



Meeting Details

Meeting Name:	Near Southeast Area Plan Steering Committee
Date/Time:	Wednesday, October 13, 2021 6-8 PM
Location:	Zoom Meeting

Attendees

Steering Committee Members

Dustin Browne, Guadalupe Cantu, Lisa Foreman, Judy Anne Kriss, Jared Mackey, Erika McCallin, Miranda Meadow, Harvey Cohen, Scott Kilgore, Scott Caldwell, Jim Stone, Jenny Neuhalfen, Maria Torres

Denver Elected Officials

Councilman Kashmann; Councilwoman Sawyer; Kathy Gile (Councilwoman Kendra Black)

Denver Staff

Scott Robinson, Jason Morrison, Libbie Adams and Courtland Hyser

Meeting Summary

- **Welcome** – Scott Robinson welcomed the steering committee members to the meeting and thanked everyone for returning.
- **In-Person Meeting Poll** – Scott Robinson went over the results of the meeting poll sent out to steering committee members last week which inquired as to whether steering committee members would like to continue to meet virtually or switch to an in-person option. Most steering committee members would like to continue to meet virtually but also have the option to meet in-person at a later date. In this poll, steering committee members were also asked if they would like to attend an in-person walking/biking tour throughout the NSE area this fall. Many of the members like this idea.
- **Kickoff Engagement Overview** – Scott Robinson gave an overview of the community outreach and engagement that was conducted during the kick-off phase of the area plan process. This included the type of outreach events conducted, the number of people reached and points of feedback given, and the demographic information of those that have participated so far.
- **Engagement Strategy Feedback** – Scott Robinson reviewed the goals of the Engagement Strategy with the steering committee members and the committee was asked if the goals were still appropriate. The steering committee felt that the strategy was on the right track and had



several ideas on how to successfully engage the hard to reach populations like students and renters in the area.

- **Review of Comments and Feedback** – Scott Robinson, Jason Morrison, and Libbie Adams presented the popular themes from the thousands of comments heard during the kick-off phase of the area plan process. The comments were organized and presented under the following categories: General, Land Use and Built Form, Economy and Housing, Mobility and Quality of Life Infrastructure. Steering committee members were given a chance to react to each topic and discuss the following questions:
 - i. What should be included in the vision?
 - ii. What issues and opportunities are most important?
 - iii. What is missing?
- Land Use and Built Form (Urban Design, Zoning and Density)
 - i. Evans is the key to the plan; formal study of Evans should be conducted given; many in the area have expressed significant concern about their children walking near Evans with the current traffic conditions the population growth; infill in Unincorporated Arapahoe County contributes to congestion
 - ii. Desire to not draw final conclusions on the results of the feedback until we can get a more robust responses from the underrepresented community members
 - iii. Rezoning opportunities and impacts on traffic, especially along the major corridors like Evans, Leetsdale and Colorado; focus on beautification and urban design
 - iv. There are unique opportunities to do something with the Light Rail Stations (Colorado Boulevard and Yale); how can we make it so people have access to these places in other ways than just a car
 - v. Slight concern over differences in opinion over more housing stock options vs. strictly single-unit housing stock. If Evans was more diverse in mobility options, there might be more appetite for more diverse housing
 - vi. Design standards and guidelines for certain areas and corridors could be a recommendation to improve the appearance of the area; East Evans Business Association will be great partners
 - vii. The GO Speer Leetsdale plan from 2017 talks about adding a peak period reversible bus lane on Leetsdale in the NSE area and Colorado Blvd is suggested to gain BRT in the latest DRCOG MetroVision plan – both of which could be great recommendations to improve transit use in the area
 - viii. Many feel that the area is not really a “complete neighborhood” because while the neighborhoods are next to each other they aren’t really connected by adequate sidewalks and people need to rely on cars for navigation



- Economy and Housing (Housing, Affordability and Options; Quality and Quiet Neighborhood; Economic Development and Businesses; Jobs Education and Homelessness)
 - i. Gentrification and the rise of home prices and property taxes and pushes out existing communities, supply and demand exists and, therefore, affordability is key to the area (other mitigation tools should be discussed down the road)
 - ii. The data may be skewed when it comes to reviewing the affordable housing comments given who we heard from and who we haven't heard from
 - iii. Addressing zoning issues to accommodate growth is within our scope (address issue of density and affordable housing through rezonings)
 - iv. Addressing land use of public/quasi-public parcels in the future
 - v. We should remember to view everything through an equity lens; the community must be for everyone
 - vi. Placemaking and activation of spaces should be a top priority as well as making the area less vehicle-centered
- Mobility (Pedestrian, Bicycle, Transit Use, Cars/Traffic)
 - i. Transition to alternative modes of transportation should be a top priority
 - ii. Happy to see recommendation to North/South bike lanes; more mobility and mixed use, encourage more ped and bike modes of transportation, electric vehicles, charging stations
 - iii. The plan should address people that take short-cuts through the neighborhood when the major arterial streets are congested
 - iv. There are limited sidewalks running North/South in various parts of the neighborhoods and it's important that the sidewalks connect
 - v. Emphasis should be placed on increasing transit use in the area to help mitigate vehicle usage. It should be safe, easy to use, and affordable, especially in mixed use communities
 - vi. Bike lanes should be three-dimensional (protected bike lanes) and the plan should examine how to separate traffic from other modes of mobility; we can't make it easy to drive; focus on new development and how that would encourage different modes of transportation
- Quality of life infrastructure (Climate, Health, Safety)
 - i. Agree with the comments on a desire to see less turf lawn in the parks and more natural/xeric landscape. Reserve the turf/grass for sports fields
 - ii. Many of the comments in this category relate to the other topics in other categories and it all ties back to land use, walkability and bikeability
 - iii. Would love to see some sort of arts district or performance space (sense of identity)
 - iv. Vision must include ways to incorporate green space and trails



- **Vision and Issues and Opportunities Discussion** – Due to time constraints, this topic will be moved to next month's meeting.

The meeting concluded at 8:08pm