Good morning & Welcome!

West Area Plan
November Community Meeting

Neighborhood Planning Initiative
Project Overview & Community Workshop

Fall/Winter 2022
West Area Plan Council Members

Councilwoman Amanda Sandoval
Council District 1

Councilwoman Jamie Torres
Council District 3

Councilman Jolon Clark
Council District 7
Morning Overview

• Big picture
• What we heard
• Incorporating feedback
• Ongoing engagement opportunities
• Open house stations
Process: Big Picture
What is Planning? Why is it Important?

- Conducted at different scales within the city
- Community-driven process
- Identifies a vision and strategies
- Guides future development and preserves history
Neighborhood Plans: Big Picture

- 78 years without NPI
- 10-14 years for NPI planning approach

Pie chart showing:
- 42% Adopted prior to Blueprint (2002)
- 38.8% Adopted after Blueprint (2002)
- 19.2% No adopted area plan
Neighborhood Planning Initiative (NPI): Big Picture

Barnum
Barnum West

Valverde
Villa Park

Sun Valley
West Colfax
NPI Helps To Implement Citywide Plans
West Area Plan Starting Point...

Access for an Equitable City Concepts

- 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.
Blueprint Denver Land Use & Transportation: Equity Analysis Maps
Process: What We Heard
Outreach and Engagement Overview
West Plan Project Timeline

Fall 2019 - Winter 2019 - Spring 2020 - Summer - Fall 2020 - Winter - Summer 2021 - Fall - Summer 2021 - 2022 - Fall - Winter 2022

- Existing Conditions Research and Community Listening
- Community Input Analysis and Draft Vision Statements & Community Priorities
- Confirm Community Vision & Priorities and Develop Draft Recommendations
- Share and Gather Community Input on Draft Recommendations to Achieve Vision & Priorities
- Updates to Draft Recommendations Based on Community Input

Community Review of Draft Plan and Adoption Process
How We Learned: Intentional Engagement

- Targeted interviews
- Attending & hosting community events
- Input from community partners
- Listening to neighbors and stakeholders
- Meeting with residents
- Conducting surveys

Community Steering Committee represents all 6 neighborhoods
THANK YOU, Steering Committee Members

- Adriana Lopez, Valverde
- Evon Lopez, Valverde
- Maureen McCanna, Valverde
- Brien Darby, Valverde
- Dannie Dilonno, Valverde
- Sean Brady, Villa Park
- Jaime Aguilar, Villa Park
- Korey Whitaker, Villa Park
- Kathy Sandoval, Villa Park
- Jessica Dominguez, West Colfax
- Rabbi Tzvi Steinberg, West Colfax
- Elizabeth Walsh, West Colfax
- Heidi Newhart, West Colfax
- Dan Shah, West Colfax
- Jon Koneman, Barnum
- Kaye Kavanagh, Barnum
- Bree Davies, Barnum
- RB Fast, Barnum West
- Chala Mohr, Barnum West
- Crystal Reed, Barnum West
- Jeanne Granville, Sun Valley
- Tamil Maldonado, Sun Valley
- Lisa Saenz, Sun Valley
Summary of Community Engagement

Key touch points:
October 2019 – Project kick-off event & survey
January 2020 – Community event & housing fair
Summer 2020 – Youth survey
June 2020 – Self-guided online open house
October 2020 – Displacement webinar
Summer/Fall 2021 – Recommendations survey
June 2021 – Virtual “Ask a Planner” Office Hours
October 2021 – Virtual ADU Informational Sessions
Winter 2021/Spring 2022 – Intentional engagement
Summer 2022 – Steering Committee Draft Review
Fall - Winter 2022 – Community review of draft and plan adoption process
Summary of Community Engagement

- Athmar Park Neighborhood Association
- Barnum Recreational Center members
- Barnum Registered Neighborhood Organization
- Barnum West Community Co-Op at 1st
- Colorado Jobs with Justice team
- Columbine Homes Community Advisory Group
- Congregation Zera Abraham
- Denver Environmental Justice Committee
- Denver Food Project & Casa de Rosal
- Denver Sustainable Food Policy Council (SFPC)
- Denver Urban Gardens
- Far East Center Business District
- Denver Food Rescue participants & activists
- Food in Communities Regional Initiative
- Historic Denver
- Latino/Latina/Latinx communities
- Sloan’s Lake Citizen Group
- Sun Valley Kitchen
- Sun Valley Community Advisory Group
- Sun Valley Registered Neighborhood Organization
- Valverde Movement Project
- Valverde Parent Teacher Leadership Team
- Valverde Registered Neighborhood Organization
- Valverde Youth Empowerment Center
- Veterans of Foreign Wars on Colfax
- Vietnamese and Asian communities
- Villa Park Neighborhood Association
- West Colfax Association of Neighbors (WeCAN)
- West Colfax Business Improvement District (BID)
- West Denver Community Leadership Committee
- West Denver Renaissance Collaborative (WDRC)
- Westridge Homes Community Advisory Group
- Youth, in partnership with Denver Public Schools
- Zera Abraham Congregation

and more!
Highlights from the Draft West Area Plan
What’s in the Plan?

Plan Chapter Organization

Introduction
• Community Engagement
• Plan Vision
• Recommendations
  Overview
• West Area History
• Planning for Equity
• Executive Summary

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

Transformative Projects

Implementation
Typical Framework for Neighborhood Plans

- Introduction
- Land Use and Built Form
- Economy and Housing
- Mobility
- Quality of Life
- Neighborhoods
- Implementation
West Area Plan – Centering Quality of Life Lens
Overall: Recommendation Summaries

Summaries developed for introduction, and beginning of each chapter, for easier viewing, and in neighborhoods.
Introduction: Grounding Ourselves in History

1.3 WEST AREA HISTORY

Understanding a neighborhood’s history, particularly how past public policy and infrastructure decisions have affected community, can provide insight to the conditions that affect the day-to-day lives of residents today. For West Area neighborhoods, Quality of Life today is impacted not only by the area’s topography, but by the many historic transportation investments, land use zoning and development patterns and urban planning practices over the last century, many of which have left a disproportionate impact on West Area residents.

Past policies and investment decisions continue to have a lasting impact on the West Area today, and new issues present additional challenges for area neighborhoods. The policies and strategies outlined in the West Area Plan address these historic inequities, improve community Quality of Life, Mobility, Land Use and Built Form and Economy and Housing, and ensure that future policy decisions and investments reflect the communities’ priorities and vision for the future.

The following timeline highlights significant events that have shaped the West Area over the last century or more and inform the recommendations in the West Area Plan.

Topography
The land to the west of the South Platte River features a steeper topographical rise than land to the east in what today is Downtown Denver. This difference in topography and the meandering nature of the South Platte River influenced early settler decisions to establish the City east of the South Platte River, leaving the majority of the west side
Introduction: Section on Historic Injustice

When planning for an equitable West, it is important to reflect on and understand the neighborhoods’ histories, particularly how past public policy decisions have affected these communities and how those decisions continue to affect the everyday lives of residents today. Throughout the last century, there have been a series of discriminatory policies and practices in West that have left a disproportionate impact on its residents.

In 1862, Denver adopted its first zoning code. This code designated large portions of valleys and Sun Valley for industrial use, although these neighborhoods were not as accessible to the general public. These neighborhoods have been designated as industrial enclaves. In the 1930s, the federal government’s Home Owner Loan Corporation created maps for most urban areas, including Denver, which classified neighborhoods based on their perceived character. These maps were used to deny home loans to residents of neighborhoods that were predominantly made up of diverse ethnic populations. In West, Villa Park, Sun Valley, Barnett, and Valencia were deemed “hazardous” and West today “definitely declining,” meaning that these neighborhoods posed the greatest risk for lenders, thereby restricting access to home loans in the area. racially restrictive covenants were also used in wealthier, white neighborhoods to prohibit the sale or rental of properties to certain ethnic groups. These mechanisms restricted where people of color could live.

In addition to zoning and redlining, major highway developments of 15th and 6th Avenue in the 1950s and 1960s have physically divided and isolated the West neighborhoods from one another. Located high traffic roads directly adjacent to these residential neighborhoods created major challenges related to pedestrian safety and public health. This also accelerated the industrialization of lower West. The Flood of 1965 on the South Platte River revealed and exacerbated the consequences of discriminatory housing practices and environmental racism in West. The flood resulted in 2,500 families losing their homes, and 23 people losing their lives in lower West. In Sun Valley, entire blocks of homes were swept away, leaving vacant land that was later redeveloped by Denver Housing Authority as Sun Valley Homes, a public housing complex.

Past policies and planning decisions continue to have a lasting impact on West today, and new issues present additional challenges for the neighborhoods. The plan chart of the right the policies and strategies outlined in the West area Plan aim to address many of these issues and ensure that policy, decision, and future investment in the neighborhoods reflect the community priorities and vision for West.
Introduction: Guiding Principles

- EQUITY
- INTEGRITY
- RECIPROCITY
- LIBERTY

Equitable, Affordable and Inclusive
Strong and Authentic Neighborhoods
Connected, safe and Accessible Places
Economically Diverse and Vibrant
Environmentally Resilient
Healthy and Active
Quality of Life: Section on Water

Section: 2.1.3
Devoted to the Role of Water in the West Area
# Mobility: Mobility Matrix to Summarize & Streamline Recommendations for Major Streets

## 2.2 Mobility

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.2.1</td>
<td>INTRODUCTION (P. 110)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2.2</td>
<td>PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS, INTERSECTION SAFETY, AND NEW CROSSINGS (P. 121)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2.3</td>
<td>HIGH COMFORT BIKEWAY (P. 126)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2.4</td>
<td>TRAILS (P. 132)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2.5</td>
<td>NEIGHBORHOOD TRAFFIC CALMING (P. 136)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2.6</td>
<td>TRANSIT AND MOBILITY HUBS (P. 140)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2.7</td>
<td>TRANSPORTATION DEMAND MANAGEMENT (P. 146)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2.8</td>
<td>BALANCED CORRIDORS (P. 148)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2.9</td>
<td>MOBILITY SUMMARY (P. 154)</td>
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Land Use:

Incorporated Climate Action into Land Use Section

LAND USE AND BUILT FORM + CLIMATE ACTION

Denver’s Department of Climate Action, Sustainability & Resiliency (CASR) is working on a number of initiatives aimed at reducing the greenhouse gas emissions of existing and new buildings and increasing buildings’ sustainability and resiliency. Some key initiatives include:

New Buildings and Homes: To create a climate-safe future, we must move all new construction toward resiliency, sustainability and net zero energy. CASR’s goal is that, by 2030, the city’s building code will require all new construction of buildings and homes to achieve net zero energy. CASR works in partnership with Community Planning and Development (CPD) for this phased process. CASR is supporting the community in this transition with resources, incentives and education.

Existing Homes (Single Family Residential): Existing homes are responsible for 15% of Denver’s greenhouse gas emissions. In 2022, CASR will scale emission reduction solutions for existing homes with outreach and education, and by offering incentives for homeowners to electrify, adopt solar and install electric vehicle chargers.

Existing Buildings (Commercial and Multifamily Residential): Existing commercial and multifamily buildings are responsible for 49% of Denver’s greenhouse gas emissions. CASR is co-creating equitable resources for under-resourced buildings (UREBs). URBs are typically located in underserved areas and/or serve frontline communities (e.g. affordable housing or human service providers).

Green Building Ordinance: All commercial buildings in Denver 25,000 square feet or larger are required to comply with the Green Building Ordinance. One option allows developers or owners to pay a fee in lieu to comply. These fees go into the Green Building Fund which is managed by CASR. As of December 31, 2021, the fund had nearly $600,000 available. These funds can be used to create and improve green space, green infrastructure, green roofs, our urban forest, and advance solar and energy efficiency projects for low-income households.

Renewable Denver Community Solar: Through the Renewable Denver Community Solar initiative, the city will build, own and operate community solar projects hosted on municipal rooftops, parking lots and vacant land. At least 30% of the power generated through these projects will provide financial relief to income-qualified households, create workforce training opportunities, and conduct educational programs with Denver Public Schools.

Denver Solar Co-Op: Gives homeowners a discount on solar installation through group purchasing. It’s free to join, with no obligation to install. The Homeowner Protection Fund provides additional rebates to income-qualified households.

Renewables and Resilience Incentive Program: Offers financial incentives to nonprofit organizations dedicated to providing human services, such as shelters and day cares. Non-profits are encouraged to adopt solar, battery storage, and electric vehicle charging equipment to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions by at least 20%.

Solar Outdoor Learning Incentive Program: Allowing students to learn about clean energy through curriculum, lessons and career exploration.
Land Use:
Revised Blueprint Denver Future Places Mapping
Neighborhoods:

Created Recommendation Summary Maps for each Neighborhood
# Implementation: Detailed Matrix

## 2.1 Quality of Life

### Implementation Recommendations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recommendation Type</th>
<th>Policy Action</th>
<th>Timeline</th>
<th>Action Type</th>
<th>City Agencies</th>
<th>Action Partners</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quality of Life - 1</td>
<td>Prioritize health equity by developing trainings and programs that support integration of best practices. Ensure all health equity initiatives within West intentionally support citywide policies, deliver public services within West, and allocate resources to eliminate institutional biases and barriers within the system.</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Regulatory</td>
<td>All Agencies</td>
<td>All Action Partners</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health Equity</td>
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<td>Quality of Life - 2</td>
<td>Increase systems, policies, and practices that promote racial and social equity in support of citywide efforts throughout all West Denver neighborhoods.</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Regulatory &amp; Infrastructure</td>
<td>All Agencies</td>
<td>All Action Partners</td>
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<tr>
<td>Racial and Social Equity</td>
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<td>Quality of Life - 3</td>
<td>Address the noise and air pollution impacts to health for developments adjacent to major roadway corridors such as 6th Avenue, Alameda Avenue, Sheridan Boulevard, and Interstate 25 (I-25).</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Infrastructure</td>
<td>CDOT DOTI CASR DPR</td>
<td>CDOT RTD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Noise and Air Pollution</td>
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<td>Quality of Life - 4</td>
<td>Utilize the policies and recommendations in the Denver Climate Action Plan and similar plans to improve environmental performance and climate resilience within West Denver neighborhoods.</td>
<td>Long-Term</td>
<td>Regulatory</td>
<td>CPD DOTI CASR DPR</td>
<td>Mile High Flood District The Greenway Foundation Colorado Conservation Board Metro Wastewater Reclamation District</td>
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<tr>
<td>Climate Resilience</td>
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<td>Quality of Life - 5</td>
<td>Protect, preserve, and expand the urban forest tree canopy in all redevelopment efforts, and increase tree canopy coverage within public rights-of-way through community tree planting programs and initiatives.</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Regulatory</td>
<td>CPD DOTI CASR DPR</td>
<td>River Sister Circle Partnership Denver Urban Gardens Denver Public Schools</td>
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<tr>
<td>Urban Forest Tree Canopy</td>
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Ongoing Engagement Opportunities & Timeline
How to Get Involved In Person

• West team is visiting neighborhood & community group meetings in November & December

• In-Person Office Hours will be held on Tuesdays from 11am-1pm:

  1. 11/8: West Colfax Neighborhood – Brew Culture Coffee
  2. 11/15: Barnum & Barnum West Neighborhoods – Barnum Recreation Center
  3. 12/6: Valverde Neighborhood – Valverde Youth Empowerment Center
  4. 12/13: Villa Park Neighborhood – Los Carboncitos

Visit DenverGov.org/WestPlan for complete information
• Read and comment directly on the plan document using Konveio

• Submit feedback on our open comment form

• Sign up for newsletter for the latest updates

• Virtual office hours will be held Wednesdays and Thursday

• This presentation will be available with audio recording in English and Spanish on the main webpage

Visit denvergov.org/westplan for more details and opportunities to view the plan and engage with CPD!
Remaining Steps in the Process

Public Draft Review

Draft Revisions

2nd Draft & Planning Board

Begin City Council Review

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH THROUGHOUT
Today’s Workshop: Open House Stations
Open House Community Workshop

Station 1: History and Equity
Station 2: Ecology and Water
Station 3: Food Access
Station 4: Community Safety, Cultural/Historic Preservation, Social Capital, & Youth Engagement
Station 5: Connectivity and Mobility
Station 6: Workforce housing and Involuntary Displacement
Open House Instructions

Area-Wide Recommendations pamphlet and Individual Neighborhood Maps

Open House Stations: Existing Conditions and Recommendations

Open House Station: Input board and map
Thank you for your time!
Please head over to the open house!

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