

Blueprint Denver

A BLUEPRINT FOR
AN INCLUSIVE CITY

Executive Summary

April 2019

Denverright.
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DENVER
THE MILE HIGH CITY

Blueprint Denver: A Blueprint for an Inclusive City

An Equitable City

Planning for equity and guiding change to benefit everyone

Equity means everyone, regardless of who they are or where they come from, has the opportunity to thrive. Where there is equity, a person's identity does not determine their outcome. As a city, we advance equity by serving individuals, families and communities in a manner that reduces or eliminates persistent institutional biases and barriers based on race, ability, gender identity and sexual orientation, age and other factors.

In recent years, Denver's economic strength and population growth have benefited many, but not all. Without accounting and adjusting for important equity considerations, the forces of change acting on our city will prevent it from achieving its vision for inclusive, complete neighborhoods. *Blueprint Denver* offers three major concepts to consider for future policies and investments. Integrating these concepts into planning an implementation will help to create a more equitable Denver.

Improving Access to Opportunity

creating more equitable access to quality-of-life amenities, health and quality education.

Reducing Vulnerability to Displacement

stabilizing residents and businesses who are vulnerable to involuntary displacement due to increasing property values and rents.

Expanding Housing and Jobs Diversity

providing a better and more inclusive range of housing and employment options in all neighborhoods.

*Each equity concept has a relevant measurement, which the plan maps across the city. The maps show a snapshot in time in order to inform decisions that will guide change in years to come. See chapter 2 of *Blueprint Denver* to learn more.*

Blueprint Denver is a citywide land use and transportation plan for the next 20 years. Its vision for Denver is an equitable city of complete neighborhoods and networks. It is an evolving city where growth complements existing neighborhoods and benefits everyone.

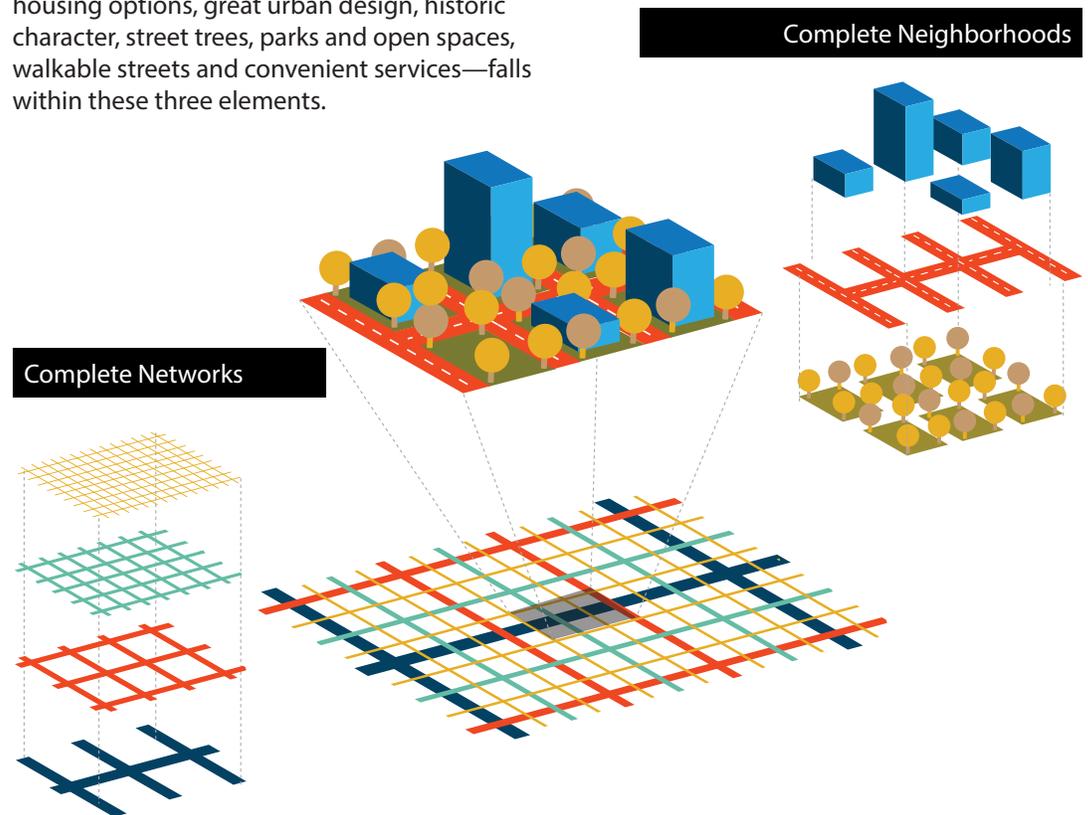
A City of Complete Neighborhoods & Networks

Connecting Denverites to all of their daily needs



A truly inclusive city is composed of complete neighborhoods and great places accessible to everyone, regardless of age, ability or income. *Blueprint Denver* establishes a framework to plan and implement complete neighborhoods. Three interrelated elements form the foundation of a complete neighborhood: land use and built form, mobility and quality-of-life infrastructure. Everything that makes a neighborhood complete—such as diverse housing options, great urban design, historic character, street trees, parks and open spaces, walkable streets and convenient services—falls within these three elements.

These complete neighborhoods should be connected by a complete multimodal transportation network with more choices to get to our jobs, schools, homes and leisure activities. Building out complete networks for all modes—pedestrians, bicycles, transit, autos and goods movement—is essential to moving more people on our streets.



Blueprint Denver explores the fundamental relationship between where we live, work and play and how we move throughout the city. The plan's vision and goals are realized through the planning and implementation of complete neighborhoods connected by a complete multimodal transportation network.

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An Evolving City

A measured, common-sense approach to where growth should go and how it should fit in.

Blueprint Denver provides a nuanced way to handle growth and development, preserving our most cherished historic and cultural assets while directing growth to key centers, corridors and high density residential areas where there is underutilized land and strong transportation options. Responsibly handling Denver's share of the region's growth can bring positive economic benefits and

placemaking opportunities that help the city achieve its vision and goals.

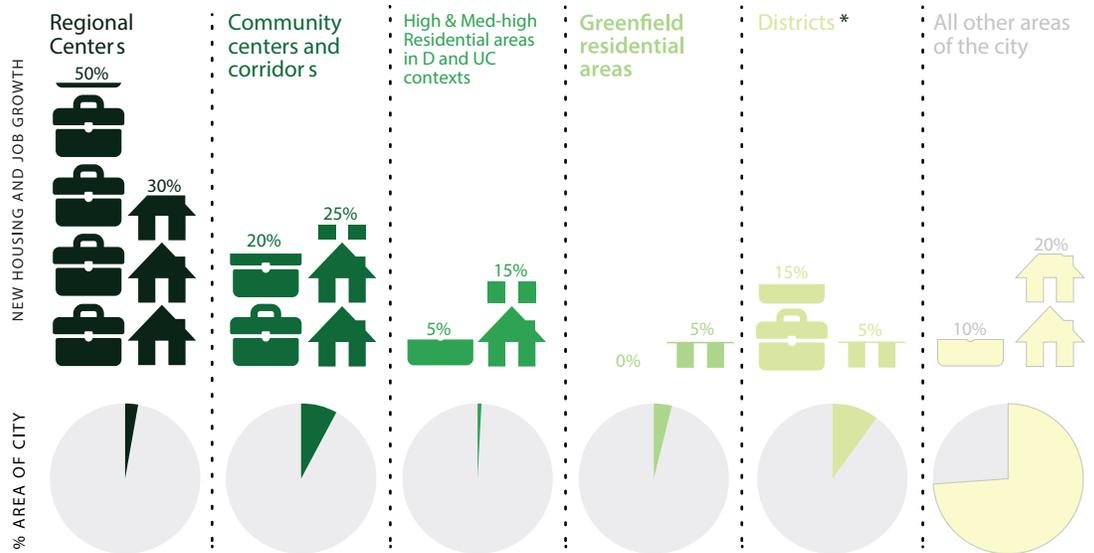
As the city continues to grow and evolve, Denverites will celebrate the legacy of the unique neighborhoods that make Denver special, while embracing the energy that comes with a growing world-class city.

Denver in 2040

Total Projections
Population: 894,000
Jobs: 720,000

2017-2040 Growth Projections
Population: +189,000
Households: +90,000
Jobs: +136,000

Future Growth Areas



% of new households by 2040
 % of new jobs by 2040

*New jobs in Value Manufacturing, Innovation Flex, certain Campus (only university and hospitals.) Airport Districts. New households in Innovation Flex and certain Campus (only universities) Districts. Excludes DEN land area.

The future growth areas are derived from the future places map and directs the majority of growth to key centers and corridors while showing that some growth will occur in all parts of the city. It reflects community input during the plan process and was developed in conjunction with the state and the Denver Regional Council of Governments.

Making it Happen

Blueprint Denver is about putting our vision into action. Implementing the plan's recommendations will require time, dedication and partnerships.

Blueprint Denver contains many recommendations, organized by the three elements of a complete neighborhood. Below is a list of key recommendations for each topic – read the full plan for the complete list and for more detailed strategies. The recommendations below are high-impact implementation actions expected to occur within the first 3-5 years of plan adoption.



- Integrate mitigation of involuntary displacement of residents and/or businesses into major city projects.
- Increase the development of affordable housing and mixed-income housing, particularly in areas near transit. This includes exploring a zoning incentive for affordable housing in centers and along transit corridors throughout the city.
- Diversify housing options by exploring opportunities to integrate missing middle housing into low- and low-medium residential areas.
- Ensure neighborhoods have equal access to design quality tools.
- Ensure residential neighborhoods retain their unique character as infill development occurs. This includes changes to the zoning code and other tools – such as pattern books and overlays – to enhance and preserve neighborhood character.
- Encourage mode shift – more trips by walking and rolling, biking and transit – through efficient land use and infrastructure improvements. This requires implementing the multimodal network in the *Denver Moves* plans, including the transit investment corridors in *Denver Moves: Transit*.
- On all streets, prioritize people walking and rolling over other modes of transportation.
- Implement the vision for street types and the multimodal network to create complete streets. This includes developing comprehensive street design guidelines and regulations to implement the street types and modal priorities in Blueprint Denver.
- Embrace emerging technologies for mobility and transportation safety. This includes encouraging new technologies to disincentivize single occupancy trips and to prioritize pedestrians.
- Expand tools and regulations to ensure high-quality parks and outdoor public spaces keep pace with Denver's growth.
- Protect and expand Denver's tree canopy on both public and private property.
- Promote environmentally-friendly development strategies in the public and private realms.
- Ensure attractive streets and outdoor spaces in all centers and corridors, giving priority to pedestrian spaces and amenities.
- Develop tools to improve access to healthy foods to support community health outcomes.

A Living Plan

The city is committed to advancing the strategies in *Blueprint Denver*, to measure and report on the progress of achieving the plan's goals and to work with the community to keep *Blueprint Denver* relevant over time. This includes measuring metrics established in the plan on an annual basis and sharing implementation progress with the community.