Hello neighbors –

I’m certain the state of our city is strong because you – the people of Denver – are strong.

Your determination has powered our progress and empowered our people – while preserving the uniqueness of our neighborhoods. That is what makes us the best city in America. You’ve helped drive down our unemployment rate to an historically low 2.3%. You’ve worked with us to find more ways to create more affordable homes for those who need them. And you’ve come together with law enforcement to make our city and neighborhoods safer.

Without question, our city is changing, as cities do. But we must not lose who we are amid today’s growth and development. Change should happen the Denver way, so that we remain connected to our past, to our neighborhoods and to one another. Change should reflect the heart and passion of our city and her people, not displace the accessible way of life that has been our hallmark.

During my annual State of the City Address today, I unveiled a new Mobility Action Plan – a roadmap that will accelerate projects, policies and programs to move more people, more efficiently and more safely. The Plan calls for:

- A massive reduction of drivers who commute in cars by themselves;
- A significant increase in pedestrian, bicycle and bus commuters;
- Greater deployment of electric vehicles and charging stations;
- Wider use of smart technology to improve access, cost and reliability for everyone;
- Reducing traffic-related fatalities to zero by 2030.

Enacting the plan will require a minimum $2 billion investment over the next 12 years to provide residents with the mobility choices they’ve said they want to make.


Today, I also announced several other initiatives that will help Denver remain a city built by and for the people:

- **Increase access to parks and recreation activities for Denver residents.** Over the coming year, the city will open a new recreation center near East High School, create new parks along the South Platte River, revive a dormant portion of the city-owned Red Rocks mountain park for camping and other outdoor activities and activities, and launch My Denver Prime to expand discounted access to recreation centers for older adults and senior citizens.

- **Fix, repair and improve streets and other essential infrastructure and city facilities.** The 2017 General Obligation Bond, up for voter consideration in November, will allow for necessary improvements to roadways, sidewalks, bike lanes, playgrounds, rec centers, pools, libraries, cultural attractions and the Denver Health Medical Center.
• **Preserve neighborhood character while planning for the future.** Upcoming recommendations from Denveright – a comprehensive citizen-driven planning effort – will guide and coordinate zoning, transit, parks and recreation, and pedestrian and trails plans for the next 20 years. New neighborhood plans and other tools will also help residents chart the future of their communities.

• **Keep Denver affordable for everyone.** The city will leverage its new $150 million housing fund to create more housing options and mixed-income neighborhoods for all Denver families and residents. The city will be partnering with landlords to open vacant apartments for low- to moderate-income renters. My 2018 budget package will put anti-displacement measures that support longtime families and businesses front and center throughout next year and beyond.

• **Enhance our economy to keep Denver competitive and provide good-paying jobs for local residents.** Plans will advance over the next 12 months to enhance the Colorado Convention Center, redesign DIA’s Great Hall and create the National Western Center. The NWC is preparing to launch a community investment fund that will provide direct support to residents and small businesses in Globeville and Elyria-Swansea.

More information is available [HERE](#).

A city by and for the people who call it home is our guiding light. Only because of your sacrifices, struggles, and achievements do we prosper. The time is now for a new civic contract, when opportunity abounds in every neighborhood. We must not forget where we came from, how far we’ve come, and how far we’ve yet to go.

Respectfully,

Michael B. Hancock
Mayor