Denver Moves: Transit Task Force

Meeting #5 – April 6, 2017
1. Welcome & Introductions

- Opening remarks and housekeeping
- Task Force and audience introductions
Task Force Roadmap
2. Project Updates

• Recent and upcoming work
Neighborhood Drop-In Workshops

- Southwest Rec Center (SW)
- Montbello Denver Broncos Boys & Girls Club (Far NE)
- Cake Crumbs Bakery (NE)
- Corkey Gonzalez Branch Library (NW)
- Dazbog Coffee (E. Central)
- Colorado Light Rail Station at I-25 (SE)
- Denver Public Library Central Branch (W. Central)
Youth Stakeholder Group
Denveright Community Think Tank

- Themes from neighborhood context discussion:
  - Increase transit accessibility, frequency, reliability, and connectivity
  - Use transit priority tools, such as dedicated lanes
  - Improve connections with adjacent municipalities
  - Improve transit hubs and park-n-rides
• Themes from neighborhood context discussion (cont’d):
  - Introduce transit options beyond RTD services
  - Adopt one card for multiple services
  - Focus growth on transit-oriented areas
  - Incentivize developers to encourage alternatives to parking (e.g., EcoPasses)
3. Land Use & Transportation Connections: Scenario Planning

• Connecting land use and transportation
• *Blueprint Denver* overview and approach to scenario development
Coordinating Land Use & Transportation

- Virtuous cycle
- Transportation can shape land development decisions
- TOD principles increase demand for sustainable transportation
- Land use shapes travel behavior
Connecting Land Use & Transit
Scenarios in Blueprint Process

1. Process Update

RapidFire Scenarios

Community Inputs on Growth and Change

Preferred Growth Scenario

Preliminary Tools and Strategies

Preferred Tools and Strategies

4/6/2017
2. Guiding Growth and Change
Projected Growth for Denver

Between 2015 and 2040, Denver is projected to grow by:

- 129,000 to 254,900 additional residents.*
- 70,000 to 128,000 housing units.*

*Range of probable population and housing growth established for this exercise using DRCOG and DOLA resources.
Denver’s Current Strategy

Strategies and tools to direct growth to Areas of Change:

• Grow Downtown
• Redevelop Lowry and Stapleton
• Develop remaining green fields
• Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) around FasTracks stations and select corridors
Baseline 2040 – DRCOG Baseline Forecast

• Modeled regional growth forecast
• Moderate growth Downtown and in urban centers
• Continued growth in outer Denver areas

Development Intensity and Mix: Moderate
Housing Type Mix: Single family and multifamily
Transit Investment: Moderate
Case Studies: Growth Strategies

A. Limit Development Throughout the City
B. Expand and Intensify the City Center
C. Focus Density and Investment in Multiple Urban Centers
D. Enhance Corridors and Grow Neighborhood Centers
E. Embrace Multi-Pronged Growth
Case Studies: Growth Strategies

A. Limit Development Throughout the City
B. Expand and Intensify the City Center
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E. Embrace Multi-Pronged Growth
Boulder, Colorado

Strategies and tools to manage growth:

- Limit population
- 1967 Green Belt - Limit Developable Land
- 1971 Building Height Limitation
- 1976 Danish Plan
  - One of the first growth plans
  - Limited growth to 2% annually
Boulder, Colorado

Lessons Learned:

• Lack of affordable and workforce housing
• Average single family home sale price is $1,066,674 (2016)
• 60,000 people commuting in each day
RapidFire Scenario A – Limit Development Throughout the City

• Limited supply of new housing and slightly lower employment growth in Denver

• Remainder of Baseline 2040 Denver housing projection occurs as predominantly suburban growth elsewhere in region

Development Intensity and Mix: Low to Moderate
Housing Type Mix: Mostly Single Family
Transit Investment: Low
Case Studies: Growth Strategies

A. Limit Development Throughout the City
B. Expand and Intensify the City Center
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E. Embrace Multi-Pronged Growth
Vancouver, British Columbia

Strategies and tools to manage growth:

- Concentrate growth in downtown core
- Invest in transportation
- Vancouver Comprehensive Plan 2011-30
- Metro Vancouver 2040
Vancouver, British Columbia

Lessons Learned:
• Neighborhood amenities
• Creative open space provision in urban environment
• Protection of historic buildings and districts
• Protection of views and sun access with point towers
• Extreme mix of uses
• Reverse commute
RapidFire Scenario B – Expand and Intensify the City Center

• Strong growth and intensification in Downtown and inner-ring areas
• Neighborhoods see moderate levels of infill

Development Intensity and Mix: High
Housing Type Mix: Most Multifamily
Transit Investment: High
Case Studies: Growth Strategies

A. Limit Development Throughout the City
B. Expand and Intensify the City Center
C. Focus Density and Investment in Multiple Urban Centers
D. Enhance Corridors and Grow Neighborhood Centers
E. Embrace Multi-Pronged Growth
Los Angeles, California

Strategies and tools to manage growth:

• Focus growth along corridors and in multiple employment and amenity centers
• Invest in transportation
• 1989 Growth Management Plan
• General Plan 2035
Los Angeles, California

Lessons Learned:

• Urban Amenity Clusters
• Pitfalls of highway infrastructure
  – Traffic congestion
  – Highway islands
• Difficult to retrofit transportation networks
• Layered networks
RapidFire Scenario C – Focus Density and Investment in Multiple Urban Centers

• Growth directed to ~8-10 priority urban centers/TOD areas

• Moderate growth Downtown, in neighborhoods near priority urban centers, modest growth elsewhere
Case Studies: Growth Strategies

A. Limit Development Throughout the City
B. Expand and Intensify the City Center
C. Focus Density and Investment in Multiple Urban Centers
D. Enhance Corridors and Grow Neighborhood Centers
E. Embrace Multi-Pronged Growth
Portland, OR Metro Area

Strategies and tools to manage growth:

• Revitalize community commercial corridors
• Continued LRT, streetcar and transit investments
• Strong emphasis on bike network
• Urban Growth Boundary
• Metro’s 2040 Plan
• The Portland Plan
Portland, OR Metro Area

Lessons Learned:

• ‘20 Minute Neighborhoods’
• Smaller-scaled centers are easier to facilitate
• Neighborhood tensions related to intensifying corridors
• Strong regional collaboration
RapidFire Scenario D – Enhance Corridors and Grow Neighborhood Centers

- Significant reinvestment and redevelopment of auto-oriented corridors
- Creation of smaller neighborhood centers

Development Intensity and Mix: Moderate to Low
Housing Type Mix: More Multifamily
Transit Investment: Moderate
Case Studies: Growth Strategies

A. Limit Development Throughout the City
B. Expand and Intensify the City Center
C. Focus Density and Investment in Multiple Urban Centers
D. Enhance Corridors and Grow Neighborhood Centers
E. Embrace Multi-Pronged Growth
Chicago, Illinois

Strategies and tools to manage growth:

• Growing is a goal
• Fund reinvestment across the city
• Coordinate at a local and regional level
• Invest in multiple layers of transit
• Go To 2040 Plan
Chicago, Illinois

Lessons Learned:
• Packaging formula: mixed-use works
• Parking management
• Acceptance of congestion
• Amenities access
• Retain neighborhood character while growing
RapidFire Scenario E – Embrace Multi-Pronged Growth

• Denver captures a greater share of regional growth projection

• Strong growth throughout Denver

• Highest development intensities of all scenarios in Downtown and inner-ring areas
3. RapidFire Scenarios Evaluation: Sample Outputs
### RapidFire Scenarios – Denver Growth 2015 to 2040

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Low</th>
<th>A. Limit Development Throughout the City</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Medium</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>B. Expand and Intensify the City Center</td>
<td>Baseline 2040 Forecast</td>
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<tr>
<td>C. Focus Density and Investment in Multiple Urban Centers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. Enhance Corridors and Grow Neighborhood Centers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>High</strong></td>
<td>E. Embrace Multi-Pronged Growth</td>
</tr>
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</table>
RapidFire Scenarios

3. RapidFire Scenario Evaluations

Development Intensity and Mix
- Baseline 2040
- A Limited Development
- B Expand City Center
- C Multiple Urban Centers
- D Corridors and Nhood Centers
- E Embrace Growth

Housing Type Mix

Transit Investment

4/6/2017
**New Land Consumption – Total to 2040**

Scenario A, which pushes a portion of Denver’s projected housing and employment growth to other areas in the region, **consumes 4,800 acres more greenfield land throughout the region** than the Baseline 2040 scenario.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scenario</th>
<th>Land Consumption (ac)</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baseline 2040</td>
<td>1,840</td>
<td>-62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Limit Development</td>
<td>6,640</td>
<td>+260%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B Expand City Center</td>
<td>1,480</td>
<td>-20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C Multiple Urban Centers</td>
<td>1,750</td>
<td>-5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D Corridors and Nhood Centers</td>
<td>1,230</td>
<td>-33%</td>
</tr>
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</table>

### 3. RapidFire Scenario Evaluations

- **Scenario A** pushes Denver’s projected housing and employment growth to other areas in the region, **consumes 4,800 acres more greenfield land throughout the region** than the Baseline 2040 scenario.

- **Scenario B** expands the City Center, reducing urban centers by 20%.

- **Scenario C** supports multiple urban centers, reducing by 5%.

- **Scenario D** focuses on corridors and neighborhood centers, reducing by 33%.

- **Scenario E** embraces growth, decreasing by 5%.

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*4/6/2017*
Vehicle Miles Traveled – Total Annual, 2040

Scenario B reduces driving by nearly 150 million miles in 2040.

- Existing: 3.15 bil
- Baseline 2040: 3.39 bil
- A Limit Development: +4.2% (3.53 bil)
- B Expand City Center: -4.3% (3.25 bil)
- C Multiple Urban Centers: -2.4% (3.31 bil)
- D Corridors and Nhood Centers: -1.5% (3.34 bil)
- E Embrace Growth: +3.6% (3.52 bil)
### Scenario Impacts per New Household – Annual in 2040

Impacts per new household vary widely. Potential household costs range from a savings of $1,900 in the High Denver Growth scenario to an increase of $1,700 in the Low Denver Growth scenario (in 2016 dollars).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scenario</th>
<th>VMT</th>
<th>Energy Use</th>
<th>Water Use</th>
<th>Household Costs</th>
<th>GHG Emissions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baseline 2040 Forecast</td>
<td>3,900</td>
<td>59 mil Btu</td>
<td>36,300</td>
<td>$10,100</td>
<td>15.2 MT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. Limit Development Throughout the City</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>13%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B. Expand and Intensify the City Center</td>
<td>-21%</td>
<td>-20%</td>
<td>-18%</td>
<td>-16%</td>
<td>-14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Focus Density and Investment in Multiple Urban Centers</td>
<td>-13%</td>
<td>-15%</td>
<td>-16%</td>
<td>-10%</td>
<td>-11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. Enhance Corridors and Grow Neighborhood Centers</td>
<td>-8%</td>
<td>-5%</td>
<td>-7%</td>
<td>-5%</td>
<td>-5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E. Embrace Multi-Pronged Growth</td>
<td>-21%</td>
<td>-32%</td>
<td>-33%</td>
<td>-19%</td>
<td>-20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4. Connecting Transit to Land Use & Transportation Scenarios

- Growth strategy exercise introduction
- Mapping activity and small group discussions
- Report out
Purpose of Growth Strategy Exercise

By 2040, Denver is projected to grow by:

- 129,000 to 254,900 additional residents.
- 70,000 to 128,000 housing units.

This exercise will help us to:

- Understand the community’s preferred areas for growth
- Facilitate discussions about tradeoffs related to ways we can evolve over the next 20+ years
Growth and Tradeoffs

- How much should Denver grow?
- How and where should Denver grow?
- Who has access to new transit, jobs and amenities associated with new development?
- What are potential impacts on existing residents?
- What are potential impacts on equity, community health and the environment?
The Game Board – “Bones” of the City

• Neighborhood Contexts
• LRT Rail Stations and ½-mile walkshed
• Proposed Colfax BRT
• Centers and Neighborhood Nodes
• Parks
Neighborhood Contexts

The Denver Zoning Code is a context-based approach that sets standards for development that are compatible with the existing development pattern and infrastructure.

- Downtown
- Urban Center
- General Urban
- Urban
- Urban Edge
- Suburban
Priority Transit Corridors

- Priority transit corridors support higher density land uses and economic development around high-quality transit service.
- Transit vehicles along these routes tend to make fewer stops, travel at higher speeds, have more frequent service and carry more people than local service routes.
- Corridors can include light rail, streetcar, commuter rail, and bus rapid transit.
Mixed-Use Development
Playing the Game (Small Groups)

- Task 1: Identify Priority Transit Corridors
- Task 2: New Mixed-Use Centers
Small Group Discussion

• Is this the priority transit network we want?
• What other segments should have been in the mix?
• What new centers are needed?
• What existing centers should be connected?
Small Group Report Out
7. Task Force Participation #4: Build Your Own Transit System

- Work in small groups to complete the survey (compromise!)
- Discuss opportunities to encourage your communities to participate
- Share link when tool is live
8. Next Steps

• Next Task Force participation opportunity
  – Spread the word and stop by Neighborhood Drop-in Workshops in April and May
  – Share and promote the Build Own Transit System

• Task Force Meeting #6: June 1,
9. Questions and Comments

www.denvergov.org/denveright