Agenda

• Community Kickoff Updates and Review
• Existing Conditions
• Previously Adopted Plans
• Visioning
Community Kickoff
Community Kickoff – Part 1

Goals:

• Understand how the community views the area and what they like and dislike
• Learn what the community would like the area to be like in the future
• Identify major issues that need improvement
• Confirm engagement strategy
• Educate community on planning processes
Community Kickoff – Part 2

• Online survey
• Virtual meeting
• Outdoor events – park pop-ups, tours, intercept surveys
• Targeted engagement
• Stakeholder interviews
• Group meetings
• Community navigators
SWOT Summary - Strengths

• Central location within the city and great accessibility to other areas of the city.
• Cherry Creek and Cherry Creek Trail are assets
• The Highline Canal and various recreational opportunities
• Neighborhood composition and neighborhood “feel”
• Mature trees and family-friendly parks, trails and playgrounds
• Neighborhood has historically been affordable and accessible
SWOT Summary - Weaknesses

- Congestion, pedestrian safety/accessibility and speeding on major corridors (Evans Avenue, Leetsdale Drive and Colorado Boulevard)
- Major corridors in the study area act as a barrier for pedestrian and bike movement
- Lack of awareness with planning processes
- Sidewalk width and general condition
- Lack of street activation
SWOT Summary - Opportunities

- Potential reuse of industrial buildings along Evans Avenue.
- Major corridors should be re-imagined, including alternative modes of transportation.
- Better north/south and east/west connections.
- Better utilization of commercial space and more welcoming for diverse businesses. Neighborhood noes should be better utilized as assets.
- Increase level of protection for bike lanes in the area and improve access to parks and trails.
- Fairmount Cemetery is an opportunity for better integration into the neighborhood and recreational opportunities.
- Take advantage of access to public transit.
- Better signage and consistency of type of signage (branding).
- More locally-owned restaurants and businesses.
- Redevelopment of larger sites (Kmart and other aging areas).
SWOT Summary - Threats

- Increasing home prices and a lack of affordability
- Traffic and speeding in neighborhoods (making streets wider and faster)
- Most common mode of transportation is the personal vehicle and ped and bike infrastructure is not a priority
- Elimination of green spaces (Glendale)
- Developers without guidance
- Increasing homeless population and homeless encampments
- Climate change and flooding in the neighborhood
- Neighborhood crime
- Balancing density with historic character and good development
- Maintaining aging infrastructure including older homes
Virtual Kickoff Meeting

• About 120 people joined the meeting
• About 110 filled out the demographic questions
• About 80 answered the questions in the presentation
Online Survey

• About 330 people have taken the survey
• About 670 map comments
• About 800 other comments
Comparison - Neighborhood

Meeting

Survey
Comparison - Age

Meeting

Survey
Comparison – Race/Ethnicity

Meeting

Survey
Comparison - Gender

Meeting

Survey

Gender

Man  Woman  Non-binary  Prefer not to answer

Man  Women  Non-binary  Prefer to self-describe (fill in below)  Prefer not to answer
Comparison – Rent/Own

Meeting

Survey
Comparison - Income

Meeting

Survey
In-Person Events

- July 31 – Virginia Village Library
- August 3 – National Night Out – Cook Park
- August 13 – Four Mile Historic Park
- August 13 – Cook Park Rec Center
- August 21 – South by Southeast – Bible Park
- August 22 – Healthy Denver Festival – Burns Park
Other Ongoing Efforts

- Targeted outreach to renters and community groups
- Meetings with other jurisdictions and stakeholders
- Interviews with interested community members
- Developing community navigator strategy
Questions?

Comments on the engagement strategy?
Existing Conditions
Near Southeast Area

Area: 5.47 Square Miles
Population: 40,531
Housing Units: 19,926
Jobs: 33,680
Foreign Born

Source: American Community Survey 2015-2019
Speak English Less Than Well

Source: American Community Survey 2015-2019
Population Trend

Source: US Census
Council Districts
Land Use
Year of Construction

- No data
- 1889 or before
- 1890 - 1899
- 1900 - 1909
- 1910 - 1919
- 1920 - 1929
- 1930 - 1939
- 1940 - 1949
- 1950 - 1959
- 1960 - 1969
- 1970 - 1979
- 1980 - 1989
- 1990 - 1999
- 2000 - 2009
- 2010 - 2019
Building Height
Median Income
Poverty Rate
Cost Burdened Households
Vehicle Crashes
Pedestrian Collisions
Bicycle Collisions
Transit Ridership
Park Access
Tree Canopy
Surface Temperature
Food Access
Thoughts or Questions?
Previously Adopted Plans
Existing Plans

• Plans adopted as supplements to the Comprehensive Plan will be replaced by the Near Southeast Area Plan

• Relevant recommendations will be incorporated into the new plan
Colorado Boulevard Plan

- Adopted 1991
- Covers the Colorado Boulevard corridor between 1st Avenue and Iliff Avenue
- At the time of its creation the primary concern was increasing traffic and congestion on the corridor
- Includes recommendations aimed at easing congestion without displacing traffic, including widening intersections, encouraging alternative travel modes, limiting development intensity, and promoting a mix of uses
- The plan also includes urban design recommendations to promote consistency along the corridor
Colorado Station Area Framework Plan

- Covers the area just south of the Colorado Station on the RTD Southeast Line, bounded by Colorado Blvd, Evans Ave, I-25, and Colorado Center Dr.

- Adopted in 2003, before the completion of the Southeast Line, to provide guidance for development and mobility around the new station.

- Concerned with promoting ridership at station, by ensuring an appropriate land use mix and density, mobility connections, parking, and transportation demand management.
Cherry Creek Greenway Master Plan

- Adopted 2000
- Covers the land around Cherry Creek between the Cherry Creek Reservoir dam and University Boulevard
- Describes recommended improvements to parks and open space, mobility, and urban design along the greenway
- The plan also includes recommendations for better connecting surrounding neighborhoods to the greenway and improving the environmental quality of the creek corridor
Yale Station Area Study

- Completed 2003 – not an adopted plan
- Looks at the area immediately surrounding the Yale Station on the RTD Southeast Line and assess potential development scenarios in anticipation of the opening of the station at the time
- The study describes guiding principles for future development to balance the opportunity of transit-oriented development with impacts on the surrounding neighborhood.
Virginia Village Neighborhood Plan

- 1973 – not an adopted supplement to the Comp Plan
- Covered land use, design, housing, economy, mobility, and public services
Neighboring Plans

- Lowry Reuse Plan
- University Park Neighborhood Plan
- Arapahoe County Four Square Mile Area Plan
- Arapahoe County Comprehensive Plan
- Glendale Comprehensive Plan
Thoughts or Questions?
Visioning
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*
Far Northeast Plan Vision

**Equitable, Affordable & Inclusive**

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.

**Strong & Authentic Neighborhoods**

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.

**Connected, Safe & Accessible Places**

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.

**Economically Diverse & Vibrant**

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.

**Environmentally Resilient**

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.

**Healthy & Active**

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.
Near Southeast in 2040

• Imagine yourself in your ideal version of Near Southeast in 2040
• What is the community like?
• What kinds of housing options, businesses, recreational opportunities, and amenities are there?
• How are you moving around the community?
• What is the environment like?