



Meeting Details

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| Meeting Name: | Near Southeast Area Plan Steering Committee |
| Date/Time: | Wednesday, August 11, 2021, 6-8 PM |
| Location: | Zoom Meeting |

Attendees

Steering Committee Members

Nancy Barlow, Dustin Browne, Guadalupe Cantu, Harvey Cohen, Kendra Daniels, Lisa Foreman, Adrian Kinney, Judy Anne Kriss, Jared Mackey, Erika McCallin, Spencer Stephens, Jim Stone, Chris Viscardi

Denver Elected Officials

Councilwoman Black; Councilman Kashmann; Councilwoman Sawyer

Denver Staff

Scott Robinson, Jason Morrison, Libbie Adams and Courtland Hyser

Meeting Summary

- **Welcome and Introductions** – Scott Robinson welcomed the steering committee members to the meeting and thanked everyone for returning.
- **Community Kick-Off Updates and Review** – Scott Robinson provided an overview of what the project team has been up to since the committee last met back in June. The official kick-off of the plan was held back in July and included a virtual meeting and on-going community engagement. Over 120 people attended the virtual meeting and provided feedback on their likes, dislikes and what they would like to see in the future. Staff also used this time to educate the community on the planning process.

Since then, the project team has been hard at work putting together online surveys, targeted engagement, stakeholder interviews and other outdoor events to solicit feedback from the community. About 330 people have taken the online survey and the committee was encouraged to help spread the word to increase participation. Scott Robinson presented the demographics of those that have taken the survey to-date and Staff would like to see more diversity from the participants.

- **Existing Conditions** – Scott Robinson presented a small collection of existing conditions maps which Staff is using to create the Near Southeast Briefing Book. Steering Committee members



provided initial questions and comments on the maps. The briefing book will be available on the project webpage towards the end of next week (week of August 16th).

- **Previously Adopted Plans** – Scott Robinson presented the existing planning documents which are applicable to the Near Southeast planning area. This included plans adopted by the City of Denver as well as those plans created by neighboring jurisdictions (City of Glendale and Arapahoe County). Plans adopted as a supplement to the Comprehensive Plan will be replaced by the Near Southeast Area Plan and relevant plan recommendations will be incorporated into the new plan. A more detailed analysis of these plans is included in the Near Southeast Briefing Book.
- **Visioning** – Last week Staff sent the following visioning questions as a prompt for tonight’s discussion:
 - 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?

Steering committee members took turns sharing their individual vision for the area. Common themes are summarized below:

- Pedestrian and bike friendly community with better accessibility to trails and safer infrastructure for all modes of transportation
- Small gathering spaces for the community with local/small business retail and activities that create a distinct appeal to the neighborhood
- Tree-lined streets and beautiful park spaces for the entire community. Finding ways to highlight the existing open space assets that exist in the community today.
- Focusing more attention on Cherry Creek and providing better access to this asset. This includes finding opportunity to better integrate the business community with this natural resource.
- Improved walkability and urban design along the major corridors of Leetsdale Drive, Evans Avenue and Colorado Boulevard. This includes an adequate buffer of sidewalk and tree lawn/landscape.
- Improving some of the smaller collector streets in the area (Florida and Holly) and making these more pedestrian friendly.
- Creating a “sense of place” for the Near Southeast and helping the area to become a destination for all of Denver. This includes coming up with ways to draw people to the community (retail, music/entertainment similar to the Rainbow Music Hall in the 1980’s).
- A variety of housing options for the increasing population including mixed-use opportunities and multi-unit options, while also maintaining the stability of this mostly single-unit neighborhood.



- A focus on sustainability and green infrastructure and balancing water use for beautiful trees/lawns with xeriscaping.

The meeting concluded at 7:57pm