Blueprint Denver
A BLUEPRINT FOR AN INCLUSIVE CITY

Executive Summary
Blueprint Denver: A Blueprint for an Inclusive City

Growth Strategy

All places in our city are constantly evolving in pursuit of becoming complete in their own way. With a measured, common-sense approach to new development, Blueprint Denver will direct most new housing and commercial growth to designated centers and corridors that are tied to strong transit options, major roadways and regional destinations.

- Regional centers like downtown and I-25 and Broadway will experience the most intense residential and commercial development.
- Community centers and corridors like Colfax Avenue and transit-station areas, which are smaller in scale but more frequent, may experience significant growth in housing and commercial development.
- High- and high-medium residential areas near downtown like the Central Platte Valley, Golden Triangle and Uptown will experience mixed-use development and contribute significantly to the city’s housing supply.
- All other areas of the city and the vast majority of its land—mostly single-family and duplex areas, but also our local centers and corridors — will evolve. They could be allowed to expand housing options in context-sensitive and respectful ways, like adding missing middle housing (such as townhomes) in appropriate locations and accessory dwelling units (carriage houses or mother-in-law apartments).

How it will happen:

The plan creates “places,” a classification system that designates the types of development appropriate for different neighborhood contexts.

This approach is more nuanced than the old “areas of change” and “areas of stability” model from Blueprint Denver 2002, and will help ensure the changes that happen are authentic to our neighborhoods and align with our transportation network.

You can look on the Blueprint Denver growth strategy map to see the various “place” designators for each part of our city, and then view the neighborhood contexts chapters to see what kind of intensity and scale the places near you could have.

The plan creates “street types,” a system that classifies streets by their function as well as their adjacent land use and character. As a street is enhanced over time, we can look to its classification for guidance to ensure it works, looks and feels right for how it’s used.

Equity

Blueprint Denver’s vision is for a more inclusive city. As neighborhoods and the city change, we must maintain economically, socially and racially diverse places. When investments are made, the city should value existing residents and limit their displacement. The plan calls for growing equitably through three key equity concepts: access to opportunity, vulnerability to displacement and housing and jobs diversity. These concepts help to advance a city where everyone — regardless of income, race, age or ability — has access to a high quality of life.

Urban Design

Denverites wants to live in a beautiful, vibrant city. Urban design is the creation of people-oriented places that prioritize an authentic community character with thoughtful transitions, aspirational design and an engaging public realm. Because it impacts how people perceive the spaces around them, urban design touches all aspects of the city including streets, parks, plazas and buildings. The plan focuses on the importance of urban design as a key component to our vision for Denver.

Water and Climate

Climate change impacts everyone. Without planning and significant action, climate change could result in hotter and harsher summers and extreme weather patterns such as droughts, floods and severe storms. This could create devastating impacts to our environment, ecosystems, health, economy and quality-of-life. The plan’s recommendations help to address water and climate change and are intended to make the city more environmentally-friendly and livable.

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Blueprint Denver is a land use and transportation plan for growing an inclusive and authentic city. The plan focuses on:

1. Creating complete neighborhoods and complete networks everywhere in our city, to meet the needs of all Denverites.
2. A measured, common-sense approach to where growth should go and how it should fit in.
3. For the first time, considering social equity factors so we can tailor solutions to each neighborhood’s unique needs — so changes that occur benefit everyone.
Blueprint Denver envisions every neighborhood becoming a "complete" neighborhood — with its own authentic character, quality-of-life amenities and housing options for all people. Blueprint Denver calls for establishing high-quality, continuous transportation networks that prioritize pedestrians, transit, bicycles or cars for seamless mobility throughout the city.

Complete Networks

Denver will have a complete multimodal transportation network across the city to provide more choices to get to our jobs, schools, homes and leisure activities.

Elements of a Complete Network

Pedestrian Network
All streets are designed to prioritize people walking, including those using mobility devices. Certain streets can be further enhanced to create vibrant public spaces.

Bicycle Network
Bicycle priority streets prioritize comfort and convenience for people biking.

Transit Network
Transit priority streets create a complete local transit network that complements the regional rail network.

Auto and Goods Movement
The network that promotes efficient auto and goods movement. Vehicle technology and how goods are delivered and received are rapidly changing.

Complete Neighborhoods

Denver will be composed of complete neighborhoods accessible to everyone, regardless of age, ability or income.

Elements of a Complete Neighborhood

Contribute to the character and quality of places in neighborhoods.

Connect people to the neighborhood places where they live, work and play.

Provide neighborhoods with natural features, active recreation opportunities and social spaces.