing a new bank with a single drive-thru. The site is located north and west of the intersection of S. Chambers Road and E. Mississippi Avenue. The site is zoned Mixed-Use Corridor District (MU-C). The site is bordered by a Wendy's fast food restaurant to the east, a multi-tenant commercial strip development to the north, a recently approved gas station under construction to the west, and a commercial center with fast food restaurants, an oil change facility, multi-tenant commercial, and a grocery store to the south across E. Mississippi Avenue.

In the zoning code, a bank is identified as a personal service use for a financial institution, which is an allowed use in the MU-C zone district. The accessory drive-thru is a Conditional Use in the MU-C zone district and requires approval by the Planning and Zoning Commission prior to the approval of the Site Plan. The proposed 4,229-square-foot building is one story with a drive-thru situated on the east side of the building, adjacent to the Wendy's parcel. The proposed building will face E. Mississippi Avenue to the south, with parking located to the west and north of the building. A shared access drive from E. Mississippi Avenue borders the west side of the site. Access to the site and the large commercial parcel is provided by this drive. An approximately 20-foot by 20-foot outdoor space with seating and plantings is proposed outside the main entrance at the southwest corner of the building. On-site and curbside landscaping requirements per the UDO (Unified Development Ordinance) are met or exceeded. A 10-foot detached sidewalk is also proposed along Mississippi Avenue. Due to grade and timing of improvements, the sidewalk will be deferred, but has been designed with this Site Plan, more information is provided later in this report. The building's architecture has been designed to meet or exceed the building design requirements of the UDO, and will primarily consist of stucco, glass, an architectural metal storefront, and metal accents. Architectural elements include varying parapet height, material color variation, and overhangs. Fourteen automobile parking stalls will be provided, including one accessible stall, exceeding the eleven-stall parking requirement for this proposal. Adequate stacking space for the drive-thru has been provided.

Three (3) abutting property owners and twenty-two (22) registered neighborhood organizations within one mile of the property received a referral for the proposed application. During the review process, no public comments were received, thus, no neighborhood meeting was held.

Testimony Given at the Hearing:

Commissioners Banka, Bush, Gaiser, and Jetchick visited the site.

Stacy Wasinger, Case Manager, gave a presentation of the item, including the staff recommendation.

Chair Walls asked if there would be any public safety fencing for the below-grade retaining wall. S Wasinger demonstrated on the site plan the details of the retaining wall and where both sections will have a railing for public safety.

Todd Hager, Galloway & Company, agent for the applicant, was available for questions.

Bryan Camphouse, Anderson & Hastings, agent for the applicant, was available for questions.

Shane Nixon, Aurora Plaza LLC, applicant, was available for questions.

Erica Andrus, Interior Architects, agent for the applicant, was available for questions.

Planning Commission Results
AGENDA ITEM 8c – CONDITIONAL USE FOR A DRIVE-THRU IN MU-C ZONE DISTRICT

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER JETCHICK AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BANKA.

MOVE TO APPROVE THE CONDITIONAL USE FOR AN ACCESSORY DRIVE-THRU BECAUSE IT COMPLIES WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF CODE SECTION 146-5.4.3.A.3 OF THE UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:

1. THE CONDITIONAL USE COMPLIES WITH THE STANDARDS AND REVIEW CRITERIA OF THE MU-C ZONE DISTRICT, ENGINEERING STANDARDS, AND OTHER REGULATIONS;
2. THE APPLICATION IS CONSISTENT WITH THE CITY CORRIDOR PLACETYPE OF THE AURORA PLACES COMPREHENSIVE PLAN;
3. THE PROPOSED FINANCIAL INSTITUTION WITH ACCESSORY DRIVE-THRU IS COMPATIBLE IN SIZE, HEIGHT, AND USE WITH THE EXISTING COMMERCIAL CENTER, FAST FOOD RESTAURANT WITH DRIVE-THRU, AND NEW GAS STATION USES;
4. THE PROPOSED DRIVE-THRU USE WILL NOT CHANGE THE PREDOMINANT CHARACTER OF THE AREA AND IS COMPATIBLE WITH EXISTING USES;
5. THE EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE IS ADEQUATE TO ACCOMMODATE THE NEW DEVELOPMENT, AND ANY REQUIRED UPGRADES AND IMPROVEMENTS WILL BE INSTALLED;
6. THERE ARE NO DISLOCATIONS CAUSED BY THE NEW DEVELOPMENT OR ACCESSORY DRIVE-THRU; AND
7. ANY ADVERSE IMPACTS, SUCH AS A DRIVE-THRU LOCATION TO THE SIDE, HAVE BEEN MITIGATED TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE.

Further Discussion:
No further discussion occurred.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

AGENDA ITEM 8d – SITE PLAN

A MOTION WAS MADE BY CHAIR WALLS AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BANKA.

APPROVE, WITH ONE CONDITION, THE SITE PLAN BECAUSE IT COMPLIES WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF CODE SECTION 146-5.4.3.B.2 OF THE UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:

1. THE SITE PLAN COMPLIES WITH THE STANDARDS AND REVIEW CRITERIA OF THE MU-C ZONE DISTRICT AND THE CITY CORRIDOR PLACETYPE OF THE AURORA PLACES COMPREHENSIVE PLAN;
2. THE SITE PLAN COMPLIES WITH ALL APPLICABLE STANDARDS IN THE UDO;
3. CITY INFRASTRUCTURE WILL BE IMPROVED IN ASSOCIATION WITH THIS DEVELOPMENT THROUGH THE FUTURE CONSTRUCTION OF AND IMPROVEMENT TO ADJACENT SIDEWALKS TO THE DEVELOPMENT;
4. THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT IS COMPATIBLE WITH THE SURROUNDING COMMERCIAL LAND USES; AND
5. MEASURES HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO MITIGATE ADVERSE IMPACTS ON THE SURROUNDING DEVELOPMENT.

APPROVAL IS TO BE SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING CONDITION:

1. RESOLUTION OF OUTSTANDING TECHNICAL ISSUES PRIOR TO THE RECORDATION OF THE SITE PLAN AND ISSUANCE OF ANY BUILDING PERMITS.

Further Discussion:
No further discussion occurred.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

8e. CENTRETECH INVENTORY PARKING LOT – SITE PLAN WITH ADJUSTMENT

The applicant, Asbury Automotive (Amy Nostrom), is requesting approval of a Site Plan with an Adjustment for a motor vehicle inventory parking lot located at the Northwest Corner of N Airport Boulevard and E Centretech Parkway. The 7.6-acre site is in the Business/Tech District (I-1) zone district, subarea B, and is surrounded by I-1 Zoning from the North, West, and South with Mixed Use Office/ Institutional District zoning (MU-OI) to the East of the property across N Airport Boulevard. Additionally, the subject property is within the Buckley Airport Influence Zone and 55 LDN. One (1) adjustment is requested to reduce the required parking stall dimensions.

The applicant proposes constructing an inventory parking lot with 926 parking spaces that will be used as overflow inventory storage of vehicles for the Stevinson Toyota East Dealership, located at 444 S Havana Street in Aurora. The use is considered *outdoor storage*, which is a permitted use in the Business/Tech (I-1) zone district. In addition, there are Use Specific Standards for *outdoor storage* in the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) in which the project is in compliance. The parking area will be paved with asphalt. The property will not be open to the public as a commercial parking lot and will only be used as outdoor storage. The proposed operations of the site will correspond with the operating hours of the Stevinson Toyota East Dealership, Monday to Saturday from 9:00 AM – 8:00 PM. The applicant notes that between these times, employees from the dealership may move between the dealership and the subject property, so the number of employee visits to the site is variable. Employees are not expected to be stationed at the site full-time.

Two (2) vehicle access points are proposed for the property. One right-in/right-out will be from E Centretech Parkway, which functions as the primary ingress and egress point to the property. A secondary access from N Airport Boulevard functions as an emergency vehicle access only and is located at the northeast corner of the site. Both access points are gated and are only accessible by employees of the dealership.

The proposal is located within the Innovation Campus placetype of the Aurora Places Comprehensive Plan. The Innovation Campus placetype's goal is to create an area where anchor institutions and businesses connect with start-ups and business incubators and accelerators. Light industrial and business park uses are joined with educational and medical institutions to foster sought-after creativity. A high-quality, tech-centric space is critical to this placetype's success, including unique meeting spaces that encourage people and organizations to come together, learn from one another, and exchange ideas. Transit, pedestrian, and bicycle accessibility to and through the Innovation District is a priority. The proposal meets the intent of the Comprehensive Plan because it contributes to the growth of local businesses and contributes to the economic vitality of the city.

Ten (10) HOA's and seven (7) adjacent property owners were sent referrals. No Neighborhood Comments were submitted by adjacent property owners or surrounding

neighborhood organizations. Staff determined that a neighborhood meeting was not required based on the lack of comments received.

Testimony Given at the Hearing:
Commissioners Banka, Gaiser, and Jetchick visited the site.

Ani Karabashian, Case Manager, gave a presentation of the item, including the staff recommendation.

Shelby Madrid, Kimley-Horn, agent for the applicant, gave a presentation of the item.

Commissioner Jetchick asked where the transports delivering vehicles will park. S Madrid demonstrated on the site plan where the transports will be able to park on the lot, keeping them off Centretech Parkway.

Planning Commission Results
AGENDA ITEM 8e – SITE PLAN WITH ADJUSTMENT

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER BANKA AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER GAISER.

MOVE TO APPROVE, WITH ONE CONDITION, THE SITE PLAN WITH ONE ADJUSTMENT FOR PARKING STALL DIMENSION REDUCTION BECAUSE THE PROPOSAL COMPLIES WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF CODE SECTION 146-5.4.3.B.2 OF THE UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:

1. IT IS CONSISTENT WITH THE APPLICABLE UDO STANDARD WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE REQUESTED ADJUSTMENTS, WHICH COMPLY WITH THE APPROVAL CRITERIA IN SECTION 146-5.4.4.D;
2. IT ENHANCES THE EXISTING CITY INFRASTRUCTURE;
3. IT IS COMPATIBLE WITH SURROUNDING LAND USES; AND,
4. IT MITIGATES ANY ADVERSE IMPACTS TO THE SURROUNDING AREA.

APPROVAL IS TO BE SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING CONDITION:

1. RESOLUTION OF OUTSTANDING TECHNICAL ISSUES PRIOR TO THE RECORDATION OF THE SITE PLAN AND ISSUANCE OF ANY BUILDING PERMITS.

Further Discussion:
Commissioner Jetchick stated that the security measures and fencing for the site are great. Chair Walls concurred with Commissioner Jetchick and stated that the 10-foot sidewalk will be a good site improvement, and the adjustment being requested makes sense.

Chair Bush concurred with Chair Walls and Commission Jetchick.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

9. Public Invited to be Heard
There was no public comment.

10. Commissioner Comments/Miscellaneous Items of Business

Chair Walls stated that he would like staff to continue working on streamlining processes so that more projects can be approved administratively.

Commissioner Bush commended staff for their work and engagement with the Aurora community on the different endeavors in the city, such as Connect Aurora and Engage Aurora Live.

11. Reports

11a. Report by Planning Division Manager

Brandon Cammarata, Panning Division Manager, reviewed the Administrative Decisions made over the past two weeks. Projects include E-470 Self Storage at Pioneer Business Park and Fine Parking Building 6.

Chair Walls asked for the status of the QuikTrip appeal located near Havana and Parker. B Cammarata reported that it will be heard at a City Council meeting soon. Lena McClelland, City Attorney, noted the hearing is set for May 5, 2025.

Commissioner Banka asked about the apartments that were proposed at Parker Road and Quincy Avenue. Jeannine Rustad, Director of Planning and Business Development, reported that there has been regular contact with the construction manager of that project. J Rustad stated there should be an update next month regarding the bids and the construction schedule for it. Currently, the project is scheduled for construction in the fall of this year.

11b. Report by City Attorney

L. McClelland, City Attorney, did not have a report.

Chairman Walls adjourned the meeting at 7:18 p.m. until May 14, 2025.

Minutes approved

ORDINANCE NO. 2025- ____

A BILL

FOR AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, AMENDING THE 2018 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TO ADOPT BY REFERENCE THE "COLFAX AND 13TH AVENUE STATION AREA PLAN" ("13TH AVENUE STATION PLAN")

WHEREAS, Section 146-5.4.1.A of the Unified Development Ordinance provides for the adoption of a Comprehensive Plan for the orderly development and redevelopment of the City of Aurora, Colorado (the "City"), and that this plan shall serve to guide the City Council and the Planning and Zoning Commission in their decisions and recommendations in all land use decisions within the City; and

WHEREAS, on October 8th, 2018, the City Council passed Ordinance 2018-37 adopting the 2018 Aurora Comprehensive Plan (the "Comprehensive Plan"); and

WHEREAS, the Comprehensive Plan establishes a land use map providing varying placetypes for City design; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the 13th Avenue Station Plan by is to update the original 2009 plan that was adopted in anticipation of the arrival of light rail service to the City of Aurora; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of this amendment to the Comprehensive Plan is to build on past investments, continue planning for development and growth within the corridor, and to identify new opportunities to improve transit service and multimodal access through the corridor; and

WHEREAS, on April 23, 2025, following a public hearing, the Planning and Zoning Commission voted to recommend approval of an amendment to the Comprehensive Plan to adopt by reference the 13th Avenue Station Plan; and

WHEREAS, Section 146-5.4.1.A of the Unified Development Ordinance provides that City Council may amend the Comprehensive Plan by an ordinance approved by a vote of not less than two-thirds of the entire membership of the City Council, if they find that the amendment promotes the long term economic, social, and environmental health of the City, and that it protects the public health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Aurora.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO:

Section 1. The Aurora Comprehensive Plan is hereby amended to adopt by reference the Colfax and 13th Avenue Station Plan.

Section 2. The amendment to the Comprehensive Plan shall be in the form as filed with the Office of the City Clerk and presented to the City Council at tonight's meeting.

Section 3. All ordinances or parts of ordinances of the City Code of the City of Aurora, Colorado, in conflict herewith are expressly repealed.

Section 4. Pursuant to Section 5-5 of the Charter of the City of Aurora, Colorado, the second publication of this Ordinance shall be by reference, utilizing the ordinance title. Copies of this Ordinance are available at the Office of the City Clerk.

INTRODUCED, READ AND ORDERED PUBLISHED this _____ day of _____, 2025.

PASSED AND ORDERED PUBLISHED this _____ day of _____, 2025.

_____
MIKE COFFMAN, Mayor

ATTEST:

_____
KADEE RODRIGUEZ, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM BY CITY ATTORNEY PETE SCULTE:

Lena McClelland RLA
_____
LENA MCCLELLAND, Assistant City Attorney

CITY OF AURORA
Council Agenda Commentary

Item Title: Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Phase 1 Transition Plan Update
Item Initiator: Karlyn Shorb, Senior Project Manager, General Management
Staff Source/Legal Source: Karlyn Shorb, Senior Project Manager, General Management / Michelle Gardner, Senior Assistant City Attorney
Outside Speaker: N/A
Council Goal: 2012: 3.0--Ensure excellent infrastructure that is well maintained and operated.

COUNCIL MEETING DATES:

Study Session: 8/25/2025

Regular Meeting: 9/8/2025

2nd Regular Meeting (if applicable): N/A

Item requires a Public Hearing: ☒ Yes ☐ No

ITEM DETAILS *(Click in highlighted area below bullet point list to enter applicable information.)*

- Agenda long title
- Waiver of reconsideration requested, and if so, why
- Sponsor name
- Staff source name and title / Legal source name and title
- Outside speaker name and organization
- Estimated time (For Study Session items only, indicate combined time needed for presentation and discussion)

Karlyn Shorb, Senior Project Manager, General Management / Michelle Gardner, Senior Assistant City Attorney
Estimated time: 15 mins

ACTIONS(S) PROPOSED *(Check all appropriate actions)*

☐ Approve Item and Move Forward to Study Session

☐ Approve Item as Proposed at Study Session

☒ Approve Item and Move Forward to Regular Meeting

☐ Approve Item as Proposed at Regular Meeting

☐ Information Only

☐ Approve Item with Waiver of Reconsideration
Reason for waiver is described in the Item Details field above.

PREVIOUS ACTIONS OR REVIEWS:

Policy Committee Name: N/A

Policy Committee Date: N/A

Action Taken/Follow-up: ***(Check all that apply)***

☐ Recommends Approval ☐ Does Not Recommend Approval

☐ Forwarded Without Recommendation ☐ Minutes Not Available

☐ Minutes Attached

HISTORY *(Dates reviewed by City council, Policy Committees, Boards and Commissions, or Staff. Summarize pertinent comments. ATTACH MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS, POLICY COMMITTEES AND BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS.)*

The City embarked on an update of its ADA Self-evaluation and Transition Plan in 2022 beginning with a focus on evaluating the City's Public Rights-of-Way (PROWs). Phase 1 of Self-evaluation and Transition Plan is complete, drafted and ready for public review and comment prior to finalization.

ITEM SUMMARY *(Brief description of item, discussion, key points, recommendations, etc.)*

City staff will provide an update on the ADA Self-evaluation and Transition Plan, including presenting an overview of requirements under the Americans with Disabilities Act, milestones to date and presentation of the phases of the Self-evaluation and Transition Plan moving forward. Staff will also explain the public engagement process and seek questions and feedback from Council for Phase 1 "Public Rights-of-Way."

FISCAL IMPACT

Select all that apply. (If no fiscal impact, click that box and skip to "Questions for Council")

☐ Revenue Impact ☒ Budgeted Expenditure Impact ☐ Non-Budgeted Expenditure Impact
☐ Workload Impact ☐ No Fiscal Impact

REVENUE IMPACT
Provide the revenue impact or N/A if no impact. (What is the estimated impact on revenue? What funds would be impacted? Provide additional detail as necessary.)

$1.5 million programmed in 2025 & 2026 budgets to complete Phase 1 and additional Phases of the Self-evaluation and Transition Plan update.

BUDGETED EXPENDITURE IMPACT
Provide the budgeted expenditure impact or N/A if no impact. (List Org/Account # and fund. What is the amount of budget to be used? Does this shift existing budget away from existing programs/services? Provide additional detail as necessary.)

N/A

NON-BUDGETED EXPENDITURE IMPACT
Provide the non-budgeted expenditure impact or N/A if no impact. (Provide information on non-budgeted costs. Include Personal Services, Supplies and Services, Interfund Charges, and Capital needs. Provide additional detail as necessary.)

N/A

WORKLOAD IMPACT
Provide the workload impact or N/A if no impact. (Will more staff be needed or is the change absorbable? If new FTE(s) are needed, provide numbers and types of positions, and a duty summary. Provide additional detail as necessary.)

N/A

QUESTIONS FOR COUNCIL

Does the Committee support moving forward the informational presentation of the Phase 1 Transition Plan to the next available Study Session?

LEGAL COMMENTS

A public entity that employs 50 or more persons shall develop a transition plan setting forth the steps necessary to complete such changes. (28 C.F.R. Section 35.150). The City Manager shall keep Council advised of the future needs of the City and make such recommendations to Council for adoption as he may deem necessary or expedient. (City Charter Section 7-4(f)). (Allen)

RESOLUTION NO. R2025-___

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, APPROVING PHASE I OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES (ADA) SELF EVALUATION AND TRANSITION PLAN

WHEREAS, the City of Aurora, Colorado, (the "City"), is a home rule municipality, organized and existing under and by virtue of Article XX, Section 6 of the Colorado Constitution, and under Article XX Section 6 the Colorado Constitution, the City has authority over matters of local concern; and

WHEREAS, Title II of ADA, 28 CFR. Part 35 Sec. 35.105 and Sec. 35.150 require agencies to conduct a self-evaluation of their infrastructure, policies, practices, and programs and develop a Transition Plan to outline how mandated accessibility improvements will be addressed; and

WHEREAS, the City embarked on an update of its ADA Self-evaluation and Transition Plan in 2022 beginning with a focus on evaluating the City's PROW ("Phase I of the Plan"); and

WHEREAS, the purpose of Phase I of the Plan is to provide formal guidelines and goals to improve accessibility throughout the City's public right of way (PROW) and serve as a means of formal documentation of the procedures and progress that have already taken place in accordance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA); and

WHEREAS, Phase I of the Plan includes the findings of the self-evaluation for the PROW and addresses areas of potential improvement as they pertain to infrastructure owned, leased or operated by Aurora; and

WHEREAS, Phase I of the Plan also identifies alternative methods of service delivery permissible under 28 CFR Part 35.150(a) and (b); and

WHEREAS, the ADA requires agencies to provide accessibility to all of their services, however, they are not required to remove all architectural barriers in all of their infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, 28 CFR 35.150 states that Phase I of the Plan must include the following: identifying physical and programmatic barriers to accessibility, developing a schedule and methods to mitigate barriers, identifying an ADA Coordinator, and the Plan must be submitted for public review before final approval and adoption; and

WHEREAS, Phase I of the Plan is complete and was prepared by the City's consultant, Benesch, in partnership with and on behalf of the City; and

WHEREAS, Phase I of the Plan may require slight adjustments to the programming and methodology for implementation by the City, therefore, City staff is authorized to make those necessary adjustments so long as in compliance with ADA requirements; and

WHEREAS, City Council believes that approving Phase I of the ADA Self Evaluation and Transition Plan for PROW, as presented by City staff, is in the best interest of the City and the citizens of Aurora.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA.

Section 1. The Aurora City Council hereby approves Phase I of the ADA Self Evaluation and Transition Plan for Public Right of Way.

Section 2. The City Manager or their designee is hereby authorized to execute, on behalf of the City, Phase I of the Plan and all related documents with such necessary modifications that are in compliance with the ADA, and to make any technical additions, deletions and variations as may be deemed necessary or appropriate by the City Attorney, and not inconsistent with this resolution.

Section 3. All resolutions or parts of resolutions of the City of Aurora, Colorado, in conflict herewith are hereby rescinded.

RESOLVED AND PASSED this _____ day of _____, 2025.

_____
MIKE COFFMAN, Mayor

ATTEST:

_____
KADEE RODRIGUEZ, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

PETER A. SCHULTE, City Attorney

RLA

Michelle Gardner
_____
MICHELLE GARDNER, Sr. Assistant City Attorney

Americans with Disabilities Act
Transition Plan for Public Right-of-way

July 2025

Original Plan Prepared in 1992
Plan Updated in 2025

The purpose of this ADA Transition Plan is to provide formal guidelines and goals to improve accessibility throughout the city of Aurora's (CoA) public right-of-way and serve as a means of formal documentation of the procedures and progress that have already taken place in accordance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). This publication has been prepared by Benesch in partnership with and on behalf of the city of Aurora.

All information contained herein is expressly prepared for the sole use of CoA. Should any portion of this publication be duplicated elsewhere, we request an appropriate attribution for such usage.

Acknowledgements

Many individuals were involved with the development of the ADA Transition Plan and other accessibility improvements within Aurora. The active participation of Aurora staff from multiple departments, City Council and leadership, and other stakeholders within the community indicates the level of engagement and commitment to improving accessibility in our community. This assignment could not have been completed without the efforts and cooperation from the following:

Aurora City Council

Aurora City Manager's Office

Aurora Public Works Department

Aurora Development Services Department

Aurora Marketing and Communications Department

Prepared By:

Benesch

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Transition Plan for the Public Right-of-way is to provide formal guidelines and goals to improve accessibility throughout the city of Aurora while serving as a means of formal documentation of the procedures and progress that have already taken place in accordance with Title II of the ADA and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. The ADA was enacted in 1990 and mandates equal opportunity for qualified individuals with a disability. Aurora's elected officials and staff believe promoting an accessible environment for all people is essential to good customer service, and consistent with the quality of life that Aurora residents desire. While Aurora has been improving accessibility within their limits for years, in 2021, Aurora initiated the process of developing a published ADA Transition Plan for the Public Right-of-way.

The city of Aurora has prepared this Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Transition Plan for the Public Right-of-way ("the Plan") based upon self-evaluation findings, public outreach, and collaboration with stakeholders and partners throughout the city. This plan establishes guidance for addressing and improving accessibility within the city's transportation system. The success of making our right-of-way system as accessible as feasible will require a coordinated effort by the city and other public and private sector partners to utilize the guidelines and strategies outlined in this plan. Beyond this plan, the city of Aurora is committed to identifying and enacting opportunities to involve residents and other stakeholders in the implementation of this plan, future updates to the plan, and in policy decisions affecting accessibility with the goal of achieving a better, more accessible, safe, efficient, and sustainable transportation network for all users.

The information gained from these evaluations will provide a basis for a more robust and holistic assessment of accessibility in and along city infrastructure in the public right-of-way; allow for planning and prioritizing removal of barriers; and further refine Aurora's strategy for any remaining assessments needed. This ADA Transition Plan addresses proposed timelines for commencing assessments with anticipated associated costs and schedules.

During the development of this ADA Transition Plan, a review of city programs, procedures, and policies for accessibility in the public right-of-way took place. This process involved meetings with relevant city departments to document existing information and identify potential needs, and an internal survey for city staff. Public involvement also took place during this period consisting of public surveys and an online website that were advertised using social media platforms, flyers, and public open houses.

The main components for initially identifying barriers and developing goals included:

- Information gathering from City departments
    - Aurora Public Works Department
    - Aurora Development Services Department
    - Aurora Marketing and Communications Department
    - Aurora City Manager's Office
    - Aurora Water
    - Aurora Parks, Recreation and Open Space Department
    - Aurora Library and Cultural Services Department

- Performing an accessibility Self-evaluation of practices, guidelines, standards, policies, and/or procedures identified during the information gathering
- Performing surveys (internal and external) to seek input on accessibility issues
- Designating an ADA Coordinator and Department ADA Contacts and their respective roles and responsibilities
- Developing a formal public ADA complaint procedure, as well as auditing and updating the city's ADA Notice requirements.

This ADA Transition Plan is a living document, intended to be periodically monitored and updated. Future updates to the Plan will incorporate additional actions to continue Aurora's Transition Plan as well as document actions taken to remove barriers to accessibility and modify programs and procedures to increase accessibility.

AURORA ADA TRANSITION PLAN FOR PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY (PROW)

1. Introduction & Project Background

The general purpose of this ADA Transition Plan for the Public Right-of-way ("the Plan") is to identify infrastructure, guidelines, standards, policies, procedures, and/or practices currently utilized within Aurora's transportation network and to provide recommendations for modifications in order to avoid discrimination against individuals with disabilities (as required by applicable law).

In addition to recommending changes to policies to ensure compliance with the ADA and other disability rights laws, the Plan identifies physical barriers to accessibility in Aurora's transportation infrastructure, describes the process used to identify those barriers, and provides goals and recommendations to mitigate those barriers. The Plan also addresses necessary training to ensure uniform application of ADA compliant standards, procedures and/or practices.

Clarification on terminology and acronyms used throughout this Transition Plan are provided in Appendix A. The city Policy regarding the ADA can be found in Appendix B.

1.1 Project Purpose and Goal

The general purpose of this ADA Transition Plan for the Public Right-of-way ("the Plan") is to identify infrastructure, guidelines, standards, policies, procedures, and/or practices currently utilized within Aurora's transportation network and to provide recommendations for modifications in order to avoid discrimination against individuals with disabilities (as required by applicable law).

The Plan identifies both physical and non-physical barriers to accessibility and with developing solutions to increase the opportunity for accessible transportation to all individuals.

The Plan also describes the process Aurora will use to identify barriers to accessibility and to develop goals and recommendations to mitigate those barriers.

Finally, the Plan addresses necessary training regarding guidelines, standards, policies, procedures, and/or practices to minimize or eliminate barriers to access within Aurora.

Clarification on terminology and acronyms used throughout this Transition Plan are provided in Appendix A. The city Policy regarding the ADA can be found in Appendix B.

1.2 Legal Requirements of the ADA

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), enacted on July 26, 1990, is a civil rights law prohibiting discrimination based on disability. This comprehensive civil rights law further broadened the coverage of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Architectural Barriers Act (ABA) of 1968. The ADA consists of five titles outlining protections in the following areas:

- Employment (Title I)
- State and local government services (Title II)

- Public accommodations (Title III)
- Telecommunications (Title IV)
- Miscellaneous Provisions (Title V)

Title II of the ADA pertains to the programs, activities and services public entities provide and extends the application of the ADA to include those provided by all state and local government entities. As such, policies, practices, and programs, must comply with the appropriate sections of the ADA when viewed in their entirety. This includes making reasonable modifications in policies, practices, and procedures that deny equal access to a qualified individual with a disability unless it would result in a fundamental alteration in the program. Aurora can provide services or benefits to a qualified individual with a disability through programs that are separate or different such that the separate or different measures are necessary to ensure that benefits and services are equally effective.

Title II of ADA, 28 CFR. Part 35 Sec. 35.105 and Sec. 35.150 require agencies to conduct a self-evaluation of their infrastructure, policies, practices, and programs and develop a Transition Plan to outline how mandated accessibility improvements will be addressed. This Plan includes the findings of the self-evaluation for the public right-of-way and addresses areas of potential improvement as they pertain to infrastructure owned, leased or operated by Aurora. This Plan also identifies alternative methods of service delivery permissible under 28 CFR Part 35.150(a) and (b). While the ADA requires agencies to provide accessibility to all of their services, they are not required to remove all architectural barriers in all of their infrastructure. 28 CFR 35.150 states that the transition plan must include the following:

- Identify physical and programmatic barriers to accessibility
- Develop a schedule and method(s) to mitigate barriers
- Identify an ADA Coordinator

The ADA requires the Transition Plan be submitted for public review before final approval and adoption.

Open participation and feedback opportunities were provided throughout the development of the Transition Plan as seen in the Appendices.

Certain elements of this Transition Plan (e.g., schedule) will be refined as part of the updating process.

While the ADA requires agencies to reasonably modify their policies, procedures, and infrastructure to avoid discrimination towards persons with disabilities, they are not required to remove all barriers in all situations. The ADA does not require Aurora to undertake any action that would fundamentally alter the intent of a program or activity, create a hazardous condition, or result in an undue financial burden.

2. Self-evaluation

The city of Aurora must provide both programmatic and physical accessibility as outlined within the ADA, to a reasonable extent. “Programmatic accessibility” requires that a government entity’s policies, practices, and procedures allow people with disabilities an equally effective opportunity to participate in city programs and services. “Physical accessibility” requires a government entity’s services and/or facilities to provide an accessible path free of barriers for users.

To assist in evaluating programmatic and physical accessibility throughout the city of Aurora's public right-of-way, meetings were conducted with representatives from different city departments to obtain information on existing policies and practices as they pertain to the ADA. Each department has different roles and responsibilities in the overall effort to provide an accessible city. A general review to ensure that the city of Aurora met the notice, grievance and ADA Coordinator appointment requirements was also conducted.

2.1 Programmatic Accessibility

The ADA requires the city of Aurora to evaluate current policies and practices to identify and correct any barriers inconsistent with the intent of the law. City department representatives have examined current practices and policies related to the public right-of-way and proactively identified gaps in information or training to address in the ADA Transition Plan for the Public Right-of-Way (PROW). To further refine and understand accessibility issues needing to be addressed, Benesch, in collaboration with the ADA Coordinator and the city's Communications and Marketing Department, met with department representatives and circulated a questionnaire to all city employees to obtain opinions and input on the following:

- Overall accessibility of Aurora's infrastructure in the PROW,
- Relative staff knowledge of ADA regulations and how to ensure proper design and construction of compliant infrastructure, and
- Level of public works and development review staff training related to the ADA.

A sample of the questionnaire and an overview of the responses are in Appendix C.

2.2 Physical Accessibility

The Self-evaluation that informed this document focused only on the infrastructure in the PROW. Assessment efforts focused on major arterials and collectors, as well as representative samples from each city neighborhood. While the entire transportation network was not assessed, enough data was collected to provide a representative understanding of the city's level of compliance.

2.2.1 Infrastructure Survey

For the purpose of the ADA Transition Plan for the PROW, publicly owned infrastructure can be broken down into the following categories:

- Curb Ramps
- Sidewalks
- Pedestrian Push Buttons.

In 2023, the city conducted an evaluation consisting of physical review and measurement of sidewalks and other pedestrian transportation assets adjacent to, or crossing roadways and bridges. Assessment efforts focused on major arterials and collectors, as well as representative samples from each city neighborhood. The following general compliance categories were assessed:

- Curb ramp presence, configuration, geometry, grades, and condition
- Detectable warnings panel presence, geometry, contrast, and condition
- Maneuvering area clearance from parallel vehicle traffic
- Landing area presence, configuration, geometry, grades, and condition
- Pedestrian push button presence, location, and accessibility
- Sidewalk presence, width, cross slope, and condition

This evaluation was based on the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG). As the city installed many curb ramps through the 1990's, assessment considered the 1990 standards as well as the current 2010 standards in consideration that some infrastructure may qualify for "Safe Harbor" provisions.

The assessment data also allows for sorting to determine compliance with the Proposed Guidelines for Pedestrian Infrastructure in the Public Right-of-way (PROWAG) originally published by the United States Access Board in 2011 and updated via a final rule in 2023.

The PROWAG has not been adopted or approved by all levels of the federal government. Nor has the city officially adopted PROWAG as its guiding policy. PROWAG is recognized as a best practice and has been recommended for use by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Compliance or non-compliance as noted herein, is in reference to ADAAG (2010).

To be compliant under ADAAG and PROWAG, these features must satisfy established criteria specific to each asset type and purpose. If one criteria of an asset is non-compliant, the asset technically does not meet accessibility requirements even though it may be substantially compliant. Appendix D, E, and F provide information related to the assets surveyed, summary of findings, and detailed findings.

Aurora does not assume responsibility for, nor intend to evaluate, privately-owned infrastructure as they pertain to accessibility.

2.2.2 Method for Evaluations, Data Collection, and Processing

As part of the self-evaluation process, Aurora outlined a future comprehensive evaluation strategy consisting of review and inventory of city-owned, leased, and operated buildings, pedestrian infrastructure, parks, trails, and open spaces to provide a representative baseline regarding the accessibility of infrastructure throughout Aurora and to identify and prioritize removal of barriers. The city is taking a phased approach to self-evaluation, starting with the PROW.

Evaluation of publicly owned, leased, and operated pedestrian infrastructure is based on current ADA and Aurora standards and also considers the standards within the 2011 Proposed Public Right of Way Accessibility Guidelines (PROWAG) published by the United States Access Board. Examples of items assessed include curb ramp geometry, grades, and condition; detectable warning panel presence; clear space; turning space; and pedestrian push button presence. Assessed items are cataloged utilizing Aurora's Geographic Information System (GIS) database. Aurora also identifies any curb ramps, pedestrian signals, or sidewalks within Aurora belonging to CDOT or other agencies on an ongoing basis.

However, city leadership is currently undertaking a review of the Department of Justice PROWAG Standards to determine whether to adopt those standards in whole or in part by November 2026. As such, it is anticipated that evaluation criteria will be based in whole or in part on PROWAG standards for the individual elements being evaluated as well as the feature as a whole.

TRANSITION PLAN GOAL: Undertake comprehensive review of the PROWAG standards and determine whether to adopt those standards in whole or in part in order to conform to industry best practices by November 2026.

2.2.3 The criteria will also assist in determining the level of severity barriers pose to accessibility. In an effort to identify barriers in the areas with the broadest reaching impact to users, field evaluation efforts will target "high priority" corridors throughout Aurora. Additionally, in order to establish program schedules and budgets for the removal of barriers to accessibility throughout Aurora, field evaluations will be conducted in other representative areas. Establishing criteria for high priority corridors needs to be completed. An example of high priority corridor criteria may include proximity to public transit, government buildings, hospitals, arterial roadways, or dense commercial developments. **Overview of Findings**

The self-evaluation completed assessment of 12,233 curb ramp locations, 278 miles of sidewalk, and 1,930 pedestrian push buttons.

A current summary of findings for accessibility reviews performed and analyzed to date are provided in Appendix D, Appendix E, and Appendix F. The Transition Plan will be monitored by the ADA Coordinator.

3. Prioritize and Identify Goals, Strategies, & Schedules

3.1 Goals for the Program

The overall goal of the ADA Transition Plan is to improve accessibility of programs, activities, and services provided by the city of Aurora in the public right-of-way. To achieve this goal, the city will:

- Create and prioritize a list of identified barriers, generated strategies and methods that can be used to remove or reduce barriers achievable within fiscal constraints,
- provide guidance to Aurora staff and the public on the requirements of the ADA and Aurora's approach to improve accessibility,
- develop a realistic schedule based on estimated available budget for the removal of barriers, and
- recognize potential funding sources and opportunities to remove identified barriers.

3.2 Prioritization of Barriers

Historically, Aurora has largely relied upon formal and informal comments received to identify barriers to accessibility. These were addressed on a case-by-case basis as determined and prioritized by the department responsible for the facility or feature and based on available resources. This ADA Transition Plan will enhance the current practice by proactively identifying barriers to accessibility; providing a

means to catalog infrastructure, features, and barriers associated with each; and providing a means to program and execute plans to remove barriers to accessibility as funding and other resources allow.

As with current practice, any non-compliance, regardless of location or type, identified from the grievance process will be prioritized and addressed on a case-by-case basis.

3.2.1 Prioritization of Barriers – Transportation Pedestrian Infrastructure

The city intends to implement a policy directing that as streets are resurfaced as part of Aurora's annual maintenance program, any adjacent noncompliant curb ramps are reconstructed, including by adding dome panels to curb ramps without detectable warning surfaces. Similarly, driveways adjacent to roadways being resurfaced are evaluated for trip hazards and corrected as needed. Sidewalk-related accessibility issues are evaluated and addressed both through periodic inspections and in response to citizen requests.

Locations are prioritized and addressed through the annual budget process unless they can be immediately addressed utilizing existing resources. The city intends to develop formal guidance on preferred locations and accommodations for pedestrian street crossings which includes spacing criteria for street crossings, as well as other guidance for pedestrian signals, and pushbuttons.

Pedestrian crossings and pedestrian push buttons are reviewed and installed when absent on a case-by-case basis using engineering judgement. Pedestrian studies are conducted as needed to further evaluate when signalized crossings are warranted. When Aurora receives a request to install a curb ramp or remove a barrier, Aurora staff will contact the requesting individual to determine the provided route's characteristics and evaluate the feasibility of the proposed improvements and availability of other accommodations. Pedestrian push buttons found to be inoperable by staff or reported by the public are addressed as part of annual preventative maintenance.

The city intends to develop a ranking system to help prioritize and schedule implementation of accessibility improvements on pedestrian infrastructure along its transportation network considering the level of severity of a barrier's impact to accessibility while acknowledging fiscal constraints.

TRANSITION PLAN GOAL:
Adopt and implement a policy directing that as streets are resurfaced as part of Aurora's annual maintenance program, any adjacent noncompliant curb ramps are reconstructed, including by adding dome panels to curb ramps without detectable warning surfaces.

TRANSITION PLAN GOAL:
Adopt and implement a policy on preferred locations and accommodations for pedestrian street crossings which includes spacing criteria for street crossings, as well as other guidance for pedestrian signals, and pushbuttons.

TRANSITION PLAN GOAL:
Adopt and implement a policy to establish a ranking system to help prioritize and schedule implementation of accessibility improvements on pedestrian infrastructure along its transportation network considering the level of severity of a barrier's impact to accessibility while acknowledging fiscal constraints.

TRANSITION PLAN GOAL:
Integrate ADA compliance data into existing GIS databases. Establish common taxonomy and definitions for attributes to capture compliance data.

3.3 Strategies to Improve Accessibility

Implementing physical infrastructure and structural changes will take time and resources to properly plan, design, and upgrade existing infrastructure and remove identified barriers. Public projects currently require ADA compliance and are reviewed by city staff or designated representatives. Private projects are required to be ADA compliant to the extent accessibility features are required by the building code and applicable ADA laws, as well as through the existing plan review and inspections process.

Additionally, Aurora plans to include annual budgetary allotments within financial means for projects targeting accessibility on top of what is currently programmed, with emphasis given to the removal of barriers based on the Transition Plan priorities. Where access cannot immediately be provided, interim measures are to be explored to provide programmatic access to qualified individuals with disabilities pending the remediation of physical barriers.

It is anticipated that a majority of the physical accessibility improvements on Aurora owned, leased or operated infrastructure in the PROW will be performed in conjunction with other projects and activities occurring within Aurora. The following illustrates the efforts most anticipated and how each may improve accessibility:

New Construction Projects: Work involving constructing new infrastructure or pedestrian features in locations within current or future PROW shall provide accessible features in the project that meet current ADA design standards.

Improvement Projects: Work involving improving existing PROW pedestrian infrastructure will provide new or necessary upgrades to existing features in the project area to meet current ADA design standards. Such projects may include road widening as part of Aurora's Capital Improvement Program with associated sidewalk improvements or a remodel of an existing facility. Accessibility improvements within the PROW can be accomplished through private in-fill projects on frontage improvements consistent with applicable section of the city code.

Major Maintenance and Rehabilitation Projects: Work involving any alteration or major maintenance activity performed on transportation assets in the existing PROW or Aurora infrastructure shall provide or upgrade accessible features in, or immediately adjacent to, the project to meet current ADA design standards to the extent feasible without undue burden.

Such projects shall include any project requiring pavement reconstruction, major pavement rehabilitation, public sidewalk improvements, re-paving of a parking lot, replacing of flooring or the reconstruction of accessibility infrastructure caused by private permittees.

Routine Maintenance & Repair Projects: Minor or routine maintenance activities (patching, sealing, replacing signs, repairing door fixtures, etc.) limited to specifically repairing spot areas or locations directly affecting accessibility will include upgrades or improvements that meet current ADA design standards when required or when such improvements are consistent with the scope of the activity being performed.

The following outlines the anticipated process for addressing accessibility barriers within the city's transportation network:

Coordinated/Included with another Project(s):

1. Annually review planned projects and compare project locations to locations of known accessibility issues.
2. Review project areas to identify or confirm and quantify accessibility barriers.
3. Identify available funding to allocate towards accessibility improvements.
4. Develop necessary Contract Document changes to incorporate proposed improvements into the overall project.

Inspect constructed improvements and document resolution of accessibility barrier(s).

Standalone Project(s):

1. Review documented accessibility barriers and identify locations without undue burdens to target, consistent with the Plan priorities, construction economics and other environmental factors, and available funding.
2. Identify available funding to allocate towards accessibility improvements.
3. Develop necessary Contract Document changes to incorporate proposed improvements into the overall project.
4. Inspect constructed improvements and document resolution of accessibility barrier(s).

Aurora recently updated its Roadway Design Manual. One of the primary focuses of the update was to include revised standard details for curb ramps and medians in order to improve mobility and accessibility to users of the public ROW.

3.3.1 On-going training (both internal and external) for city staff is being put in place to increase their knowledge of the ADA and improve accessibility. Aurora intends to hold recurring in-house training seminars to educate city staff on the basics of the ADA such as how to interact with someone who has a disability and what resources are available for alternative effective communication. Additionally, technical training for design and construction requirements will be made available to relevant city staff. The city held in-house training in 2024 for technical staff and will establish a schedule for ongoing technical training opportunities and resources for relevant city Departments and new staff.***Asset Management***

In coordination with the city's larger asset management programs and initiatives, the city will establish prioritization criteria for infrastructure assets. Curb ramps, sidewalk, and driveways are classified under the "Pavement" asset. Pedestrian push buttons are classified under the "Signals and Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS)" asset.

Curb Ramp Prioritization Criteria
The city intends to develop standalone policy guidance to prioritize curb ramps against each other. The prioritization criteria for ADA compliance will be based on the ADAAG and PROWAG standards and will fall under criticality factors for Safety, Operational Impact, and Equity.

Sidewalk Prioritization Criteria
The city intends to develop standalone policy guidance to prioritize sidewalks against each other. The prioritization criteria for ADA compliance will be based on the ADAAG and PROWAG standards, as well as the City's existing sidewalk prioritization criteria, and will fall under criticality factors for Safety, Operational Impact, and Equity.

Pedestrian Push Button Prioritization Criteria
The city intends to develop standalone policy guidance to prioritize pedestrian push buttons against each other. The prioritization criteria for ADA compliance will be based on the MUTCD, ADAAG and PROWAG standards and will fall under criticality factors Safety, Operational Impact, and Equity.

TRANSITION PLAN GOAL:
Formally integrate ADA compliance into the city's asset management framework for curb ramps, sidewalks, and pedestrian push buttons.

3.3.2 Funding

Funding is an important component for improving accessibility within the transportation network. Aurora endeavors to responsibly fund efforts to improve accessibility whenever possible. It is anticipated funding for improvements and mechanisms for project delivery may come from the following sources:

- Annual Capital Improvement Program Projects
- Federal Aid or Grants[1] – State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP), Safe Routes To Schools (SRTS), Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ), Surface Transportation Program (STP), Colorado Office of Transportation Safety (OTS) grants, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Road Diet Projects, Multi-Modal Transportation Programs, Transportation Enhancement Activities (TEA), Transportation Alternatives (TA), Railway-Highway Crossing Program (RHC), and other pedestrian, mobility, development grants
- Intergovernmental Agreements (IGA) with neighboring jurisdictions
- Bonding
- Reallocation of departmental budgets

[1] NOTE: Many of these programs or types of programs are competitive type grants, therefore, agencies aren't guaranteed to receive these funds. The city will need to monitor these programs and decide whether to pursue the funds.

- Creation of Taxing Districts - Tax Increment Financing District (TIF), Community Improvement District (CID), Tax Allocation District (TAD)
- Adoption of Fees

3.4 Implementation Schedule

Aurora plans to address and remove barriers to accessibility systematically based upon the priorities outlined in the ADA Transition Plan using established program priorities, available funding, and standard city processes and procedures.

Any non-compliance regardless of location or type identified from the grievance process will be addressed and prioritized on a case-by-case basis.

Aurora reserves the right to modify the removal of barriers to accessibility priorities in order to allow flexibility in addressing reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities, community requests, changes in city programs or facility usage, funding availability and constraints, and opportunities with similar capital improvement projects.

Current program level schedules for identified removal of barriers to accessibility are shown in Appendix G.

3.5 Design and Construction Standards

The ADA Standards and Specifications described in this section are intended to apply to all construction within Aurora public right-of-way required to adhere to city requirements.

The city maintains standard details and construction specifications for transportation assets intended to provide accessibility within the transportation network. The city standards are available at Roadway Manual 2025.pdf. This manual is updated annually by the City Engineer, and ADA updates are implemented in consultation with the ADA Coordinator.

For assets constructed not specifically addressed by those details and specifications, the city typically utilizes Colorado Department of Transportation requirements. CDOT standards are available at:

> https://www.codot.gov/business/designsupport/standard-plans/2012-m-standards-plans/2012-m-standards-pdfs/ or https://www.codot.gov (keyword search "Standard Plans")

In an effort to account for construction tolerances and to avoid exceeding listed thresholds, designers and construction crews shall use specified slopes and dimensions below the maximum or are above the minimum requirements stated in these standards while maintaining positive drainage.

In alterations to existing infrastructure, where compliance with applicable standards and specifications is technically infeasible or would result in undue burden, the alteration shall conform to standards to the maximum extent possible.

Such exceptions shall be documented on the **ADA Design and Construction Exception Form** contained in Appendix I and submitted to the ADA Coordinator for documentation.

4. Procedures, Standards and Practices

4.1 New Construction and Alterations

The ADA Standards and Specifications described in this section are intended to apply to all construction within Aurora that is required to adhere to city requirements.

For pedestrian infrastructure within the public ROW, Aurora's standards are based on the previous ADAAG published by the United States Access Board. The city intends to adopt PROWAG.

In addition to the technical training performed, the city intends to develop ADA checklists to further assist city staff in their effort to achieve accessibility on new improvements. These checklists are not intended to replace referenced ADAAG requirements and PROWAG guidelines but assist staff with design review and construction oversight.

Future Applicable Federal and State Code Revisions: All future enactments and revisions to legally applicable Federal or State accessibility codes, standards or guidelines, will be incorporated into these ADA city codes and standards to the extent that such enactments or revisions exceed the requirements contained herein. Nevertheless, such enactments or revisions will not decrease any requirement as contained herein.

TRANSITION PLAN GOAL:
Develop and use ADA compliance checklists to facilitate design, design review, and construction inspection activities and ensure ADA compliant infrastructure is built.

4.2 Program Access and Effective Alternative Communication

A large part of the effectiveness of increasing accessibility and complying with the ADA is taking appropriate steps to ensure that communication with persons with disabilities are as effective and complete as communications with others. To effectively communicate with a qualified individual with a disability, Aurora provides alternative effective communication methods, including but not limited to, sign language interpreters, assistive devices, Braille, and large print text when requested and available. The city intends to adopt a policy to guide staff in communication with persons with disabilities, as well as a policy to guide staff in handling requests for reasonable accommodation.

The city continues to pursue compliance with House Bill 21-1110. The Colorado law, signed on June 30, 2021, requires all state and local governments to meet specific web accessibility standards for people with disabilities. The city intends to make necessary changes as required by the law to ensure website accessibility as it relates to programs and activities in the public ROW.

TRANSITION PLAN GOAL:
Adopt a policy and procedure to guide staff in communication with persons with disabilities that includes guidance on effective alternative communication.

4.3 Public Information Sharing

Aurora makes information available to all applicants, participants, beneficiaries, and interested persons regarding the provisions of the ADA and its applicability to the services, programs or activities of Aurora. Aurora is committed to sharing information with the public regarding efforts to improve accessibility throughout Aurora. Information sharing occurs mostly through contact with the ADA Coordinator, the city of Aurora website, press releases and other public notifications, as well as other typical public outreach methodologies.

5. Public Involvement

Aurora created and distributed information about the development of the formal ADA Transition Plan to encourage the public, advocacy groups, city staff, and other stakeholders to provide input and identify areas of concern.

This was accomplished with the creation of an ADA Transition Plan webpage within Aurora's Engage Aurora website providing updates and soliciting input. Another method of soliciting input for the Transition Plan was through a public survey made available in a variety of formats. Aurora advertised the public survey using multiple social media outlets and by distributing advertisement and surveys in multiple languages. Input received from the survey and meetings was evaluated and included in Appendix J.

Three open houses were held in support of the project. Two in-person open houses were held at Aurora City Hall on October 29, 2024 and November 13, 2024. A virtual town hall was hosted on November 7, 2024.

A draft version of the updated Transition Plan was made available to the public for a review period on the ADA Transition Plan webpage from x through x soliciting comments and feedback.

6. ADA Coordinator Role & Responsibilities

The ADA requires public entities with fifty (50) or more employees to designate one or more individuals as responsible employees for monitoring compliance with and investigating potential violations of the ADA. While the law does not require the use of the term "ADA Coordinator", it is commonly used across the country. This individual is the primary point of contact for a qualified individual with a disability to:

- Request auxiliary aids and services, and other accommodations
- File a complaint with the city of Aurora regarding accessibility to city programs, activities and services
- Propose and implement policy modifications to ensure Compliance with and conformance to the non-discrimination provisions of the ADA

This individual is also the point person for addressing ADA concerns or grievances from the public and from other departments and employees of the public entity.

Finally, the ADA Coordinator is responsible for overseeing the implementation of this Transition Plan.

The ADA does not require the city of Aurora to undertake any action that would result in a fundamental alteration in the intent of its programs or activity, would create a hazardous condition, or would represent an undue burden. Undue burden is defined as a significant difficulty or expense relative to the nature and cost of the accommodation when compared to the size, resources, and facility of the specific operation. The determination that a proposed action or accommodation does or does not represent an undue burden to the city will be based on an evaluation of all resources available for use in the programs and will be reached through collaboration between the ADA Coordinator, the Department Head, and the City Attorney's Office on a case-by-case basis. A determination of undue burden will be accompanied by a statement citing the reasons for reaching the conclusion.

Aurora hired an ADA Coordinator in January 2024. To support the ADA Coordinator and Aurora's effort to improve accessibility, Aurora intends to designate representatives in various Departments to assist with improving accessibility. These representatives will comprise an ADA Working Group. This system will allow each department and Aurora collectively to better address the needs of employees and citizens with disabilities. Each department will designate a Departmental ADA Contact to collaborate with Aurora's ADA Coordinator regarding the needs of their department and the programs their department is responsible for managing. The benefit of having a Departmental ADA Contact for each department is the availability of a departmental subject matter expert and someone with knowledge of department operations and budgets. Aurora's ADA Coordinator, or designee, will follow-up with each Departmental ADA Contact to coordinate the implementation of plans, programs, policies, and procedures and to determine any undue burden specific to that department.

Appendix K identifies the office, address, and telephone number of Aurora's ADA Coordinator(s). This position is currently performed by an Aurora staff member with no other day-to-day responsibilities. The Department ADA Contacts and other designees are typically utilized to fulfill the duties associated with this position.

TRANSITION PLAN GOAL:
Identify key representatives from each department to serve as ADA Contacts. Establish an ADA Working Group comprised of these representatives and the ADA coordinators to facilitate accessibility initiatives across the city.

7. Complaint & Grievance Procedure

Establishing a complaint and/or grievance procedure to provide prompt and equitable resolution of complaints is required for public entities with over fifty (50) employees. Equally important to Aurora, it ensures its citizens have a clear, established process for being heard and responded to in an accurate and timely manner. Formalizing the process allows for transparency and timely resolution to issues brought to Aurora's attention.

Aurora currently has a formal grievance procedure in place to provide citizens with a way to file complaints regarding accessibility and a documented method for Aurora to handle complaints. Appendix L identifies Aurora's grievance procedure and responsibilities regarding filing, investigating, and initiating a response and the grievance procedure form.

In the event available funds are insufficient for responding to grievances that request barrier removal or structural modifications, improvements will be prioritized and scheduled.

8. Monitoring & Updating Transition Plan

The ADA Coordinator will review the Transition Plan on an annual basis in coordination with relevant city departments, or more frequently as necessary, to update it as deemed appropriate to address progress towards improving accessibility and to provide for any Transition Plan modifications. The ADA Coordinator will work with formally identified city department ADA contacts and appropriate staff during these reviews to identify updates and incorporate new information pertaining to accessibility and the ADA into the Transition Plan. Public comments or suggestions received will be incorporated as deemed appropriate.

TRANSITION PLAN GOAL:
Update the Plan on a yearly basis to track progress toward goals and to document removal of barriers.

8.1 Database Management

As new infrastructure or features are constructed or re-constructed such as curb ramps, sidewalks, and pedestrian pushbuttons, Aurora will update its GIS database or matrices to reflect these improvements. Updating these databases will allow Aurora to monitor accessibility in specific areas, as well as Aurora's overall assets. The databases can also be used to re-prioritize and allocate budget appropriately. Databases are intended to be a tool to assist Aurora with identifying accessibility issues and improvements and not to be the sole method for determining accessibility improvement projects.

TRANSITION PLAN GOAL:
Update the city's GIS database on a yearly basis to capture and document completed accessibility improvements for ramps, sidewalks, and pedestrian push buttons.

8.2 Summary of Transition Plan Goals

Below is a summary of the current ADA Transition Plan Goals listed throughout this document. Aurora's ADA Coordinator will monitor and update these goals regularly.

- Section 2.2.2. Undertake comprehensive review of the PROWAG standards and determine whether to adopt those standards in whole or in part in order to conform to industry best practices by November 2026.

- Section 3.2.1. Adopt and implement a policy directing that as streets are resurfaced as part of Aurora's annual maintenance program, any adjacent noncompliant curb ramps are reconstructed, including by adding dome panels to curb ramps without detectable warning surfaces.

- Section 3.2.1. Adopt and implement a policy on preferred locations and accommodations for pedestrian street crossings which includes spacing criteria for street crossings, as well as other guidance for pedestrian signals, and pushbuttons.

- Section 3.2.1. Adopt and implement a policy to establish a ranking system to help prioritize and schedule implementation of accessibility improvements on pedestrian infrastructure along its transportation network considering the level of severity of a barrier's impact to accessibility while acknowledging fiscal constraints.

- Section 3.2.1. Integrate ADA compliance data into existing GIS databases. Establish common taxonomy and definitions for attributes to capture compliance data.

- Section 3.3.1. Formally integrate ADA compliance into the city's asset management framework for curb ramps, sidewalks, and pedestrian push buttons.

- Section 4.1. Develop and use ADA compliance checklists to facilitate design, design review, and construction inspection activities and ensure ADA compliant infrastructure is built.

- Section 4.2. Adopt a policy to guide staff in communication with persons with disabilities that includes guidance on effective alternative communication.

- Section 6. Identify key representatives from each department to serve as ADA Contacts. Establish an ADA Working Group comprised of these representatives and the ADA coordinators to facilitate accessibility initiatives across the city.

- Section 8. Update the Plan on a yearly basis to track progress toward goals and to document removal of barriers.

- Section 8.1. Update the city's GIS database on a yearly basis to capture and document completed accessibility improvements for ramps, sidewalks, and pedestrian push buttons.

APPENDIX A – TRANSITION PLAN TERMINOLOGY

Accessible Pedestrian Signal – An integrated device that communicates information about the pedestrian walk phases in non-visual formats.

Accessible Route – a continuous, unobstructed path connecting all accessible elements and spaces including public transportation infrastructure, parking access aisles, curb ramps, crosswalks at vehicular ways, walks, ramps and lifts.

ABA – means and refers to the Architectural Barriers Act which requires infrastructure designed, built, altered, or leased with funds supplied by the United States Federal Government be accessible to the public.

ADA – means and refers to the Americans with Disabilities Act as contained and explained in Title 42, Chapter 126 of the United States Code.

ADAAG –ADA Accessibility Guidelines set forth at 36 CFR part 1191, together with appendices B (Scoping) and D (Technical) thereto.

Alteration – An alteration is a change that affects or could affect the usability of all or part of a building or facility. Alterations of streets, roads, or highways include activities such as reconstruction, rehabilitation, *resurfacing*, widening, and projects of similar scale and effect. Maintenance activities on streets, roads, or highways, such as filling potholes, are not alterations.

References:

- DOJ/DOT on Requirements to Provide Curb Ramps when Streets, Roads, or Highways are Altered through Resurfacing
- QUESTIONS & ANSWERS: Supplement to the 2013 DOJ/DOT Joint Technical Assistance on the Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act Requirements To Provide Curb Ramps when Streets, Roads, or Highways are Altered through Resurfacing

Auxiliary Aids and Services – services and devices promoting effective communication or allowing access to goods and services as defined by Titles II and III of the ADA.

Complaint – a claimed violation of the ADA.

Curb Ramp –a ramp that cuts through or is built up to the curb. Curb ramps can be perpendicular or parallel, or a combination of parallel and perpendicular ramps.

Detectable Warning – a surface of truncated domes, built in or applied to a walking surface that are detectable underfoot. Detectable warnings are typically pre-fabricated and installed or stamped into a walkway, providing a tactile surface at the transition from a curb and the street or other hazardous vehicular crossings, assisting pedestrians with vision disabilities in determining when they enter the street.

Disability – a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of the major life activities of an individual; or a record of such an impairment; or being regarded as having such an impairment, as described in Title II of the ADA.

Effective Communication - Auxiliary aids and services needed to communicate effectively with people who have communication disabilities.

Facility – All or any portion of buildings, structures, sites, complexes, equipment, rolling stock or other conveyances, roads, walks, passageways, parking lots, or other real or personal property, including the site where a building, property, structure, or equipment is located.

Maintenance - Treatments that serve solely to seal and protect the road surface, improve friction, and control splash and spray are considered to be maintenance because they do not significantly affect the public's access to or usability of the road. Some examples of the types of treatments that would normally be considered maintenance are: painting or striping lanes, crack filling and sealing, surface sealing, chip seals, slurry seals, fog seals, scrub sealing, joint crack seals, joint repairs, dowel bar retrofit, spot high-friction treatments, diamond grinding, and pavement patching. In some cases, the combination of several maintenance treatments occurring at or near the same time may qualify as an alteration and would trigger the obligation to provide curb ramps.

References:

- DOJ/DOT on Requirements to Provide Curb Ramps when Streets, Roads, or Highways are Altered through Resurfacing
- QUESTIONS & ANSWERS: Supplement to the 2013 DOJ/DOT Joint Technical Assistance on the Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act Requirements To Provide Curb Ramps when Streets, Roads, or Highways are Altered through Resurfacing

Pedestrian Right-of-way (PROW) – sidewalks, curb ramps, crosswalks serving such sidewalks, and any other designated routes or pathways used by pedestrians along public rights of way.

Physical or Mental Impairment – any physiological disorder, or condition, cosmetic disfigurement, or anatomical loss affecting one or more body systems, such as neurological, musculoskeletal, special sense organs, respiratory (including speech organs), cardiovascular, reproductive, digestive, genitourinary, immune, circulatory, hemic, lymphatic, skin, and endocrine; or any mental or psychological disorder, such as an intellectual disability, organic brain syndrome, emotional or mental illness, and specific learning disabilities.

Program Accessibility - Aurora's services, programs, or activities, when viewed in their entirety, must be readily accessible to and usable by a qualified individual with a disability.

PROWAG – (Proposed) Public Right-of-way Accessibility Guidelines published by the United States Access Board. This document provides guidelines for public right-of-way addressing various issues, including access for blind pedestrians at street crossings, wheelchair access to on-street parking, and various constraints posed by space limitations, roadway design practices, slope, and terrain.

Qualified Individual with a Disability - an individual with a disability who, with or without reasonable modifications to rules, policies, or practices, the removal of architectural, communication, or transportation barriers, or the provision of auxiliary aids and services, meets the essential eligibility

requirements for the receipt of services or the participation in programs or activities provided by a public entity.

Reasonable Accommodation – reasonable changes or adjustments that provide, without undue burden or fundamental alteration of the nature of the service, program, or activity, a means for a qualified individual with a disability to participate in or receive a service, program, or activity. Where existing physical constraints make it impractical for altered elements, spaces, or infrastructure to fully comply with new construction requirements, compliance is required to the extent practicable within the scope of the project. Existing physical constraints include, but are not limited to, underlying terrain, right-of-way availability, underground structures, adjacent developed infrastructure, drainage, or the presence of a notable natural or historic feature.

Undue Burden – significant difficulty or expense. In determining whether an action would result in an undue burden, factors to be considered include: (1) the nature and cost of the action needed; (2) the overall financial resources of the site or sites involved in the action; the number of persons employed at the site; the effect on expenses and resources; legitimate safety requirements that are necessary for safe operation, including crime prevention measures; or the impact otherwise of the action upon the operation of the site; (3) the geographic separateness, and the administrative or fiscal relationship of the site or sites in question to the public entity; (4) if applicable, the overall financial resources of the public entity; the overall size of the public entity with respect to the number of its employees; the number, type, and location of its infrastructure; and (5) if applicable, the type of operation or operations of the public entity, including the composition, structure, and functions of the workforce of the public entity.

APPENDIX B – AURORA POLICIES REGARDING THE ADA

NOTICE

NON-DISCRIMINATION UNDER TITLE 2 OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

In accordance with the requirements Title 2 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 ("ADA"), the city of Aurora ("city") will not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities in its services, programs or activities. Additionally, the city shall strive to provide equal access to members of the public in accordance with the ADA. This includes services, programs and activities offered online and/or dependent upon web-based or digital communication technology. [Sources: Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. Sec. 12101 et seq. (1990) & (2008) & Code of Federal Regulations, 28 CFR Section 35 (2024)].

Effective Communication: The city of Aurora will generally, upon request, provide appropriate aids and services leading to effective communication for qualified persons with disabilities so they can participate equally in the city of Aurora's programs, services, and activities, including qualified sign language interpreters, documents in Braille, and other ways of making information and communications accessible to people who have speech, hearing, or vision impairments.

Modifications to Policies and Procedures: The city of Aurora will make all reasonable modifications to policies and programs to ensure that members of the public with disabilities have an equal opportunity to enjoy all of its programs, services, and activities. For example, members of the public with service animals are welcomed in the city of Aurora's facilities, even where pets are generally prohibited.

Surcharges: The city of Aurora will not place a surcharge on a particular individual with a disability or any group of individuals with disabilities to cover the cost of providing auxiliary aids/services or reasonable modifications of policy, such as retrieving items from locations that are open to the public but are not accessible to persons who use wheelchairs. [Sources: Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. Sec. 12101 et seq. (1990) & (2008) & ADA Title II Regulations, 28 C.F.R. Sec. 35 et seq. (2010)].

Undue Financial or Administrative Burden: The ADA does not require the city of Aurora to take any action that would fundamentally alter the nature of its programs or services or impose an undue financial or administrative burden.

PUBLIC REQUESTS FOR ACCOMODATIONS OR GRIEVANCES

Individuals from the public seeking accommodations under Title 2 of the ADA, or individuals wishing to file a complaint or grievance under Title 2 of the ADA, should contact the city of Aurora' ADA Coordinator. You can contact us through our webform, or via email. The webform can be accessed via this QR code:

The city's ADA email address is: adacompliance@auroragov.org | The city's ADA telephone extension is: 303.326.8857

City Manager's Office
15151 E. Alameda Parkway, 5th floor
Aurora, Colorado 80012
phone 303.739.7010

City of Aurora
AuroraGov.org

BUSINESS POLICY MEMORANDUM

DATE REVISED: July 1, 2025

EFFECTIVE DATE(S): January 6, 1993; October 8, 1998; August 1, 2024 (previously part of BPM 3-13

NO./SUBJECT: BPM 1-04 City of Aurora Non-discrimination Policy under Title 2 of the Americans with Disabilities Act, including Procedures for Public Modification Requests and Grievances

AUTHOR/ DEPARTMENT: Office of the City Manager

I. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose and scope of this Memorandum are to define the City of Aurora's policy of non-discrimination under Titles 1 & 2 of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and to detail the City of Aurora's (City's) procedures for members of the public requesting accommodations and filing formal Grievances for alleged discrimination based on disability or disability status under Title 2 of the ADA. The City's policy and procedures under Title 1 of the ADA, and related to Employee Accommodation Requests and Grievances, are detailed in a separate updated Policy Memorandum No. 3-13 titled "The Americans with Disabilities Act Procedures for Employees (Amended)." This BPM 1-04, and the Title 1 BPM 3-13 have both been updated and revised and will replace previous versions of BPM 3-13.

II. DEFINITIONS

A. Qualified Individuals with Disabilities- Under the ADA, the term "qualified individual with a disability" means an individual with a disability who, with or without reasonable modifications to rules, polices, practices, the removal of architectural, communication, or transportation barriers, or the provision of auxiliary aids and services, meets the essential eligibility requirements for the receipt of services or the participation in programs or activities provided by a public entity. [Source: https://ada.gov/law-and-regs/].

B. Reasonable Modification(s)- Title 2 of the ADA and Section 35.130(7)(i) of the corresponding Department of Justice Regulations state that "A public entity shall make reasonable modifications in policies, practices, or procedures when the modifications are necessary to avoid discrimination on the basis of disability, unless the public entity can demonstrate that making the modifications would *fundamentally alter the nature of the service, program, or activity*."

C. Undue Financial or Administrative Burden- an undue financial or administrative burden under Title 2 or 3 of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is defined as a requirement that would cause a significant difficulty or expense if carried out. Undue burden is similar to "undue hardship" under Title 1 of the ADA.

D. Service Animal- Under the ADA, a service animal is defined as "any dog [or miniature horse] that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability." The definition excludes other types of animals such as birds, cats, gerbils, or reptiles.

III. POLICY OF NON-DISCRIMINATION UNDER THE ADA

In accordance with the requirements of Titles 1 & 2 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 ("ADA"), as well as in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments of 2008 ("ADAA"), the City of Aurora ("City") will not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities in its employment practices, services, programs or activities. Additionally, the city shall strive to provide equal access to employees and members of the public in accordance with the ADA and ADAA. This includes services, programs and activities offered online and/or dependent upon web-based or digital communication technology. [Sources: Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. Sec. 12101 et seq. (1990) & (2008) & Code of Federal Regulations, 28 CFR Section 35 (2024)].

Employment: The City of Aurora does not discriminate on the basis of disability in its hiring or employment practices and complies with all regulations promulgated by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission under Title I of the ADA. Indeed, the City is committed to ensuring that qualified individuals with disabilities are not prevented from enjoying the same employment opportunities as those made available to individuals without disabilities. However, under no circumstances does the City intend by this policy to relieve any individual, with or without a disability, from the obligation to effectively perform the essential functions of the job.

Effective Communication: The City of Aurora will generally, upon request, provide appropriate aids and services leading to effective communication for qualified persons with disabilities so they can participate equally in the City of Aurora's programs, services, and activities, including qualified sign language interpreters, documents in Braille, and other ways of making information and communications accessible to people who have speech, hearing, or vision impairments.

Modifications to Policies and Procedures: The City of Aurora will make all reasonable modifications to policies and programs to ensure that people with disabilities have an equal opportunity to enjoy all of its programs, services, and activities. For example, individuals with service animals are welcomed in the City of Aurora's offices, even where pets are generally prohibited.

Surcharges: The City of Aurora will not place a surcharge on a particular individual with a disability or any group of individuals with disabilities to cover the cost of providing auxiliary aids/services or reasonable modifications of policy, such as retrieving items from locations that are open to the public but are not accessible to persons who use wheelchairs. [Sources: Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. Sec. 12101 et seq. (1990) & (2008) & ADA Title II Regulations, 28 C.F.R. Sec. 35 et seq. (2010)].

Undue Financial or Administrative Burden: The ADA does not require the City of Aurora to take any action that would fundamentally alter the nature of its programs or services or impose an undue financial or administrative burden.

IV. MODIFICATION REQUESTS[1] AND GRIEVANCES UNDER TITLE 2 OF THE ADA

A member of the public who seeks an ADA modification 9referred to in this Memorandum as a Public Accommodation Request) to a city service, program or activity should contact the city's ADA Coordinator *or* the city department that is sponsoring the event. A member of the public who believes they have been discriminated against because of their disability should file a formal grievance directly with the city's ADA Coordinator. Procedures for handling each kind of request are detailed below and provided in summarized form in Appendix B. Section IV.A. addresses the Public Accommodation Request process and Section IV.B. addresses the Formal Grievance process:

A. Public Accommodation Request

i. An Accommodation Request by a member of the public ("Requestor") may be made verbally or in writing to the attention of one of the city's ADA Coordinators *or* with the city department sponsoring the program, service or activity.

a. A website has been created identifying the City's ADA Coordinators and which includes detailed instructions and alternative communication options. That link is: https://www.auroragov.org/city_hall/contact_us/accessibility. See also attached Appendix A.

b. If the requested accommodation is brought verbally to the attention of the ADA Coordinator, the ADA Coordinator shall document and record the request in a Memorandum.

1. The Memorandum shall be drafted and documented in the file within three (3) business days of receipt of the request.

2. City employees who receive Accommodation Requests from members of the public *that require significant expense, alteration, time or resources* should re-route the request to the ADA Coordinator(s) in a manner consistent with the instructions on the city's ADA Compliance and Accessibility website (https://www.auroragov.org/city_hall/contact_us/accessibility). Moreover, city employees who receive Accommodation Requests for public meetings such as City Council meetings, boards and commissions, public policy meetings, etc. should re-route those requests

immediately to the city's Title 2 ADA Coordinator, and Cc the City Clerk's office.

- Please note that *not all Accommodation Requests require significant expense, alteration, time or resources*. Indeed, some requests may be handled on a departmental level on the spot using an employee's best judgment and utilizing the knowledge gained from ongoing city best practices in ADA and accessibility training.

3. Public Accommodation Requests received by the ADA Coordinator shall be documented and filed by the ADA Coordinator in a manner consistent with the confidentiality requirements of the ADA and retained for a period of one year. [Sources: Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. Sec. 12112(d)(3)(B) & Sec.12112(d)(4)(C); McPherson v. O'Reilly Automotive, Inc., 491 F.3d 726 (8th Cir. 2007)].

c. A *summary* of the request shall be kept for an additional four (4) years, for a recording period totaling five (5) years.

ii. Within three (3) business days of receiving the Request for Accommodation, the ADA Coordinator shall send an acknowledgement of receipt of the request to the Requestor, and notify the Department Director whose department or division is impacted by the Request for Accommodation.

iii. After (or before) the three (3) day period acknowledging receipt of the Request for Accommodation, the ADA Coordinator, the impacted Department and the Requestor shall engage in an interactive process to clarify what the individual needs and try to identify an appropriate and reasonable modification.

a. Generally, absent extenuating circumstances, the Request for Accommodation should be brought to a resolution within fifteen (15) business days of receipt of the request.

1. The ADA Coordinator shall document the resolution made and file it with the original written request, and/ or memorandum to the file which documented the verbal request.

- If costs are associated with the proposed resolution, it shall be the responsibility of the individual Office, Department or Division to cover such cost(s).

2. The ADA Coordinator shall provide a written version of the resolution to the Requestor within three (3) days of the documented resolution.

3. Should the Accommodation Request take more than fifteen (15)

business days to resolve, the ADA Coordinator shall document the reason(s) why, and also inform the Requestor of such reasons.

b. The ADA Coordinator shall maintain the supporting documents as proof that an accommodation request was received, and the accommodation was made. The file must contain the following information:

1. The name, phone number, address and email address of the individual seeking the accommodation;

2. Date and description/ subject of the informal request for accommodation; and

3. The resolution(s) made by the ADA Coordinator.

c. Absent notification to the contrary, it shall be assumed that the Requestor accepts the resolution offered and the process shall be concluded.

d. Should the resolution not be satisfactory to the Requestor after engaging in the interactive process and upon receipt of a written resolution, the Requestor should, within five (5) calendar days of receipt of the written resolution, pursue the applicable formal Grievance procedure defined in Section V.B. of this policy.

e. No individual shall be discriminated against, harassed, intimidated, or suffer reprisal or retaliation in any way as a result of verbally, or in writing, requesting an accommodation or participating in the resolution of an appropriate accommodation by providing information, testimony, records, documents or any other assistance in the informal accommodation process.

[Sources: 29 C.F.R. § 1630.2(o)(3) (1997); 29 C.F.R. pt. 1630 app. §§ 1630.2(o), 1630.9 (1997); see also Haschmann v. Time Warner Entertainment Co., 151 F.3d 591, 601, 8 AD Cas. (BNA) 692, 700 (7th Cir. 1998); Dalton v. Subaru-Isuzu, 141 F.3d 667, 677, 7 AD Cas. (BNA) 1872, 1880-81 (7th Cir. 1998). 42U.S.C. § 1981a(a)(3) (1994); see also: US Airways, Inc. v. Barnett, 535 U.S., 122 S. Ct. 1516, 1523 (2002). See 29 C.F.R. pt. 1630 app. § 1630.9 (1997)].

B. Public Formal Grievance/ Complaint

i. As it relates to Title 2 of the Americans with Disabilities Act, any individual, class of individuals, or authorized representative thereof, who feels they have been discriminated against based on their disability, including dissatisfaction with the public Informal Accommodation process or outcome, and want to file or present a Grievance under the ADA, may do so according to the following procedure:

ii. Individual(s). Within ten (10) business days of when an individual or class of individuals ("Complainant") knows or reasonably should have known of the alleged discriminatory action or insufficient accommodation, a written statement

should be submitted to the City's ADA Coordinator. This written statement shall include:

a. The name and address of the individual, class of individuals, or authorized representative thereof;

b. Date and description/ subject of Grievance;

c. Suggested resolution(s) or action(s) to address the Grievance; and

d. Complainant's signature(s) and the current date.

iii. ADA Coordinator. Within twenty (20) business days following receipt of the Grievance, a decision by the ADA Coordinator shall be rendered.

a. A record of the Grievance, and any subsequent action with regard to that Grievance, shall also be maintained by the ADA Coordinator.

b. The decision of the ADA Coordinator will include input from, and collaboration with, the Department Director impacted by the Grievance. The decision of the ADA Coordinator will, if necessary, also include input and/ or consultation from the Aurora City Attorney's Office.

i. If cost is associated with the proposed resolution, the responsible Office, Division or Department shall cover such cost(s).

c. Notice shall be sent, in writing, to the Complainant.

iv. Individual(s). Within five (5) business days of receipt of the ADA Coordinator's decision, the affected individual(s) should advise the ADA Coordinator whether they accept or reject the resolution. Absent notification of the individual(s) to the contrary, it shall be assumed that the individual(s) accepts the resolution offered to address the Grievance and the process shall be concluded.

a. If equitable resolution of the Grievance cannot be achieved by the individual(s) and the ADA Coordinator, it shall be escalated to the City Manager within five (5) business days.

v. City Manager. Within seven (7) business days of receipt of the ADA Coordinator's recommendation, the City Manager or their designee shall notify the ADA Coordinator of their decision or proposed resolution regarding the Grievance. This decision is final and ends the internal Grievance process.

vi. ADA Coordinator. Within three (3) business days of receiving the City Manager's decision, the ADA Coordinator shall advise the Complainant of the decision in writing.

a. Grievant's Rights. A Complainant's right to the prompt and equitable resolution of a Grievance may not be impaired by their pursuit of other remedies. Utilization of these Grievance procedures is not a prerequisite for pursuing other remedies such as filing a compliant with a state or federal agency or taking legal action in state or federal court. [See: https://www.ada.gov/file-a-complaint/ and https://ccrd.colorado.gov/the-complaint-process].

b. Formal legal actions filed by the Complainant or their authorized representative with the United States Department of Justice or State Attorney General's Office shall be referred to the City Attorney for legal representation.

c. Non-grievable Matters. The following matters are not grievable under this procedure:

i. Any alleged ADA or other accessibility violations if occurring at facilities, services or programs not owned or operated by the city of Aurora;
ii. Grievances that have already been addressed, investigated and/ or resolved by this process; and/or
iii. Any complaint related to employment with the City (see separate policy for Employee Grievances and accommodation requests).

V. APPROVAL

Approved upon signature of City Manager.

Jason Batchelor, City Manager

06.27.25
Date

[1] Defined in the Americans with Disabilities Act Title 2 as "Reasonable Modifications."

APPENDIX A

As of the date of this Memorandum, the City's Title 2 ADA Coordinators are:

Karlyn K. Shorb, MA, JD, ACTCP (for any public requests for accommodations)
ADA Coordinator
Email: ADACompliance@auroragov.org
Phone: 303-326-8857
Webform:
https://forms.monday.com/forms/c2672c30933b3d959cb9dcb318379490?r=use1

Will Flowers, MA (for digital or website accessibility concerns)
Website and Digital Accessibility Coordinator
Phone: 303-739-7617
Email: ADACompliance@auroragov.org
Webform:
https://forms.monday.com/forms/c2672c30933b3d959cb9dcb318379490?r=use1

Accommodation requests related to the City's recreation programs should be routed to:

Adaptive Recreation and Inclusion Services
Website:
https://www.auroragov.org/things_to_do/recreation___sports_programs/adaptive_recreation___inclusion_services
Phone: 720-859-4984 OR 720-859-4985
Email: arise@auroragov.org

APPENDIX B

1. Public Accommodation Requests that Require Significant Time, Expense or Resources

[Day1] [2] Request submitted via webform, email or phone call to ADA Coordinator [see: https://www.auroragov.org/city_hall/contact_us/accessibility] →
[Within 3 Days] ADA Coordinator 1. documents request, 2. sends acknowledgement of receipt to Requestor, and 3. Notifies Department Director of request →
[Within 3-15 Days] ADA Coordinator engages in interactive process with Requestor to clarify what individual needs and to identify an appropriate and reasonable modification. →
[On or before Day 15] ADA Coordinator and Requestor come to a resolution OR ADA Coordinator notifies Requestor of any delay in resolution. →
[Within 3 days of documented proposed Resolution] ADA Coordinator provides written version of proposed Resolution to Requestor. →
[Within 5 days of receipt of proposed Resolution] Requestor accepts Resolution *or* rejects Resolution and files a formal Grievance.
Goal for resolution of public Modification Requests & Complaints = 21 Days.

2. Formal Grievances by Members of the Public

[Day 1] Complainant submits Grievance via webform, email or phone call to ADA Coordinator, ***or*** ADA Coordinator documents Grievance as an escalation from an Accommodation Request (escalations should occur within 10 days of unsatisfactory Resolution) [see: https://www.auroragov.org/city_hall/contact_us/accessibility] →

- Grievance form should include Complainant's full name and address, phone number and/ or email address
- Grievance form should include Date and description of the Grievance
- Grievance form should include Complainant's proposed resolution to address Grievance
- Grievance form should include Complainant's signature and the current date

[Within 15 Days] ADA Coordinator documents and renders decision, and sends notice of decision to Complainant →
[On or before Day 20] Complainant accepts or rejects Resolution [absent notification by individual, it shall be assumed individual accepts the resolution offered] →
[On or before Day 25] If Resolution rejected, ADA Coordinator escalates to City Manager or their Designee. →
[On or before Day 32] City Manager or their Designee renders decision or new proposed resolution regarding Grievance.
[On or before Day 35] ADA Coordinator notifies Complainant of City Manager's decision in writing.
Goal for resolution of formal Grievances = 35 Days.

3. Goal for Total Resolution time of Public Accommodation Request or Complaint + Formal Grievance should be within 56 business days of original request.

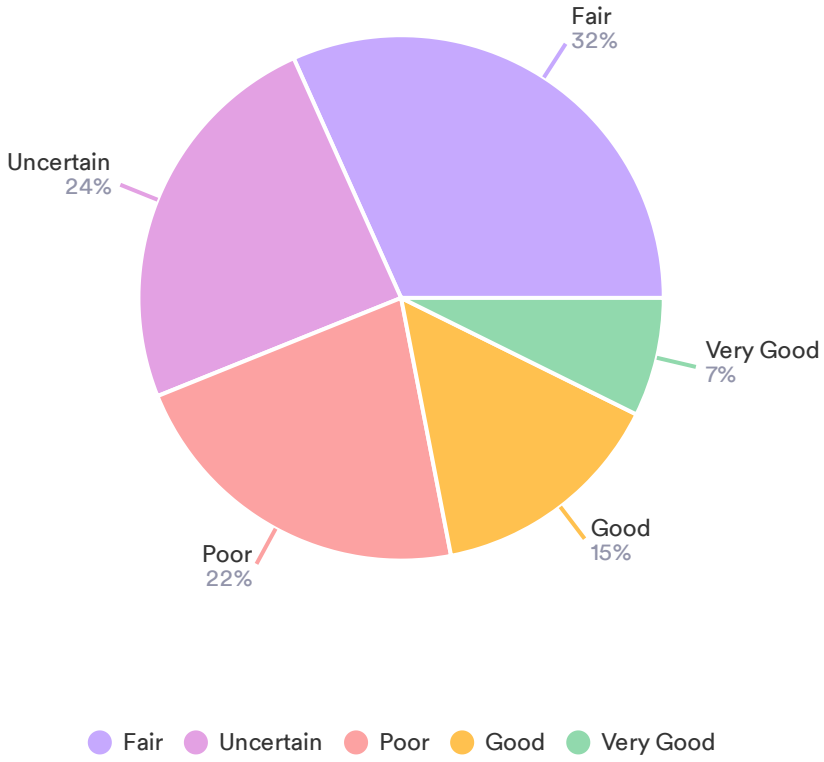
[2] "Day" is defined as one business day, Monday through Friday and excluding Saturday and Sundays.

APPENDIX C – INTERNAL STAFF QUESTIONNAIRE AND RESULTS

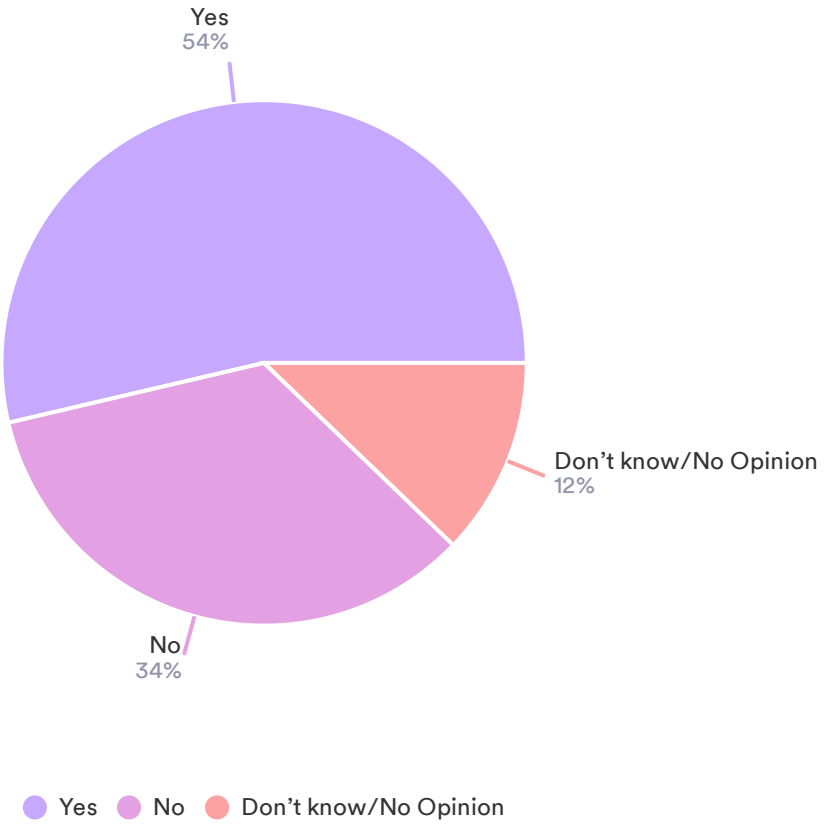
ADA Transition Plan – City Staff Survey

ADA Transition Plan – City Staff Survey

1. How would you rate the overall accessibility of the city's public right-of-way?

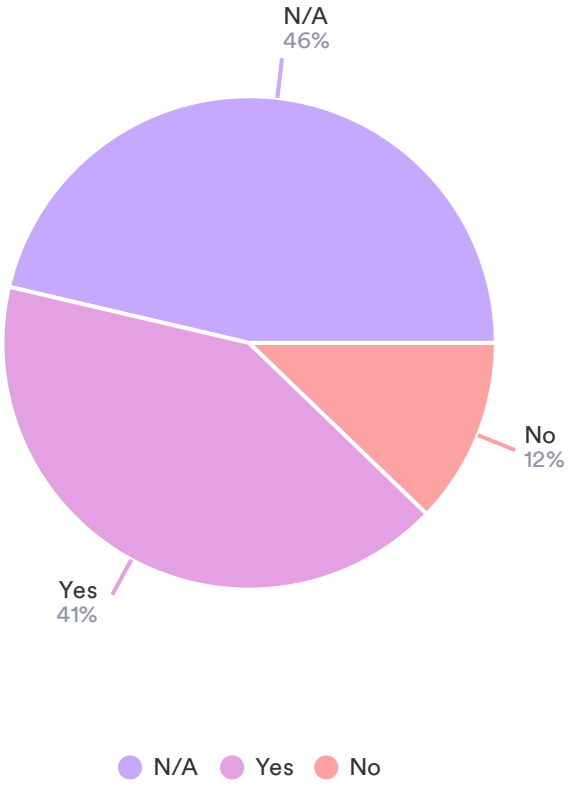


2. Do you believe the city is generally accepting/accommodating of persons with disabilities?



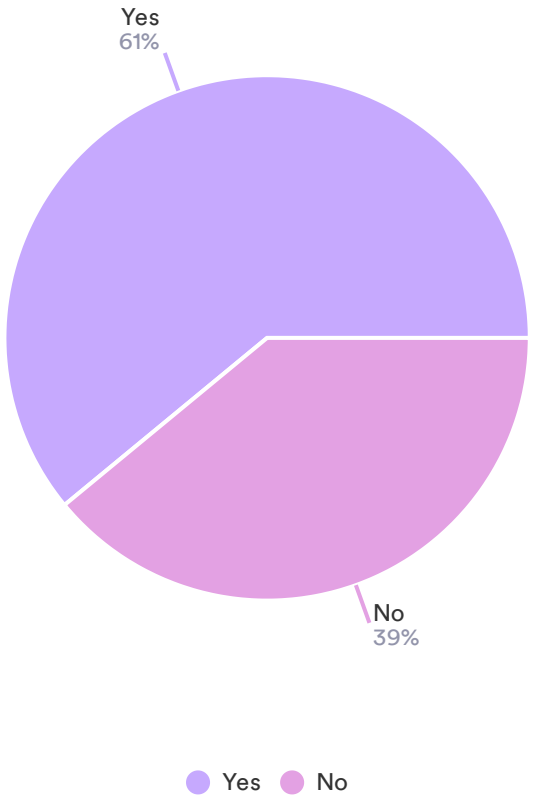
ADA Transition Plan – City Staff Survey

3. If you or someone you know has a disability, have you or they experienced physical barriers or constraints on a city-maintained pedestrian path you or they currently use or would like to use?



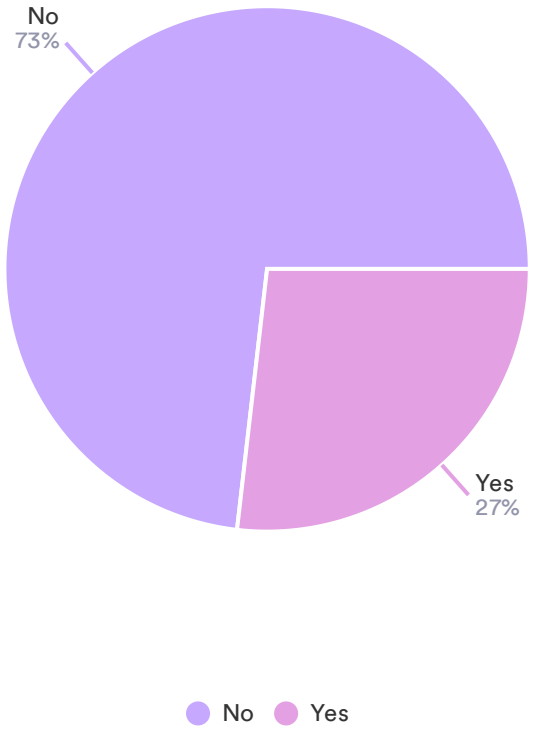
ADA Transition Plan – City Staff Survey

4. Have you encountered missing sections, inaccessible locations or poor conditions related to city sidewalks?

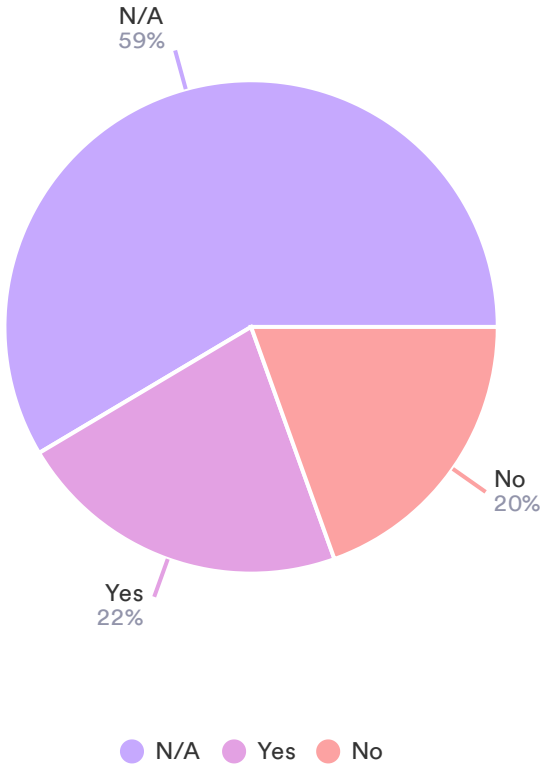


ADA Transition Plan – City Staff Survey

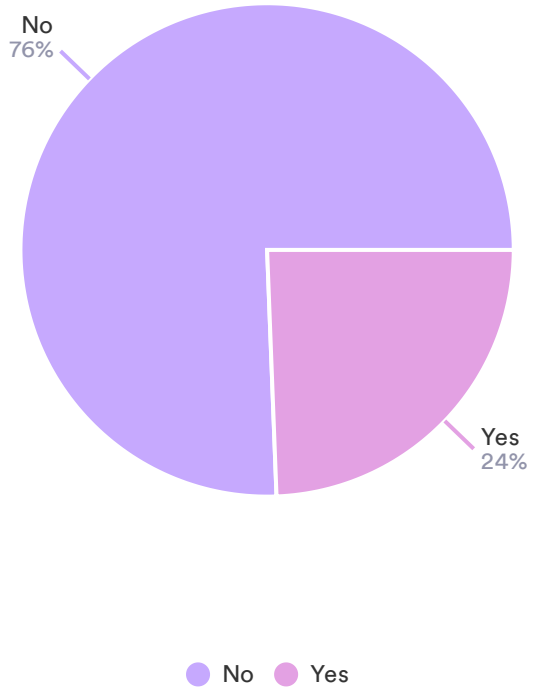
5. Have you encountered areas where curb ramps are missing or inaccessible?



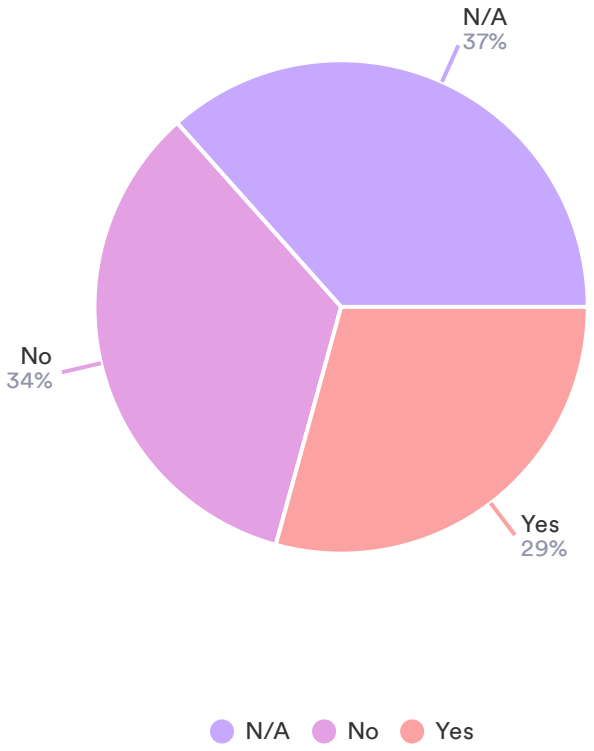
6. If you or someone you know has a disability, have you or they encountered street or intersection crossings where lack of pedestrian crossing signals or medians affects your ability to cross the street?



7. Have you encountered street or intersection crossings where lack of pedestrian visual or audio crossing signals or medians affect your ability to cross the street?



8. If you or someone you know has a disability, have you or they encountered any physical obstructions like trees / low hanging branches, bushes, retaining walls, signs or fire hydrants that have prevented you or them from utilizing a sidewalk?



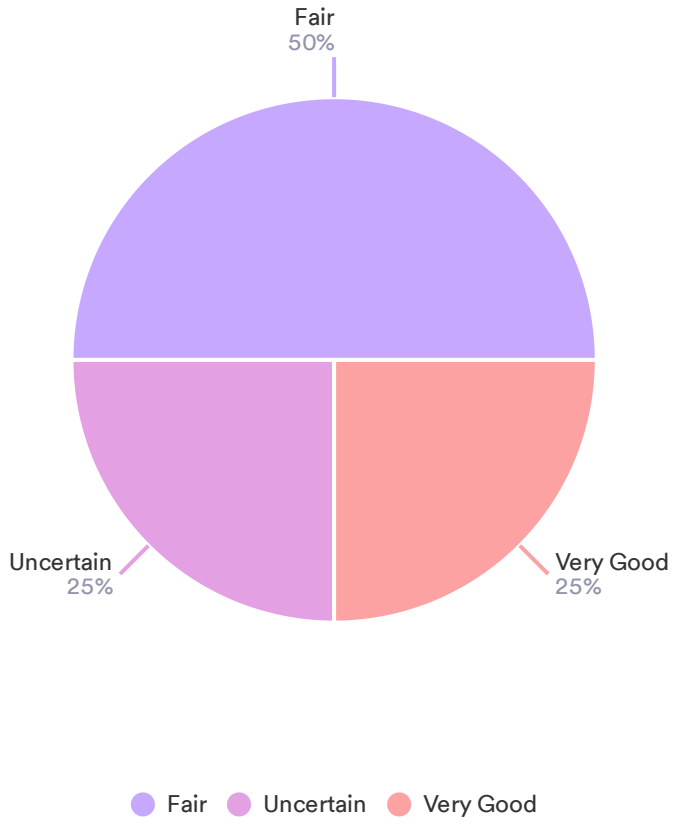
Thank You!

ADA Transition Plan – City Staff Survey

ADA Transition Plan – City Staff Survey (Public Works)

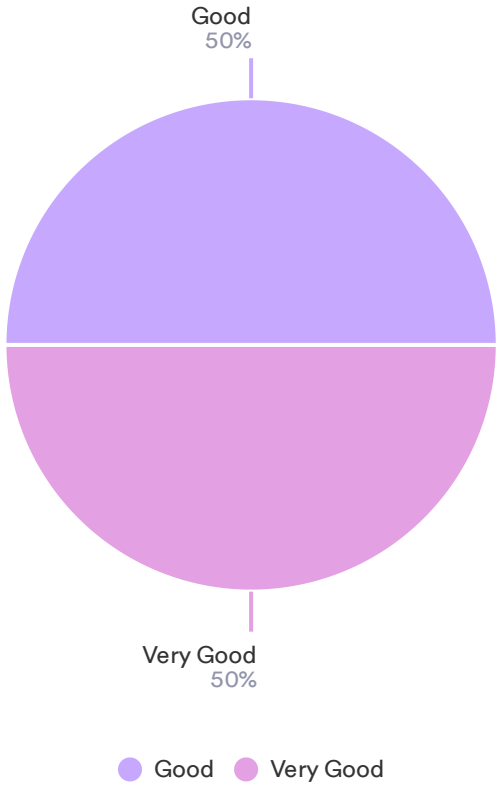
ADA Transition Plan – City Staff Survey (Public Works)

1. How would you rate the overall accessibility of the city's publicly-owned roadways, sidewalk, and curb ramps?



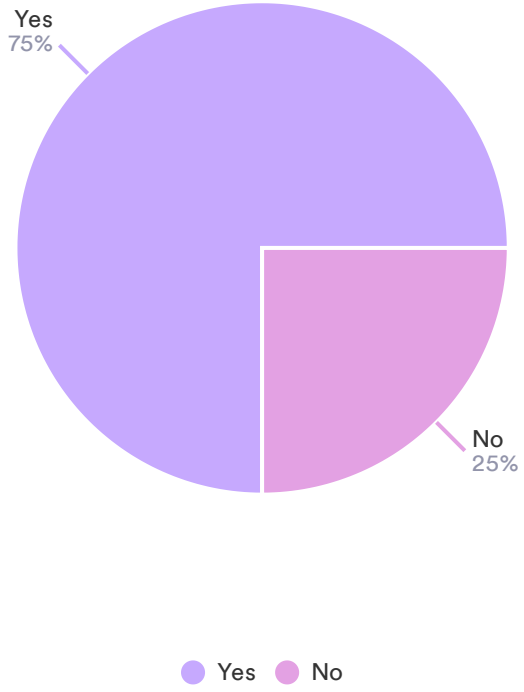
ADA Transition Plan – City Staff Survey (Public Works)

2. How would you describe your understanding and knowledge of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA regulations for public rights-of-way as it pertains to your day-to-day job duties?



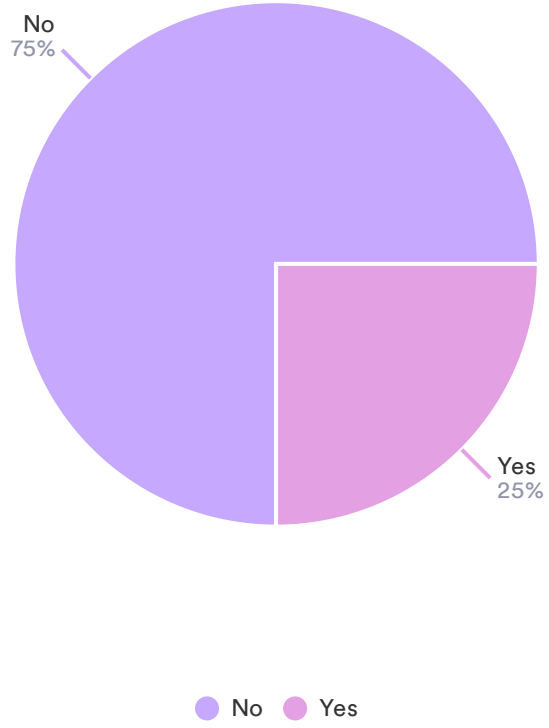
ADA Transition Plan – City Staff Survey (Public Works)

3. Has the city or anyone else provided you with any training related to the technical aspects related to complying with the ADA regulations for public rights-of-way (for example, inspection and enforcement)?



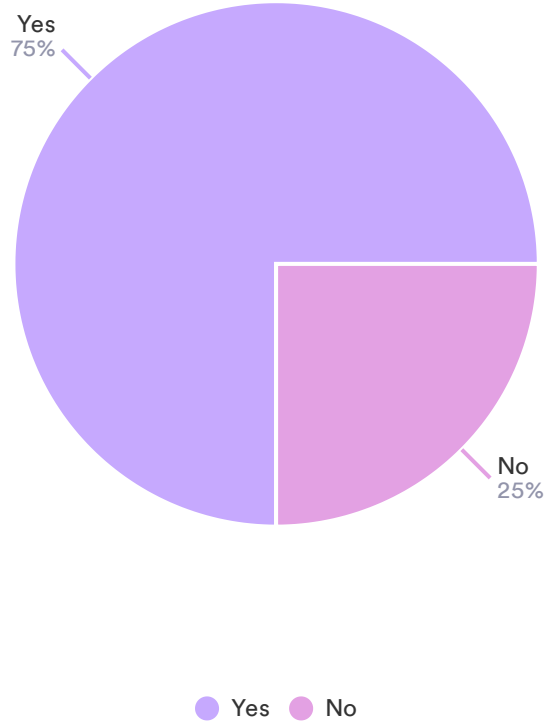
ADA Transition Plan – City Staff Survey (Public Works)

4. Is there a specific type(s) of ADA related training you would be interested in that the city is not currently offering?



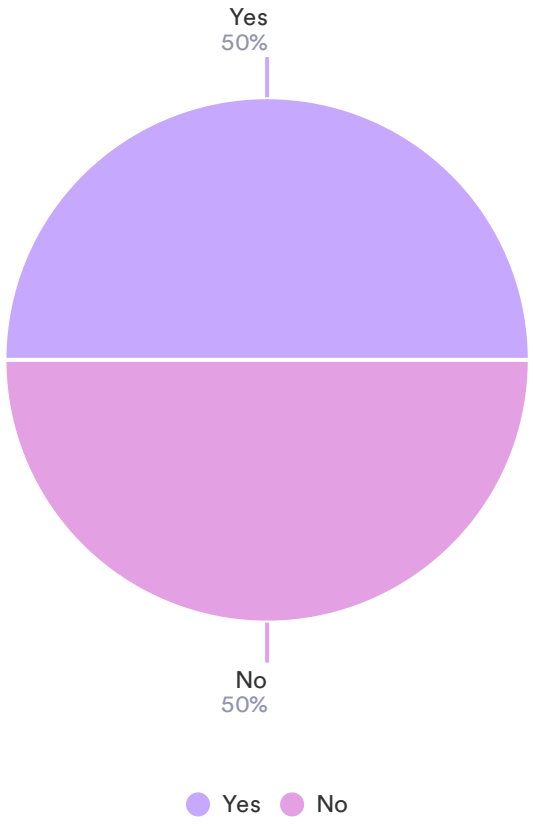
ADA Transition Plan – City Staff Survey (Public Works)

5. Have you encountered missing sections, inaccessible locations or poor conditions related to city sidewalks?



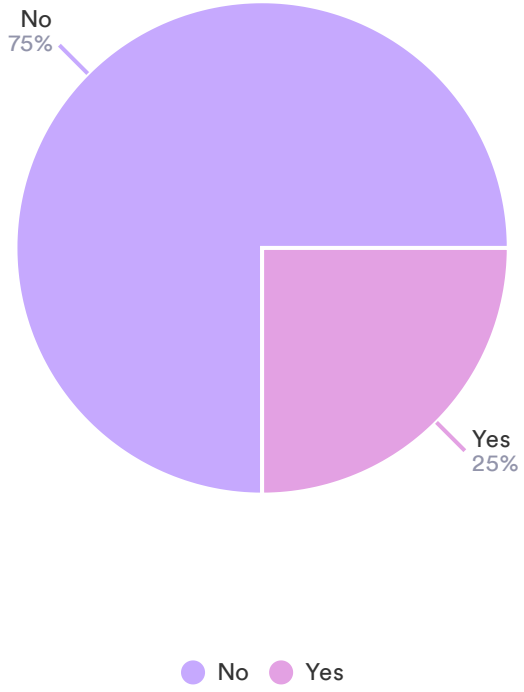
ADA Transition Plan – City Staff Survey (Public Works)

6. Have you encountered areas where curb ramps are missing or inaccessible?



ADA Transition Plan – City Staff Survey (Public Works)

7. Have you encountered street or intersection crossings where lack of pedestrian visual or audio crossing signals or medians affect your ability to cross the street?



ADA Transition Plan – City Staff Survey (Public Works)

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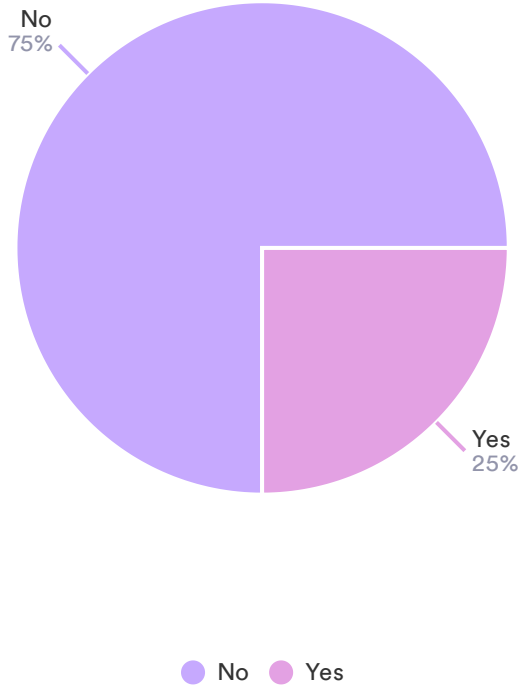
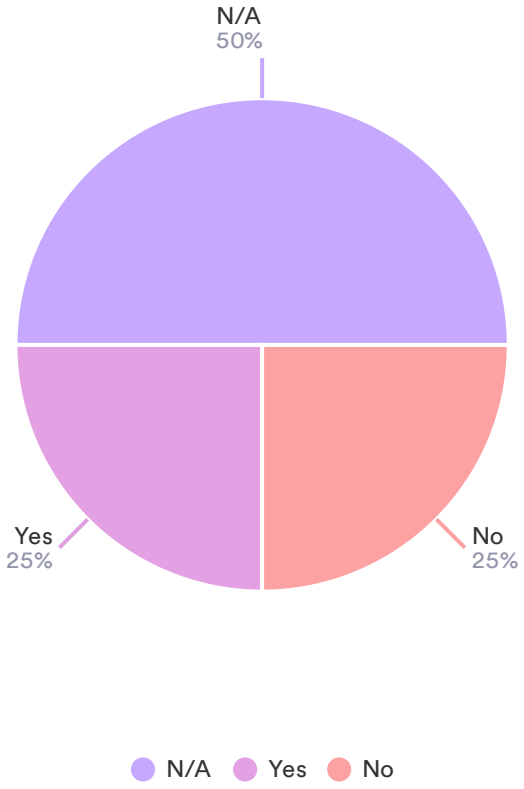
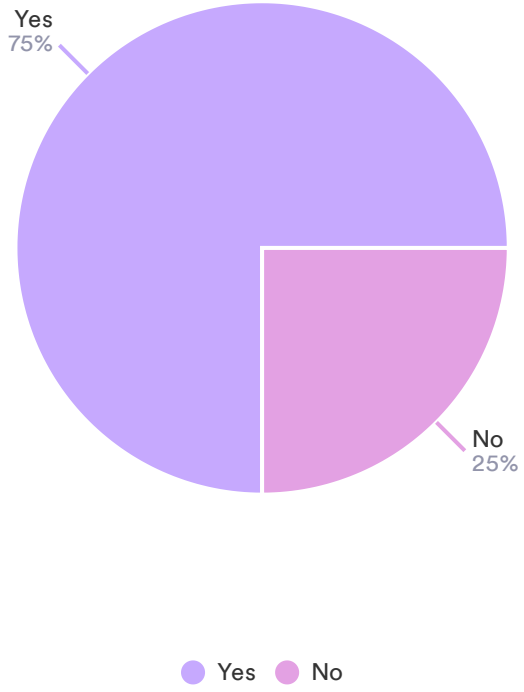


ADA Transition Plan – City Staff Survey (Public Works)

9. If you or someone you know has a disability, have you or they encountered any physical obstructions like trees / low hanging branches, bushes, retaining walls, signs or fire hydrants that have prevented you or them from utilizing a sidewalk?

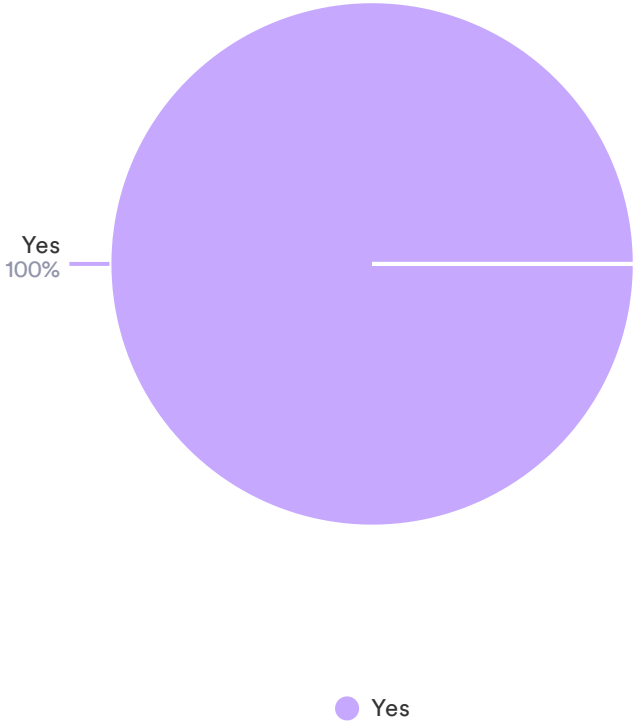


10. Do you know where to find information describing the rights of persons with disabilities and the responsibilities for accessibility at the city?



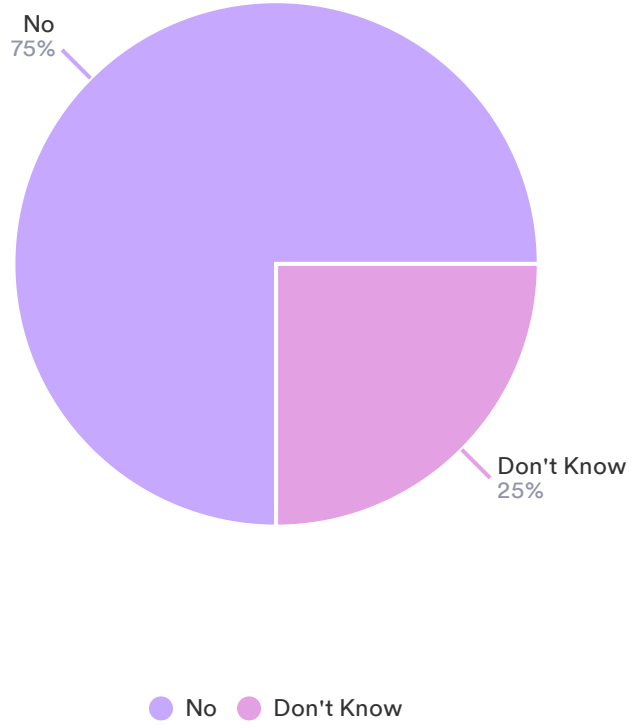
ADA Transition Plan – City Staff Survey (Public Works)

11. Do you believe the city is generally accepting/accommodating of persons with disabilities?



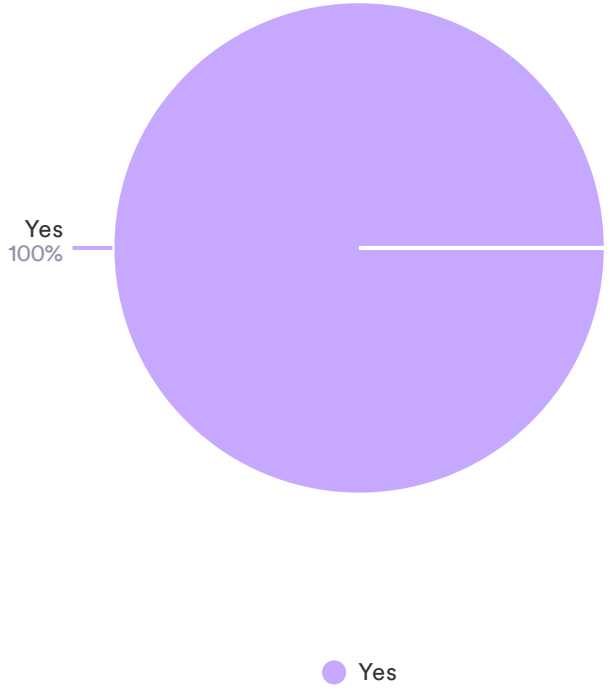
ADA Transition Plan – City Staff Survey (Public Works)

12. Have you encountered or observed what you believe to be discrimination towards persons with a disability?



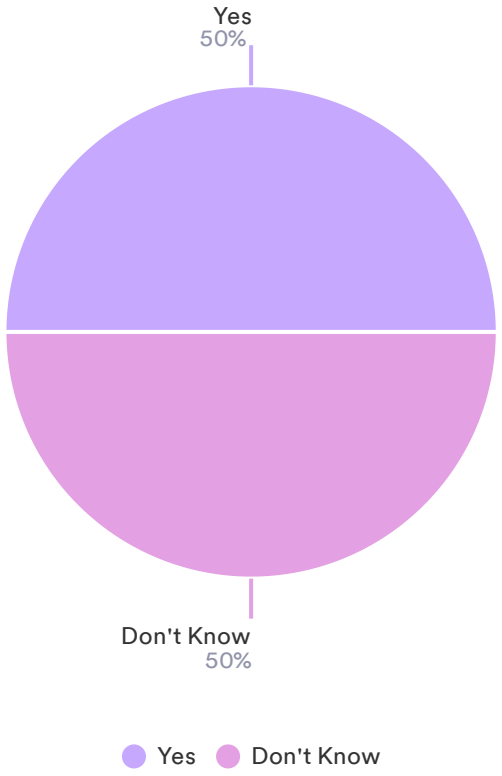
ADA Transition Plan – City Staff Survey (Public Works)

13. Do you believe your supervisor(sis knowledgeable regarding the ADA as it relates to the city's obligations for compliance for public rights-of-way?



ADA Transition Plan – City Staff Survey (Public Works)

14. Do you utilize a standard review process or document exceptions/variances for installation of new curb ramps or maintenance of existing curb ramps that are known to not be fully compliant?



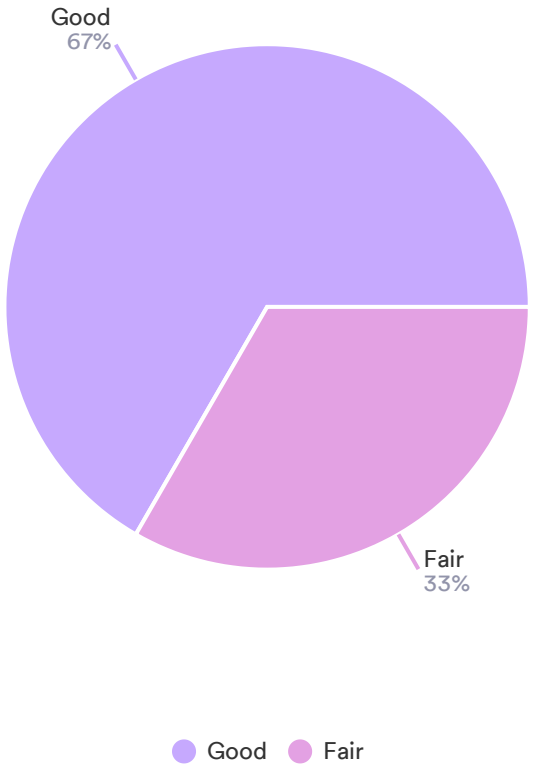
Thank You!

ADA Transition Plan – City Staff Survey (Public Works)

ADA Transition Plan – City Staff Survey (Development Review)

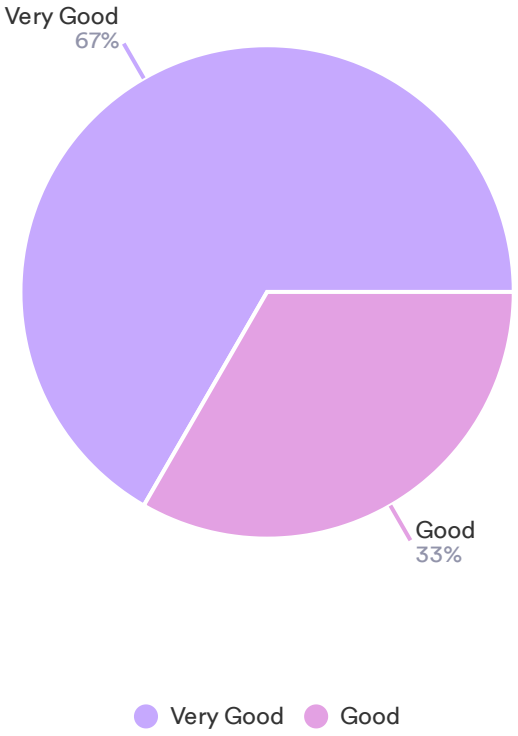
ADA Transition Plan – City Staff Survey (Development Review)

1. How would you rate the overall accessibility of the city's publicly-owned roadways, sidewalk, and curb ramps?



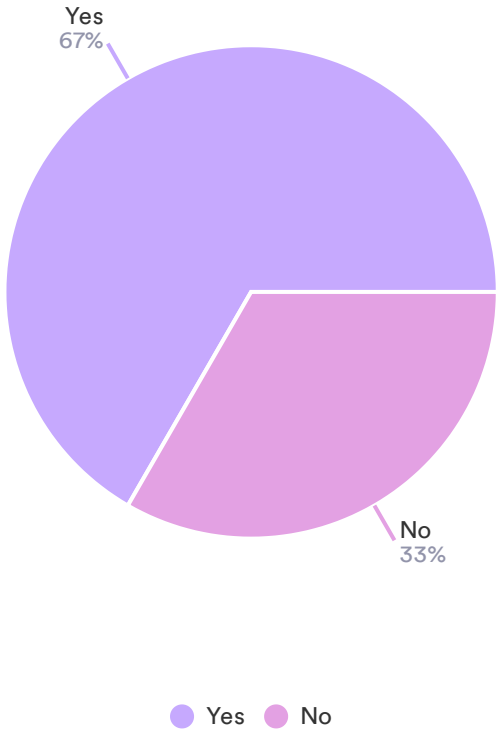
ADA Transition Plan – City Staff Survey (Development Review)

2. How would you describe your understanding and knowledge of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA regulations for public rights-of-way as it pertains to your day-to-day job duties?



ADA Transition Plan – City Staff Survey (Development Review)

3. Has the city or anyone else provided you with any training related to the technical aspects related to complying with the ADA regulations for public rights-of-way (if applicable)?



ADA Transition Plan – City Staff Survey (Development Review)

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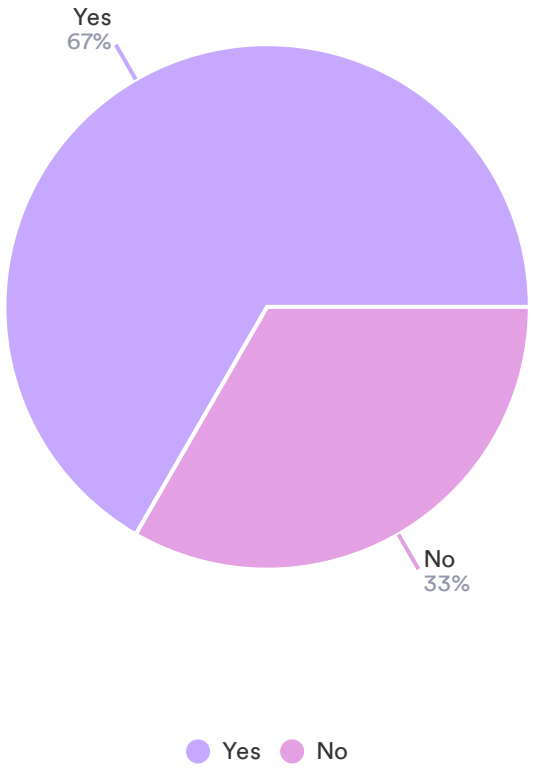
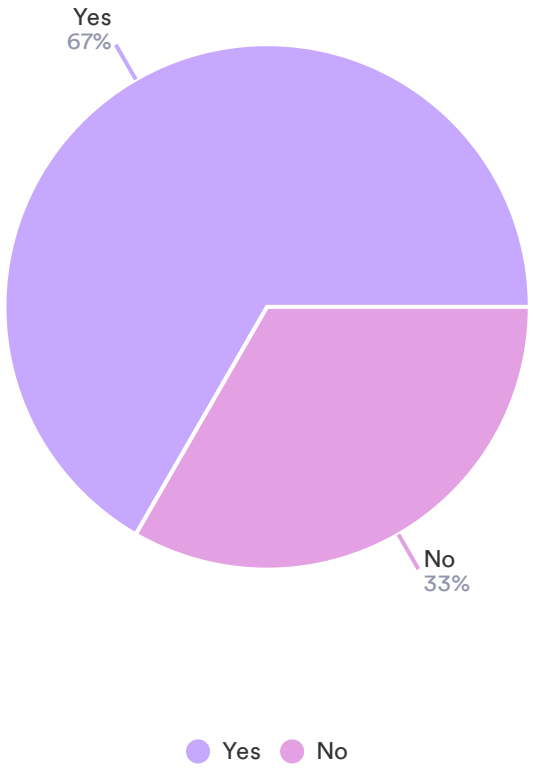


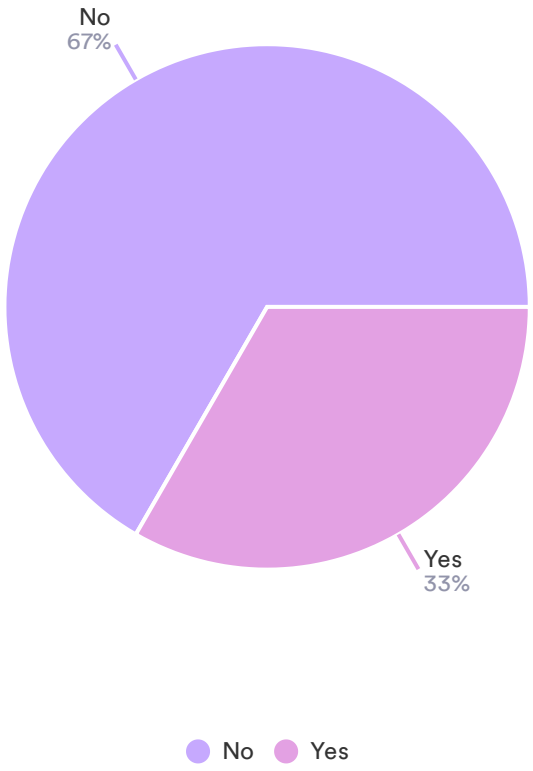
ADA Transition Plan – City Staff Survey (Development Review)

5. Do you feel equipped and properly trained to review development plans for ADA compliance?



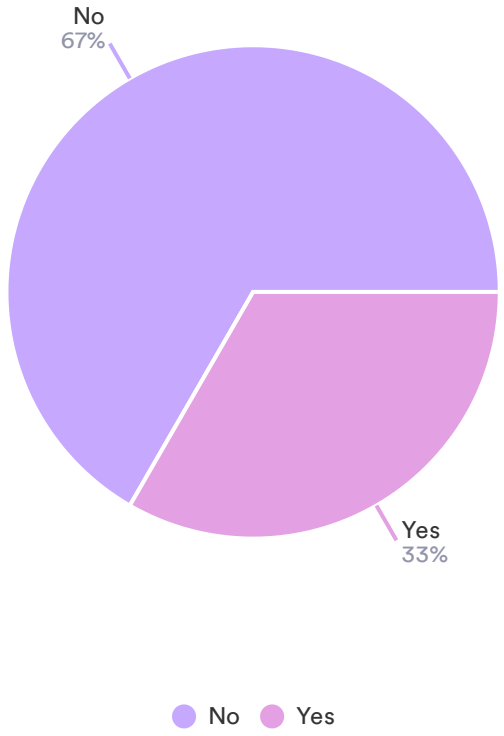
ADA Transition Plan – City Staff Survey (Development Review)

6. Do you utilize standard review checklists when reviewing for ADA compliance?



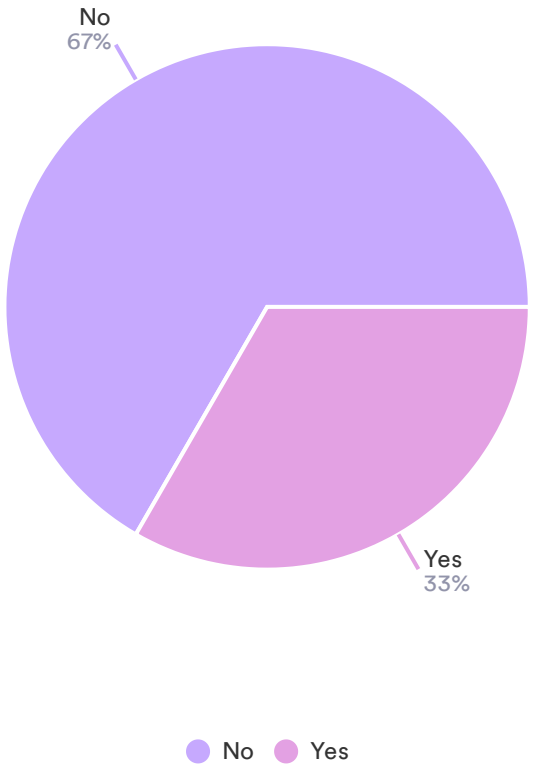
ADA Transition Plan – City Staff Survey (Development Review)

7. Do you apply different standards for ADA compliance to projects that will dedicate new infrastructure to the city for ownership versus projects where infrastructure will remain privately owned?



ADA Transition Plan – City Staff Survey (Development Review)

8. Do you feel the current AMANDA plan review system is adequately set up to ensure review for ADA compliance?



ADA Transition Plan – City Staff Survey (Development Review)

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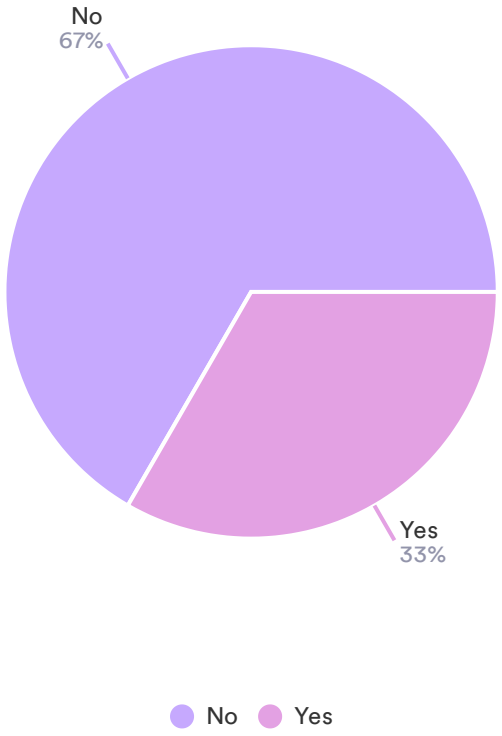

ADA Transition Plan – City Staff Survey (Development Review)

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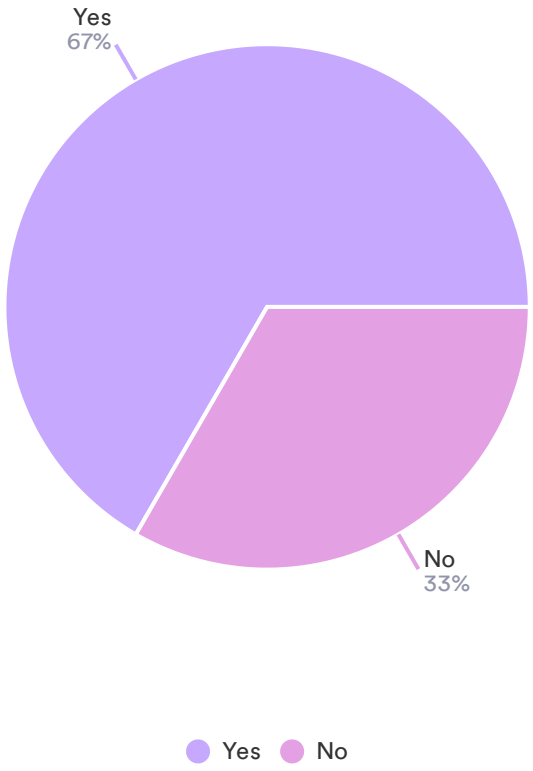

ADA Transition Plan – City Staff Survey (Development Review)

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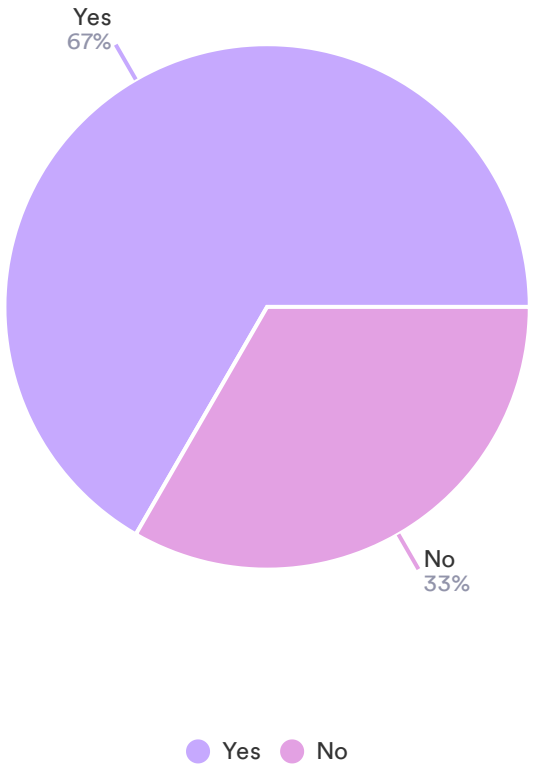

ADA Transition Plan – City Staff Survey (Development Review)

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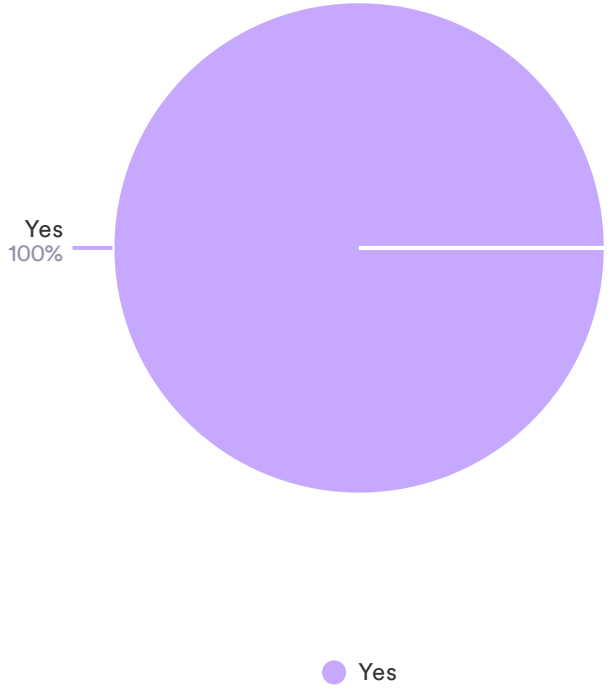
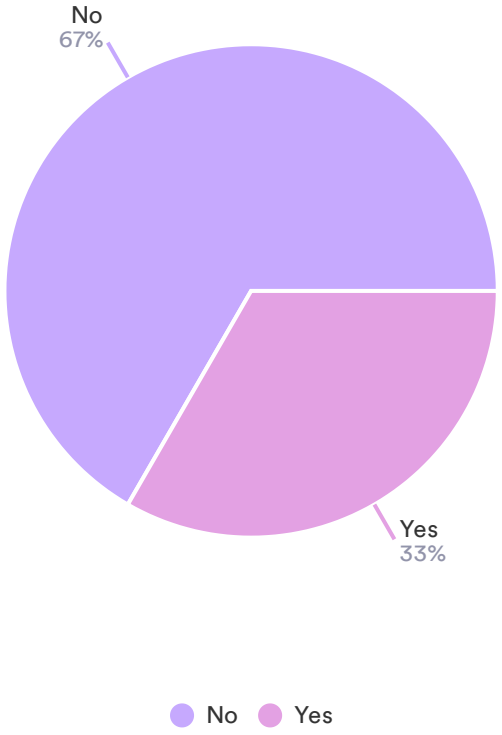


ADA Transition Plan – City Staff Survey (Development Review)

13. Are you aware of gaps in the city's standards and regulations that may prevent someone with a disability from accessing or using city rights-of-way in the future?



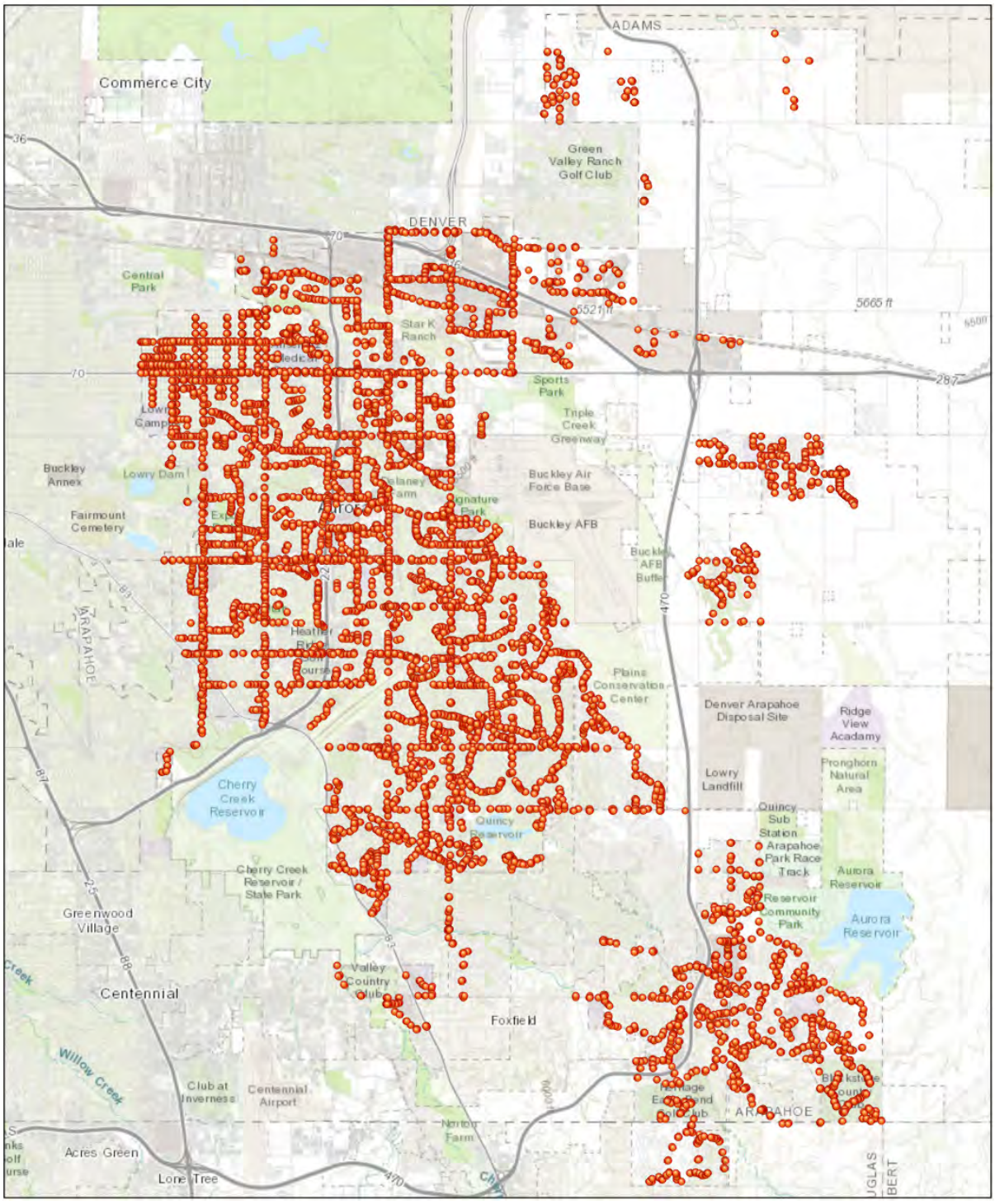
Thank You!

ADA Transition Plan – City Staff Survey (Development Review)

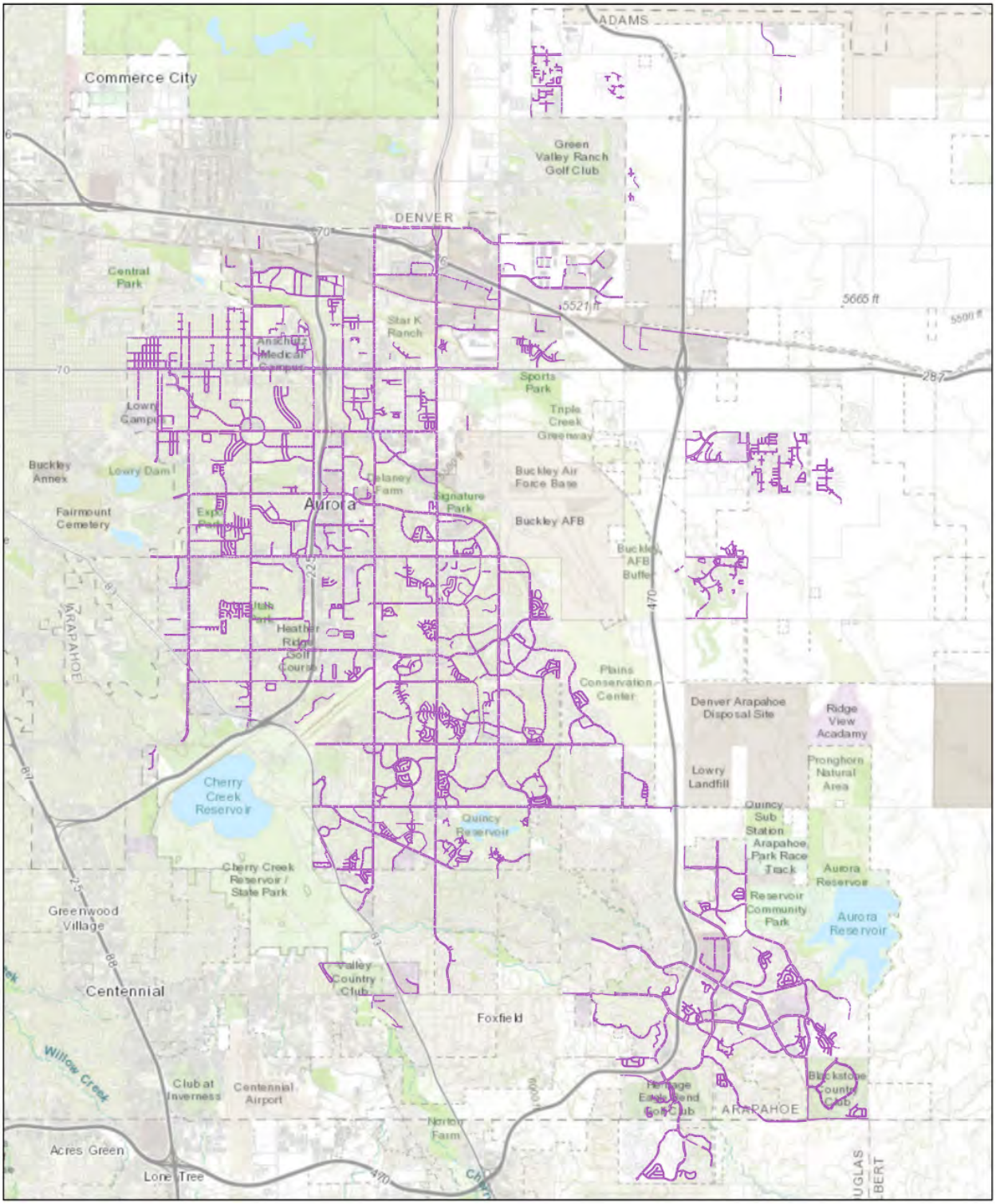
APPENDIX D – INVENTORY OF TRANSPORTATION PEDESTRIAN INFRASTRUCTURE ASSESSED

The city and its consultant assessed 12,233 curb ramps, 278 miles of sidewalk, and 1,931 pedestrian push buttons.

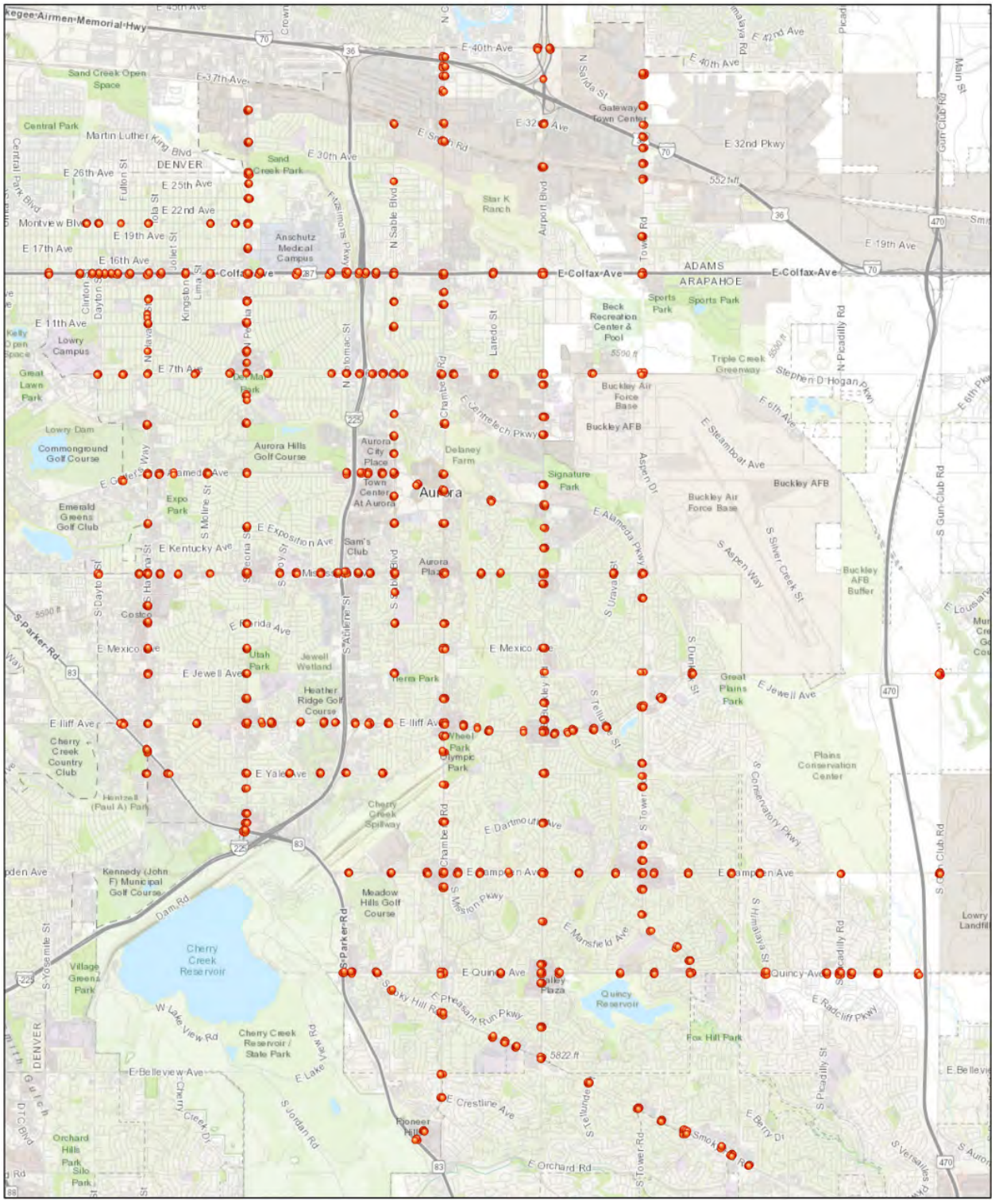
Aurora Benesch Inspected Curb Ramps



Aurora Benesch Inspected Sidewalks



Aurora Benesch Inspected PPB's



APPENDIX E – OVERVIEW TRANSPORTATION PEDESTRIAN INFRASTRUCTURE ASSESSMENT ATTRIBUTES/PARAMETERS

APPENDIX F – PUBLIC ROW INFRASTRUCTURE ASSESSMENT FINDINGS

Pedestrian Push Buttons (PPB):

The city and its consultant identified 1,931 corners where a PPB could exist; generally, this corresponds to one traffic signal pole where one PPB could be provided for each direction of travel (usually two total for a traditional four-leg intersection). At each location, compliance was rated against 16 separate criteria taken from the ADAAG and MUTCD.

Of the 1,931 locations where a PPB was present:

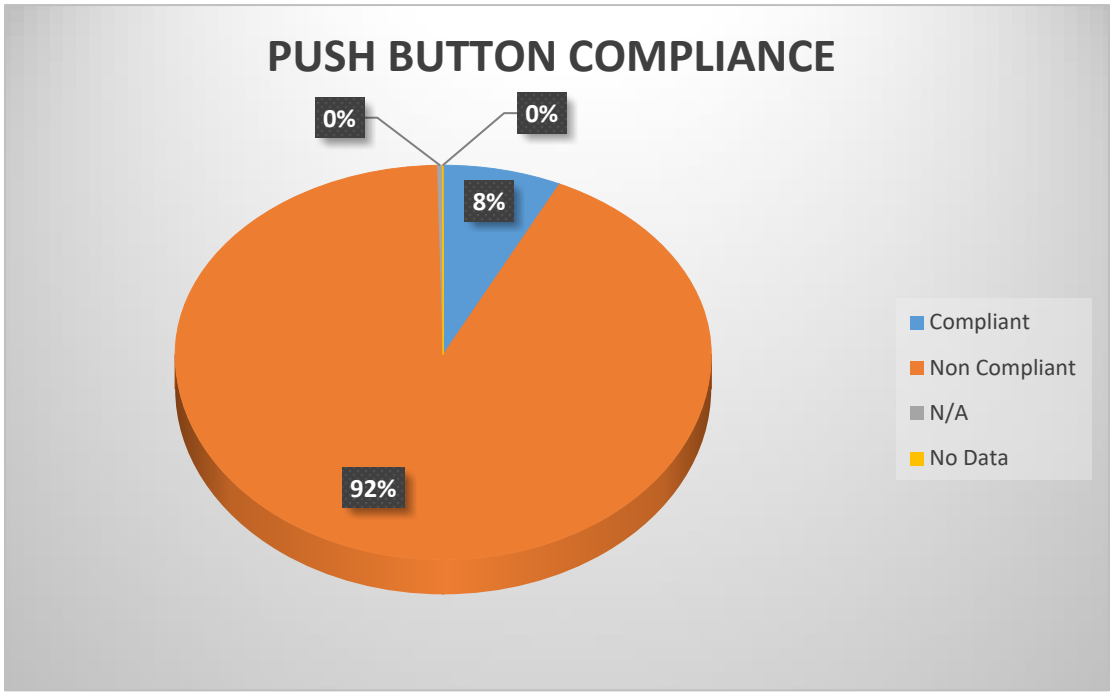


Figure F-1: Summary of Pedestrian Push Button Compliance

Curb Ramps:

The city and its consultant conducted a ROW survey and assessed 12,233 curb ramps. The city installed curb ramps throughout the 1990's after the original ADA rule was adopted, so the assessment considered the possibility that some curb ramps may qualify for Safe Harbor provisions. The following charts and tables summarize the assessment findings.

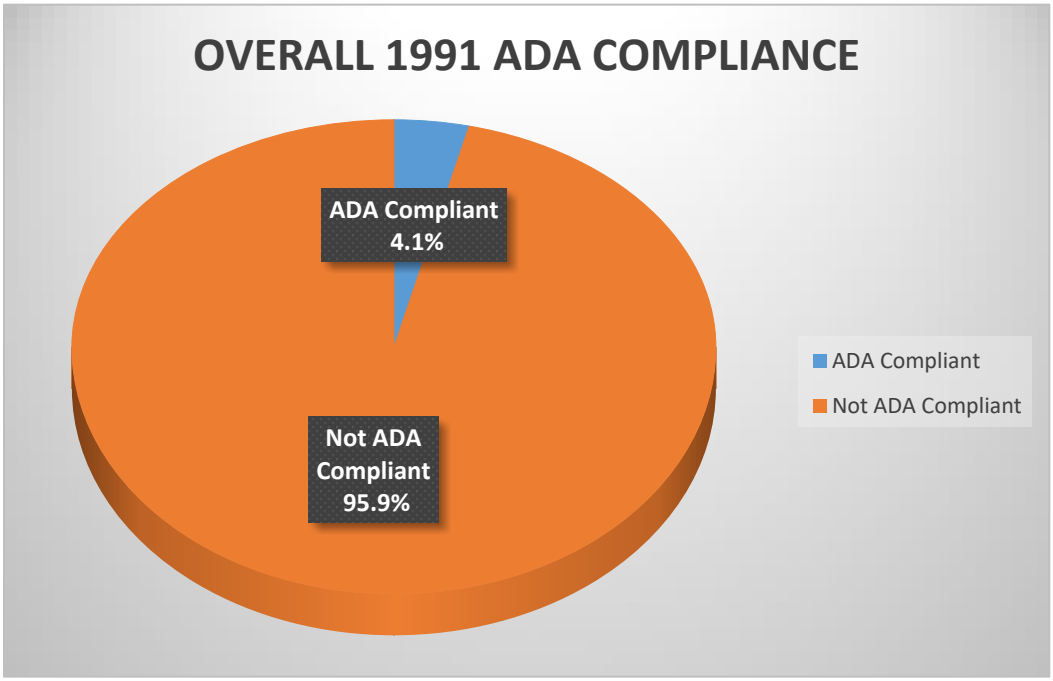


Figure F-2: Summary of Curb Ramp Compliance to 1991 ADAAG Standards

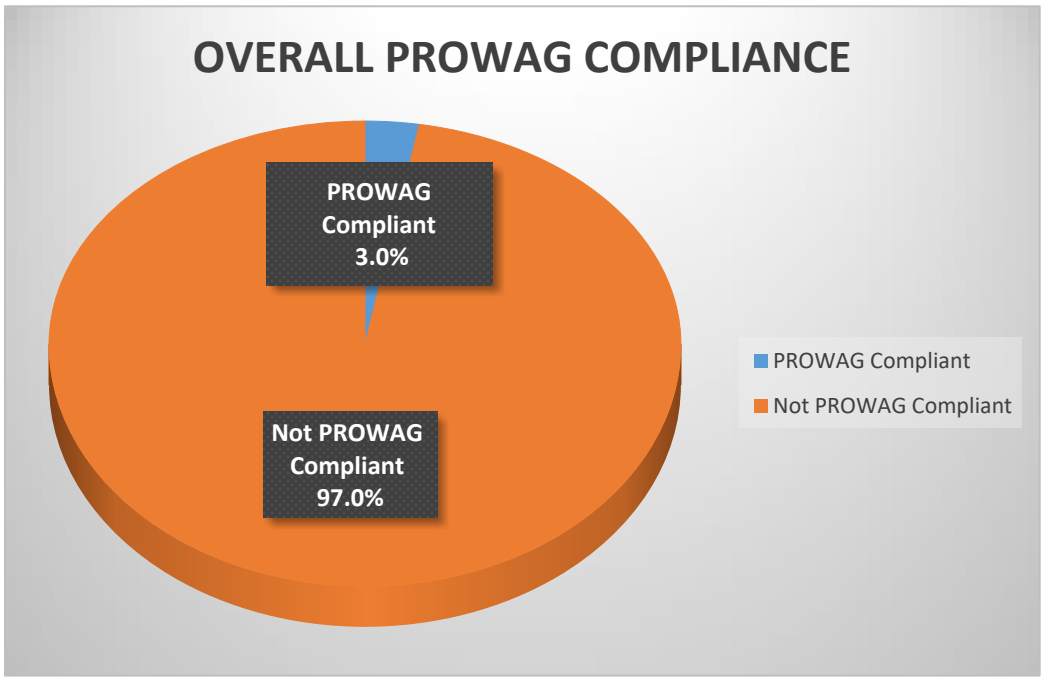


Figure F-3: Summary of Curb Ramp Compliance to PROWAG Standards

Table F-1: Summary of Curb Ramp Locations Assessed

No. of Locations Assessed	
Is there a curb ramp?	**Count**
Present	12104
Not Present	129
Total No. of Ramps	12233

Table F-2: Summary of Assessment Properties

Overall Detectable Warning Surface Properties	Count
Compliant	4775
Non Compliant	7329

*Detectable warning surface properties include: presence, orientation, contrast, and dimensions

Overall Turning Space/Landing Properties	Count
Compliant	2058
Non Compliant	10046

*Turning space landing properties include: slope and dimensions

Other Overall Properties	Count
Compliant	3145
Non Compliant	8959

*Other properties include: clear space, vertical discontinuity, horizontal gaps, and counter slope

Sidewalks:
The city and its consultant conducted a ROW survey and assessed 9,815 sidewalk segments (approximately 278 miles). The city installed sidewalks throughout the 1990's after the original ADA rule was adopted, so the assessment considered the possibility that some sidewalks may qualify for Safe Harbor provisions. The following charts and tables summarize the assessment findings.

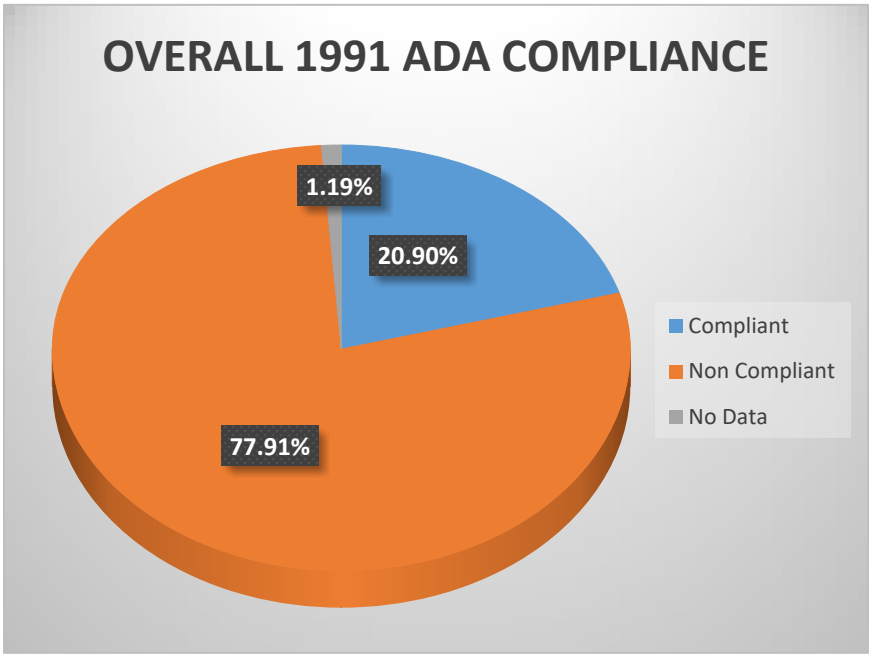


Figure F-4: Summary of Sidewalk Compliance to 1991 ADAAG Standards

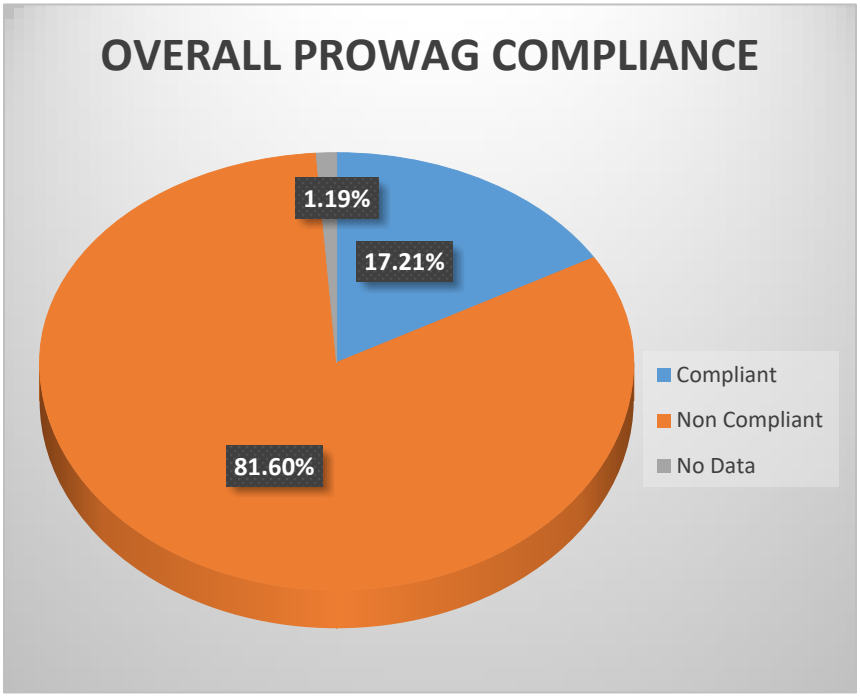


Figure F-5: Summary of Sidewalk Compliance to PROWAG Standards

Table F-3: Summary of Sidewalk Locations Assessed

Sidewalk Width (PROWAG)	
No. of Segments (≥ 48" Wide)	**Count**
Compliant	7760
Non Compliant	1931
No Data	124
Total No. of Segments	**9815**

Table F-4: Summary of Sidewalk Properties

Sidewalk Cross Slope	
Does the cross slope meet stds (≤ 2.0%)?	**Count**
Compliant	3935
Non Compliant (≤ 50%)	1945
Non Compliant (> 50%)	3794
No Data	141
Total No. of Segments	**9815**

Horizontal/Vertical Gaps	
How many Horizonal or Vertical Gaps?	**Count**
Compliant	5531
1 - 5	3816
5 - 10	308
> 10	31
No Data	129
Total No. of Segments	**9815**

Driveway (> 2%) / Obstruction (< 4.0')	
Are Driveways < 2%/Sidewalk remain > 4.0%	**Count**
Compliant	7617
1 - 5	1356
5 - 10	474
> 10	239
No Data	129
Total No. of Segments	**9815**

APPENDIX G – IDENTIFIED BARRIER REMOVAL SCHEDULES

ASSET ELEMENTS	ESTIMATED COST	Year 1	Years 2-5	Years 6-10	Years 11-20	Years 21-50	Years 51-100[1]
Roadway Curb Ramps	$92,000,000	$1,000,000	$4,000,000	$5,750,000	$12,500,000	$37,500,000	$62,500,000
Roadway Sidewalk[1]	$106,225,000	$750,000	$3,000,000	$3,750,000	$7,500,000	$22,500,000	$37,500,000
Pedestrian Push Buttons	$1,775,000	$250,000	$1,000,000	$500,000			
Total	**$200,000,000**	**$2,000,000**	**$8,000,000**	**$10,000,000**	**$20,000,000**	**$60,000,000**	**$100,000,000**
Average Annual Budget - Curb Ramps	$1,000,000	$1,000,000	$1,000,000	$1,150,000	$1,250,000	$1,250,000	$1,250,000
Average Annual Budget - Sidewalk	$750,000	$750,000	$750,000	$750,000	$750,000	$750,000	$750,000
Average Annual Budget - Pedestrian Push Buttons	$250,000	$250,000	$250,000	$100,000			
Average Annual Budget	$2,000,000	$2,000,000	$2,000,000	$2,000,000	$2,000,000	$2,000,000	$2,000,000

NOTE: Estimated costs are based on the scope of assessment summarized in Appendix D.

[1]Annual spending may result in addressing issues prior to end of term.

ASSET ELEMENTS	ESTIMATED COST	Year 1	Years 2-5	Years 6-10	Years 11-20	Years 21-50	Years 51-100[1]	Years 101-150[1]	Years 151-200[1]
Roadway Curb Ramps	$92,000,000	$500,000	$2,000,000	$2,500,000	$7,000,000	$21,000,000	$35,000,000	$35,000,000	$35,000,000
Roadway Sidewalk[1]	$106,225,000	$300,000	$1,200,000	$1,500,000	$3,000,000	$9,000,000	$15,000,000	$15,000,000	$15,000,000
Pedestrian Push Buttons	$1,775,000	$200,000	$800,000	$1,000,000					
Total	**$200,000,000**	**$1,000,000**	**$4,000,000**	**$5,000,000**	**$10,000,000**	**$30,000,000**	**$50,000,000**	**$50,000,000**	**$50,000,000**
Average Annual Budget - Curb Ramps	$500,000	$500,000	$500,000	$500,000	$700,000	$700,000	$700,000	$700,000	$700,000
Average Annual Budget - Sidewalk	$300,000	$300,000	$300,000	$300,000	$300,000	$300,000	$300,000	$300,000	$300,000
Average Annual Budget - Pedestrian Push Buttons	$200,000	$200,000	$200,000	$200,000					
Average Annual Budget	$1,000,000	$1,000,000	$1,000,000	$1,000,000	$1,000,000	$1,000,000	$1,000,000	$1,000,000	$1,000,000

NOTE: Estimated costs are based on the scope of assessment summarized in Appendix D.

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ASSET ELEMENTS	ESTIMATED COST	Year 1	Years 2-5	Years 6-10	Years 11-20	Years 21-50	Years 51-100[1]	Years 101-200[1]	Years 201-300[1]	Years 301-400[1]
Roadway Curb Ramps	$92,000,000	$300,000	$1,200,000	$1,500,000	$3,000,000	$9,750,000	$17,500,000	$35,000,000	$35,000,000	$35,000,000
Roadway Sidewalk[1]	$106,225,000	$150,000	$600,000	$750,000	$1,500,000	$4,500,000	$7,500,000	$15,000,000	$15,000,000	$15,000,000
Pedestrian Push Buttons	$1,775,000	$50,000	$200,000	$250,000	$500,000	$750,000				
Total	**$200,000,000**	**$500,000**	**$2,000,000**	**$2,500,000**	**$5,000,000**	**$15,000,000**	**$25,000,000**	**$50,000,000**	**$50,000,000**	**$50,000,000**
Average Annual Budget - Curb Ramps	$300,000	$300,000	$300,000	$300,000	$300,000	$325,000	$350,000	$350,000	$350,000	$350,000
Average Annual Budget - Sidewalk	$150,000	$150,000	$150,000	$150,000	$150,000	$150,000	$150,000	$150,000	$150,000	$150,000
Average Annual Budget - Pedestrian Push Buttons	$50,000	$50,000	$50,000	$50,000	$50,000	$25,000				
Average Annual Budget	$500,000	$500,000	$500,000	$500,000	$500,000	$500,000	$500,000	$500,000	$500,000	$500,000

NOTE: Estimated costs are based on the scope of assessment summarized in Appendix D.

[1]Annual spending may result in addressing issues prior to end of term.

APPENDIX H – LIST OF STANDARD DRAWINGS, SPECIFICATIONS, AND DESIGN GUIDANCE RELATED TO ACCESSIBILITY

The following are a list of standard drawings, specifications, and design guidelines related to accessibility. This list does not establish order of precedence or minimum design standards for Aurora, nor is it intended to be all encompassing, but rather is provided as a reference for individuals trying to achieve accessibility through design or construction.

Aurora Standards and Specifications.
Roadway Manual 2025.pdf

Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) ADA Resources for Engineers.
https://www.codot.gov/business/civilrights/ada/resources-engineers

International Building Code (IBC), 2009 Edition, Chapter 11. Published by the International Code Council (ICC).

U.S. Access Board. *Guidance Documents. (commonly referenced documents shown)*
https://www.access-board.gov/guidance.html
Guidance on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Accessibility Standards
Guidance on Recreation Facilities
Guidance on the Architectural Barriers Act (ABA) Accessibility Standards
Animations on the ADA and ABA Standards
Guidance on the ADA Accessibility Guidelines for Transportation Vehicles

Architectural Barriers Act (ABA) Standards. *Accessibility Standards.*
https://www.access-board.gov/aba/

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Standards. *2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design.*
https://www.access-board.gov/ada/

U.S. Access Board. *(Proposed) Public Right-of-way Accessibility Guidelines.*
https://www.access-board.gov/prowag/

Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards (UFAS).
https://www.access-board.gov/aba/ufas.html

American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO).
Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities (2012).

Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) for Streets and Highways.
https://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/

National Center on Accessibility. https://ncaonline.org

Rocky Mountain ADA Center. https://www.rockymountainada.org

APPENDIX I – SAMPLE REVIEW AND INSPECTION CHECKLISTS

SAMPLE

Development Plan Review Checklist
ADA Compliance

Description	Yes	No	N/A	Comments
Accessible Parking Areas				
Accessible parking stall/aisle cross-slopes less than 2% in all directions	☐	☐	☐	
Correct number of accessible parking stalls provided	☐	☐	☐	
Accessible parking aisle widths				
5' minimum for car spots	☐	☐	☐	
8' minimum for van spots	☐	☐	☐	
Signage provided	☐	☐	☐	
Van stalls				
One van stall provided for every six accessible stalls	☐	☐	☐	
Curb Ramps				
Ramps provided along the accessible pedestrian route	☐	☐	☐	
Correct ramp selected (see City/CDOT standard details)	☐	☐	☐	
Base of ramp free of parallel vehicle traffic	☐	☐	☐	
Gutter counter slope less than 5%	☐	☐	☐	
Ramp width greater than or equal to 4'	☐	☐	☐	
Ramp cross-slope less than 2%	☐	☐	☐	
Running slope of ramp less than 8.3%	☐	☐	☐	
If flared sides provided, running slope less than 10%	☐	☐	☐	
Truncated domes	☐	☐	☐	
Prefabricated domes specified	☐	☐	☐	
Prefabricated domes have contrasting color	☐	☐	☐	

Dome panel is 2' long and full width of ramp	☐	☐	☐	
Landing	☐	☐	☐	
Minimum 4' x 4' provided (5' x 4' if vertical obstruction exists)	☐	☐	☐	
Cross-slope less than 2%	☐	☐	☐	
Sidewalks				
Accessible pedestrian route to all services/amenities	☐	☐	☐	
Running slope consistent with adjacent street (if parallel)	☐	☐	☐	
Running slope less than 5% (if not parallel)	☐	☐	☐	
Width greater than or equal to 5'	☐	☐	☐	
Clear of obstructions	☐	☐	☐	
Cross-slope less than 2%	☐	☐	☐	
Driveway crossing cross-slope less than 2%	☐	☐	☐	
Adjacent sign post offset and sign height provides minimum horizontal and vertical clearance	☐	☐	☐	
Minimum offset from sidewalk provided for new tree plantings	☐	☐	☐	

SAMPLE

Inspection Checklist
ADA Compliance

Description	Yes	No	N/A	Comments
Accessible Parking Areas				
Are accessible parking stall/aisle cross-slopes less than 2% in all directions?	☐	☐	☐	
Are correct number of stalls provided, per design plan?	☐	☐	☐	
Are accessible parking aisles provided, per design plan?	☐	☐	☐	
Are accessible parking aisle widths provided, per design plan?	☐	☐	☐	
Are car stall aisles 5' minimum width?	☐	☐	☐	
Are van stall aisles 8' minimum width?	☐	☐	☐	
Is signage provided, per design plan?	☐	☐	☐	
Are correct number of van stalls provided, per design plan?	☐	☐	☐	
Curb Ramps				
Are ramps provided along the accessible pedestrian route?	☐	☐	☐	
Are constructed ramp consistent with approved design plan?	☐	☐	☐	
Are bases of ramps free of parallel vehicle traffic?	☐	☐	☐	
Are gutter counter slope less than 5%?	☐	☐	☐	
Are ramp widths greater than or equal to 4'?	☐	☐	☐	
Are ramp cross-slopes less than 2%?	☐	☐	☐	
Are running slopes of ramps less than 8.3%?	☐	☐	☐	
If flared sides provided, are running slope less than 10%?	☐	☐	☐	

Truncated domes			
Are prefabricated domes installed?	☐	☐	☐
Do prefabricated domes have contrasting color?	☐	☐	☐
Are dome panels 2' long and full width of ramps?	☐	☐	☐
Landing			
Are landings provided?	☐	☐	☐
Is minimum 4' x 4' provided? (5' x 4' if vertical obstruction exists)	☐	☐	☐
Are cross-slopes less than 2% in all directions?	☐	☐	☐
Sidewalks			
Are accessible pedestrian routes provided to all services/amenities, per design plan?	☐	☐	☐
Are running slopes consistent with adjacent street (if parallel)?	☐	☐	☐
Are running slopes less than 5% (if not parallel)?	☐	☐	☐
Are widths greater than or equal to 5'?	☐	☐	☐
Are sidewalks clear of obstructions?	☐	☐	☐
Are sidewalks free of vertical and horizontal differences greater than 0.5"?	☐	☐	☐
Are cross-slopes less than 2%?	☐	☐	☐
Are driveway crossing cross-slopes less than 2%?	☐	☐	☐
Are adjacent sign post offsets and sign heights providing minimum horizontal and vertical clearance?	☐	☐	☐
Are minimum offsets from sidewalk for new tree plantings per design plan?	☐	☐	☐

APPENDIX J – DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION EXCEPTION FORM

CITY OF AURORA

Statement of Fundamental Change or Undue Burden – Service, Program or Activity

The Federal Regulations issued under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act require that each service, program or activity operated by the City be readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities unless the action required to create such accessibility would result in fundamental alteration in the nature of a service, program or activity or in undue financial and administrative burdens. If an action would result in such an alteration or such burdens, a public entity shall take any other action that would not result in such an alteration or such burdens but would nevertheless ensure that individuals with disabilities receive the benefits or services provided by the City. (*See* 28 CFR §35.150(a)(3).)

Where an action has been proposed in order to make a City-offered service, program or activity more accessible or usable by individuals with disabilities, but it has been determined that the proposed action would result in fundamental alteration in the nature of a service, program or activity or in undue financial and administrative burdens, this form should be completed and a copy of the complete, fully-signed form should be submitted to the Aurora ADA Coordinator.

Description of City service, program or activity: _____

_____

_____

Description of action requested for increased accessibility: _____

_____

Reason(s) that requested action would result in a fundamental alteration to the service, program, or activity or undue financial or administration burden to the City: _____

_____

_____

_____

Description of measures taken to ensure individuals with disabilities receive the benefits and services provided by the city: _____

_____

I hereby certify that (a) the above-described action has been determined to constitute a fundamental alteration or burden, and (b) the City has taken or will take actions to ensure that individuals with disabilities receive City benefits or services:	
PROGRAM COORDINATOR OR DEPT. HEAD	**CITY MANAGER OR DESIGNEE**
Name:	Name:
Title:	Title:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

_____

City Attorney

CITY OF AURORA

Statement of Structural Impracticability – New Construction

The Federal Regulations issued under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act require that, when constructing a new facility, full compliance with ADA requirements is not required where a public entity can demonstrate that it is **structurally impracticable** to meet such requirements due to the unique characteristics of the terrain, which prevent the incorporation of accessibility features. (*See* 28 CFR §35.151(a)(2).)

Where, in connection with a new construction project, a determination has been made that a City building or facility cannot be constructed to be in full and strict compliance with ADA requirements because of existing unique characteristics of the terrain, this form should be completed and a copy of the complete, fully-signed form should be submitted to the Aurora ADA Coordinator.

Project Name: _____

Project Number:_____

Brief description of new construction project: _____

_____

_____

Element of project at issue: _____

Reason(s) that element cannot be built so as to be in strict compliance with current ADA requirements (attach design drawings, plans or additional sheets as necessary): _____

_____

_____

Description of measures taken to ensure building or facility complies with ADA requirements to the maximum extent feasible: _____

_____

I hereby certify that I have made a good faith determination that the above-described element has been designed to comply with ADA requirements to the maximum extent feasible:	
ENGINEER	**DEPARTMENT HEAD**
Name:	Name:
Title/License No.:	Title:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

_____

City Attorney

CITY OF AURORA

Statement of Technical Infeasibility or Disproportionality – Alterations

The Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) state that in alterations, where compliance with applicable requirements is **technically infeasible**, the alteration shall comply with the requirements to the maximum extent feasible. (*See* 36 CFR part 1191, Appendix B, §202.3, exception 2.) "Technically infeasible" is defined as: "with respect to an alteration of a building or a facility, something that has little likelihood of being accomplished because of existing structural conditions would require removing or altering a loadbearing member that is an essential part of the structural frame; or because other existing physical or site constraints prohibit modification or addition of elements, spaces, or features that are in full and strict compliance with the minimum requirements." (*See* 36 CFR part 1191, Appendix B, §106.5)

The Federal Regulations issued under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act require that, when a facility or part of a facility is altered, the facility shall, to the maximum extent feasible, be altered so that it is readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities. (*See* 28 CFR 35.151(b)(4).) An alteration That could affect access to an area of a **facility that contains a primary function** shall be made so as to ensure that, to the maximum extent feasible, the **path of travel to the altered area** and the restrooms, telephones and drinking fountains serving the altered area are readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities, unless the cost and scope of such alterations is **disproportionate** to the cost of the overall alteration. In this case, accessibility alterations will be deemed disproportionate to the overall alteration when cost exceeds 20% of the cost of the alteration to the primary function are. A "primary function" is defined as a major activity for which the facility is intended. (*See* 28 CFR 35.151(b)(4).)

Where, in connection with a proposed or current alteration project, a determination has been made that a City building or facility cannot be altered to be in full and strict compliance with ADA requirements because of existing structural, physical or site conditions or disproportionality, this form should be completed and a copy of the complete, fully-signed form should be submitted to the Aurora ADA Coordinator.

CITY OF AURORA

Statement of Technical Infeasibility or Disproportionality – Alterations

Project Name: _____

Project Number:_____

Brief Description of Alteration Project: _____

_____

_____

Element of project that has been deemed technically infeasible or disproportionately expensive:

_____

_____

If deemed *technically infeasible*, list reason(s) that elements cannot be in strict compliance with ADA requirements (attach design drawings, plans or additional sheets as necessary): _____

_____

_____

If deemed *disproportionately expensive*, **attach** calculations showing estimated cost of overall alteration project and estimated cost of accessibility (for path of travel to primary function area). List descriptions of measures taken to ensure building or facility complies with ADA accessibility requirements to the maximum extent feasible: _____

_____

_____

I hereby certify that I have made a good faith determination that the above-described element does, or has been designed to, comply with ADA requirements to the maximum extent feasible and/or the maximum extent possible in proportion to the cost of the overall alteration project, as indicated above:

ENGINEER	**DEPARTMENT HEAD**
Name:	Name:
Title/License No.:	Title:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

_____

City Attorney

APPENDIX K – PUBLIC OUTREACH MATERIALS AND RESULTS

ADA Transition Plan Update

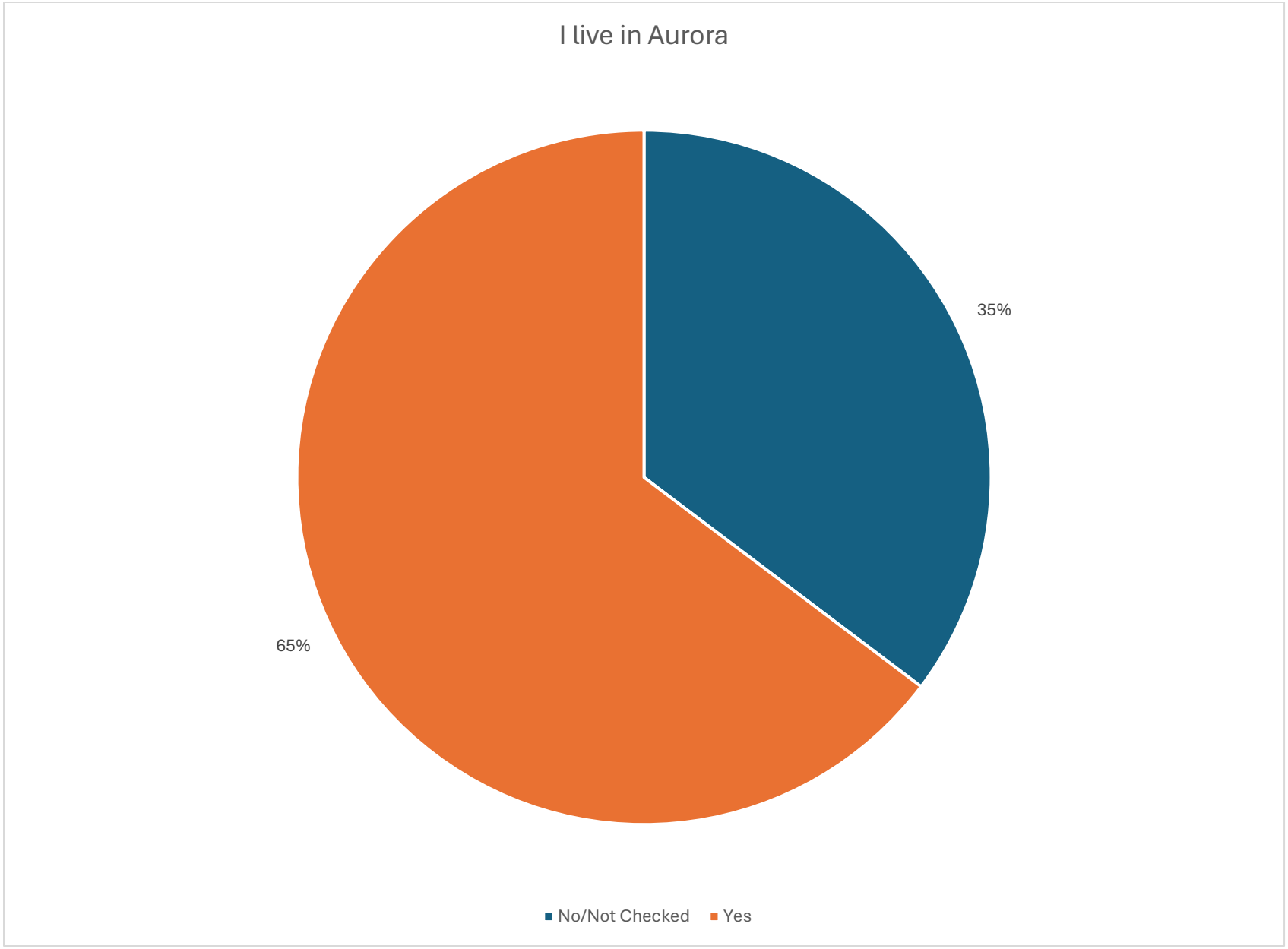
City of Aurora

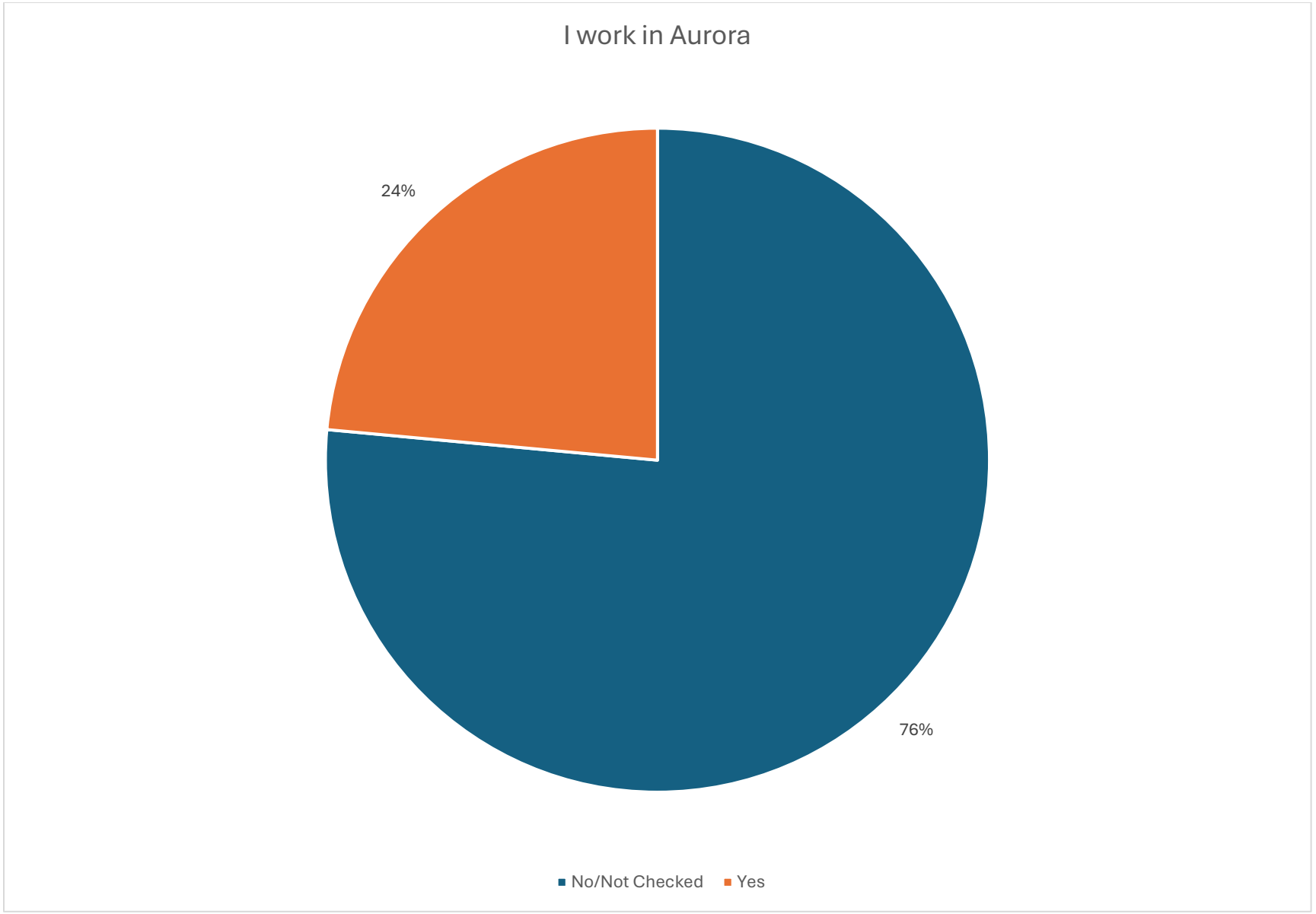
External Public Survey Data

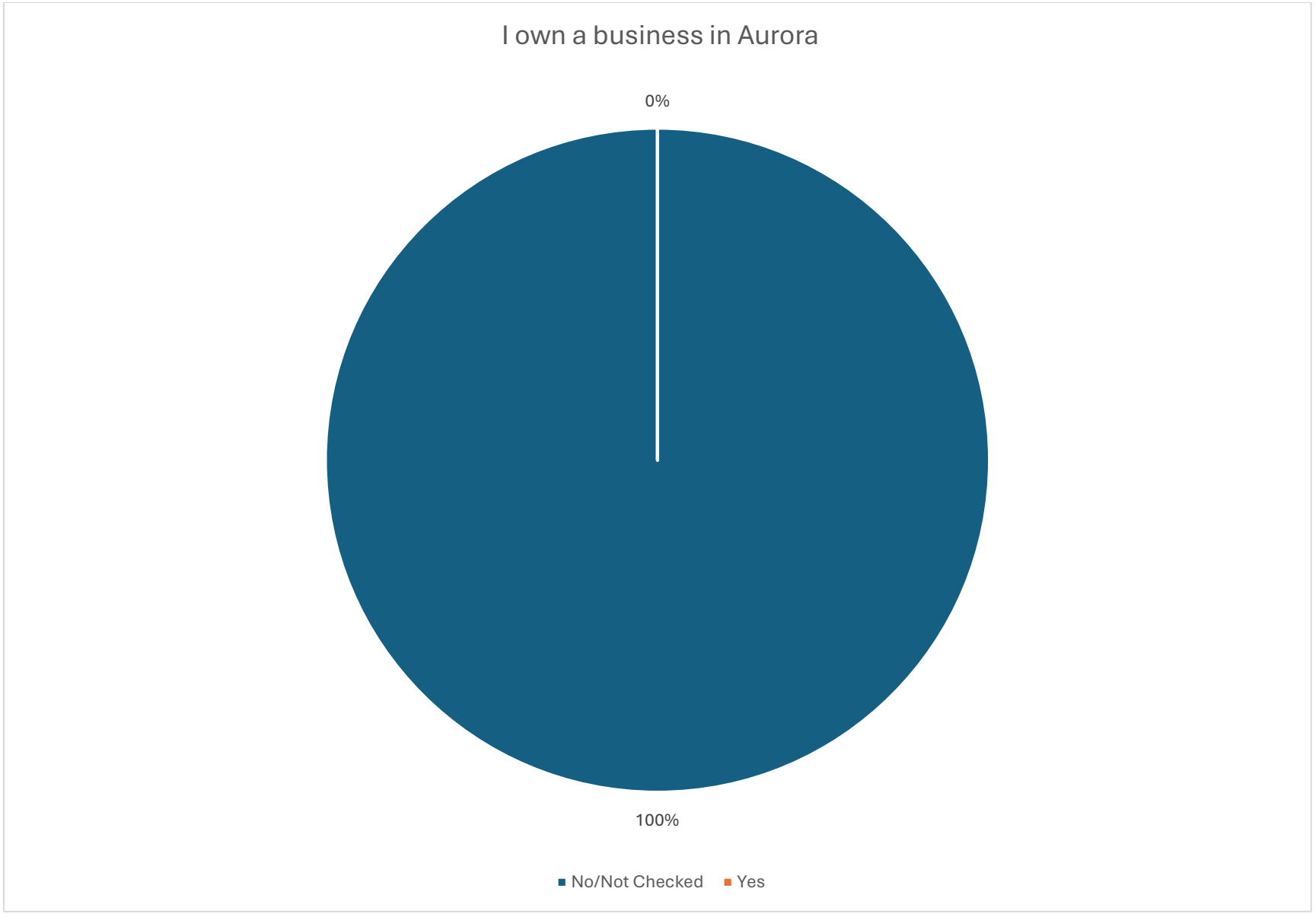
Alfred Benesch & Company

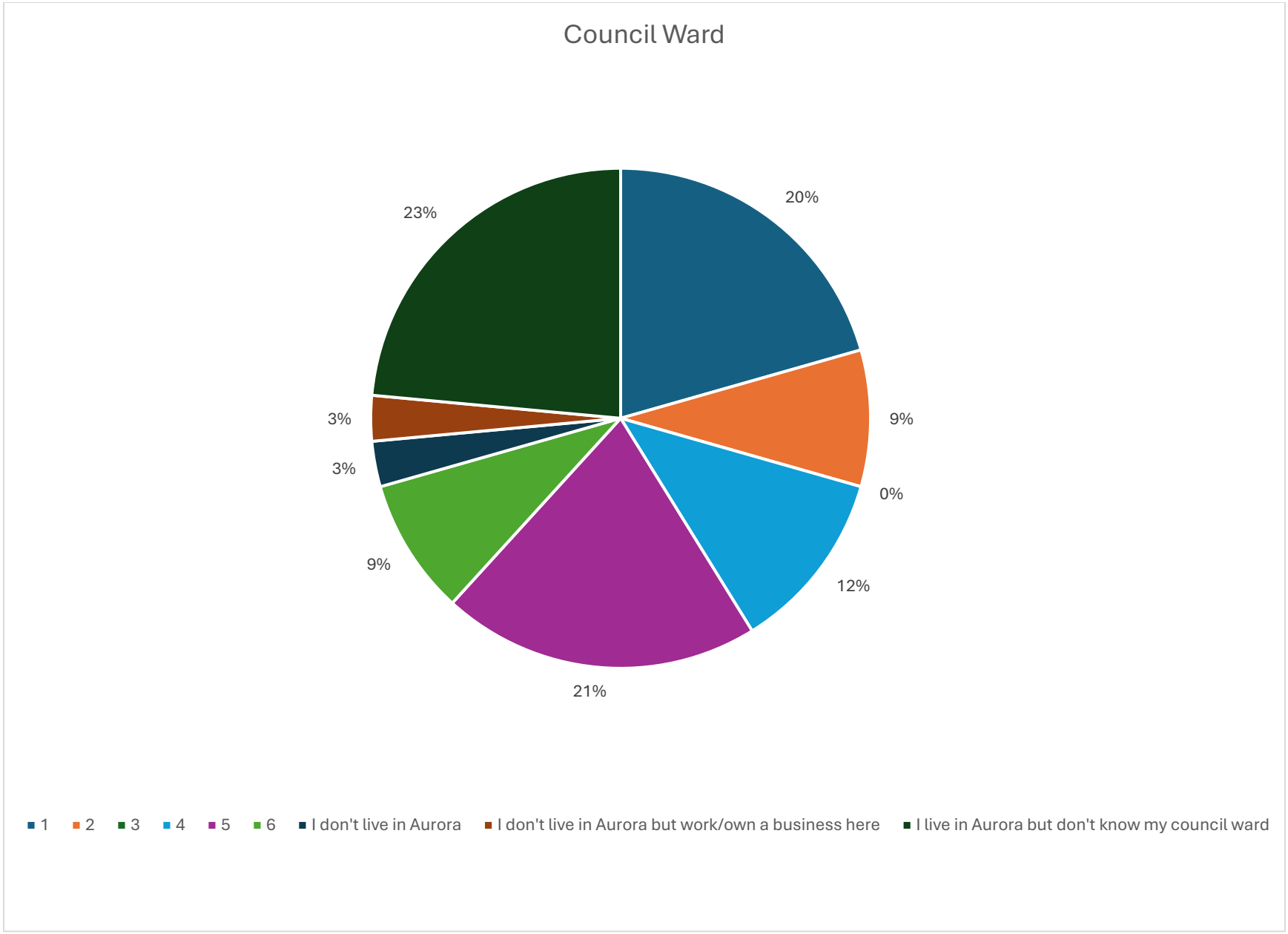
January 2024

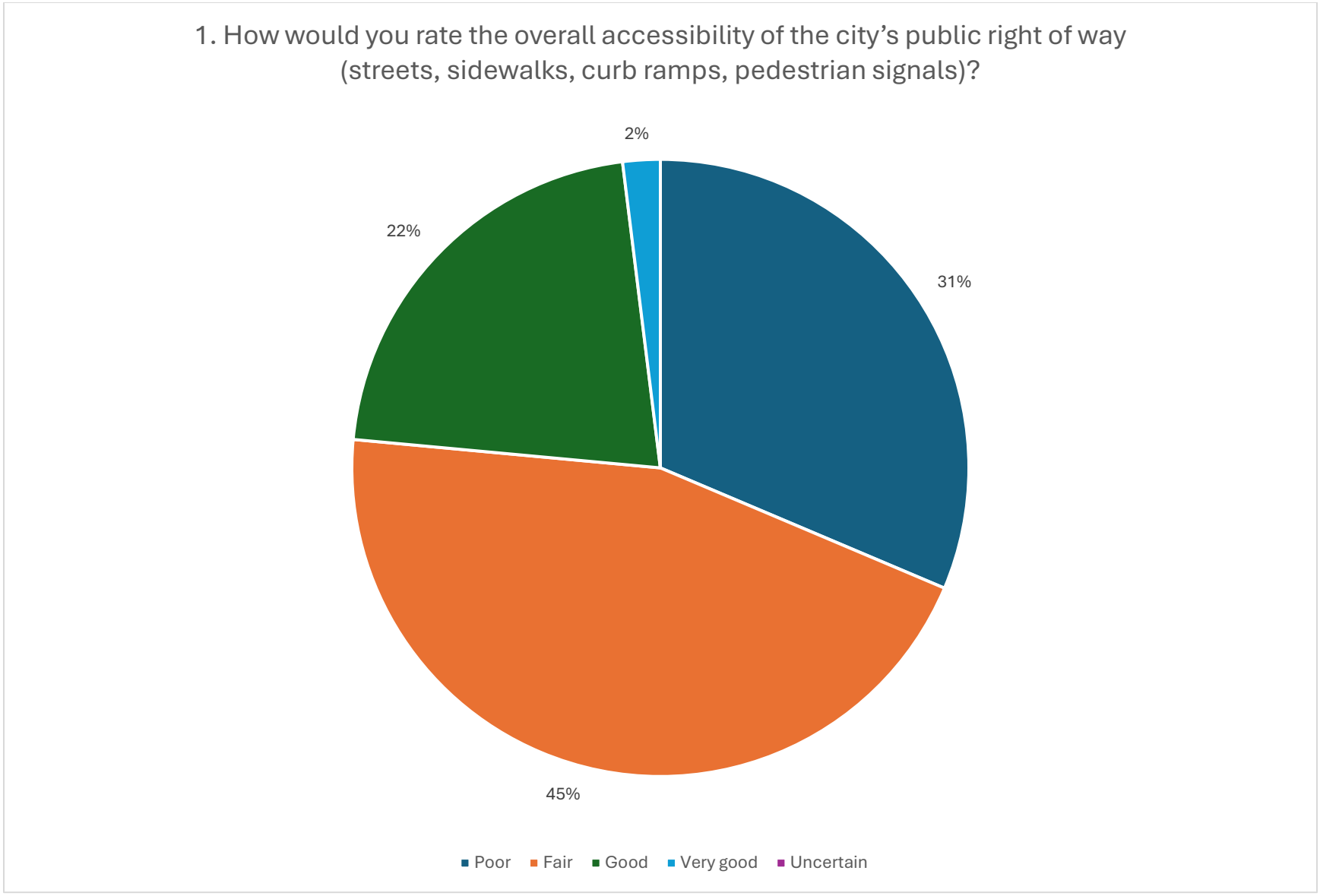
benesch

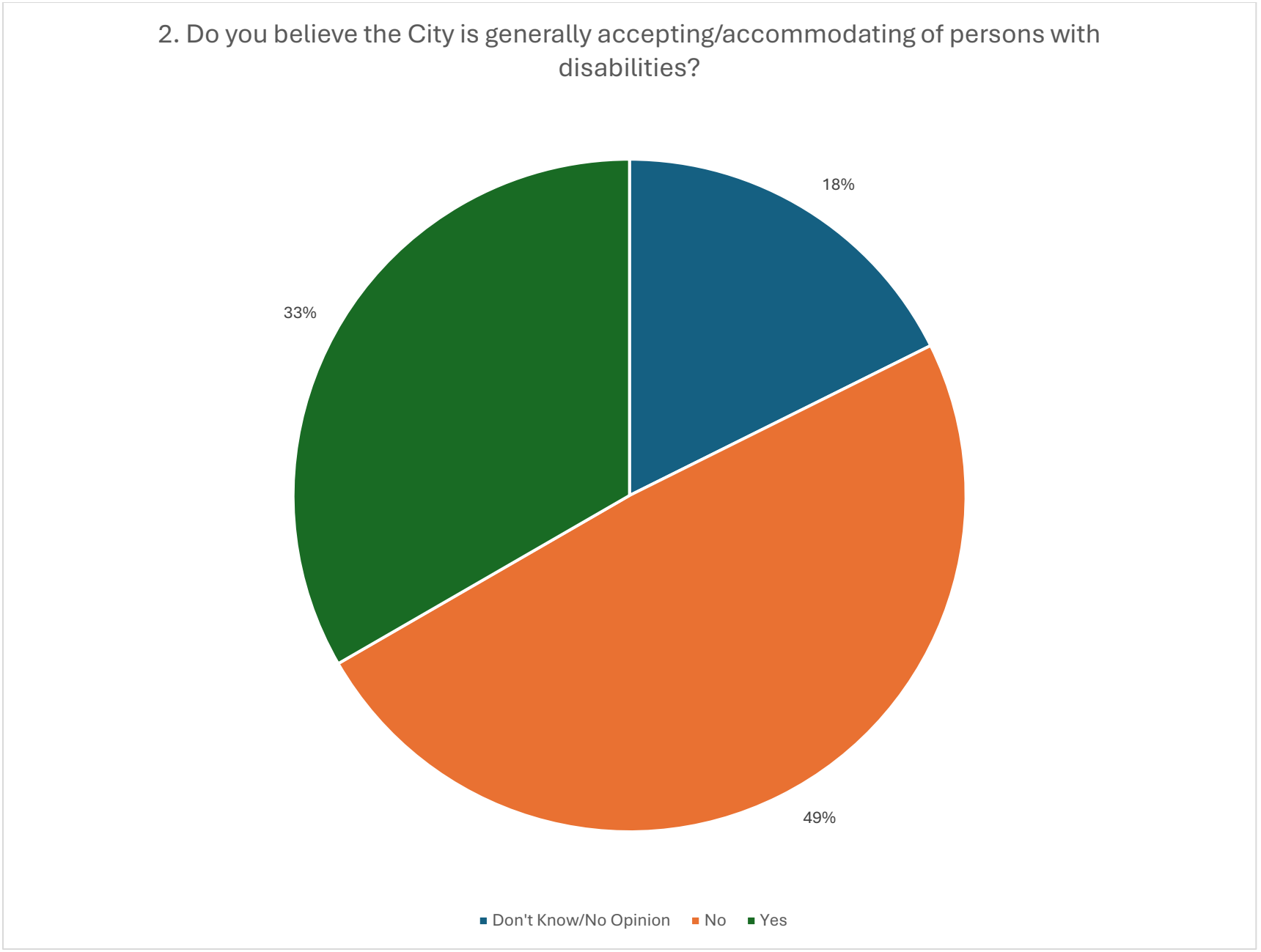

I live in Aurora
35%
65%
No/Not Checked
Yes

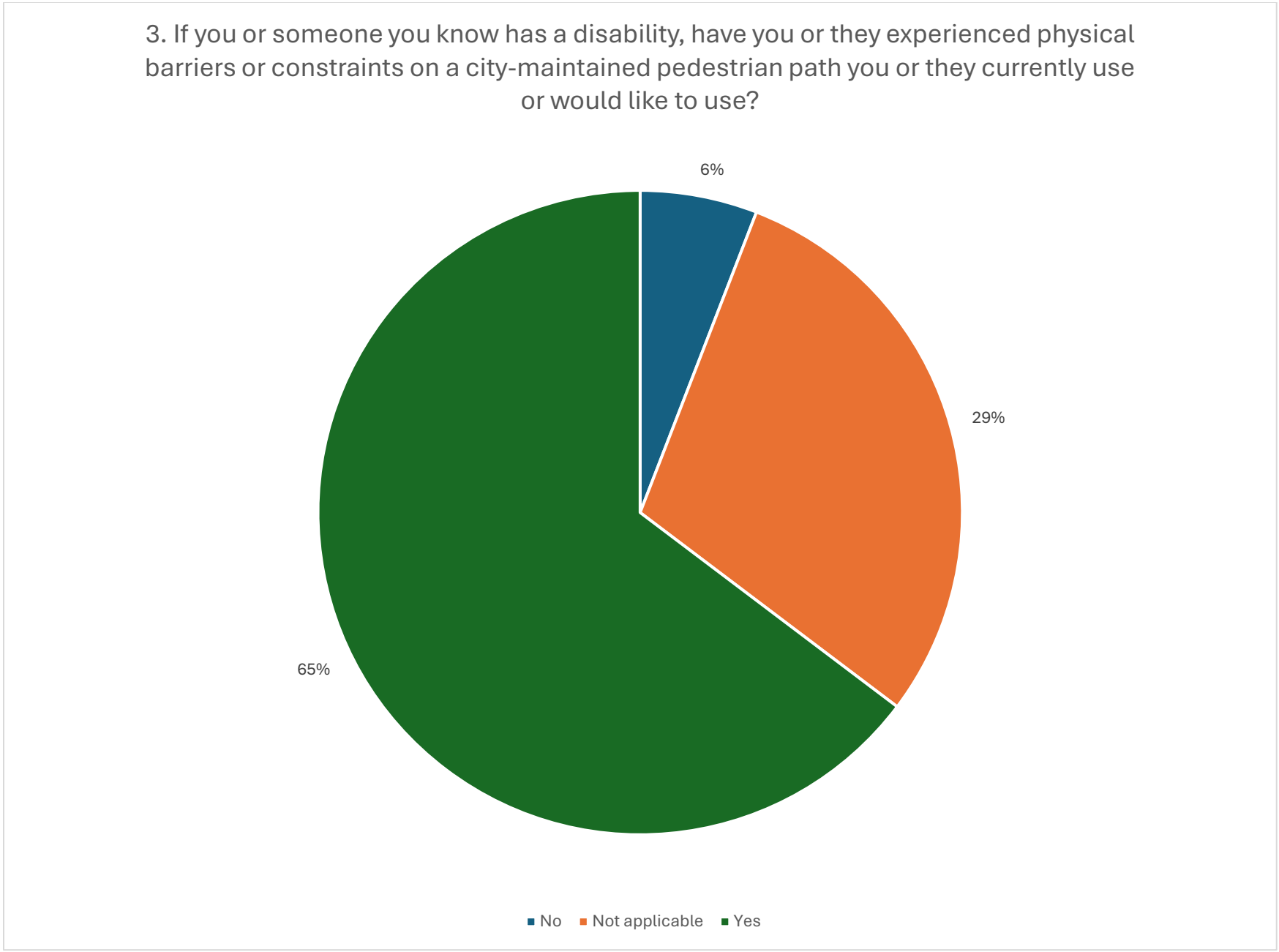

I work in Aurora
24%
76%
No/Not Checked
Yes

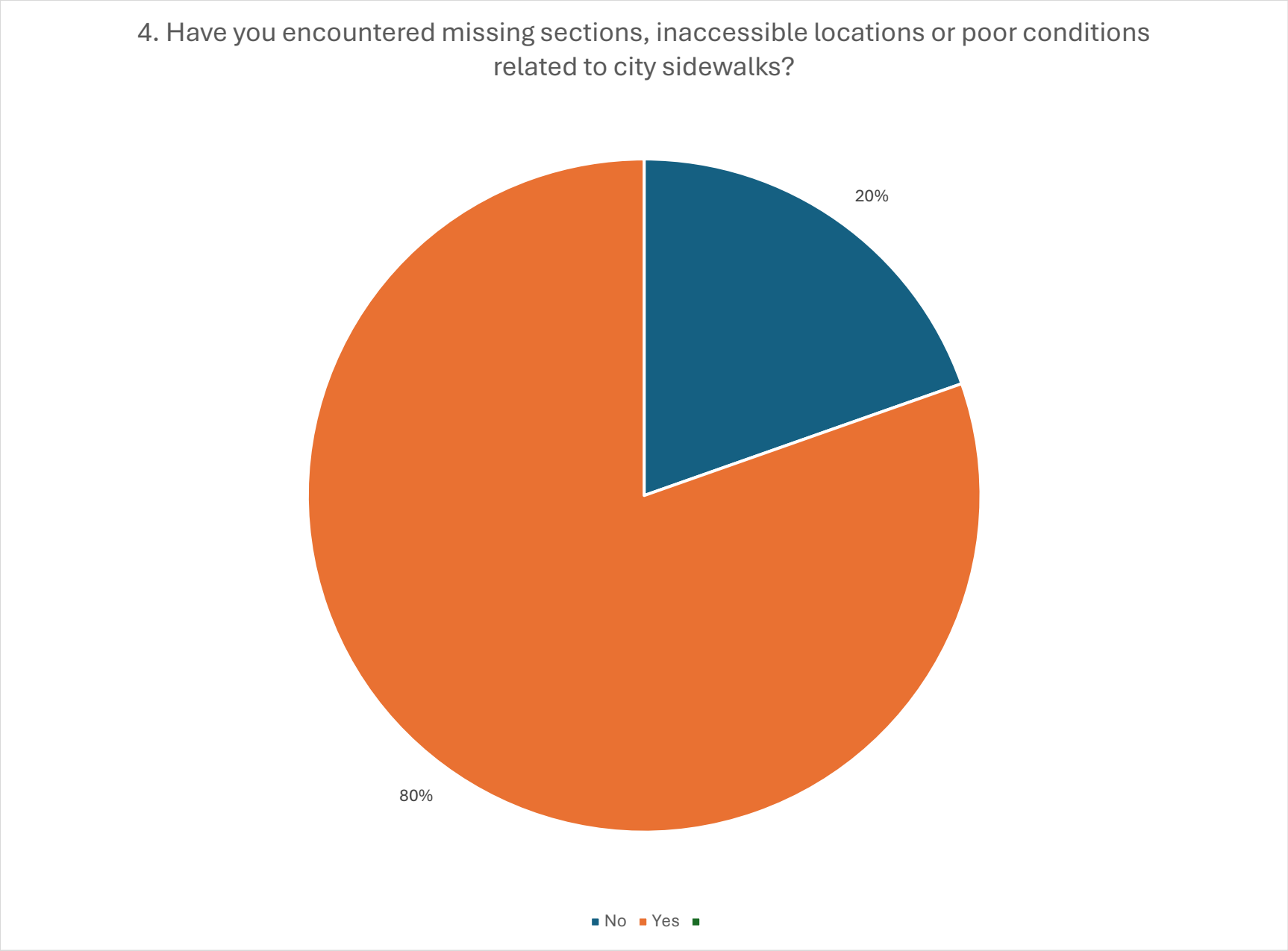

I own a business in Aurora
0%
100%
No/Not Checked
Yes

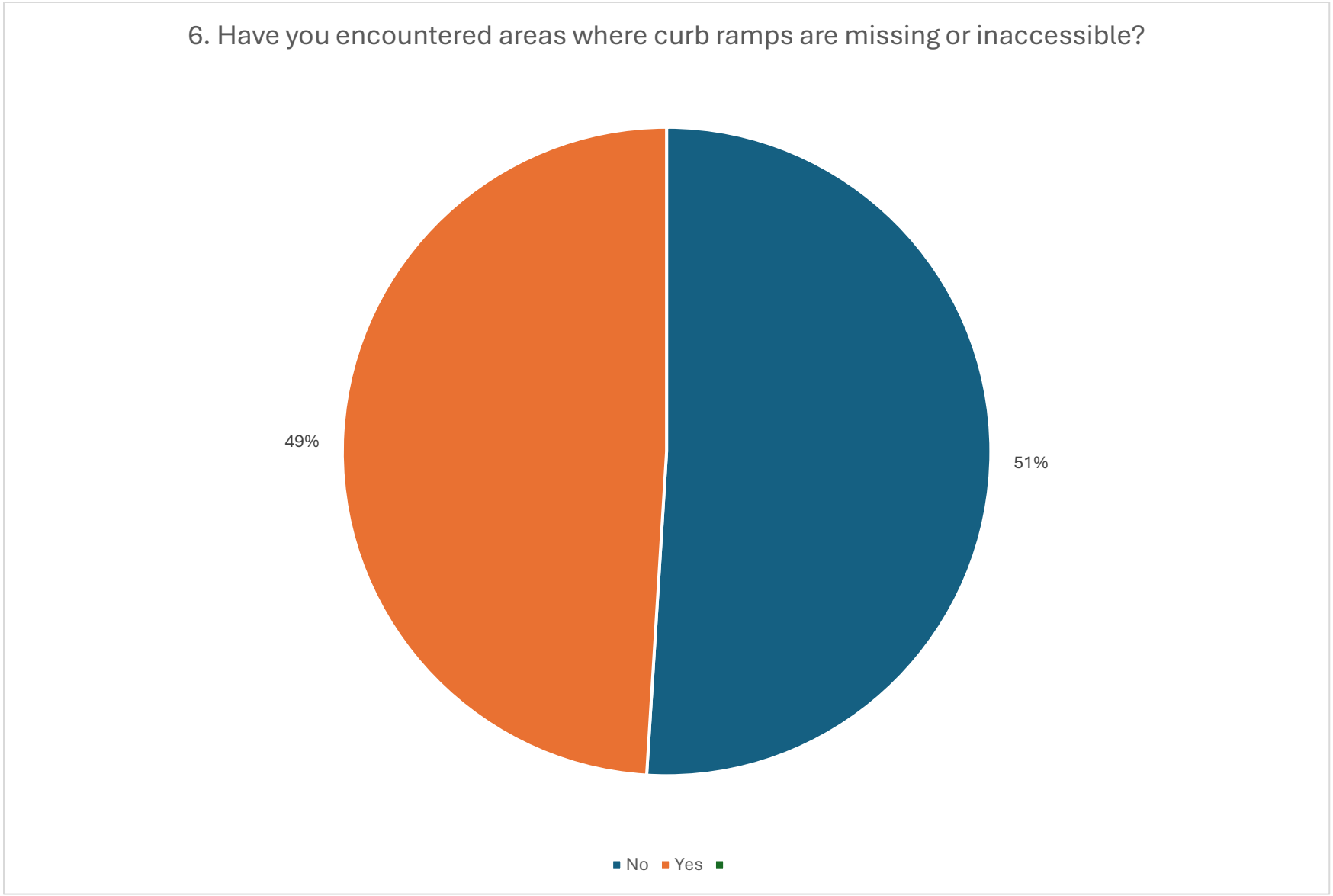

Council Ward
20%
9%
0%
12%
21%
9%
3%
3%
23%
1
2
3
4
5
6
I don't live in Aurora
I don't live in Aurora but work/own a business here
I live in Aurora but don't know my council ward


1. How would you rate the overall accessibility of the city's public right of way (streets, sidewalks, curb ramps, pedestrian signals)?
2%
22%
31%
45%
Poor
Fair
Good
Very good
Uncertain

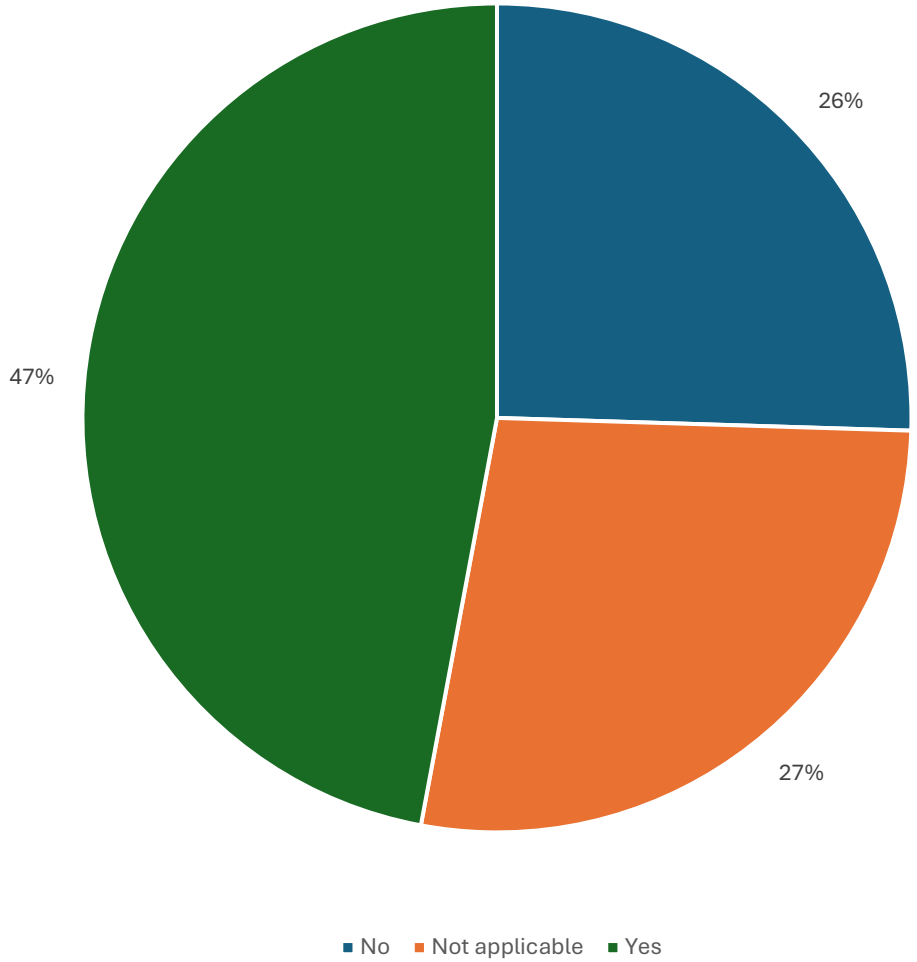

2. Do you believe the City is generally accepting/accommodating of persons with disabilities?
18%
33%
49%
Don't Know/No Opinion
No
Yes


3. If you or someone you know has a disability, have you or they experienced physical barriers or constraints on a city-maintained pedestrian path you or they currently use or would like to use?
6%
29%
65%
No
Not applicable
Yes

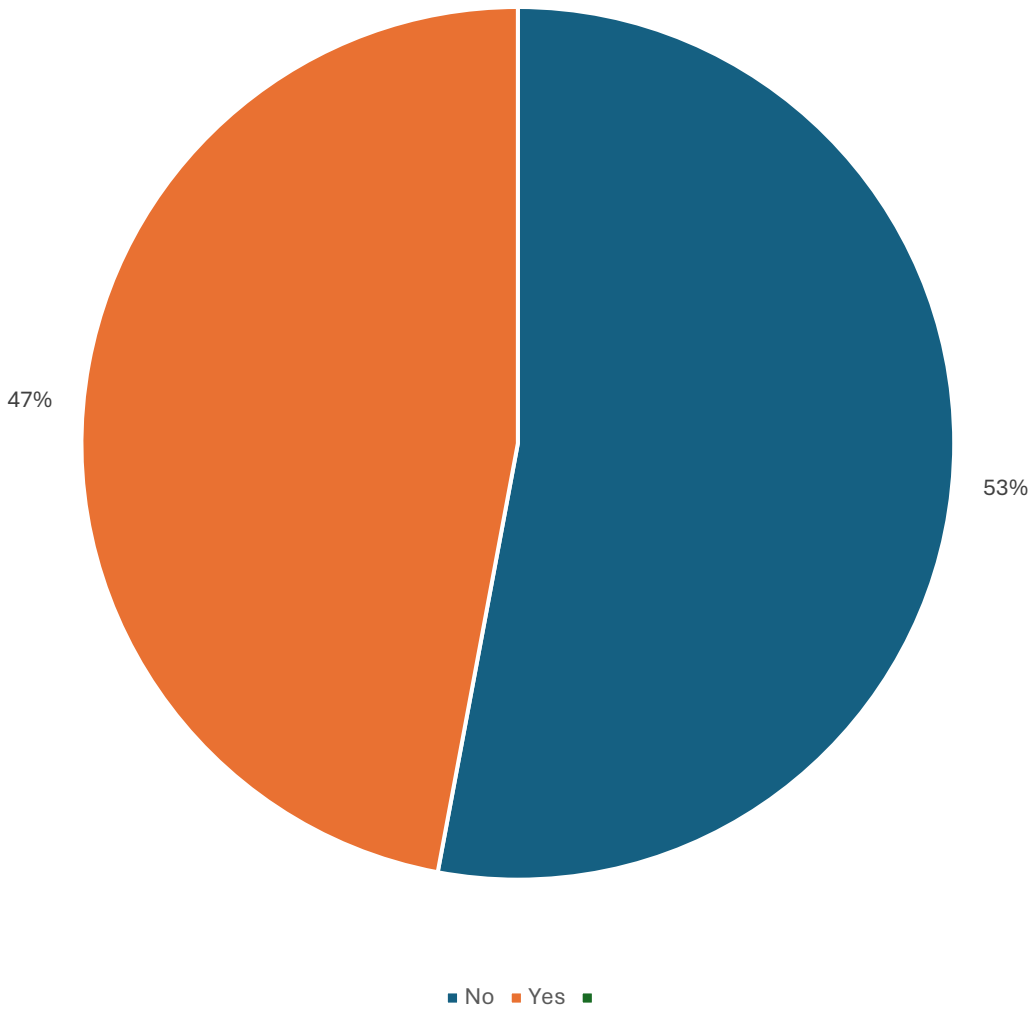

4. Have you encountered missing sections, inaccessible locations or poor conditions related to city sidewalks?
20%
80%
No
Yes


6. Have you encountered areas where curb ramps are missing or inaccessible?
49%
51%
No
Yes

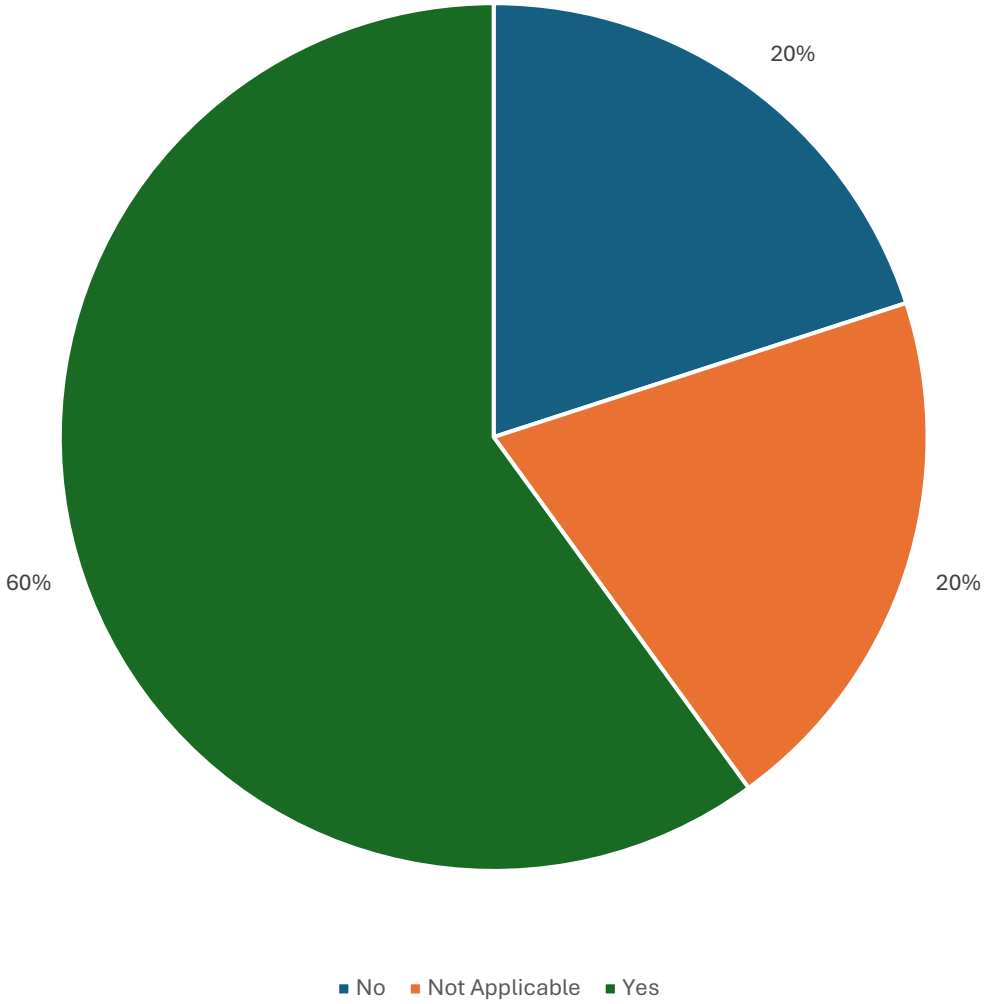
8. If you or someone you know has a disability, have you or they encountered street or intersection crossings where lack of pedestrian crossing signals or medians affects your or their ability to cross the street?

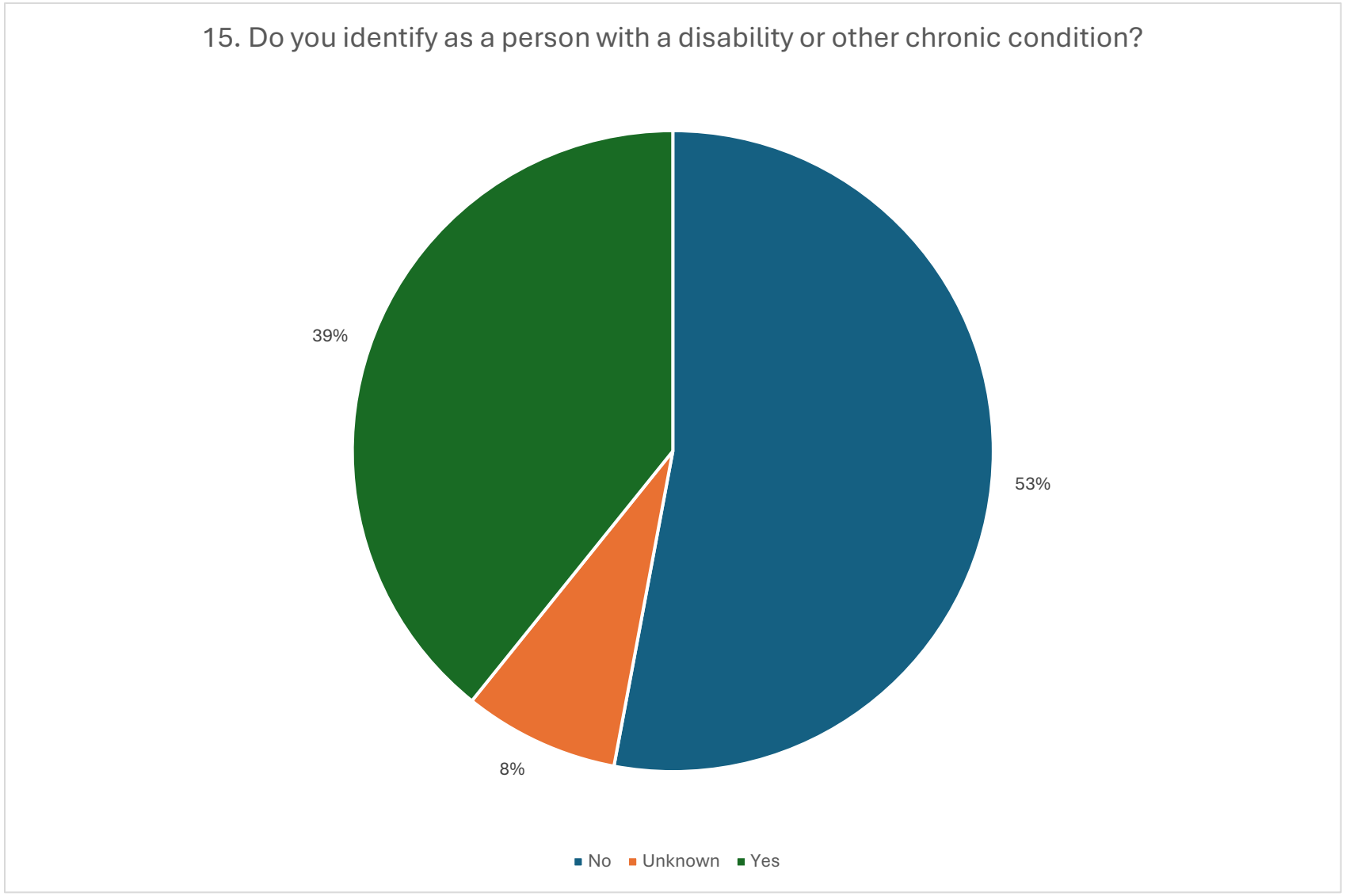


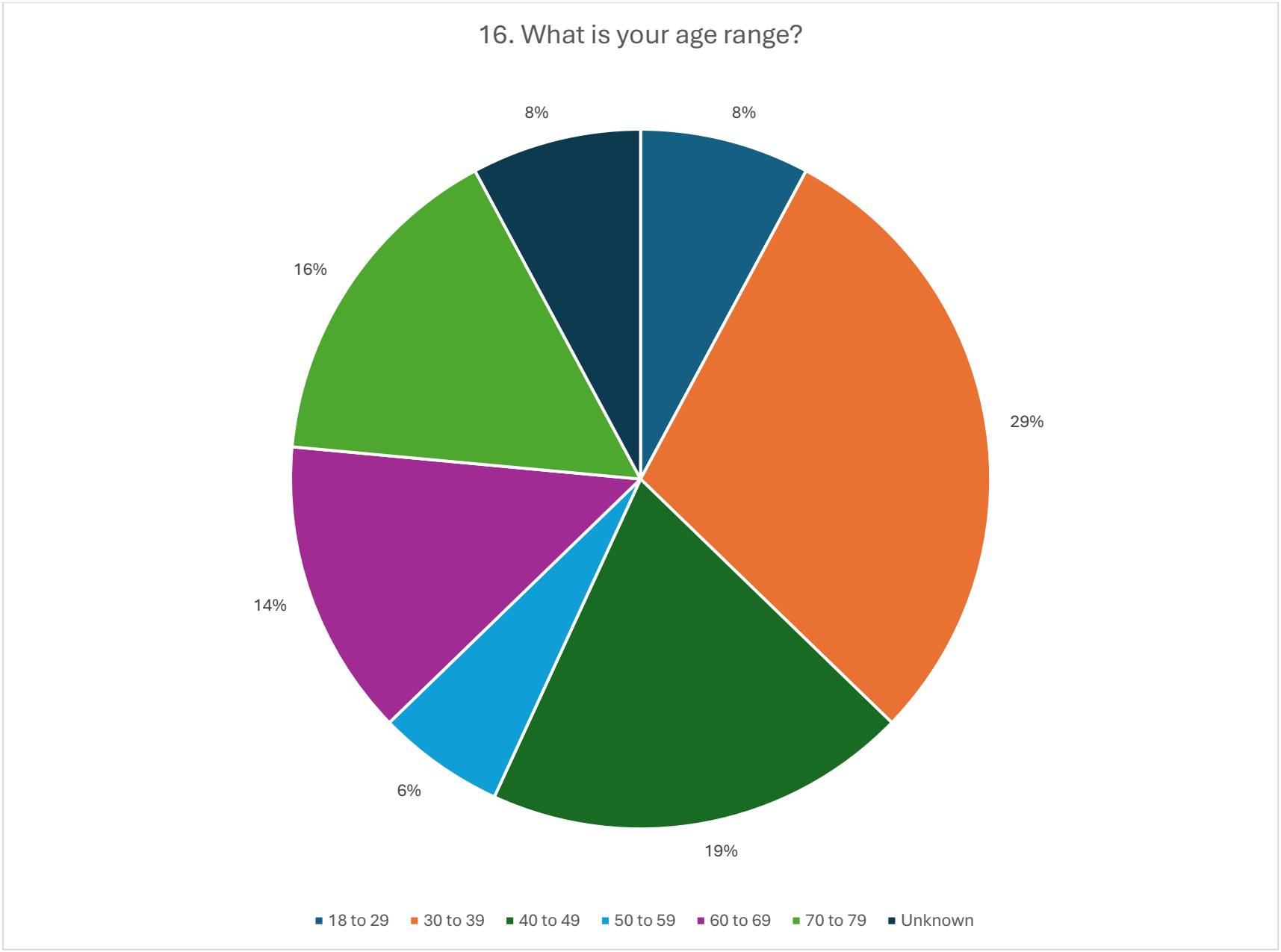
10. Have you encountered street or intersection crossings where lack of pedestrian visual or audio crossing signals or medians affect your ability to cross the street?

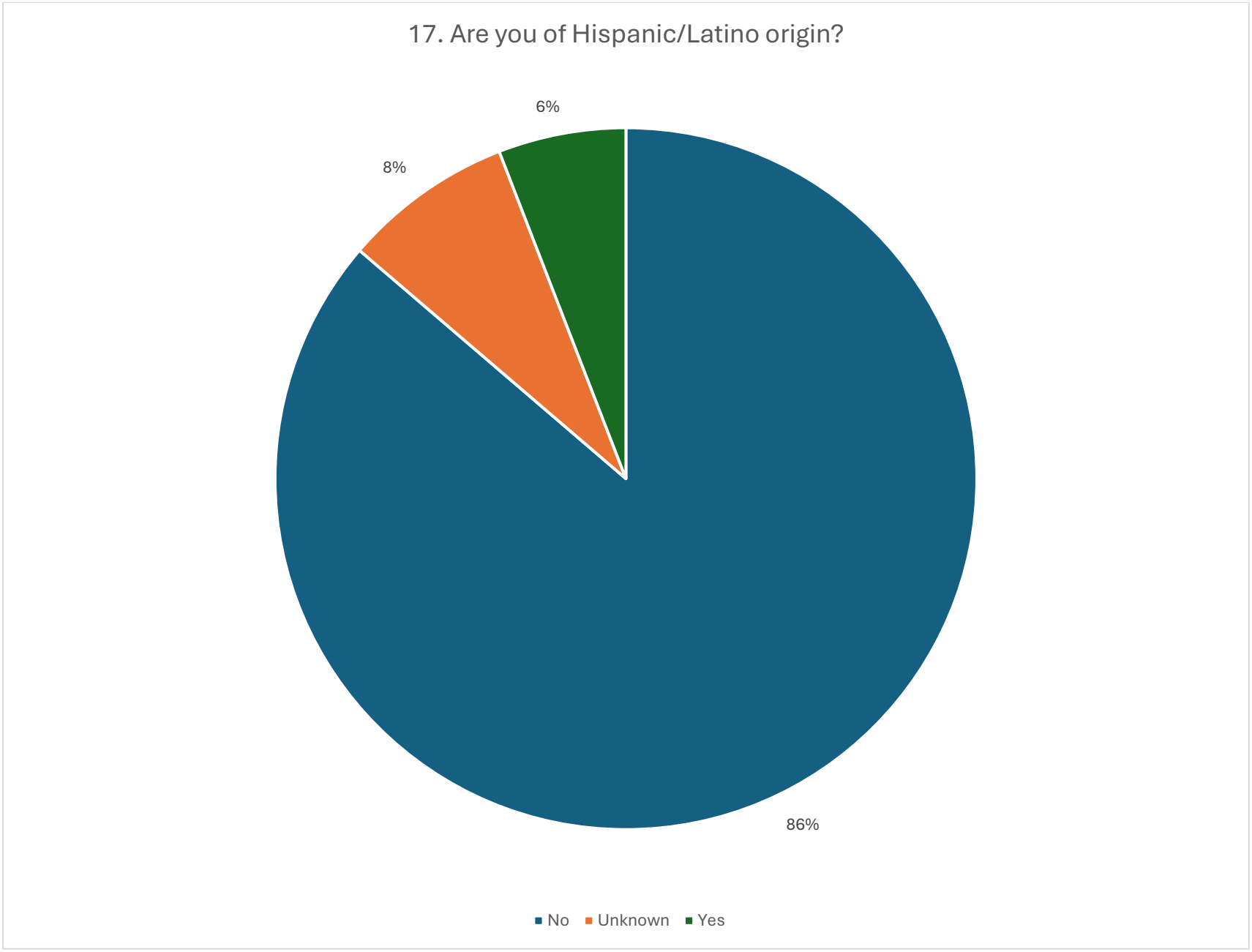


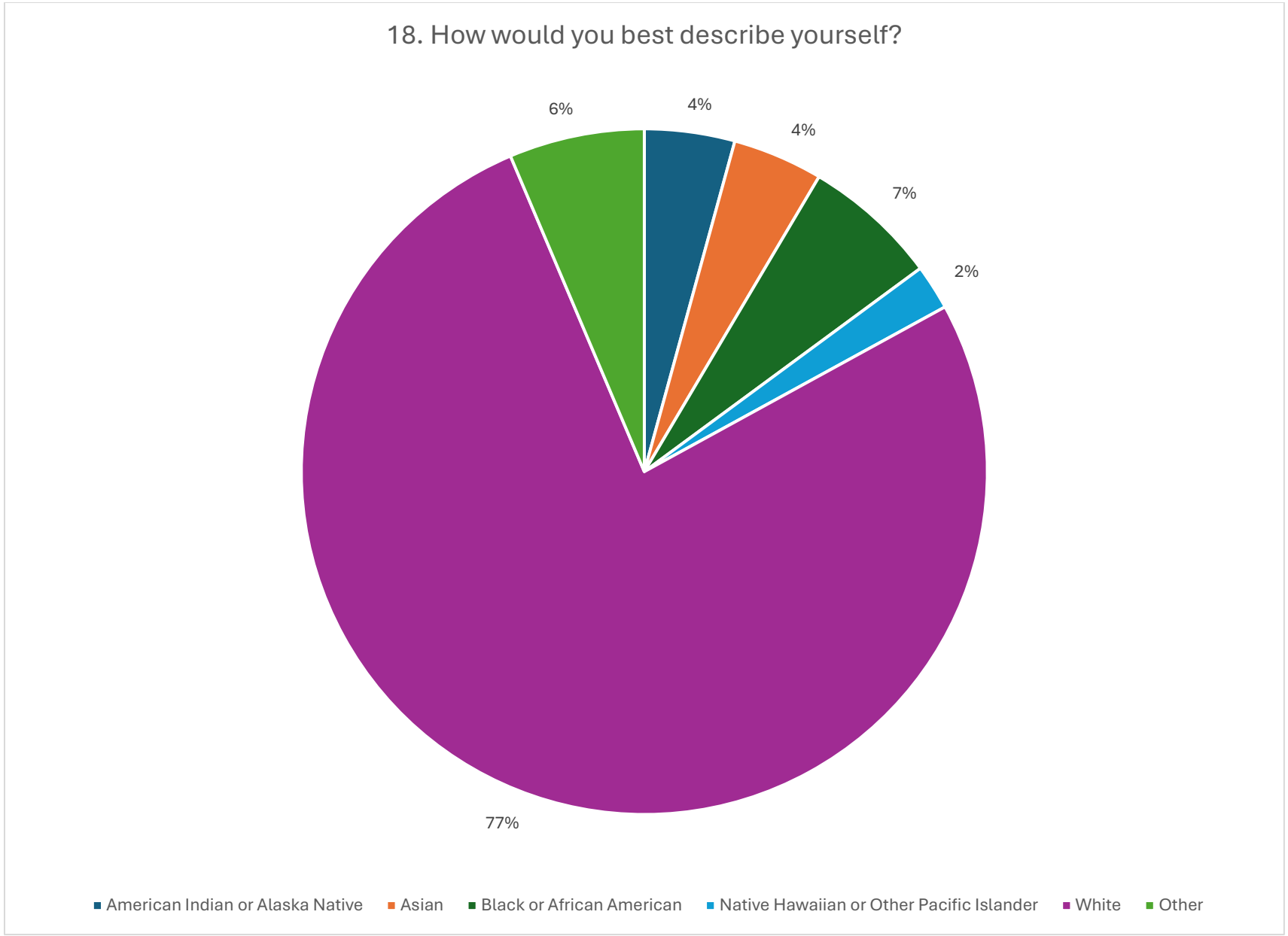
12. If you or someone you know has a disability, have you or they encountered any physical obstructions like trees or low-hanging branches, bushes, retaining walls, signs or fire hydrants that have prevented you or them from utilizing a sidewalk?

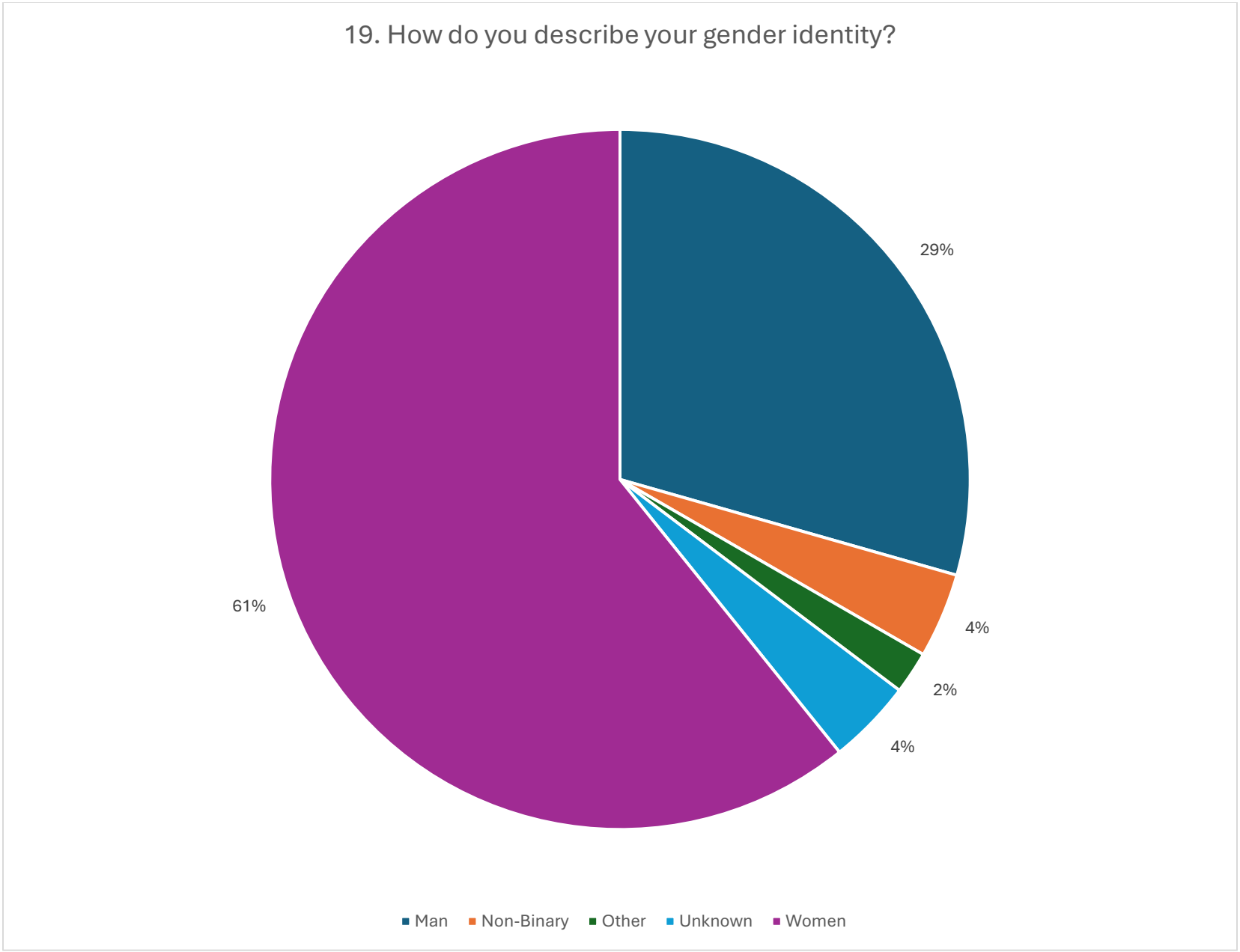



15. Do you identify as a person with a disability or other chronic condition?
39%
53%
8%
No
Unknown
Yes


16. What is your age range?
8%
8%
16%
29%
14%
6%
19%
18 to 29
30 to 39
40 to 49
50 to 59
60 to 69
70 to 79
Unknown


17. Are you of Hispanic/Latino origin?
6%
8%
86%
No
Unknown
Yes


18. How would you best describe yourself?
4%
4%
7%
2%
77%
6%
American Indian or Alaska Native
Asian
Black or African American
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
White
Other


19. How do you describe your gender identity?
29%
4%
2%
4%
61%
Man
Non-Binary
Other
Unknown
Women

APPENDIX L – ADA COORDINATOR CONTACT INFO

City of Aurora Title II ADA Coordinator
Karlyn Shorb
Office of Accessibility
15151 East Alameda Avenue
Aurora, CO 80012
Ph: 303-326-8858
Email: ADACompliance@AuroraGov.org

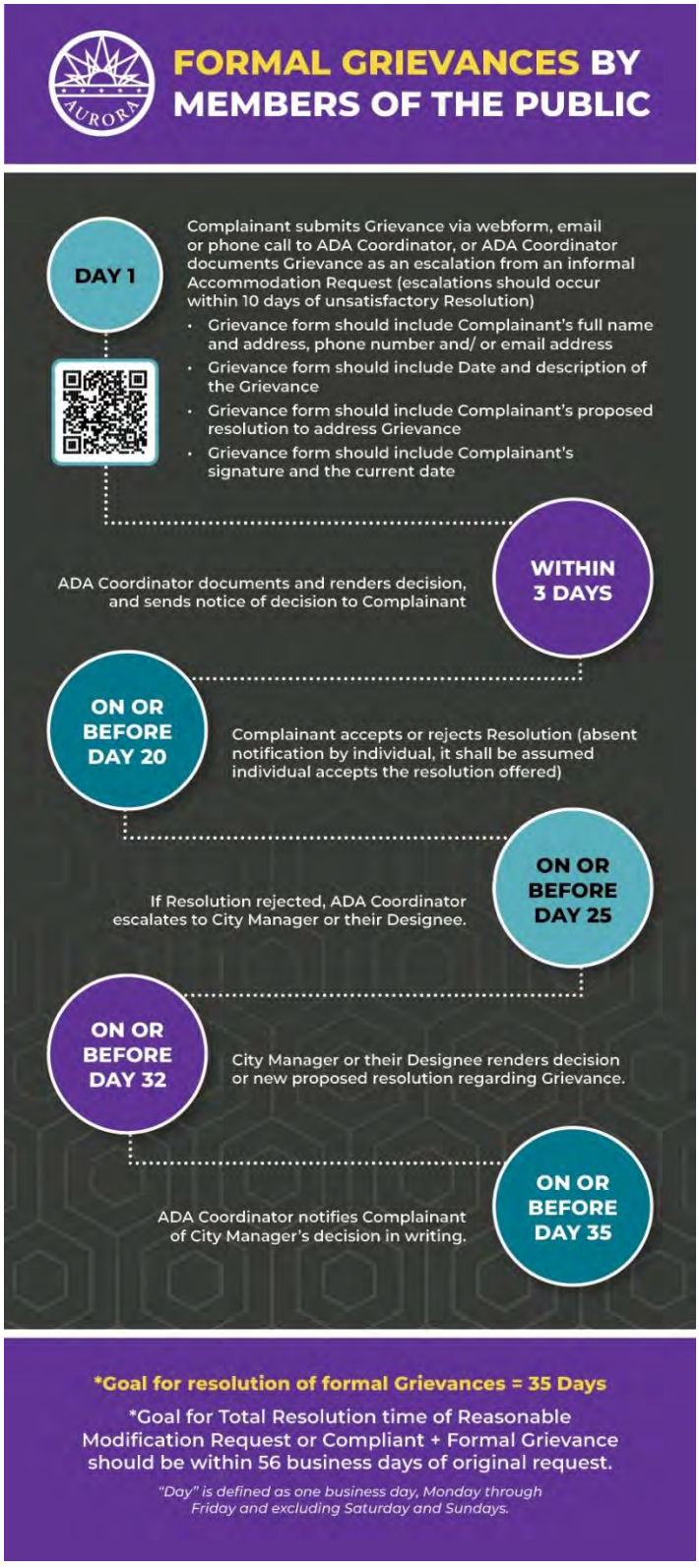
City of Aurora Digital Accessibility Coordinator
William Flowers
Office of Communications
15151 E. Alameda Pkwy
Aurora, CO 80012
Email: ADACompliance@auroragov.org

City of Aurora Title I ADA Coordinator
Patricia Sylvester
Human Resources
15151 E. Alameda Pkwy
Aurora, CO 80012
Email: ADARequest@auroragov.org

Adaptive Recreation and Inclusion Services
Phone: 720-859-4984 OR 720-859-4985
Email: arise@auroragov.org

Hours
Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
(Excluding City holidays)

APPENDIX M – GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE



APPENDIX N – SUMMARY OF WORK COMPLETED TOWARDS TRANSITION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

STATUS OF TRANSITION PLAN GOALS

GOAL DESCRIPTION	YEAR ADDED	YEAR ACCOMPLISHED	COMMENTS
Section 3.2.1. Adopt and implement a policy directing that as streets are resurfaced (defined as an alteration) as part of Aurora's annual maintenance program, any adjacent noncompliant curb ramps are reconstructed, including by adding dome panels to curb ramps without detectable warning surfaces.	2025		
Section 3.2.1. Adopt and implement a policy on preferred locations and accommodations for pedestrian street crossings which includes spacing criteria for street crossings, as well as other guidance for pedestrian signals, and pushbuttons.	2025		
Section 3.2.1. Adopt and implement a policy to establish a ranking system to help prioritize and schedule implementation of accessibility improvements on pedestrian infrastructure along its transportation network considering the level of severity of a barrier's impact to accessibility while acknowledging fiscal constraints.	2025		
Section 3.2.1. Integrate ADA compliance data into existing GIS databases. Establish common taxonomy and definitions for attributes to capture compliance data.	2025		
Section 3.3.1. Formally integrate ADA compliance into the city's asset management framework for curb ramps, sidewalks, and pedestrian push buttons.	2025		
Section 4.1. Develop and use ADA compliance checklists to facilitate design,	2025		

design review, and construction inspection activities and ensure ADA compliant infrastructure is built.			
Section 4.2. Adopt a policy to guide staff in communication with persons with disabilities that includes guidance on effective alternative communication.	2025		
Section 6. Create an ADA Task Force comprised of city staff from relevant departments overseeing and managing the PROW to assist with accessibility compliance	2025		
Section 8. The ADA Coordinator will review and monitor the Transition Plan on at least an annual basis	2025		
Section 8. Update the Plan on a yearly basis to track progress toward goals and to document removal of barriers.	2025		
Section 8.1. Update the City's GIS database on a yearly basis to capture and document completed accessibility improvements for ramps, sidewalks, and pedestrian push buttons	2025		

SUMMARY OF BARRIERS REMOVED

CURB RAMPS

Year	# of Curb Ramps (Each)

SIDEWALK

Year	Sidewalk (LF)

PEDESTRIAN PUSH BUTTONS

Year	# of Push Buttons (Each)

ADA Self-Evalution and Transition Plan Update Phase I

City Council Study Session
August 25, 2025

Karlyn K. Shorb, MA, JD, ACTCP
Title 2 ADA Coordinator

Presentation Roadmap

Introductions

Karlyn K. Shorb, City of Aurora

ADA Requirements

Legal Mandates
ADA Title II

Self-evaluation and Transition Plan

Key Findings
Progress to Date
Next Steps

ADA Mandate

The 1991 Americans with Disabilities Act requires States, Local Governments, Special Districts, and all Contractors of these entities providing a public service for the entity, to meet certain fundamental accessibility requirements.

Photo: This photo depicts a sign pointing to an accessible trail using a universal symbol of an individual in a wheelchair.

Other Disability Access Mandates

OTHER RELEVANT LAWS INCLUDE:

- Colorado Anti-discrimination Act (CADA)
- HB 21-1110 (recently amended CADA to include mandates to make digital spaces accessible)
- The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (applies to entities receiving Federal funds and to entities applying for Federal programs)
- Federal Fair Housing Act (FFHA)(also applies to entities receiving Federal funds, and to local entities providing subsidized housing programs & to housing developments with 4+ attached units)
- Architectural Barriers Act (FABA)

Accessibility Mandates

Accessibility mandates under various laws affect all areas of the city, such as:

- The architectural compliance of buildings, parks, and the public right of way;

- Events, programs, and activities for the public;

- Online billing, payment systems, registration sites;

- Documents, multimedia, agendas, etc. added to the city's website or shared on social media;

- The availability of auxiliary aids and accommodations, such as ASL, for public programs and events.

Six Basic Title 2 Requirements under the ADA

Requirement 1: Appoint an ADA Coordinator.

Requirement 2: Post Public Notice of Non-discrimination citywide.

Requirement 3: Set up a Grievance procedure for the public.

Requirement 4: “Reasonably modify rules, policies [and] procedures to avoid discriminating against people with disabilities.”

Requirement 5: Provide “reasonable modifications” to allow individuals with disabilities to access structures, programs, services and activities on equitable footing as their non-disabled counterparts.

Requirement 6: Undertake a “self-evaluation… to examine how programs, services and activities are delivered to individuals with disabilities” & develop a “transition plan” to address deficits in equitable services to community members with disabilities.

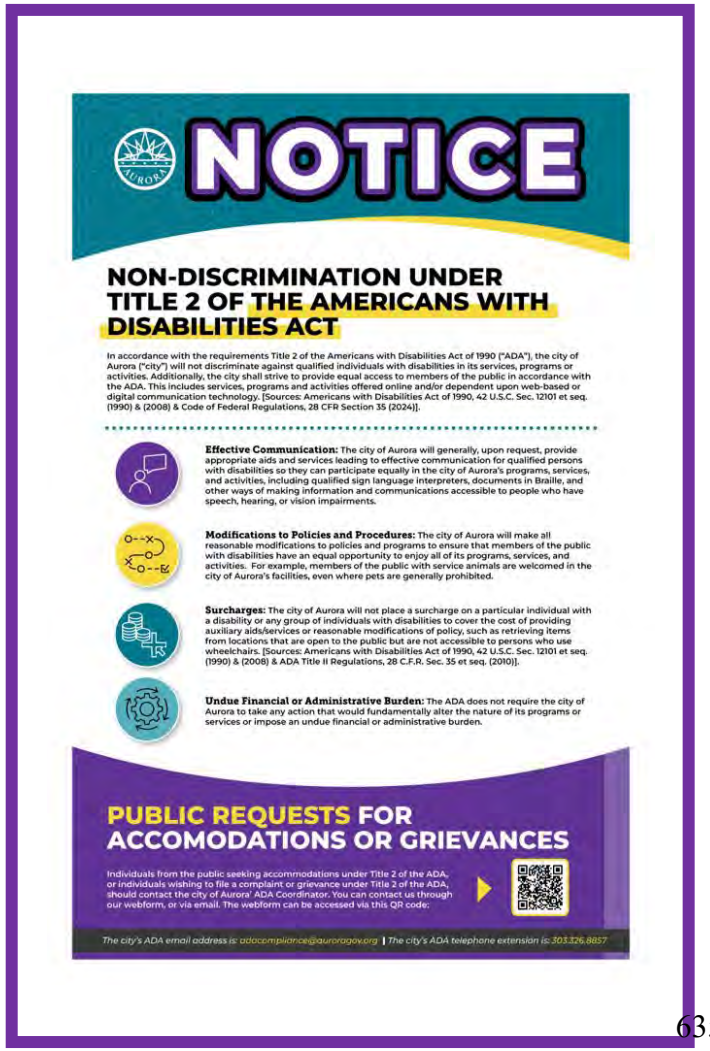
City ADA Coordinators

- **Karlyn Shorb**, Title 2 ADA Coordinator (City Manager's Office)
- **William Flowers**, Website and Digital Accessibility Coordinator (Communications and Marketing)
- **Pat Sylvester**, Phazaria Koonce & Employee Relations Team, Title 1 ADA Coordinators (Human Resources)
- **Brea Landon** & PROS Adaptive and Inclusive Recreation Team (Parks, Recreation and Open Space)

Photo: Service dog assists Blind individual with tasks of daily living.

Progress to-date on Requirements 1-5

- **Full-time Title 2 ADA Coordinator**
- **Policy updates & Notice communicated widely**
- **New Grievance & Accommodation Request processes (and online forms)**
- **Training and learning tools**
- **Communication/ website improvements**
- **Phase 1 ADA Self-evaluation and Transition Plan draft complete**



NOTICE

NON-DISCRIMINATION UNDER TITLE 2 OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

In accordance with the requirements Title 2 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 ("ADA"), the city of Aurora ("city") will not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities in its services, programs or activities. Additionally, the city shall strive to provide equal access to members of the public in accordance with the ADA. This includes services, programs and activities offered online and/or dependent upon web-based or digital communication technology. [Sources: Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. Sec. 12101 et seq. (1990) & (2008) & Code of Federal Regulations, 28 CFR Section 35 (2024)].

Effective Communication: The city of Aurora will generally, upon request, provide appropriate aids and services leading to effective communication for qualified persons with disabilities so they can participate equally in the city of Aurora's programs, services, and activities, including qualified sign language interpreters, documents in Braille, and other ways of making information and communications accessible to people who have speech, hearing, or vision impairments.

Modifications to Policies and Procedures: The city of Aurora will make all reasonable modifications to policies and programs to ensure that members of the public with disabilities have an equal opportunity to enjoy all of its programs, services, and activities. For example, members of the public with service animals are welcomed in the city of Aurora's facilities, even where pets are generally prohibited.

Surcharges: The city of Aurora will not place a surcharge on a particular individual with a disability or any group of individuals with disabilities to cover the cost of providing auxiliary aids/services or reasonable modifications of policy, such as retrieving items from locations that are open to the public but are not accessible to persons who use wheelchairs. [Sources: Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. Sec. 12101 et seq. (1990) & (2008) & ADA Title II Regulations, 28 C.F.R. Sec. 35 et seq. (2010)].

Undue Financial or Administrative Burden: The ADA does not require the city of Aurora to take any action that would fundamentally alter the nature of its programs or services or impose an undue financial or administrative burden.

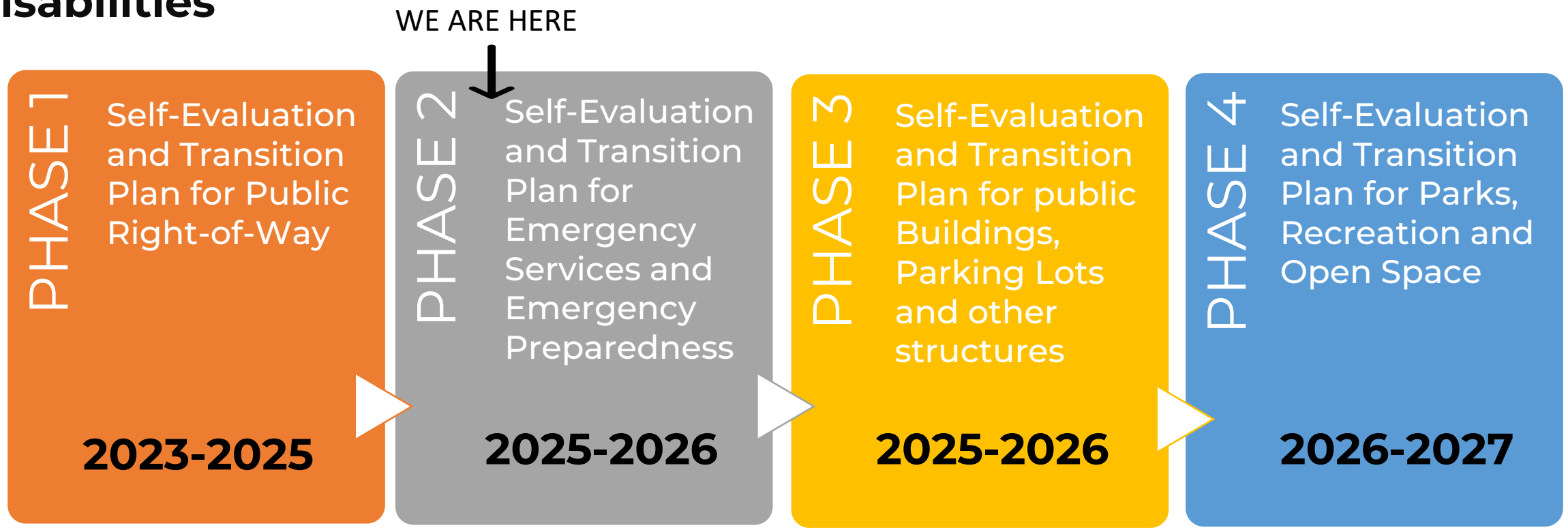
PUBLIC REQUESTS FOR ACCOMODATIONS OR GRIEVANCES

Individuals from the public seeking accommodations under Title 2 of the ADA, or individuals wishing to file a complaint or grievance under Title 2 of the ADA, should contact the city of Aurora' ADA Coordinator. You can contact us through our webform, or via email. The webform can be accessed via this QR code:

The city's ADA email address is: adacompliance@auroragov.org | The city's ADA telephone extension is: 303.326.8857

Title 2 Requirements

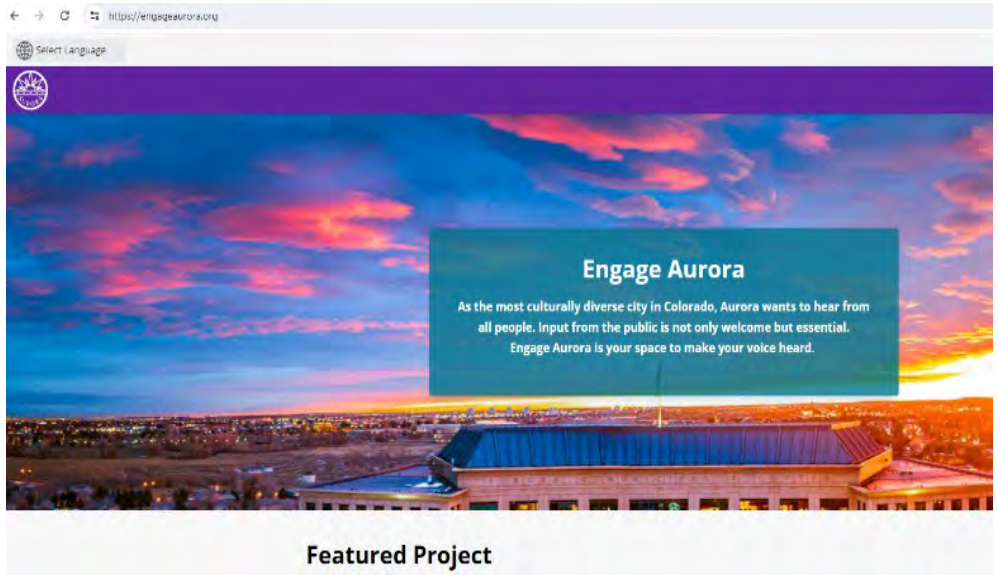
Requirement 6: Audit a/k/a "Self-evaluation" … "to examine how programs, services and activities are delivered to individuals with disabilities"



Self-evaluation Phase 1 (PROW)
Field Collection & Stakeholder Engagement

1. **Departmental Discovery**
2. **Surveys: Internal surveys to City staff**
3. **External Surveys & Focus Groups**
4. **Collection of Field Data**

- Curb Ramps
- Sidewalks
- Push Buttons



Self-evaluation and Transition Plan Phase 1 (PROW) Key Findings

Phase 1 of the self-evaluation included an assessment of 12,233 curb ramp locations, 278 miles of sidewalk, and 1,930 pedestrian push buttons, as well as review of policies, procedures and practices. The following were the **key findings**:

- **92% of pedestrian push buttons in the city of Aurora are non-compliant under both ADA standards**
- **95.9% of curb ramps in the city of Auora (including within newer developments) were noncompliant under the current ADA standards**
- **77.91% of sidewalks were non-compliant under current ADA standards**

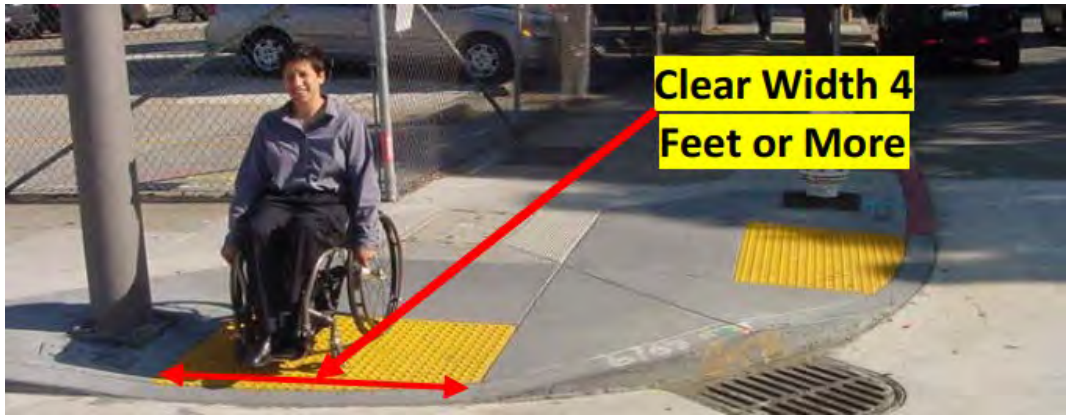
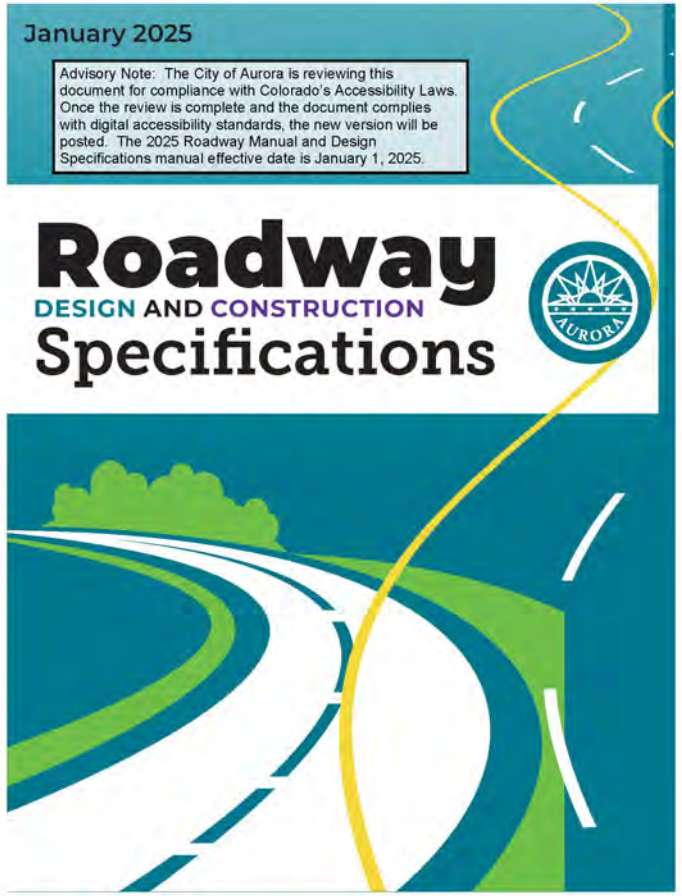


Figure 36: Non-Complying Grade Breaks

Phase 1 Transition Plan (PROW) 11 Goals



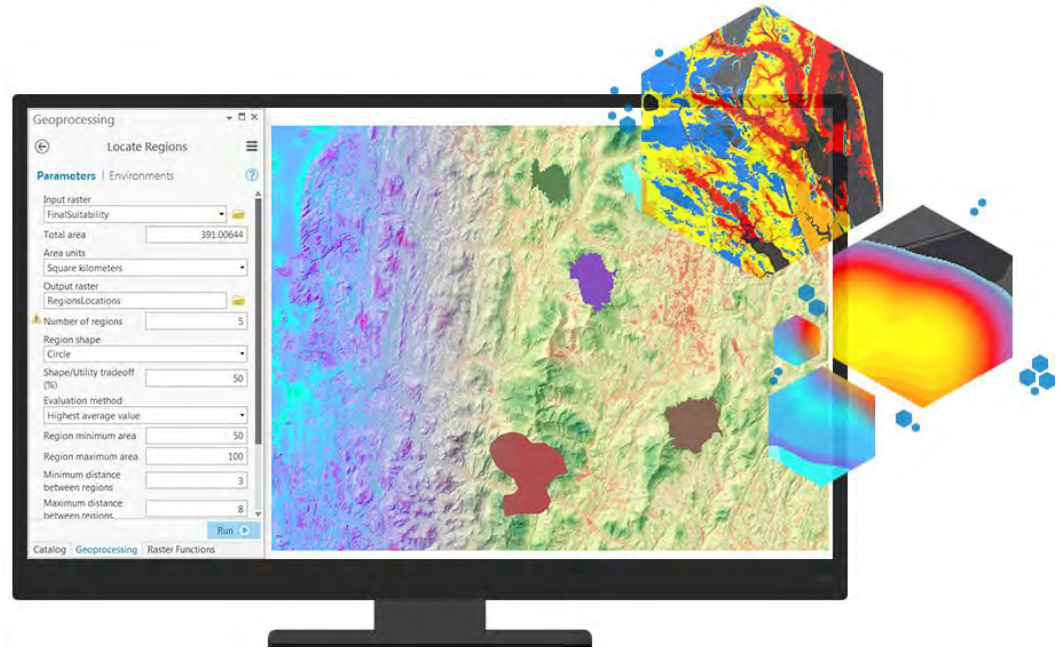
TRANSITION PLAN GOAL 1: Undertake a comprehensive review of city policies (City Code and Roadway Manual, as well as other policies) related to the right-of-way & determine whether to fully, or partially, adopt the Department of Justice's PROWAG (Public Right-of-Way Accessibility Guidelines) as an industry "best practice."

TRANSITION PLAN GOAL 2: Adopt & implement a policy directing that as streets are resurfaced as part of Aurora's annual maintenance program, any adjacent noncompliant curb ramps are reconstructed, including by adding dome panels to curb ramps without detectable warning surfaces.

TRANSITION PLAN GOAL 3: Adopt & implement a policy on preferred locations and accommodations for pedestrian street crossings which includes spacing criteria for street crossings, as well as other guidance for pedestrian signals, and pushbuttons.

Phase 1 Transition Plan (PROW) Goals, cont'd

TRANSITION PLAN GOAL 4: Adopt & implement departmental procedures to establish a ranking system to help prioritize and schedule implementation of accessibility improvements on pedestrian infrastructure along transportation network considering the level of severity of a barrier's impact to accessibility while acknowledging fiscal constraints.



TRANSITION PLAN GOAL 5: Integrate ADA compliance data into existing GIS databases.

TRANSITION PLAN GOAL 6: Integrate ADA compliance into the city's asset management framework for curb ramps, sidewalks & pedestrian push buttons.

TRANSITION PLAN GOAL 7: Develop & use ADA compliance checklists to facilitate design, design review, and construction inspection activities & ensure ADA compliant infrastructure is built.

Phase 1 Transition Plan (PROW) Goals, cont'd

TRANSITION PLAN GOAL 8: Adopt a policy & procedure to guide staff in communication with persons with disabilities that includes guidance on effective alternative communication.

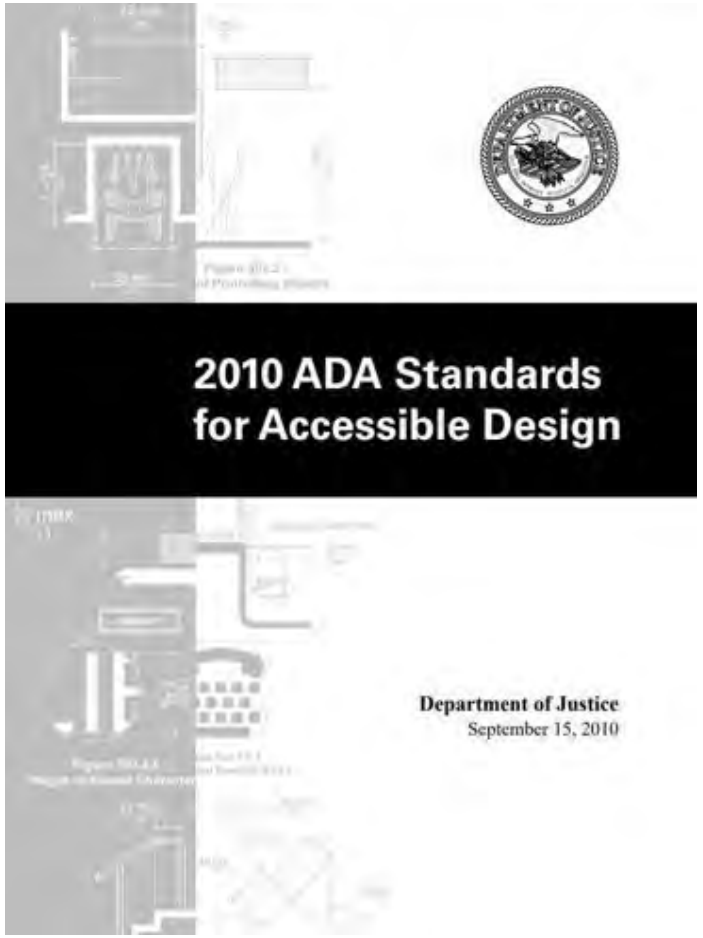
TRANSITION PLAN GOAL 9: Identify key representatives from each department to serve as ADA contacts & establish an ADA Working Group comprised of these representatives & the ADA coordinators to facilitate accessibility initiatives across the city.

TRANSITION PLAN GOAL 10: Update the Plan on a yearly basis to track progress toward goals & to document removal of barriers.

TRANSITION PLAN GOAL 11: Once ADA compliance is integrated into GIS database, update the city's GIS database on a yearly basis to capture & document completed accessibility improvements for ramps, sidewalks & pedestrian push buttons.

Transition Plan (PROW) Progress to Date

- **Phase 1 of Self-evaluation**
- **Phase 1 draft transition plan**
  - Must be approved by Council and published for comment before being finalized
- **Consultants hired for phases 2-4 of Self-evaluation and Transition plan**



ADA Self-evaluation and Transition Plan—NEXT STEPS

1. **Publish (Notice and Comment), formalize and periodically update Phase 1 Transition Plan for the Public Right-of-Way.**

2. **Conduct Phase 2-4 audits and develop comprehensive Transition Plans for:**
    1. **Emergency services and operations (Phase 2);**
    2. **Buildings, facilities and other structures (Phase 3); and**
    3. **Parks, recreation and open space (Phase 4).**

3. **Publish (Notice and Comment), formalize and periodically update Phase 2-4 Transition Plans.**

4. **Continue to review internal policies and practices, as well as draft new policies as needed (e.g., Service Animal Policy.)**

5. **Focus on staff training and resource development**

QUESTIONS?

Thank you!

CITY OF AURORA
Council Agenda Commentary

Item Title: Amendment to the City Code Pertaining to Automated Vehicle Identification System Penalty Notices
Item Initiator: Christopher Amsler, Lieutenant, Police
Staff Source/Legal Source: Christopher Amsler, Lieutenant, Police / Mandy MacDonald, Senior Assistant City Attorney
Outside Speaker: N/A
Strategic Outcome: Well-Managed: High performing organization, committed to great customer service, innovation, continuous improvement, fiscal stewardship, and maintaining critical infrastructure.

COUNCIL MEETING DATES:

Study Session: N/A

Regular Meeting: 9/8/2025

2nd Regular Meeting (if applicable): N/A

Item requires a Public Hearing: ☐ Yes ☒ No

ITEM DETAILS *(Click in highlighted area below bullet point list to enter applicable information.)*

- Waiver of reconsideration requested, and if so, why
- Sponsor name
- Staff source name and title / Legal source name and title
- Outside speaker name and organization
- Estimated time: (For Study Session items only indicate combined time needed for presentation and discussion)

2025- AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, AMENDING SECTIONS 134-430 AND 134-451 OF THE CITY CODE PERTAINING TO AUTOMATED VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM PENALTY NOTICES
Christopher Amsler, Lieutenant, Police / Mandy MacDonald, Senior Assistant City Attorney

ACTIONS(S) PROPOSED *(Check all appropriate actions)*

☐ Approve Item and Move Forward to Study Session

☐ Approve Item and Move Forward to Regular Meeting

☐ Information Only

☐ Approve Item with Waiver of Reconsideration
Reason for waiver is described in the Item Details field above.

☒ Approve Item as Proposed at Policy Committee

☐ Approve Item as Proposed at Study Session

☐ Approve Item as Proposed at Regular Meeting

PREVIOUS ACTIONS OR REVIEWS:

Policy Committee Name: Public Safety, Courts & Civil Service

Policy Committee Date: 8/14/2025

Action Taken/Follow-up: ***(Check all that apply)***

☒ Recommends Approval ☐ Does Not Recommend Approval

☐ Forwarded Without Recommendation ☐ Minutes Not Available

☐ Minutes Attached

HISTORY *(Dates reviewed by City council, Policy Committees, Boards and Commissions, or Staff. Summarize pertinent comments. ATTACH MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS, POLICY COMMITTEES AND BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS.)*

This proposed ordinance was reviewed by the Public Safety, Courts and Civil Service Policy Committee on August 14, 2025. The committee moved the ordinance forward to regular council meeting.

NOTE: After the Committee meeting, the City Attorney's Office made a technical, non-substantive correction to the title of the ordinance, adding "134-430" to the title to reflect the change to that Code section, in addition to the changes in section 134-451. No other substantive changes were made beyond this technical correction.

ITEM SUMMARY *(Brief description of item, discussion, key points, recommendations, etc.)*

Colorado law permits municipalities to enact ordinances regarding automated vehicle identification systems. Changes to Colorado law now permit the City to operate photo speed enforcement vehicles without a City employee operator inside the vehicle. APD has selected a vendor and a new systems to capture traffic violations and issue penalty notices. This ordinance amends Sections 134-430(a) and 134-451(a) and (d) of the City Code to reflect these changes.

FISCAL IMPACT

Select all that apply. (If no fiscal impact, click that box and skip to "Questions for Council")

☐ Revenue Impact ☐ Budgeted Expenditure Impact ☐ Non-Budgeted Expenditure Impact
☐ Workload Impact ☒ No Fiscal Impact

REVENUE IMPACT
Provide the revenue impact or N/A if no impact. (What is the estimated impact on revenue? What funds would be impacted? Provide additional detail as necessary.)

N/A

BUDGETED EXPENDITURE IMPACT
Provide the budgeted expenditure impact or N/A if no impact. (List Org/Account # and fund. What is the amount of budget to be used? Does this shift existing budget away from existing programs/services? Provide additional detail as necessary.)

N/A

NON-BUDGETED EXPENDITURE IMPACT
Provide the non-budgeted expenditure impact or N/A if no impact. (Provide information on non-budgeted costs. Include Personal Services, Supplies and Services, Interfund Charges, and Capital needs. Provide additional detail as necessary.)

N/A

WORKLOAD IMPACT
Provide the workload impact or N/A if no impact. (Will more staff be needed or is the change absorbable? If new FTE(s) are needed, provide numbers and types of positions, and a duty summary. Provide additional detail as necessary.)

N/A

QUESTIONS FOR COUNCIL

Does Council wish to support this Ordinance to amend Sections 134-430 and 134-451 of the City Code pertaining to automated vehicle identification system penalty notices?

LEGAL COMMENTS

City Charter Section 3-9 authorizes the City Council to enact ordinances necessary to protect life, health and property and to preserve and enforce good government, general welfare, order and security of the city and the inhabitants thereof. (MacDonald).

Section 42-4-110.5 of the Colorado Revised Statutes permits cities to use automated vehicle identification systems to detect traffic violations without a city operator inside the vehicle and for a vendor to issue a penalty notices. (MacDonald).

Pursuant to Section 5-1 of the City Charter, Council shall act only by ordinance, resolution or motion. All legislative enactments must be in the form of ordinances; all other actions, except as herein provided, may be in the form of resolutions or motions. (MacDonald).

ORDINANCE NO. 2025- ____

A BILL

FOR AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, AMENDING SECTIONS 134-430 AND 134-451 OF THE CITY CODE PERTAINING TO AUTOMATED VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM PENALTY NOTICES

WHEREAS, C.R.S. 42-4-110.5 permits municipalities to enact ordinances around automated vehicle identification systems; and

WHEREAS, the City intends to continue a photo speed enforcement program in the future after the initial pilot program was launched in 2023; and

WHEREAS, due to changes in C.R.S. 42-4-110.5, the City may now operate photo speed enforcement vehicles without a city employee operator inside the vehicle; and

WHEREAS, the Aurora Police Department has selected a vendor and a new system that it intends to deploy in October 2025.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO:

Section 1. Section 134-451(a) and (d) of the City Code of the City of Aurora, Colorado are hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 134-451. Automated vehicle identification system penalty assessment notices.

(a) Except as specified in subsection (d) of this section, when ~~a peace officer or designated civilian employee~~ **an automated vehicle identification system captures a traffic violation** ~~based on evidence obtained in whole or in part by means of an automated vehicle identification system, has probable cause to believe that a traffic violation has been committed~~, **the system may** ~~peace officer or designated civilian employee may issue~~, **cause a penalty assessment notice to be issued through a contractor designated by the City Manager**, ~~a penalty assessment notice~~ charging the person in whose name the vehicle is registered based on the license plate or any other identification of the vehicle with violation of the applicable section, or the person designated by the owner as being the driver of the vehicle when the violation occurred. **Prior to the issuance of a penalty assessment notice being issued and served, the violation must be reviewed by a city employee or contractor on behalf of the City.** If, however, the vehicle is registered in more than one person's name, the penalty assessment notice shall be issued to the registrant whom the issuing ~~peace officer or designated civilian employee~~ **city employee or contractor** determines, under all the facts and circumstances, was the person most likely depicted in the image produced by the camera.

(d) When a ~~peace officer or designated civilian employee,~~ **city employee or contractor,** based on evidence obtained in whole or in part by means of an automated vehicle identification system, has probable cause to believe that a vehicle was traveling 25 miles per hour or more in excess of the posted speed limit, the violation will be investigated as a traffic offense. The traffic offense will be referred to a sworn police officer for investigation.

Section 2. Section 134-430(a) of the City Code of the City of Aurora, Colorado is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 134-430. Hearing to challenge the validity of a parking violation or photo speed enforcement penalty notice.

(a) *Generally.* Any person cited by the police department or director of public works for a parking violation or photo speed enforcement penalty notice may contest the determination that a violation occurred by requesting in writing a hearing before the Aurora parking and traffic bureau. Such hearing shall be held no later than 20 days from the date of issuance of the parking citation **or photo speed enforcement penalty notice** unless an extension is otherwise authorized.

Section 3. Severability. The provisions of this Ordinance are hereby declared to be severable. If any section, paragraph, clause, or provision of this Ordinance shall, for any reason, be held to be invalid or unenforceable by a court of competent jurisdiction, the invalidity or unenforceability of such section, paragraph, clause, or provision shall not affect any of the remaining provisions of this Ordinance.

Section 4. Pursuant to Section 5-5 of the Charter of the City of Aurora, Colorado, the second publication of this Ordinance shall be by reference, utilizing the ordinance title. Copies of this Ordinance are available at the Office of the City Clerk.

Section 5. Repealer. All orders, resolutions, or ordinances in conflict with this Ordinance or with any of the documents hereby approved, are hereby repealed only to the extent of such conflict. This repealer shall not be construed as reviving any resolution, ordinance, or part thereof, heretofore repealed.

INTRODUCED, READ AND ORDERED PUBLISHED this _____ day of _____, 2025.

PASSED AND ORDERED PUBLISHED this _____ day of _____, 2025.

_____
MIKE COFFMAN, Mayor

ATTEST:

_____
KADEE RODRIGUEZ, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

PETER A. SCHULTE, CITY ATTORNEY

By: Amanda MacDonald MP
AMANDA MACDONALD, Assistant City Attorney

CITY OF AURORA
Council Agenda Commentary

Item Title: Interpreter Fee Amendment – City Code 50-36 (Ordinance)
Item Initiator: Rebecca Milliken, Executive Specialist, Court Administration
Staff Source/Legal Source: Candace Atkinson, Court Administrator / Angela Garcia, Senior Assistant City Attorney
Outside Speaker: N/A
Strategic Outcome: Well-Managed: High performing organization, committed to great customer service, innovation, continuous improvement, fiscal stewardship, and maintaining critical infrastructure.

COUNCIL MEETING DATES:

Study Session: 8/25/2025

Regular Meeting: 9/8/2025

2nd Regular Meeting (if applicable): 9/22/2025

Item requires a Public Hearing: ☐ Yes ☒ No

ITEM DETAILS *(Click in highlighted area below bullet point list to enter applicable information.)*

- Waiver of reconsideration requested, and if so, why
- Sponsor name
- Staff source name and title / Legal source name and title
- Outside speaker name and organization
- Estimated time: (For Study Session items only indicate combined time needed for presentation and discussion)

Candace Atkinson, Director, Court Administration / Angela Garcia, Senior Assistant Attorney
Estimated time: 10 mins

ACTIONS(S) PROPOSED *(Check all appropriate actions)*

☐ Approve Item and Move Forward to Study Session

☒ Approve Item and Move Forward to Regular Meeting

☐ Information Only

☐ Approve Item with Waiver of Reconsideration
Reason for waiver is described in the Item Details field above.

☐ Approve Item as Proposed at Policy Committee

☐ Approve Item as Proposed at Study Session

☐ Approve Item as Proposed at Regular Meeting

PREVIOUS ACTIONS OR REVIEWS:

Policy Committee Name: Public Safety, Courts & Civil Service

Policy Committee Date: 6/12/2025

Action Taken/Follow-up: ***(Check all that apply)***

☒ Recommends Approval ☐ Does Not Recommend Approval

☐ Forwarded Without Recommendation ☒ Minutes Not Available

☐ Minutes Attached

HISTORY *(Dates reviewed by City council, Policy Committees, Boards and Commissions, or Staff. Summarize pertinent comments. ATTACH MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS, POLICY COMMITTEES AND BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS.)*

07/14/25 Study Session – Council delayed item until August 25th, 2025 to allow the Presiding Judge and Court Administrator time to research how other jurisdictions assess interpreter fees to defendants.

ITEM SUMMARY *(Brief description of item, discussion, key points, recommendations, etc.)*

Interpreter Fee Ordinance Amendment to reduce the city's cost burden of fees when a defendant(s) fail to appear for their scheduled court date

FISCAL IMPACT

Select all that apply. (If no fiscal impact, click that box and skip to "Questions for Council")

☒ Revenue Impact ☐ Budgeted Expenditure Impact ☐ Non-Budgeted Expenditure Impact
☐ Workload Impact ☐ No Fiscal Impact

REVENUE IMPACT
Provide the revenue impact or N/A if no impact. (What is the estimated impact on revenue? What funds would be impacted? Provide additional detail as necessary.)

$500

BUDGETED EXPENDITURE IMPACT
Provide the budgeted expenditure impact or N/A if no impact. (List Org/Account # and fund. What is the amount of budget to be used? Does this shift existing budget away from existing programs/services? Provide additional detail as necessary.)

N/A

NON-BUDGETED EXPENDITURE IMPACT
Provide the non-budgeted expenditure impact or N/A if no impact. (Provide information on non-budgeted costs. Include Personal Services, Supplies and Services, Interfund Charges, and Capital needs. Provide additional detail as necessary.)

N/A

WORKLOAD IMPACT
Provide the workload impact or N/A if no impact. (Will more staff be needed or is the change absorbable? If new FTE(s) are needed, provide numbers and types of positions, and a duty summary. Provide additional detail as necessary.)

N/A

QUESTIONS FOR COUNCIL

Does City Council approve moving the Interpreter Fee Ordinance Amendment forward to a regular City Council meeting?

LEGAL COMMENTS

Council has the power to make and publish ordinances consistent with the laws of the state for carrying into effect or discharging the powers and duties conferred by the State Constitution, State Statute, or City Charter and such as it shall deem necessary and proper to provide for the safety; preserve the health; promote the prosperity; and improve the morals, order, comfort and convenience of the city and the inhabitants thereof. (City Code, Sec. 2-32 and C.R.S., Sec. 31-15-103). Pursuant to Charter, Council may act by ordinance. (City Charter, Art. 5.1). Amendments to ordinances are permitted under Section 1-9 of the City Code. (Garcia)

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-_____

A BILL

FOR AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, AMENDING SECTION 50-36 OF THE CITY CODE PERTAINING TO THE ASSESSMENT OF INTERPRETER FEES AGAINST DEFENDANTS WHO FAIL TO APPEAR FOR TRIAL.

WHEREAS, court interpreters are in high demand, and finding qualified interpreters can be difficult when needed; and

WHEREAS, the City incurs significant costs to provide qualified interpreters for scheduled court proceedings to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; and

WHEREAS, when a defendant fails to appear for a scheduled court date without notice, the costs associated with interpreter services are still incurred, placing an undue financial burden on the City; and

WHEREAS, increasing the interpreter fee assessed to defendants who fail to appear without just cause encourages accountability, reduces unnecessary expenses, and promotes more efficient court operations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO:

Section 1. That Section 50-36 of the City Code of the City of Aurora, Colorado, is hereby amended to read as follows:

Each of the municipal judges shall be empowered to assess court costs and witness fees, as set forth in this section. The court administrator shall also supervise the payment of the fees to the jurors and witnesses by the clerk of the municipal court. Such costs and fees shall be in accordance with the following schedule:

(1) The court may assess against every defendant who fails to appear for trial an additional $5.00 for each witness who appeared for such trial ~~and who was entitled to receive a fee pursuant to subsection (3) of this section~~.

(2) The court may assess against every defendant who fails to appear for trial an additional ~~$35.00~~ **$90.00** for each interpreter paid for by the City or city employee who appeared for such trial, which appearance arises from that performance of a municipal government function by that city employee.

(3) Reserved.

(4) Court costs of up to $35.00 may be assessed against every defendant who is found guilty in a trial to the court or who has pled guilty or no contest to any ordinance of Charter violation.

(5) Every person who fails to appear before the municipal court as required by the issuance of a summons and complaint or by other order of the court, notice of which was duly served or delivered upon such person, may be assessed $25.00 for each such failure to appear. Such costs shall be in addition to all other costs, fees, and penalties imposed by the court, if such person is a defendant and has been found guilty or pleads guilty or no contest to any violation of this Code.

(6) The forfeiture of any jury demand fee, together with additional court costs not to exceed $45.00, may be assessed against every defendant who is found guilty of an ordinance or Charter violation in a trial to a jury.

(7) Reserved.

(8) Notwithstanding any other provisions contained in this section, the city attorney is vested with the authority to enter into a plea bargain with a defendant on the date of the defendant's trial. Such plea bargain may include an assessment of additional costs against the defendant, not to exceed $40.00 for each and every police officer subpoenaed to attend a trial of the defendant, and the court is granted the authority to approve and assess against the defendant such additional costs.

Section 2. Severability. The provisions of this Ordinance are hereby declared to be severable. If any section, paragraph, clause, or provision of this Ordinance shall, for any reason, be held to be invalid or unenforceable by a court of competent jurisdiction, the invalidity or unenforceability of such section, paragraph, clause, or provision shall not affect any of the remaining provisions of this Ordinance.

Section 3. Pursuant to Section 5-5 of the Charter of the City of Aurora, Colorado, the second publication of this Ordinance shall be by reference, utilizing the ordinance title. Copies of this Ordinance are available at the Office of the City Clerk.

Section 4. Repealer. All orders, resolutions, or ordinances in conflict with this Ordinance or with any of the documents hereby approved, are hereby repealed only to the extent of such conflict. This repealer shall not be construed as reviving any resolution, ordinance, or part thereof, heretofore repealed.

INTRODUCED, READ AND ORDERED PUBLISHED this _____ day of _____, 2025.

PASSED AND ORDERED PUBLISHED this _____ day of _____, 2025.

_____
MIKE COFFMAN, Mayor

ATTEST:

_____
KADEE RODRIGUEZ, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

PETER A. SCHULTE, CITY ATTORNEY

By: Angela L. Garcia MP
ANGELA GARCIA, Senior Assistant City Attorney

CITY OF AURORA
Late Submission Approval for Agenda Item

Item Title: Ordinance regarding the Court Administrator reporting to the City Manager
Item Initiator: Council Members Curtis Gardner and Francoise Bergan
Staff Source/Legal Source: Matt Brukbacher, Commander/ Mandy MacDonald, Assistant City Attorney
Outside Speaker: N/A
Council Goal: 2012: 4.0--Create a superior quality of life for residents making the city a desirable place to live and work

CRITERIA - PLEASE CONSIDER ITEM FOR LATE SUBMISSION FOR THE FOLLOWING REASON:

☒ There is a time-sensitive legal requirement that must be met and cannot be met by a future meeting date

☐ The delay will result in an adverse financial impact to the city

☐ The item is related to a disaster and must be addressed before the next available meeting

☒ The item was requested by Council Members Curtis Gardner and Francoise Bergan

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COUNCIL MEETING DATES FOR LATE SUBMISSION:

Study Session: 8/11

Regular Meeting: 8/25/2025

EXPLANATION: *(Please provide a detailed explanation as to why the item falls into one or more of the above criteria and why it may not be set for a future meeting date.)*

This item was requested by Council Members, Curtis Gardner and Francoise Bergan.

I understand the agenda item will not be added to the agenda without submitting this completed form as an attachment in e-Scribe. The agenda item will not be added to the agenda if the workflow is not completed by the WORKFLOW COMPLETED date indicated on the agenda deadline calendar.

_____	Jason Batchelor
Agenda Item Initiator Name	Late Submission Approver Name (Council Appointee or DCM)
_____	Jason Batchelor 07.28.2025
Agenda Item Initiator Signature Date	Late Submission Approver Signature Date

CITY OF AURORA
Council Agenda Commentary

Item Title: Providing Authority to the City Manager Over the Court Administrator (Ordinance)
Item Initiator: Curtis Gardner, Council Member / Françoise Bergan, Council Member
Staff Source/Legal Source: Jason Batchelor, City Manager / Andrea Wood, Assistant City Attorney
Outside Speaker: N/A
Strategic Outcome: Well-Managed: High performing organization, committed to great customer service, innovation, continuous improvement, fiscal stewardship, and maintaining critical infrastructure.

COUNCIL MEETING DATES:

Study Session: N/A

Regular Meeting: 8/25/2025

2nd Regular Meeting (if applicable): 9/8/2025

Item requires a Public Hearing: ☐ Yes ☒ No

ITEM DETAILS *(Click in highlighted area below bullet point list to enter applicable information.)*

- Waiver of reconsideration requested, and if so, why
- Sponsor name
- Staff source name and title / Legal source name and title
- Outside speaker name and organization
- Estimated time: (For Study Session items only indicate combined time needed for presentation and discussion)

Sponsor: Curtis Gardner, Council Member / Françoise Bergan, Council Member
Jason Batchelor, City Manager / Andrea Wood, Assistant City Attorney
Estimated time: 10 mins

ACTIONS(S) PROPOSED *(Check all appropriate actions)*

☐ Approve Item and Move Forward to Study Session

☒ Approve Item and Move Forward to Regular Meeting

☐ Information Only

☐ Approve Item with Waiver of Reconsideration
Reason for waiver is described in the Item Details field above.

☐ Approve Item as Proposed at Policy Committee

☐ Approve Item as Proposed at Study Session

☐ Approve Item as Proposed at Regular Meeting

PREVIOUS ACTIONS OR REVIEWS:

Policy Committee Name: N/A

Policy Committee Date: N/A

Action Taken/Follow-up: ***(Check all that apply)***

☐ Recommends Approval ☐ Does Not Recommend Approval

☐ Forwarded Without Recommendation ☐ Minutes Not Available

☐ Minutes Attached

HISTORY *(Dates reviewed by City council, Policy Committees, Boards and Commissions, or Staff. Summarize pertinent comments. ATTACH MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS, POLICY COMMITTEES AND BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS.)*

N/A

ITEM SUMMARY *(Brief description of item, discussion, key points, recommendations, etc.)*

Through this Ordinance the City Council would delegate the power to hire and remove the Court Administrator to the City Manager.

FISCAL IMPACT

Select all that apply. (If no fiscal impact, click that box and skip to "Questions for Council")

☐ Revenue Impact ☐ Budgeted Expenditure Impact ☐ Non-Budgeted Expenditure Impact
☐ Workload Impact ☐ No Fiscal Impact

REVENUE IMPACT
Provide the revenue impact or N/A if no impact. (What is the estimated impact on revenue? What funds would be impacted? Provide additional detail as necessary.)

BUDGETED EXPENDITURE IMPACT
Provide the budgeted expenditure impact or N/A if no impact. (List Org/Account # and fund. What is the amount of budget to be used? Does this shift existing budget away from existing programs/services? Provide additional detail as necessary.)

NON-BUDGETED EXPENDITURE IMPACT
Provide the non-budgeted expenditure impact or N/A if no impact. (Provide information on non-budgeted costs. Include Personal Services, Supplies and Services, Interfund Charges, and Capital needs. Provide additional detail as necessary.)

WORKLOAD IMPACT
Provide the workload impact or N/A if no impact. (Will more staff be needed or is the change absorbable? If new FTE(s) are needed, provide numbers and types of positions, and a duty summary. Provide additional detail as necessary.)

QUESTIONS FOR COUNCIL

Does Council wish to support the Ordinance?

LEGAL COMMENTS

The court administrator shall be appointed and removed by the city council. However, the city council may, by ordinance, delegate its appointment and removal authority to another officer or entity. (Article 10-4(d) Aurora City Charter). (A. Wood)

ORDINANCE NO. 2025- ____

A BILL

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, DELEGATING TO THE CITY MANAGER THE AUTHORITY TO APPOINT AND REMOVE THE COURT ADMINISTRATOR

WHEREAS, the City Charter, Section 10-4(d) establishes an administrative unit entitled "court administration," which is directed by a Court Administrator; and

WHEREAS, the Charter also provides that the Court Administrator shall be appointed and removed by the City Council, but authorizes the City Council to delegate that authority by ordinance to another officer or entity; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to delegate the authority to appoint and remove the Court Administrator to the City Manager in order to streamline administrative operations and align with best practices in municipal administration.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO:

Section 1. That Section 50-136 of the City Code of the City of Aurora, Colorado, is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 50-136 – Administrative office of courts and staff.

The administrative office of the courts will be headed by a court administrator appointed by and serving at the pleasure of the city ~~council~~ **manager, as delegated by city council**. The court administrator's annual salary and benefits shall be established by the city council in a fashion similar to the other city officers. The court administrator shall have professionally trained and experienced deputies, assistants, and staff as provided through the budget process in order to carry out the duties and responsibilities of the administrative office of the court.

Section 4. Pursuant to Section 5-5 of the Charter of the City of Aurora, Colorado, the second publication of this Ordinance shall be by reference, utilizing the ordinance title. Copies of this Ordinance are available at the Office of the City Clerk.

Section 5. All orders, resolutions, or ordinances in conflict with this Ordinance or with any of the documents hereby approved, are hereby repealed only to the extent of such conflict. This repealer shall not be construed as reviving any resolution, ordinance, or part thereof, heretofore repealed.

INTRODUCED, READ AND ORDERED PUBLISHED this _____ day of _____, 2025.

PASSED AND ORDERED PUBLISHED this _____ day of _____, 2025.

_____
MIKE COFFMAN, Mayor

ATTEST:

_____
KADEE RODRIGUEZ, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

PETER A. SCHULTE, CITY ATTORNEY

By: Andrea Wood MK
ANDREA WOOD, Assistant City Attorney

CITY OF AURORA
Council Agenda Commentary

Item Title: Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Future In-Person or Virtual Council Meetings
Item Initiator: Peter Schulte, City Attorney
Staff Source/Legal Source: Peter Schulte, City Attorney / Jack Bajorek, Interim City Attorney
Outside Speaker: N/A
Council Goal: 2012: 2.1--Work with appointed and elected representatives to ensure Aurora's interests

COUNCIL MEETING DATES:

Study Session: N/A

Regular Meeting: 10/14/2024

2nd Regular Meeting (if applicable): N/A

Item requires a Public Hearing: ☐ Yes ☒ No

ITEM DETAILS *(Click in highlighted area below bullet point list to enter applicable information.)*

- Agenda long title
- Waiver of reconsideration requested, and if so, why
- Sponsor name
- Staff source name and title / Legal source name and title
- Outside speaker name and organization
- Estimated time (For Study Session items only, indicate combined time needed for presentation and discussion)

Peter Schulte, City Attorney / Jack Bajorek, Interim City Attorney

ACTIONS(S) PROPOSED *(Check all appropriate actions)*

☐ Approve Item and Move Forward to Study Session

☐ Approve Item as Proposed at Study Session

☐ Approve Item and Move Forward to Regular Meeting

☐ Approve Item as Proposed at Regular Meeting

☐ Information Only

☐ Approve Item with Waiver of Reconsideration
Reason for waiver is described in the Item Details field above.

PREVIOUS ACTIONS OR REVIEWS:

Policy Committee Name: N/A

Policy Committee Date: N/A

Action Taken/Follow-up: ***(Check all that apply)***

☐ Recommends Approval ☐ Does Not Recommend Approval

☐ Forwarded Without Recommendation ☐ Minutes Not Available

☐ Minutes Attached

HISTORY *(Dates reviewed by City council, Policy Committees, Boards and Commissions, or Staff. Summarize pertinent comments. ATTACH MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS, POLICY COMMITTEES AND BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS.)*

N/A

ITEM SUMMARY *(Brief description of item, discussion, key points, recommendations, etc.)*

If needed, this is notice on the Council Agenda for Council to discuss their rules and procedures moving forward with in-person/virtual council meetings and other matters involving their rules and procedures.

FISCAL IMPACT

Select all that apply. (If no fiscal impact, click that box and skip to "Questions for Council")

☐ Revenue Impact ☐ Budgeted Expenditure Impact ☐ Non-Budgeted Expenditure Impact
☐ Workload Impact ☒ No Fiscal Impact

REVENUE IMPACT
Provide the revenue impact or N/A if no impact. (What is the estimated impact on revenue? What funds would be impacted? Provide additional detail as necessary.)

N/A

BUDGETED EXPENDITURE IMPACT
Provide the budgeted expenditure impact or N/A if no impact. (List Org/Account # and fund. What is the amount of budget to be used? Does this shift existing budget away from existing programs/services? Provide additional detail as necessary.)

N/A

NON-BUDGETED EXPENDITURE IMPACT
Provide the non-budgeted expenditure impact or N/A if no impact. (Provide information on non-budgeted costs. Include Personal Services, Supplies and Services, Interfund Charges, and Capital needs. Provide additional detail as necessary.)

N/A

WORKLOAD IMPACT
Provide the workload impact or N/A if no impact. (Will more staff be needed or is the change absorbable? If new FTE(s) are needed, provide numbers and types of positions, and a duty summary. Provide additional detail as necessary.)

N/A

QUESTIONS FOR COUNCIL

If needed, does Council wish to discuss their Rules and Procedures, including, but not limited to, addressing and/or making a decision on whether future council meetings will be in-person/virtual?

LEGAL COMMENTS

The corporate authority and all legislative authority of the City shall be vested in the council, as the governing body of the City. The council shall determine its own rules and procedures and order of business and shall keep a journal of its proceedings. City Code Section 2-32. (Schulte)