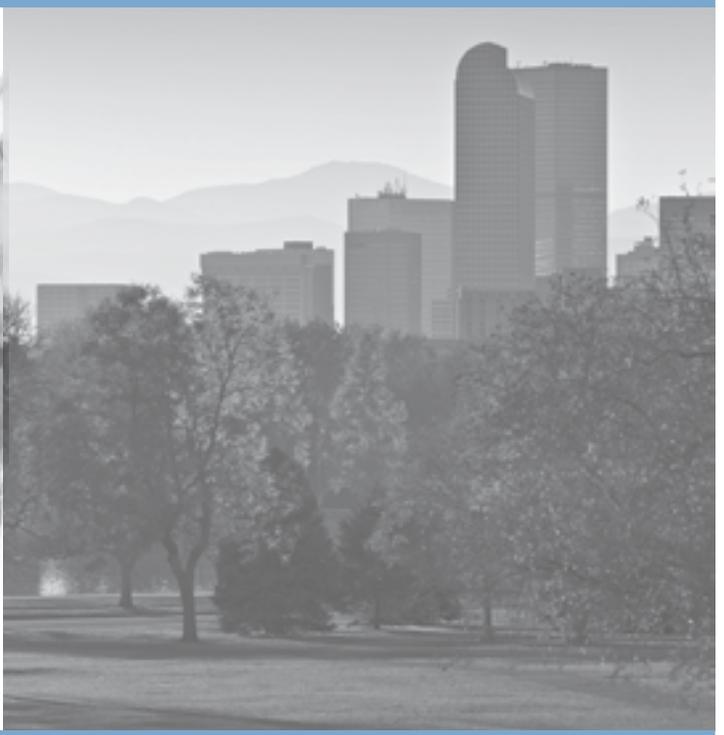


**Economic & Workforce
Development**



DENVER CITY COUNCIL
2016 Work Plan

Housing & Homelessness



Mobility and Transportation





DENVER CITY COUNCIL 2016 Work Plan

Council members

Rafael Espinoza, District 1

Kevin Flynn, District 2

Paul D. López, District 3 (President Pro-tem)

Kendra Black, District 4

Mary Beth Susman, District 5

Paul Kashmann, District 6

Jolon Clark, District 7

Christopher J. Herndon, District 8 (President)

Albus Brooks, District 9

Wayne New, District 10

Stacie Gilmore, District 11

Robin Kniech, At-large

Deborah "Debbie" Ortega, At-large

Message from the Council President

Dear Denver Resident,

On Friday, March 18, 2016, the Denver City Council held its inaugural Policy Planning Retreat. At this event, Council members discussed various challenges facing the city and offered priorities to focus on during the current year. Topics of discussion included infrastructure and mobility, safety, housing, economic development, and zoning across the city. Council members voted on policy items to be included in a Council-wide work plan for the year.

Outlined in this document are the details of the Denver City Council 2016 Work Plan: Mobility & Transportation; Housing & Homelessness; and Economic & Workforce Development.

The Council will establish working groups focused around these policy topics. These working groups will reach out to the community, bring in policy experts, study best practices and successful models from other municipalities and entities, and work collaboratively with the mayor's administration to develop recommendations, legislation, reports, or funding mechanisms to address these issues and provide a recommended path forward to the standing Council committees for action.

Other items that received Council support included: thorough and timely implementation of the solid waste master plan; food access; police staffing and deployment; customized zoning; a committee devoted to marijuana issues; and Colfax re-development. While these issues are important to the Council they were not identified as Council-wide priorities for the 2016 calendar year. However, Council members will continue to work on these issues in an ad-hoc capacity or in a smaller group setting.

The Council looks forward to addressing these very important challenges facing Denver in the upcoming year in order to make our city an even better place to live, work, play, and visit.

Sincerely,



Christopher J. Herndon
Denver City Council President



Mobility and Transportation Task Force



Chair: Jolon Clark

Members: Paul Kashmann, Kendra Black, Kevin Flynn, Rafael Espinoza

Central Staff: Shelley Smith

Reports to: Infrastructure/Public Works Committee

This working group will study citywide challenges facing transit, mobility, sidewalks, street maintenance and planning, public safety at intersections and traffic management, and look at successful models across the country in order to present a comprehensive plan for funding and implementing strategies to make Denver a more walkable, bikeable, safe, and transit-orientated city.

Specific Actions for the Task Force:

Existing Sidewalk Working Group

Fold the Sidewalk Working Group into the Task Force.

- The Sidewalk Working Group will continue to be chaired by Councilman Paul Kashmann and report any recommendations to the Infrastructure/Public Works Committee on behalf of the Task Force.
- The Working Group will continue its work to develop recommendations for citywide sidewalk infrastructure and ongoing maintenance, prioritizing neighborhoods or areas (schools, parks and transit) that do not currently have sidewalks or paved streets so all areas across the city are on same standard.
- Study options to establish a fund for low-income residents to repair their sidewalks.

Mobility and Transportation Task Force

- Work on a pedestrian and bicycle plan (with funding source) that incorporates regional equity.
- Study West Colfax as a barrier to transit and mobility.
- Look at strategies for crosswalk safety and evaluate the city's signal timing to improve safety at intersections.
- Study how infrastructure improvements can be utilized to address speeding in neighborhoods.
- Address arterial maintenance and paving.
- Collaborate with the State about the state highway systems that run through Denver.
- Determine a specific percentage of the Denver Moves plan that can realistically be implemented by a specific date.
- Develop a communication plan/process with RTD with the goal of enabling the City Council to plan for the long-term.
- Create standards for how the city looks at all mobility options as connectors for access to food citywide.
- Debate the recommendations provided by the Mayor's mobility task force.
- In Council's review of the budget, reprioritize dollars being spent in the city to address the issues outlined in this policy priority.

Mobility and Transportation Task Force

Year-end Goals:

Present to the Infrastructure Committee recommendations and funding sources for:

- Sidewalk infrastructure citywide as recommended by the Sidewalk Working Group.
- A several-year plan for erecting B-cycle stations citywide.
- New policies that come out of the VisionZero initiative.
- First and last mile connection issues via micro-transit and/or establishing the city's own transit authority.
- Intersection safety.
- Implementation of a percentage of the Denver Moves plan by a specific date.
- A communication plan/process with RTD.
- Action on agreed-upon recommendations from the Mayor's mobility task force.
- Budget recommendations that prioritize dollars on mobility and transportation issues citywide.

Housing and Homelessness Working Group



Chair: Robin Kniech

Members: Wayne New, Albus Brooks

Central Staff: Zach Rothmier

Reports to: Housing Committee

This working group will build upon the momentum from the Council’s December 11, 2015 Retreat on Homelessness and the work of the Ad-hoc Committee on Homelessness to study supportive housing options and mental health implications, address homeless families and youth and equitable geographic distribution of affordable housing, improve outreach and connect workforce programs with homeless individuals seeking employment opportunities.

Specific Actions for the Working Group:

- Fold in the Ad-Hoc Committee on Homelessness and replace it with this Working Group.
- Maintain the Housing Revenue Stakeholder Committee as a separate but partner entity to the Working Group.
 - Any recommendation or plan of action coming out of the Stakeholder Committee will be shared with the Working Group and presented to the Housing Committee of jurisdiction on behalf of the Working Group.
- Include public input in next steps of the affordable housing effort and other strategies for addressing homelessness citywide.
- Work on establishing permanent supportive housing goals.
- Develop a systematic approach for how to get homeless individuals off the street and into jobs.
- Establish a priority system for how homeless individuals are assigned/moved into housing developments.
- Consider options for implementing “housing first” or determine why it is not appropriate or feasible.
- Study how to fulfill temporary shelter needs for service resistant individuals.
- Realize the next step for housing opportunities for individuals who are working but need transitional housing after being successful in a job.
- Work with counterparts in other municipalities on how the city might partner on housing/homelessness issues regionally, including cross referencing with the Mayor’s metro caucus.

Year-end Goals:

Present to the Housing Committee:

- An ordinance dedicating annual revenue for affordable housing citywide, including annual goal-setting.
- Recommendations for addressing homeless families and youth.
- A supportive housing model.
- A plan for how to improve outreach and geographic distribution of affordable housing.
- A program connecting homeless individuals with workforce development and career/job opportunities.

Economic and Workforce Development Working Group



Chair: Albus Brooks

Members: Stacie Gilmore, Deborah “Debbie” Ortega

Central Staff: Debra Bartleson

Reports to: Economic Development Committee

This working group will focus on successful strategies for spreading economic recovery to all neighborhoods in Denver through workforce development, targeted hire, and job training programs specifically geared toward middle skill jobs and low-income individuals aged 25-65.

Specific Actions for the Working Group:

- Develop a strategy for establishing job pipelines to the city’s major projects: I-70, North Denver Cornerstone Collaborative/National Western Complex, and all bond-funded projects.
- Develop a pilot project modeled on best practices from other cities that includes the necessary resources (staffing and funding).
- Participate in a half-day technical work session to comprehensively review successful job placement and workforce development efforts implemented in other cities or by other entities and make this work session a model for deliberating other issues in the city.
- Learn from the success of RTD’s “Workforce Initiative Now” (WIN) project and the Denver Community College system’s experience with workforce development efforts.
- Seek input from individuals who fall into the unemployed or underemployed categories to better understand their needs, and whether the job training provided is relevant and offered at appropriate times, or actually creates unintentional barriers to success.
- Develop workforce skills that are transferable to address other issues, like food access and sustainability.
- Build connections between the city and local businesses who are hiring people for jobs that require particular skill-sets.
- Look at Project Labor Agreements and how they can help with local workforce/economic development efforts.

Year-end Goals:

Present to the Economic Development Committee strategies to:

- Have 90% job placement and 80% retention for the WIOA program (18-25 year olds).
- Expand the amount of money available for individual training accounts so as people take advantage of apprenticeships they have a direct tie-in with Denver Public Schools to work with youth (connection to training opportunities for individuals not going to college).
- Implement a strategy for job pipelines to the city’s major infrastructure projects.
- Review results and recommendations from the pilot project based on best practices from other cities (if the pilot project has been completed and results provided before year-end).
- Complete the half-day work session and implement job placement model.
- Provide programmatic recommendations to the mayor’s administration gleaned from RTD’s WIN project and other successful models.