

# Far Northeast Area Plan Steering Committee Meeting #10



Date and Time: Wednesday, March 29, 2018, 6:00 - 7:45 p.m.

Location: Montbello Library

---

## Attendees

### STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS (PRESENT)

Frank Tagader	Blanca Madrid
Charlie Foster	Shelli Brown
Ann White	Terry Liggins
John Foote	Rose Thomas
Nora Kimball- proxy for Susan Stanton	

### STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS (ABSENT)

Loretta Pineda	Angie Rivera-Malpiede
Katie McKenna	Rich Barrows
Brian Smith	Tim Camarillo
Earleen Brown	LaToya Petty
Turner Wyatt	

### ELECTED OFFICIALS/COUNCIL DISTRICT AIDES

Bonnie Guillen, District 8	Magen Elenz, District 11
	Melissa Sotelo, District 11

### COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT STAFF

Eugene Howard	Lilly Djanants
Valerie Herrera	

### VISITORS/GUESTS

Blake Fullenwider	Garakhalli Mohan, AECOM
Jasper Vue	Jay Renkins, MIG
Khadija Haynes	Mondi Mason, DDPHE
Janice Finch, DPW	Gretchen Armijo, DDPHE
Nick VanderKwaak, AECOM	

## Meeting Summary

### 1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Co-Chair Ann White welcomed the attendees and led the meeting.

### 2. MEETING NOTES APPROVAL

The February 22, 2018 meeting notes were reviewed and approved. There were no changes.

### 3. MOBILITY, TRANSPORTATION, AND CONNECTIVITY

Nick Vanderkwaak from AECOM presented a detailed overview of the Far Northeast transportation system. AECOM studied existing facilities and data, including congestion and collisions in the Far Northeast over the last 5 years. This analysis was used to identify the most critical areas for improvements for all modes of transportation.

- a. Streets- Generally speaking, intersections with traffic lights are the most common location for accidents, and streets with more travel lanes or higher levels of congestion are also associated with more accidents.
  - i. Many accident-prone areas were identified along Peoria, indicating a possible need for intersection improvements.
  - ii. Collisions are concentrated along Albrook, indicating a possible need to improve that corridor.
  - iii. Tower Road is another area of improvement because of anticipated future development and change.
  - iv. Piccadilly requires additional study due to development to the south, which will increase travel demand.
  - v. There's a proposal to extend 38<sup>th</sup> Ave, but due to First Creek and drainage issues, the first phase will not yet connect to Piccadilly
  - vi. AECOM showed examples of images for intersections. Steering Committee members liked all of the images and suggested using planters as barricades and green infrastructure that is self-watering
- b. Bike Facilities- AECOM presented maps of existing bike facilities, proposed facilities from *Denver Moves- Bicycles*, and data on bike facility usage and accidents. This analysis identified several possible bike enhancements that could be recommended by the Far Northeast Plan. Steering committee members emphasized the need for more bike facilities in the area and suggested that the plan consider locating bike lanes on parallel streets rather than on busy arterials.
- c. Pedestrian Facilities- AECOM's analysis identified missing sidewalks throughout the plan area and overlaid that map with data that showed collisions and fatalities. Public Works is preparing an analysis of sidewalk and trail improvements throughout Denver. Improvements are proposed in tiers, with priority placed on access to mass transit. AECOM is using the same methodology for prioritization. Steering committee members identified that access to schools should also be included as a high priority.
- d. Transit- The draft *Denver Moves- Transit* plan shows several "speed and reliability" corridors that could be prioritized to run faster and smoother than conventional bus lines. The Far Northeast Plan's transit recommendations will use this network as a starting point and will also include strategies for "first and last mile" connections to rail stations.

### 4. FRESHLO INITIATIVE

Terry Liggins presented an overview of FreshLo, which is a resident-driven initiative of the Montbello Organizing Committee to strengthen the community, engage in creative placemaking, and improve access to fresh local foods. The concept was developed through grants and partnerships with the Kresge Foundation, Colorado Health Foundation, Denver Foundation, and

most recently an Urban Land Institute Technical Advisory Panel. There are four main components to the FreshLo concept:

- Cultural Hub – cultural facilities and meeting spaces with a grocery store as an anchor
- Urban Farming – including a greenhouse to help expand production and job training
- A Walkable Loop – connecting community gardens, schools and the cultural hub
- Maintain a communication platform

## 5. FOOD ACCESS

Mondi Mason from Denver Department of Public Health and the Environment (DDPHE) summarized Denver’s *2030 Food Vision* and explained its relationship to the Far Northeast Area Plan. The food vision advocates for creating a strong food system and a complete food environment. The food vision has four key pillars: inclusive, healthy, vibrant, and resilient.

The Far Northeast Area Plan will build on the *2030 Food Vision* by providing a food access strategy that is consistent with the citywide vision, but customized for Far Northeast. DDPHE’s analysis for Far Northeast included an inventory of existing food assets within Far Northeast, as well as desires that have been expressed by the community at public meetings. The ULI TAP’s findings on Freshlo are strongly aligned with the community’s desires. Specific opportunities for Far Northeast include the following:

- a. Inclusive
  - i. Increase local food diversity
  - ii. Implement FreshLo
  - iii. Encourage community gardens, urban farming, local greenhouses, fruit trees in parks and community composting
- b. Healthy
  - i. Increase access to healthy, affordable food within the neighborhood through farmer’s markets, grocery store co-ops, food delivery services, and online delivery
  - ii. Provide transportation choices or utilize new delivery technologies for older adults
  - iii. Ensure bus routing and stop locations are convenient to food resources
  - iv. Increase safe and direct pedestrian access to healthy food resources
  - v. Reduce the number of fast food retailers
  - vi. Increase community education and awareness of healthy eating and cooking
  - vii. Increase student education and after-school programming around healthy foods, nutrition and cooking
- c. Vibrant
  - i. Support increased use of public spaces for food-related businesses
  - ii. Encourage local restaurants supported by local food co-ops and gardens
  - iii. Enable local distribution of retail and restaurant overstock
- d. Resilient
  - i. Expand opportunities for local food production on public and private lands
  - ii. Support consumer education to reduce the amount of food that goes to waste