



West Area Plan

Summary of Focused Engagement

Our Approaches

- Focused interviewing and meetings
- Strategic Pop-Ups
- Intentional partnerships

These approaches targeted specific communities in the West Area who are most likely to be adversely affected by development and who are traditionally under-represented in city processes. The work was done in addition to traditional outreach to the general population.

Who did we meet with and what did we do?

- Food activists and Denver Food Rescue participants
- Sun Valley DHA residents
- Westridge DHA employees and residents
- Valverde Movement Project and DHA Columbine Homes
- Barnum Recreational Center members
- Congregation Zera Abraham
- Colorado Jobs with Justice team

Tools:

- Printed surveys (37)
- Interviews (11)
- Presentations w/ Q&A's (4)

Events:

- Neighborhood and block events (6)
- Pop-ups (4)
- Group specific event (3)

What did community members say?

Housing

- Options for affordability
- Too expensive for average family
- Growing too fast
- Need houses that fit the neighborhood

Business & Economics

- Incentives for local businesses to stay and get new customers
- Healthy stores that are closer or connected to residents in need
- Opportunities for business development for neighborhood residents in reused and new buildings
- Increase in local jobs

Mobility

- Federal is dangerous for pedestrians
- Better connections to bus, trains, etc.
- Support with transportation for youth and elderly to and from activities. EX: affordable shuttle services
- Easy access to alternate forms of transportation
- Support wheelchair access along paths and routes, esp. during winter
- Sidewalk issues throughout the city, making it harder for folks who need them

Quality of Life

- Increase in park safety
- Worries around homelessness and drug use
- Affordable daycare and access
- Access to elderly exercise programs
- Translation assistance for everyday living
- Parking issues
- Rec Centers and outside courts
- Community space to grow food
- Bathroom year around

What did community voice help guide?

Housing

Reflected in and guided **at least 10** of the recommendations around housing in the neighborhood.

Including:

- L4: Ensure compatible redevelopment and/or repurposing of sites within neighborhoods.
- L5: Expand mixing middle housing within Low Residential places

Business & Economics

Reflected in and guided **at least 4** of the recommendations around business, jobs and neighborhood economics.

Including:

- E6: Stabilize residents at risk of involuntary displacement.
- E4: Strengthen the economic vitality of corridors to create opportunities for small-business development to stabilize small businesses at risk of involuntary displacement and provide community-serving retail.

Mobility

Reflected in and guided **9** of the recommendations around mobility.

Including:

- M9: Install safety Improvements to improve, repair or complete existing crossings.
- M2: Establish new balanced corridor connections that improve local connectivity, increase user comfort and overall safety.

Quality of Life

Reflected in and guided **at least 5** of the recommendations for quality of life.

Including:

- Q17: Expand local food production, urban farming, food processing and manufacturing to serve the needs of West Denver residents.
- Q20: Maintain energy efficient street lighting for increased safety and comfort. Prioritize gathering spaces, parks and open space, trails, transit facilities, commercial corridors and centers, and streets designated for pedestrians and bicycles.

How did it inform the plan?

Housing

- L3: Direct future growth along high-capacity corridors and centers.
- L4: Ensure compatible redevelopment and/or repurposing of sites within neighborhoods.
- L5: Expand mixing middle housing within Low Residential places
- L6: Promote retaining, instead of demolishing, existing older homes to be more consistent with the scale of existing homes and promote natural affordability within low residential places.
- L8: Preserve historic and culturally significant homes in West Denver
- E1: Preserve existing housing affordability and quality.
- E2: Ensure affordable housing is available everywhere by implementing strategies that promote a diversity of affordable housing options within all neighborhoods and new development.
- E3: Expand diversity of housing types and affordability to support households of different sizes, ages, and incomes in all neighborhoods.

Business & Economics

- E4: Strengthen the economic vitality of corridors to create opportunities for small-business development to stabilize small businesses at risk of involuntary displacement and provide community-serving retail.
- E5: Preserve and expand the employment base of the existing West Area Manufacturing Districts (i.e., Heavy Production and Value Manufacturing), while improving the built and natural environment for adjacent residential uses and the promotion of sustainable development.
- E6: Stabilize residents at risk of involuntary displacement.

How did it inform the plan?

Quality of Life

- Q11: Provide appropriate recreational and cultural activity programming to promote active lifestyles that are consistent with the desires of area residents of all ages and interests. Develop programming for children, the elderly and residents whose first language is not English.
- Q15: Increase fresh food access, availability, and affordability throughout all West Denver communities.
- Q16: Support initiatives that address food insecurity, maintenance, and improvements to existing local businesses.
- Q17: Expand local food production, urban farming, food processing and manufacturing to serve the needs of West Denver residents.
- Q20: Maintain energy efficient street lighting for increased safety and comfort. Prioritize gathering spaces, parks and open space, trails, transit facilities, commercial corridors and centers, and streets designated for pedestrians and bicycles.

Mobility

- M1: Improve pedestrian and bicyclist safety and comfort with reduced crossing distances and intersection improvements. Priority streets include Federal Blvd, Sheridan Blvd, Colfax Avenue and 8th Street.
- M2: Establish new balanced corridor connections that improve local connectivity, increase user comfort and overall safety.
- M6: Install new sidewalks along corridors identified by the community as priority areas following Denver's citywide prioritization guidance.
- M9: Install safety improvements to improve, repair or complete existing crossings.
- M14: Study the feasibility of improving transit service in and through West to provide residents with higher-frequency service to better meet their mobility needs, and facilitate increased transit use.
- M16: Study measures to slow traffic along neighborhood streets directly surrounding senior living facilities, schools, parks, hospitals, libraries, commercial areas, and recreational centers.