



## Proposed Purpose and Need for the Project

**The purpose of the project** is to develop and implement a flexible and sustainable plan for the 16<sup>th</sup> Street Mall to address deteriorating infrastructure, increase its use as a gathering place, and improve pedestrian and vehicle safety, while continuing reliable two-way transit shuttle service within the Mall and honoring the Mall's past and future.

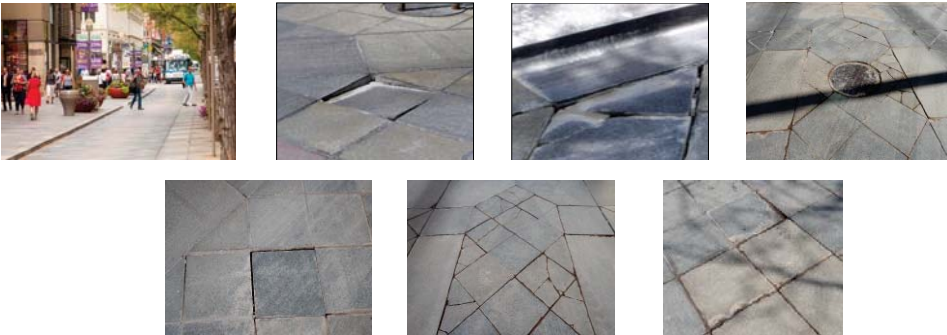
### Improvements are needed to:

- Increase opportunities for public use of the Mall as a destination for leisure, commerce, and tourism
- Address deteriorating infrastructure to allow reasonable maintenance frequency and costs
- Improve safety for pedestrians and vehicles
- Maintain mobility for desired transit operations and for all users

### Additional Goals

- Maintain and improve economic viability of businesses on the Mall and on adjacent streets
- Provide a balance of amenities fronting properties on both sides of the Mall
- Maintain and improve a sense of security on the Mall
- Honor the Mall's historic design, building upon its character-defining features
- Enhance the public image of the Mall as one of Denver's primary identity elements
- Minimize social and environmental impacts
- Minimize construction impacts to businesses and transit
- Provide a flexible, dynamic space over time of day, season, and year

*Deteriorating infrastructure includes cracked, displaced, loose, and spalled pavers.*



# Social and Environmental Resource Analysis

As part of the National Environmental Policy Act process, the lead agencies:

- Study the effects of the project on social and environmental resources
- Analyze how to avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse impacts on resources



Key resources to be studied for the 16th Street Mall include:

- **Historic Resources.** The Mall is considered historically significant because of its design, engineering, and role in helping revitalize downtown Denver.
- **Visual/Aesthetics.** The Mall’s iconic design has high visual and aesthetic quality.
- **Economics.** Businesses and residences line the Mall, and commercial enterprises (e.g., food trucks, retail kiosks) operate on the Mall.
- **Recreational Resources.** Skyline Park crosses the Mall.
- **Safety and Security.** The design and operation of the Mall considers safety—risk of accidents, vehicle/pedestrian conflicts, and emergency access; and security—protection from crime.
- **Water Quality.** Current regulations require treatment of surface stormwater runoff to remove pollutants and sediment.

Other resources include environmental justice, air quality, noise, transit operations, pedestrian mobility, and hazardous materials.

