Near Northwest Area Plan

Steering Committee Meeting #4

September 28, 2021
Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions - 10 minutes
- Engagement Update & Input Highlights - 15 minutes
- Visioning (Small and large group discussion) - 90 minutes
- Closing & Next Steps - 5 minutes
Zoom

- Turn on video if possible
- Mute when you are not speaking
- Chat with Edson if you have technical issues
- Meeting discussion will be with Steering Committee members
- Members of the public can send chat questions, and we will try to answer if we have time at the end
- Meeting is being recorded
Steering Committee

- Advisory group that represents a diverse set of community interests in the planning area

- Meets regularly throughout the plan process – typically one 2-hour meeting per month

- Role is to:
  - Spread awareness and connect community members
  - Advise on process
  - Inform, generate ideas, and serve as a sounding board
  - Help synthesize feedback and seek consensus
Questions from 8/24 Meeting?
Community Kickoff & Process Update
Planning Process

We Are Here

Understanding the Area
Define the Issues and Develop Initial Recommendations
Refine Recommendations
Community Review of Draft Plan
Adoption

Phase 1 Results:
• Issues & Opportunities
• Input Summary
• Community Engagement Plan (updated)
Kickoff Engagement

• About 350 people have completed surveys

• Over 325 people attended kickoff, interacted at 18 community events, or participated in interviews

• 1200+ map comments

In-progress estimates as of 9/21/21
Kickoff Engagement Events & Activities

- Virtual Kickoff Meeting
- Online Survey
- Spring ’21 engagement with schools
- Jazz in the Park
- Sunnyside BBQ
- Regis Movie in the Park
- Sunnyside Overlay Town Halls
- Quigg Newton LRC meeting
- CD1 Movie in the Park
- Federal Coffee Chat
- Pop-up at Quigg Newton
- North Side Pride at North HS
- Sunnyside Music Festival
- North HS Back to School Night
- Sandoval Back to School Night
- CEC Early College Back to School Night
- Aztlan Basketball Tournament
- Fun on Federal
- JPUN Broncos Tailgate
- Stakeholder interviews
Ongoing Engagement

• Reaching underrepresented groups
• Stakeholder interviews
• School partnerships
• Recruiting community navigators
Planning Process

We Are Here

Phase 2 Next Steps:
• Draft and confirm vision
• Confirm issues and opportunities
• Identify focus topics/areas and preliminary recommendations
Example: What’s in an area plan?
LONG TERM VISION FOR HEALTHY AND ACTIVE IN EAST

In 2040, an equitable allocation of resources has increased opportunity for people who faced the greatest barriers to good health. As a result, all East Area residents have access to the services and tools they need to thrive. All households have safe, walkable access to an array of culturally relevant, affordable and healthy food, including small grocery and specialty stores, co-ops, community gardens, and restaurants. The East Area has a wide range of physically and financially accessible healthcare, including Rose Medical Center, supportive services such as addiction treatment and mental health care, hospital care, small clinics, and pharmacies. Residents can safely walk to well-maintained parks and open spaces, ranging from regional parks to pocket parks and greenways, with a mix of amenities and activities where everyone feels safe and welcome. East has a strong sense of community; neighbors know one another, and crime is rare because public spaces are vibrant and active. Store fronts, streets, sidewalks, and parks are clean, and there is minimal air, water, soil, and noise pollution. As a result, health outcomes such as obesity and life expectancy have improved, and residents enjoy improved health and access to opportunity.
Create new community open space, parks and recreation facilities.

East Colfax community members noted the need for a community center with a strong recreational and cultural component that can uniquely serve the community’s needs. Physical and financial accessibility are important elements to consider in the design of a community center. Additionally, community members prioritized ‘shared green spaces’ as a step toward resilience. Residents also identified a need for more parks and open space, such as dog parks and community gardens. Preferred locations were near Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) stops, at the Mayfair Town Center, and along Colfax Avenue. The majority of community input was in support of converting vacant or underutilized lots into future park space and of developing shared green space agreements.

A. Create a community center in the East Colfax neighborhood that serves several needs, such as providing a gathering space, recreation center, education and training, evening programs, non-profit space, access to city services, or food access. Community members identified Colfax Avenue in East Colfax, the post office next to Verbena park, and 11th Avenue and Syracuse Street as three potential locations.

B. Create additional community parks. Potential future locations should consider:

1. Locations that align with Game Plan for a Healthy City priority areas for new parks, which show areas that are more than a 10-minute walk from a park. These areas that lack adequate park access are further prioritized based on factors like low car access and higher rates of low income residents. East Colfax contains high priority areas, and a large portion of South Park Hill is a low priority area. Hale and Montclair both also contain low priority areas.

2. Areas prone to flooding (see the Storm Drainage Master Plan and/or updated data from DOTI).

3. Mayfair Town Center, which would also enhance a central location within community and addresses local flood concerns. Use height incentives to support implementation (See Policy L3, MC-Q3).

C. Incentivize and/or require new developments, especially near Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) stations and along community corridors, to include publicly accessible outdoor spaces. Establish standards and guidelines that ensure public accessibility, design, and features that respond to the community context.

D. Strengthen partnerships with private property owners, and develop future intergovernmental agreements (IGAs) with schools, institutions and hospitals to create shared open spaces within the community. Potential locations include the following: VA Hospital, Rose Medical Center, Park Hill Elementary School, Palmer Elementary School, Odyssey School of Denver, Denver School of the Arts, Montview Community Preschool, Johnson & Wales University campus, St James School, Montclair School of Academics and Enrichment, and Ashley Elementary School.

E. Work with large campuses to explore opportunities to establish public open spaces through future redevelopment. This could include partial redevelopment within campuses that are continuing operation. Locations include Johnson & Wales University campus, the VA Hospital, Rose Medical Center, and National Jewish Health (See Policy L1, L2).

Policies & strategies to achieve the vision
Recommendation maps

Transformative projects
Community Input Themes
Likes/Strengths

- Walkable destinations and businesses
- Diversity
- Strong sense of community
- Cultural history
- Architectural history
- Proximity to downtown/highways
- Parks

7/27/21 Virtual Kickoff Meeting Survey

In-progress themes from kickoff and in-person events to date
Dislikes/Concerns

- Affordability
- Displacement of residents and businesses
- Arterial streets (Federal, 38th, Speer) and highways are barriers and unsafe for pedestrians and bicyclists to cross
- Traffic/speeding
- Scrapes/new development don’t fit in with older homes; lack of green space
- Some areas lack walkable destinations and amenities (grocery)
- Safety (crime; mobility)
- Recreation centers don’t have modern amenities

7/27/21 Virtual Kickoff Meeting Survey

Inprogress themes from kickoff and in-person events to date
Ideas

7/27/21 Virtual Kick-off Meeting Survey
Ideas

• Inclusive community
• More affordable and attainable housing options
• Safer bicycle and pedestrian connections
• More green space/streets
• Increased amenities (groceries, restaurants, etc.) and walkable destinations
• More diverse uses (recreation, dog park, performance stage, etc.) at parks and recreation centers
• Preserving older homes and encouraging new development to fit in better
• More gathering spaces and amenities (e.g., ground floor commercial) with new development

In-progress themes from kickoff and in-person events to date
Data Trends: Demographic changes

Number of Households

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of Households</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>10,070</td>
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<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>13,313</td>
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Household Size

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Household Size</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>2.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>2.07</td>
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</table>

Source: US Census, American Community Survey
Data Trends: Demographic changes

Hispanic/Latinx Population Change 2000 to 2019

Source: US Census, American Community Survey
Visioning Exercise

- Individual brainstorming
- Idea sharing in small groups
- Identifying and naming themes in large group
- Reflecting and resolving in large group
Plan Vision

• **Sets the overall goal for the plan that all the recommendations support**
• **Must be consistent with Comprehensive Plan 2040 and Blueprint Denver**
• **Based on community input**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vision Category</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Equitable, Affordable &amp; Inclusive</td>
<td>The Far Northeast community supports the development and preservation of a diverse range of housing options for all ages, abilities and incomes, with an emphasis on the housing needs of the area’s senior, young adult, and family populations. Quality goods, services and amenities should be conveniently located throughout the planning area, and should be accessible by all.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strong &amp; Authentic Neighborhoods</td>
<td>Far Northeast Denver is a community of proud and well-established neighborhoods that celebrates racial and cultural diversity. The Far Northeast Plan seeks to maintain and enhance the area’s inclusive suburban character while focusing on higher intensity growth and development along transit corridors and in walkable, mixed-use centers. Through strong urban design practices that embrace and are compatible with the area’s historic and cultural heritage, inviting places will emerge which thoughtfully integrate new development with existing public and private spaces.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connected, Safe &amp; Accessible Places</td>
<td>The Far Northeast transportation network reflects the traditional nature of suburban design and function. The Far Northeast Area Plan seeks to increase high-quality innovative mobility options including first and last mile connections, walking, biking, public transit, personal vehicles, and freight.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economically Diverse &amp; Vibrant</td>
<td>The Far Northeast community values entrepreneurship and economic mobility for a diverse workforce. The Far Northeast Plan cultivates access to opportunity for local residents and workers by supporting development and retention of a range of business, employment, education and training opportunities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmentally Resilient</td>
<td>The Far Northeast community places a high value on recreation, parks, open space and natural areas. The Far Northeast Plan guides growth, development and the use of public land in a responsible and sustainable way to protect and enhance the environment for future generations.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Healthy &amp; Active</td>
<td>The Far Northeast community believes in healthy and active lifestyles that balance the mental, spiritual, physical and nutritional needs of its residents. The Far Northeast Plan guides growth and development in a way that offers safe, accessible and inviting amenities and services for everyone.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Ground Rules

• Allow room for all
• Firsts before seconds
• When agreeing, avoid repeating what others have said
• When disagreeing, be respectful and focus on the idea, not the person
• Turn video on and use gallery view
Near Northwest in 2040

- Put yourself in the shoes of your neighbors, and imagine an ideal version of Near Northwest in 2040
- What is the community like? Who lives there?
- What kinds of housing options, businesses, recreational opportunities, and amenities are there?
- What is the built form (architecture) like?
- How do people move around the community?
- What is the environment like?
Closing & Next Steps

• Continue to share your connections and thoughts on engagement
• Doodle poll for November & December meetings