Near Northwest Area Plan

Steering Committee Meeting #1
June 29, 2021
Agenda

• Welcome and Introductions – 30 minutes
• Overview – 30 minutes
  o Planning 101 – Citywide & Neighborhood Planning
  o Steering Committee Roles and Responsibilities
  o Process and Engagement Overview
• Exercise: Understanding the Area – 45 minutes
• Regroup and Next Steps – 15 minutes

Reminder: Next Meeting July 20th at 6PM
• 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 to Edson, and we will try to answer if we have time at the end
• Meeting is being recorded
Councilwoman Sandoval Welcome
Introductions

Share your name, neighborhood, and what success looks like to you
Planning 101

Citywide & Neighborhood Planning
Why Plan?

• Create a shared vision that addresses the diverse needs and concerns of the community

What Do Plans Do?

Inform how things should evolve in the future for the benefit of the community

• Engage people in a dialog about the future
• Define a vision and recommend strategies to achieve it
• Inform decision-making (public & private)
What Plans Don’t Do...

- Change regulations (zoning, municipal code, historic districts, etc.)
- Establish budgets for implementation
- Provide detailed design/engineering of infrastructure projects
What happens after a plan is adopted?

• **Regulation** – Denver Zoning Code text and map amendments, rules and requirements

• **Funding** – Annual budget, capital projects budget, bonds, grants

• **Partnerships** – community organizations, land trusts, schools
Blueprint Denver Vision

• An equitable city
• A city of complete neighborhoods and networks
• An evolving city

What does this look like in Near Northwest?
An Equitable City

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.
Complete Neighborhoods and Networks

- Pedestrians
- Bicycles
- Transit
- Auto and Goods Movement
An Evolving City

Key policies:
• Every neighborhood will grow
• Most growth should happen in centers like Downtown and along major corridors
• Direct growth to limit climate impacts and improve resiliency
Citywide Implementation

Current or upcoming citywide projects will address major Blueprint recommendations:

- Expanding Housing Affordability
- ADU regulatory updates
- Equity in rezoning
- Centers and corridors design quality
- Residential design quality

*Near Northwest Area Plan can provide limited refinement on implementing these recommendations*
Neighborhood & Small Area Plans

- Detailed recommendations that apply only to specific areas
- Address many topics and show how systems inter-relate at the local level
- Adopted by City Council as supplements to the Comprehensive Plan
- Customize strategies to help meet citywide goals
- Must be consistent with citywide plans
Neighborhood & Small Area Plans

• Update Blueprint mapping
• Provide detailed guidance for use in rezonings and other policy & budget decisions
• Recommend capital projects and facilities or program improvements
Neighborhood Planning Initiative (NPI) Strategic Plan: Plan Area Groupings
What’s in the plan?

Always Topics
[Appear in Every Plan]

Introduction
• Vision
• Planning for Equity

Framework Plan
• Land Use and Built Form
• Housing
• Economy
• Mobility
• Quality of Life (health, parks, environmental quality)

Implementation

Focus Topics
[Selected with the Community]

• Community prioritizes
• Plan focuses on top priorities
• Put communities in touch with relevant agencies
Questions?
Planning Process and Steering Committee Roles & Responsibilities
Timeline - 18-24 months

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

We Are Here
Planning Team

- **Interdepartmental Team, including (but not limited to)**
  - Community Planning and Development – Liz Weigle, Ella Stueve, Edson Ibanez, Courtland Hyser
  - Transportation and Infrastructure
  - Parks and Recreation
  - Housing Stability
  - Public Health and Environment
  - Economic Development and Opportunity

- **Consultant team (in process)**
  - Acts as an extension of the staff team
  - Helps with technical analysis and community engagement

- **Close coordination with Councilwoman Sandoval’s Office**
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**
Steering Committee – Roles & Responsibilities

• Participate actively, constructively, respectfully and with an open mind;
• Use equity as a frame for considering decisions on process and plan content;
• Seek consensus or near consensus;
• Embrace multiple perspectives and consider the desires and needs of the larger community, rather than solely the individual member’s perspective;
• Foster a collaborative spirit between committee members and the project team;
• Give input and have dialogue openly and honestly;
• Ask questions to increase understanding of others’ perspectives, rather than jumping to conclusions; and
• Find compromise on community feedback.
Meeting 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
Questions?
Community Engagement Strategy
Engagement Strategy

- Lays out engagement goals for the Near Northwest Plan
- Describes the methods that will be used to achieve those goals
- Identifies how progress will be tracked
- Draft will be developed with input from steering committee and community
Goals

• Engage community members who are representative of the demographics of those who live, work, visit, and study in Near Northwest

• Empower traditionally marginalized or underrepresented communities

• Build trust between all participants and create a space to listen and help heal old wounds

• Educate participants on their role, the project, and the importance of a collaborative planning process
Near Northwest Area

STATISTICS

AREA

3.85 sq miles

POPULATION

27,950 people

Source: American Community Survey 2015-2019
Demographics

Neighborhood Population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Neighborhood</th>
<th>Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chaffee Park</td>
<td>3,820</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunnyside</td>
<td>10,091</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highland</td>
<td>10,549</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jefferson Park</td>
<td>3,490</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Rent/Own

- Rent: 56%
- Own: 44%

Source: American Community Survey 2015-2019
8% Limited English

Source: American Community Survey 2015-2019
Age

- 19 years or younger: 17%
- 20-29 years: 21%
- 30-39 years: 26%
- 40-49 years: 13%
- 50-59 years: 9%
- 60-69 years: 7%
- 70-79 years: 5%
- 80 years or more: 2%

Source: American Community Survey 2015-2019
Income

Source: American Community Survey 2015-2019
## Equitable Engagement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Strategies for engagement</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic/Latino/a/x residents</td>
<td>Spanish language media; Denver Latino Commission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth</td>
<td>School-based engagement; recreation groups; religious youth groups; SEL based programming; Girls Inc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seniors</td>
<td>Senior apartments; targeted mailings; Denver Commission on Aging</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renters</td>
<td>Small group meetings; apartment managers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower income residents</td>
<td>Affordable housing communities; Affordable housing waitlists; Department of Housing Stability; Neighborhood Development Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>Single and Working Parents</td>
<td>School-based engagement</td>
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</tbody>
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## Special Considerations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Potential strategies/partners for engagement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RNO Leadership Group</td>
<td>RNO focus group; stakeholder group; RNO-specific survey (compare to results from general survey)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of business organizations in most areas outside of Federal</td>
<td>Citywide groups; small business focus groups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Variety of religious communities and organizations</td>
<td>Equal opportunities to participate; small group meetings</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Engagement Tools

- Community Workshops
- Surveys
- Steering Committee
- Pop-ups
- Neighborhood Meetings
- Group Meetings and Stakeholder Interviews
- Focused Population Engagement
- Language Access

- Focus Groups
- Neighborhood Tours and Field Assessments
- Community Navigators
- Community Resource Fairs
- Existing Community Events
- Office Hours
- Public Hearings
Community Kickoff
Community Kickoff

Goals:

• Understand how the community views the area and what they like and dislike
• Learn what the community would like the area to be in the future
• Identify major issues that need improvement
• Confirm engagement strategy
• Educate community on planning processes
Community Kickoff

- Virtual meeting – July 27, 6PM
- Online survey
- Outdoor events – park pop-ups, tours, intercept surveys
- Focused engagement
- Stakeholder interviews
- Group meetings
- Community navigators

What events are happening in your neighborhood this summer?
Questions?
Understanding the Area

Break-Out Group Exercise
Exercise

LIKES
• What do you like most about the area?
• What’s working well?

DISLIKES
• What are your biggest concerns about the area?
• What are you worried may threaten the quality of life in the area in the future?

BIG IDEAS
• What is your big idea to improve the area?
• What’s missing in that would make it a better place to live?
• What are you hopeful for over the next 10-20 years?
Regroup and Next Steps
Next Steps

• Next Steering Committee meeting: July 20th at 6pm and will include equity training

• Future meetings will be on a regular monthly schedule – will send Doodle poll and a question about whether you prefer virtual, in-person or a mix

• Virtual Community Kickoff – July 27th

• Review draft community engagement strategy and provide feedback