

# Near Southeast Area Plan

Steering Committee Meeting 1

June 1, 2021



# Councilmember Welcome



# Agenda

- *Welcome and Introductions*
- *Roles and Responsibilities of the Steering Committee*
- *Planning 101*
- *Process and Engagement Overview*
- *Understanding the Area*

# Introductions

*Please tell us your name, neighborhood, and what topics you are most interested in*

# Roles and Responsibilities

# Steering Committee Role

- *Spread awareness and accurate information about the plan and connect community members with the process, using materials provided by the project team;*
- *Advise on the planning process at major milestones, including community engagement;*
- *Inform, generate ideas for, and serve as a sounding board for plan recommendations and content; and*
- *Help synthesize feedback and input gathered from the larger community.*

# Meeting Ground Rules

- *Allow room for all: try and keep remarks and questions brief*
- *Firsts before seconds: ensure everyone has an opportunity to speak before sharing additional thoughts*
- *When agreeing, try to avoid merely repeating what others have said*
- *When disagreeing, be respectful and focus on the idea, not the person*
- *Utilize the raise hand function and/or chat to comment or ask questions*
- *Turn on your video if possible - especially while you are speaking*

# Upcoming Meetings

- *Next meeting will include equity training*
- *Will send out a Doodle poll for that date*
- *Future meetings will be on a regular monthly schedule*
- *Will send out a separate Doodle poll for that*
- *Also email to confirm details for website*

# Questions?



# Planning 101



## *Why Plan?*

- Create a shared vision that addresses the diverse needs and concerns of the community

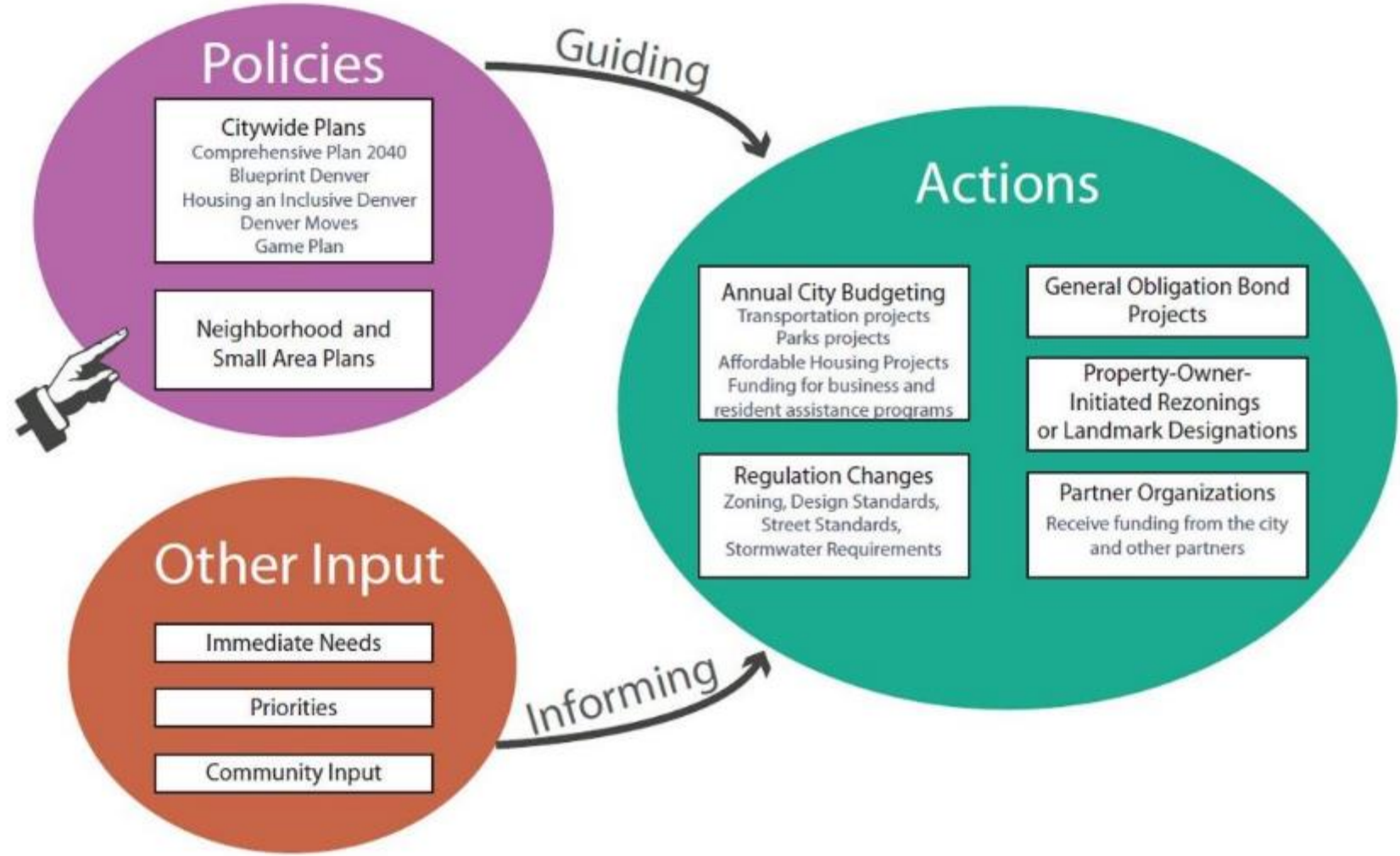


## *What Do Plans Do?*

Plans inform how things should evolve in the future for the benefit of the community

- Engage people in a dialog about the future
- Define a vision and recommend strategies to achieve it
- Inform decision-making (public & private)

# What Plans Do...





## *What Plans Don't Do...*



- Change regulations (zoning, municipal code, historic districts, etc.)
- Establish budgets for implementation
- Provide detailed design/engineering of infrastructure projects

# Planning can have a big impact



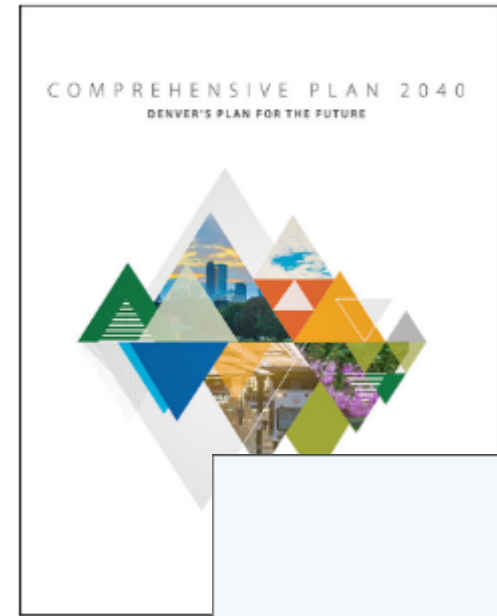
**EARLY 1990's**  
**COMMONS PARK AREA**



**TODAY**  
**COMMONS PARK AREA**

# Citywide Planning

- Sets broad policies and recommendations that apply citywide
- Many citywide plans focus on a single topic:
  - Parks & Recreation Game Plan
  - Denver Moves: Pedestrians and Trails
  - Denver Moves: Transit
- Comprehensive Plan and Blueprint Denver provide citywide planning guidance



# Comprehensive Plan 2040

Equitable,  
Affordable and  
Inclusive



Strong and  
Authentic  
Neighborhoods



Connected,  
Safe and  
Accessible Places



Economically  
Diverse and  
Vibrant



Environmentally  
Resilient



Healthy and  
Active



# Blueprint Denver Vision

- *An equitable city*
- *A city of complete neighborhoods and networks*
- *An evolving city*



# AN EQUITABLE CITY

- *Planning for equity and guiding change to benefit everyone*
- *“Equity is when everyone, regardless of who they are or where they come from, has the opportunity to thrive. Where there is equity, a person’s identity does not determine their outcome. As a city, we advance equity by serving individuals, families and communities in a manner that reduces or eliminates persistent institutional biases and barriers based on race, ability, gender identity and sexual orientation, age and other factors.”*

# Equity 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.



# AN EQUITABLE CITY

## *Key policies:*

- *Integrate community services and daily amenities into neighborhoods*
- *Affordable housing should be available in every neighborhood*
- *Missing middle housing options should be thoughtfully integrated into neighborhoods*
- *ADUs should be allowed throughout the city*

# Complete Neighborhoods and Networks

*Blueprint Denver's* vision and goals are realized through the planning and implementation of complete neighborhoods connected by a complete multimodal transportation network.

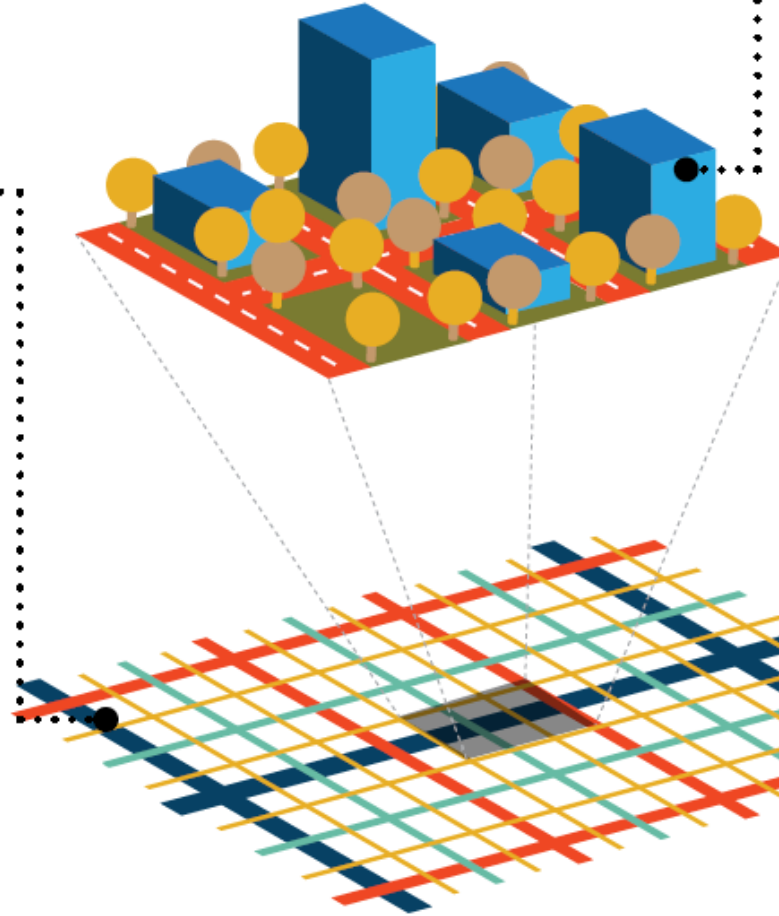
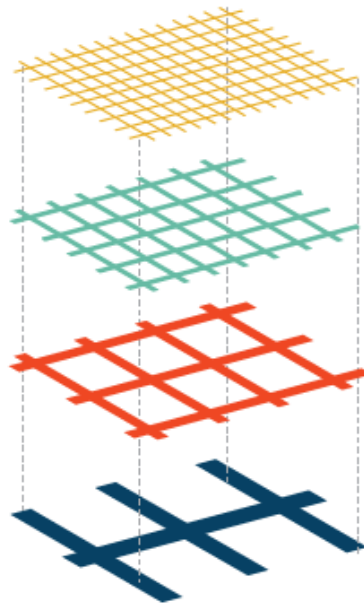
## Complete Networks

Pedestrians

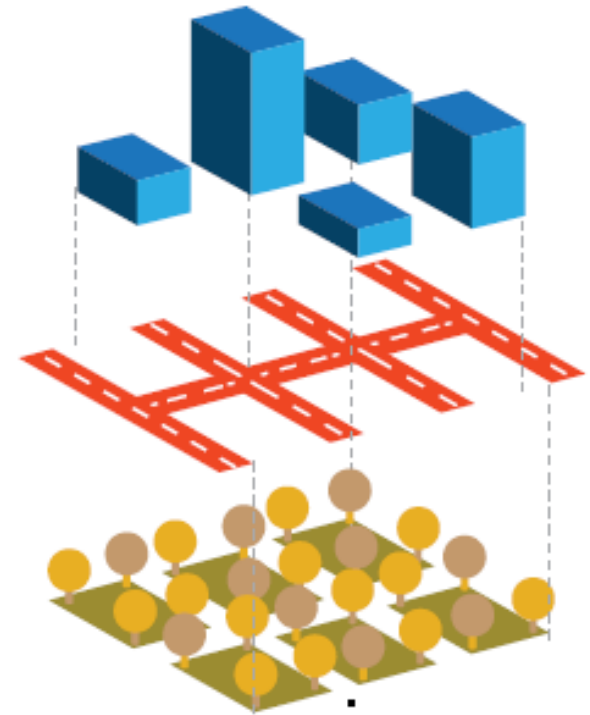
Bicycles

Transit

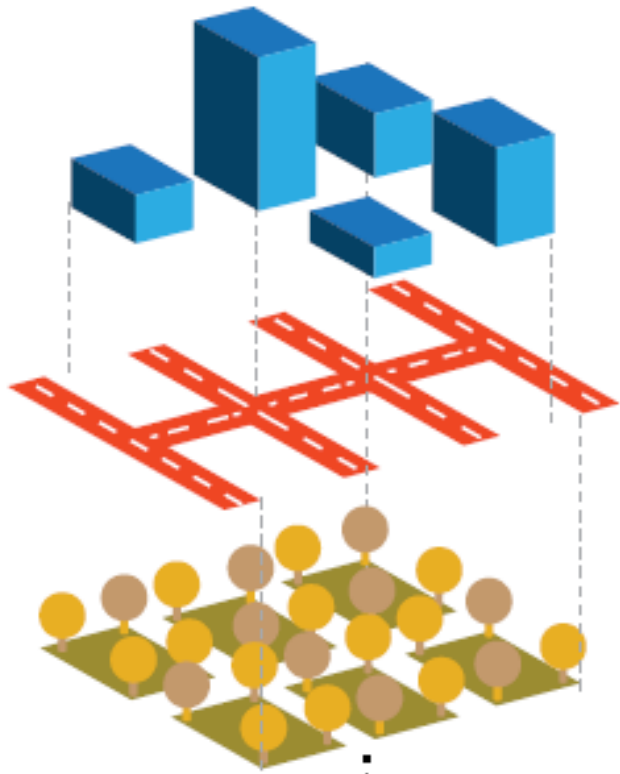
Auto and  
Goods  
Movement



## Complete Neighborhoods



# Elements of a Complete Neighborhood



Place



Street Type



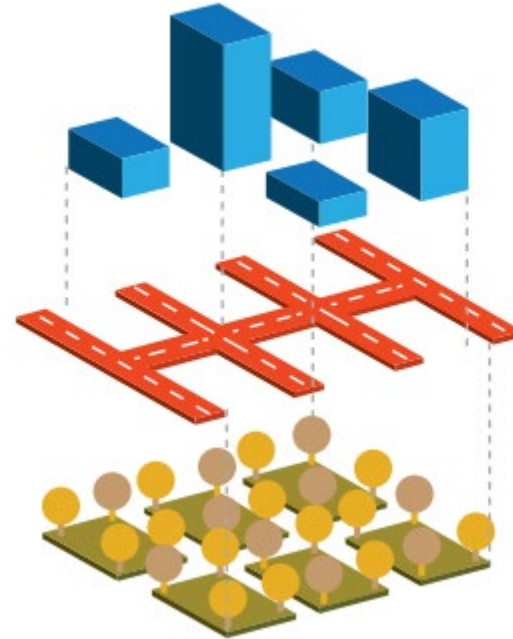
Neighborhood Context



# Complete neighborhoods

## *Key policies:*

- *Quality design in all neighborhoods*
- *Access to shopping, jobs, and entertainment*
- *Parks, recreation, greenery, and social amenities*



Enhance the character and quality of neighborhoods.



Connect people to the neighborhood places where they live, work and play.

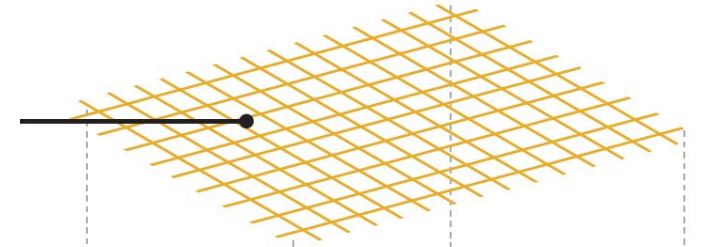


Provide neighborhoods with parks and open spaces, natural features, recreation opportunities and social spaces.

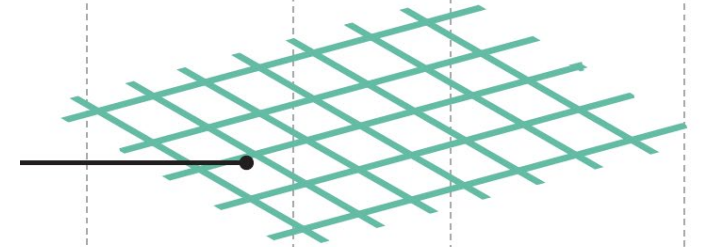
# *Elements of a Complete Network*

High-quality, continuous transportation networks that prioritize pedestrians, transit, bicycles or cars for seamless mobility throughout the city.

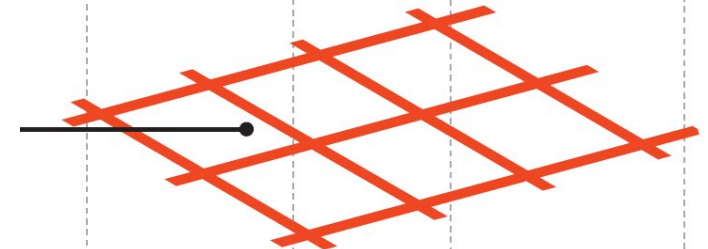
**Pedestrians**



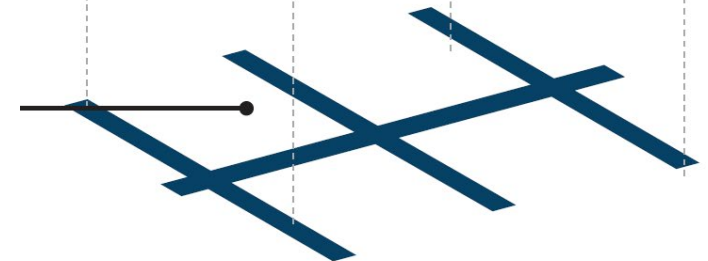
**Bicycles**



**Transit**



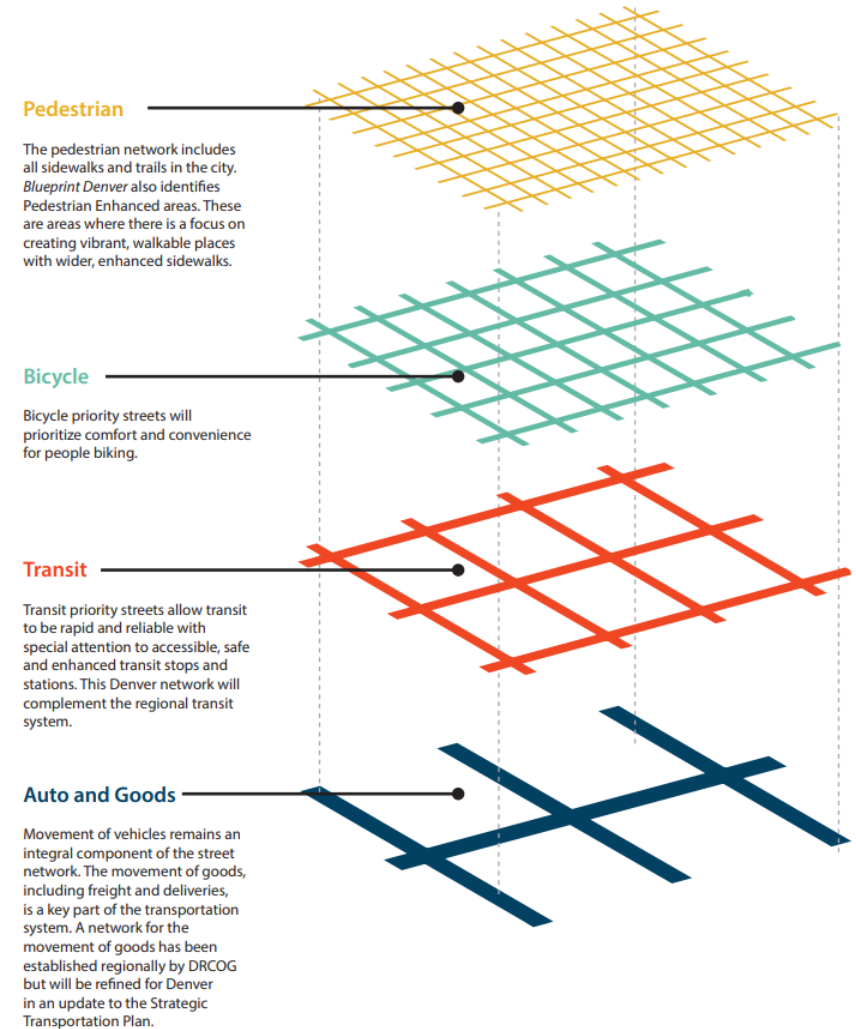
**Auto and Goods Movement**



# Complete networks

## Key policies:

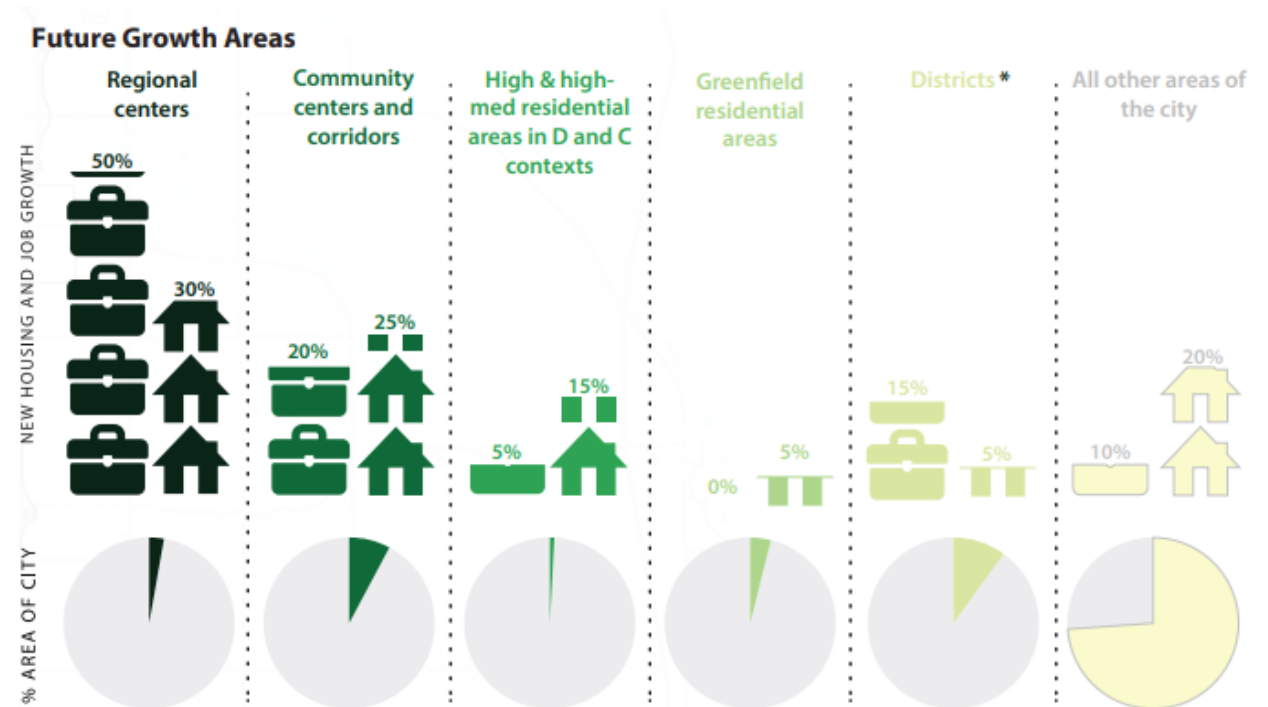
- *Encourage mode shift away from single-occupant vehicles to walking and rolling, biking, transit, and other modes*
- *Prioritize pedestrians over other modes on all streets*



# AN EVOLVING CITY

## Key policies:

- *Every neighborhood accommodates growth*
- *Most growth directed to centers and corridors*
- *Direct growth to limit climate impacts and improve resiliency*



# Citywide Implementation

*Current or upcoming citywide projects will address major Blueprint recommendations:*

- *Expanding Housing Affordability*
- *ADU regulatory updates*
- *Equity in rezoning*
- *Centers and corridors design quality*
- *Residential design quality*

*Near Southeast plan can provide limited refinement on implementing these recommendations*

# Updating Blueprint

- *Upon adoption of the Near Southeast plan, it can update Blueprint maps*
- *This includes context, place type, growth strategy, street types, and modal priority*
- *Updates must work within existing Blueprint categories and place types*

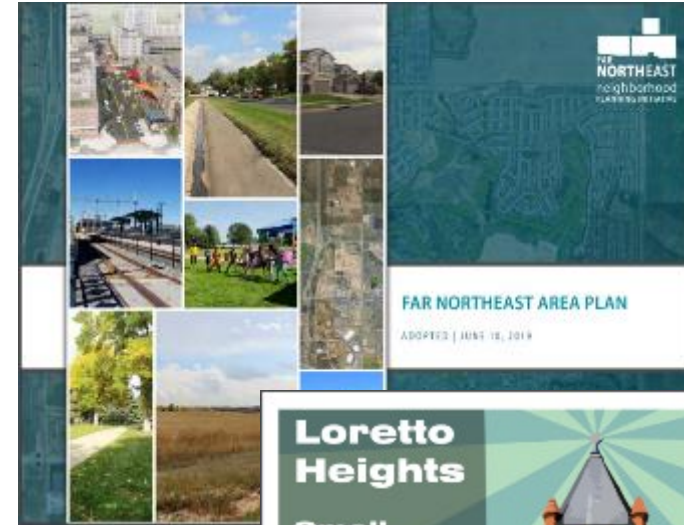
# Neighborhood Planning Initiative

## *Near Southeast Area Plan*



# Neighborhood & Small Area Plans – Part 1

- *Detailed recommendations that apply only to specific areas*
  - *Ex: neighborhoods, corridors, transit station areas*
- *Address many topics and show how systems inter-relate at the local level*
- *Adopted as supplements to the Comprehensive Plan*
- *Must be consistent with citywide plans*



# Neighborhood & Small Area Plans – Part 2

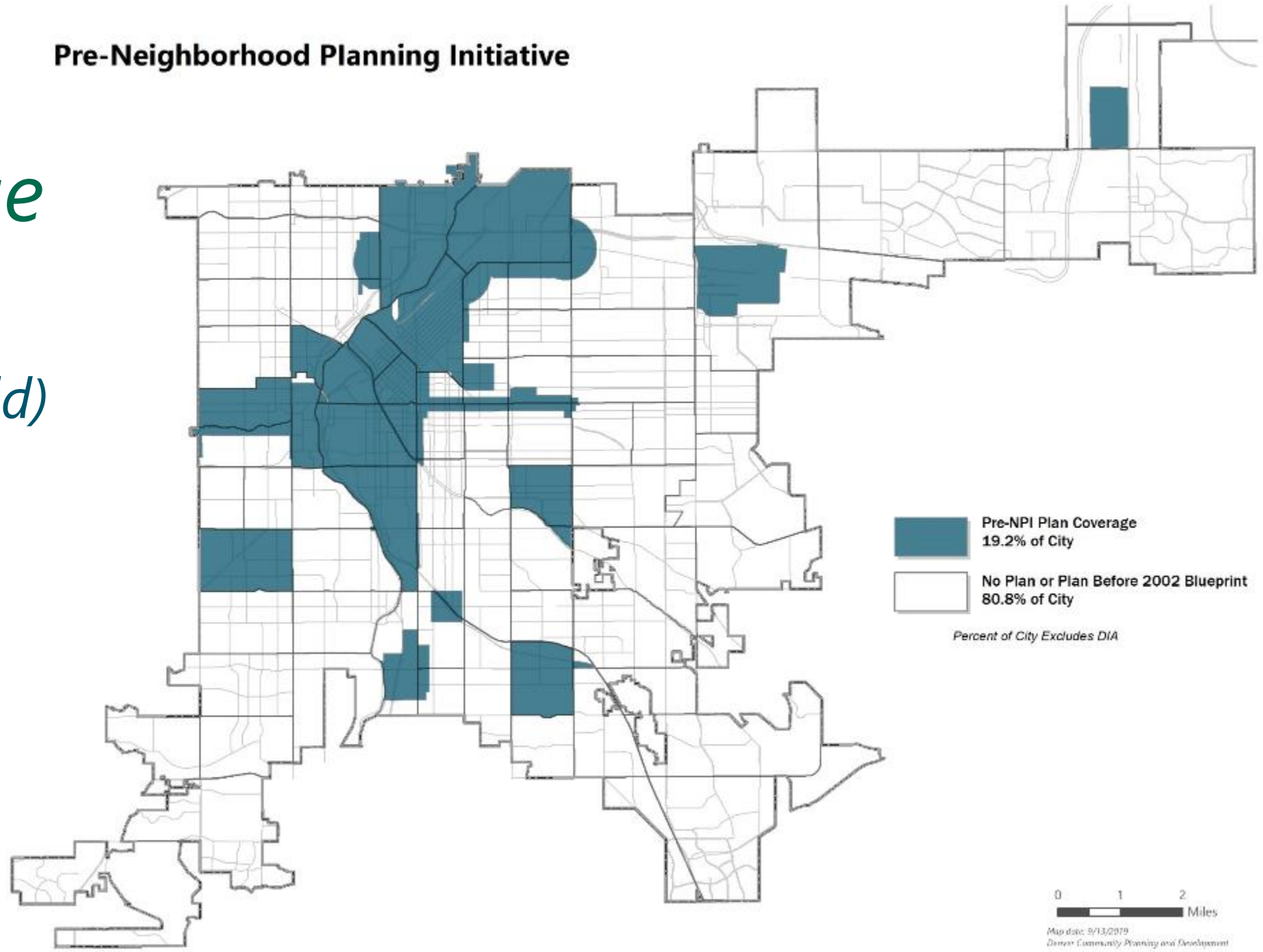
- *Update Blueprint Denver mapping*
- *Can't contradict citywide goals, but can identify customized strategies for achieving them*
- *Provide detailed guidance for use in rezonings & other policy decisions*
- *Recommend capital projects and facilities*
- *Identify strategies for future implementation projects*



# Small Area Plan Coverage in 2016

(Plans < 15 years old)

## Pre-Neighborhood Planning Initiative





# NPI Topics

## Always Topics:

[Appear in Every Plan]

### Introduction

- Vision Elements
- Planning for Equity

### Framework Plan

- Land Use and Built Form
  - Future Places, Building Heights, Growth Strategy, Urban Design, Local Economy, Housing
- Mobility
  - Street types, modal networks, modal priority
- Quality of Life Infrastructure
  - Healthy and Active Living, Parks and Recreation, Environmental Quality

### Focus Areas

- Neighborhoods
- Areas Needing Special Attention
- Transformative Projects

### Implementation

- Priority & Timeframe
- Metrics (where possible)
- Updates to Blueprint Denver

## Focus Topics:

[Selected with the Community]

- Topics vary from plan to plan
- All topics on the table for consideration
- Community prioritizes
- Plan focuses on top priorities
- Put communities in touch with relevant agencies

### Built Environment Examples

- Parking, Brownfields, Schools/ Institutions, Beautification, etc.

### Policy & Regulation Examples

- Social Issues, Safety and Crime, Arts and Culture, Food Systems, Special Districts, Code Enforcement, etc.

# Plan Implementation

- *Regulation – Denver Zoning Code text and map amendments, rules and requirements*
- *Funding – Annual budget, capital projects budget, bonds, grants*
- *Partnerships – community organizations, land trusts, DPS, RTD*

# Planning Process

## *And Community Engagement*

# Planning Team

- **Interdepartmental Team, including (but not limited to)**
  - Community Planning and Development – Scott Robinson, Libbie Adams, Jason Morrison, Courtland Hyser
  - Transportation and Infrastructure
  - Parks and Recreation
  - Housing Stability
  - Public Health and Environment
  - Economic Development and Opportunity
- **Consultant team (to be selected)**
  - Acts as an extension of the staff team
  - Helps with technical analysis and community engagement
- **Close coordination with Councilmembers' Offices**



# Timeline

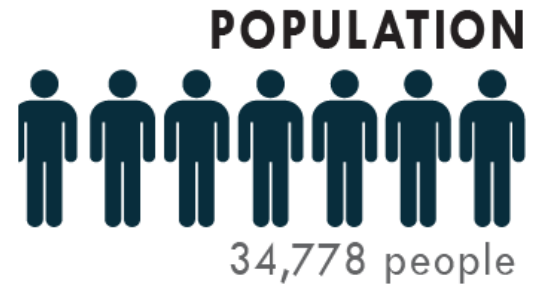
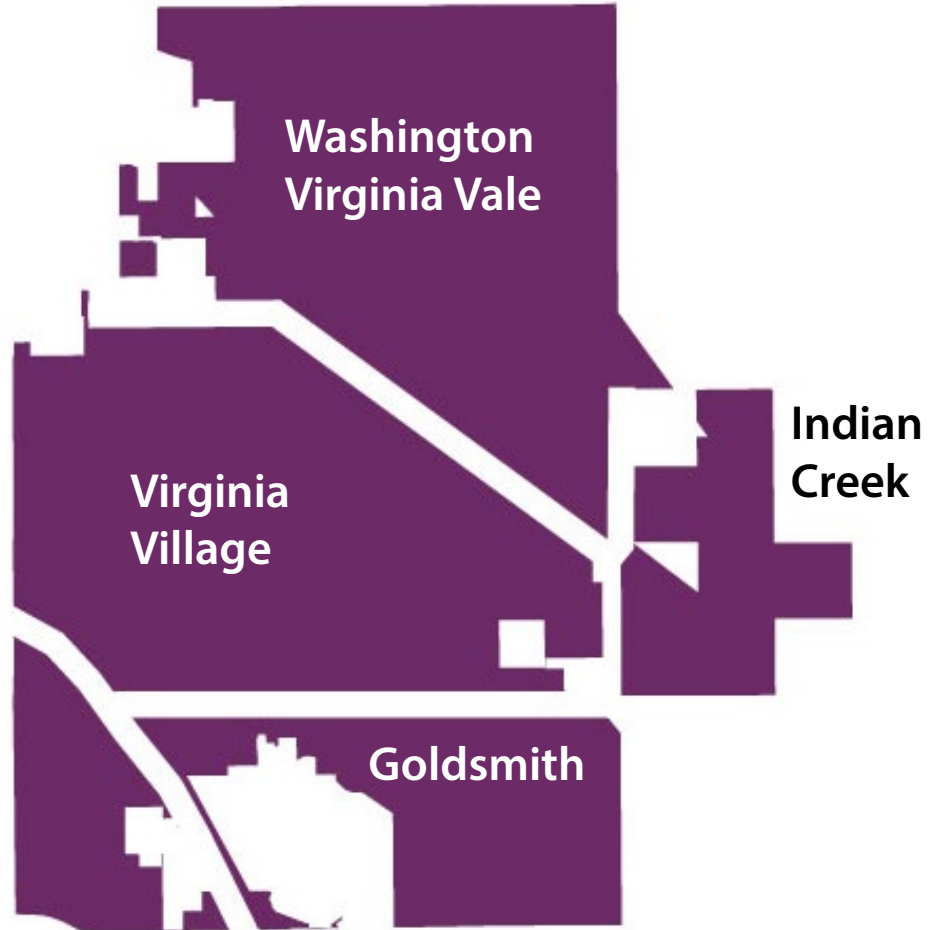


## Near Southeast Area Plan Process



# Near Southeast Area

## STATISTICS

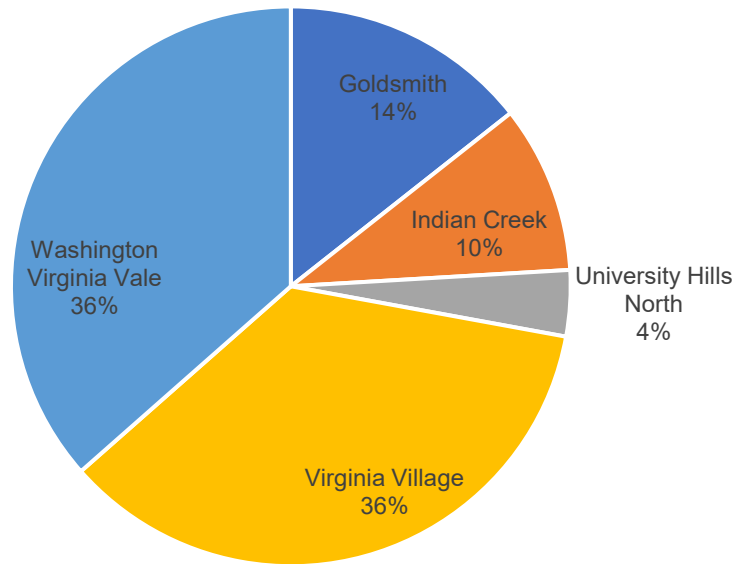


University Hills North

# Demographics

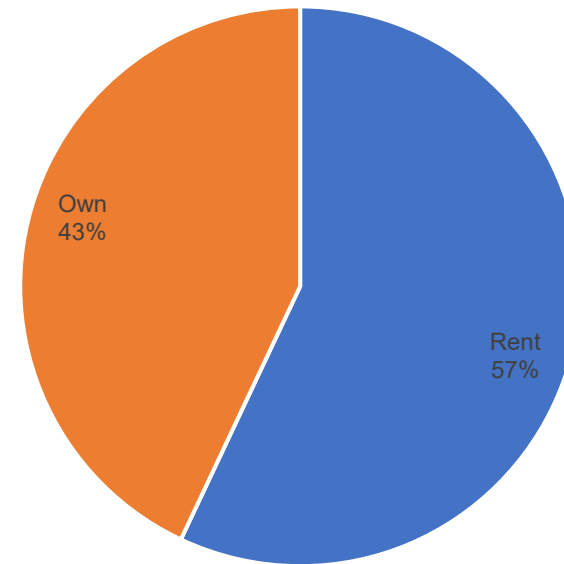
## Neighborhoods

Near Southeast Population

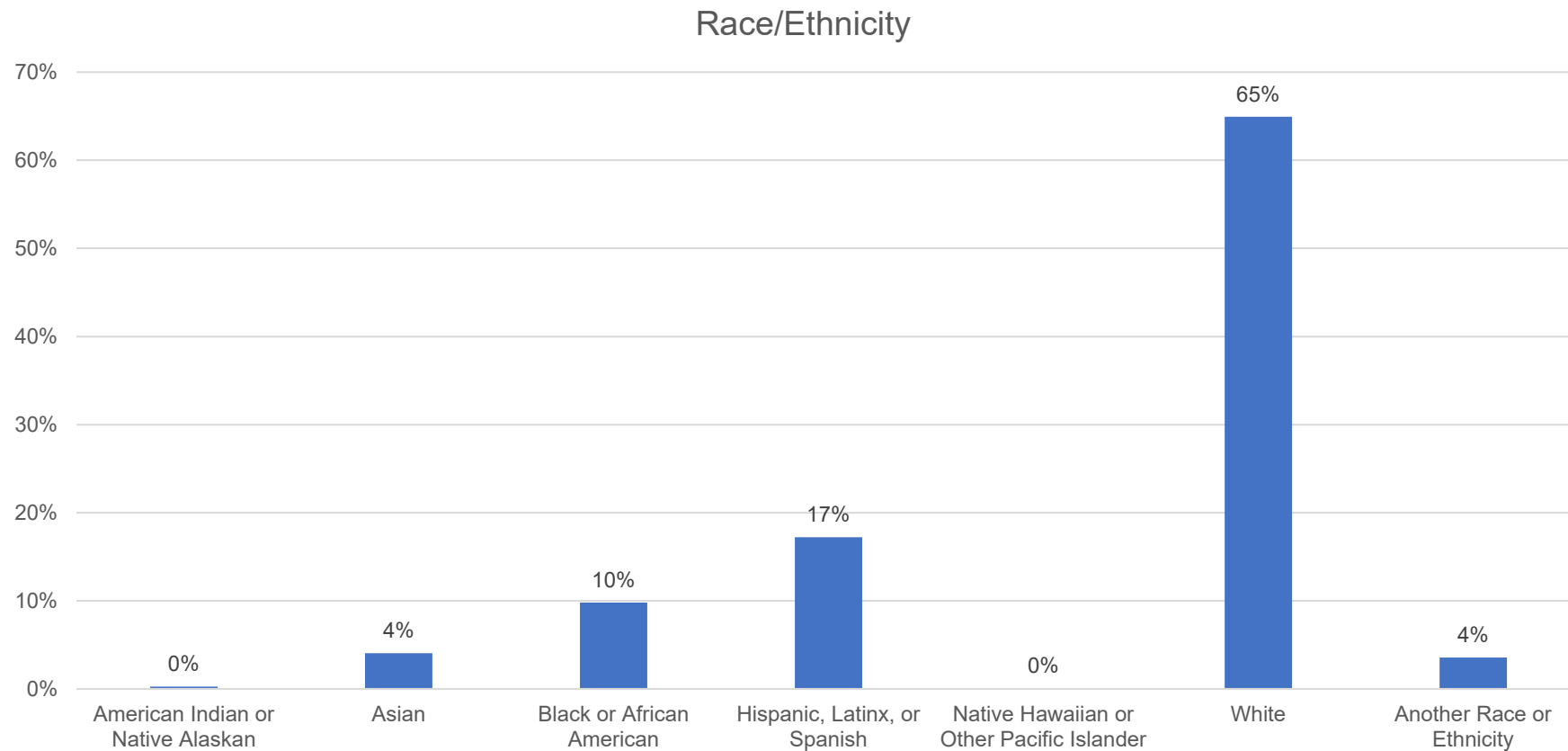


## Rent/Own

Tenure

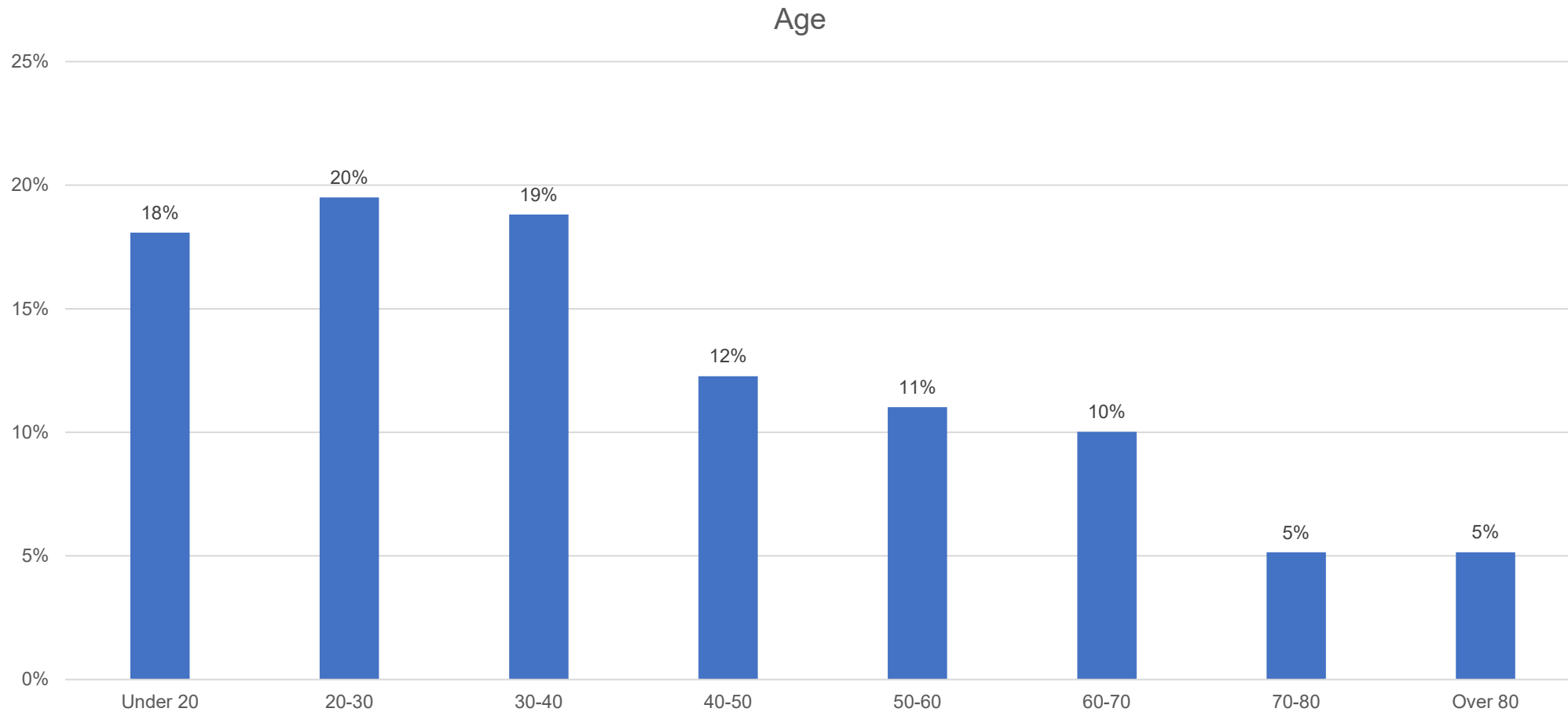


# Race/Ethnicity



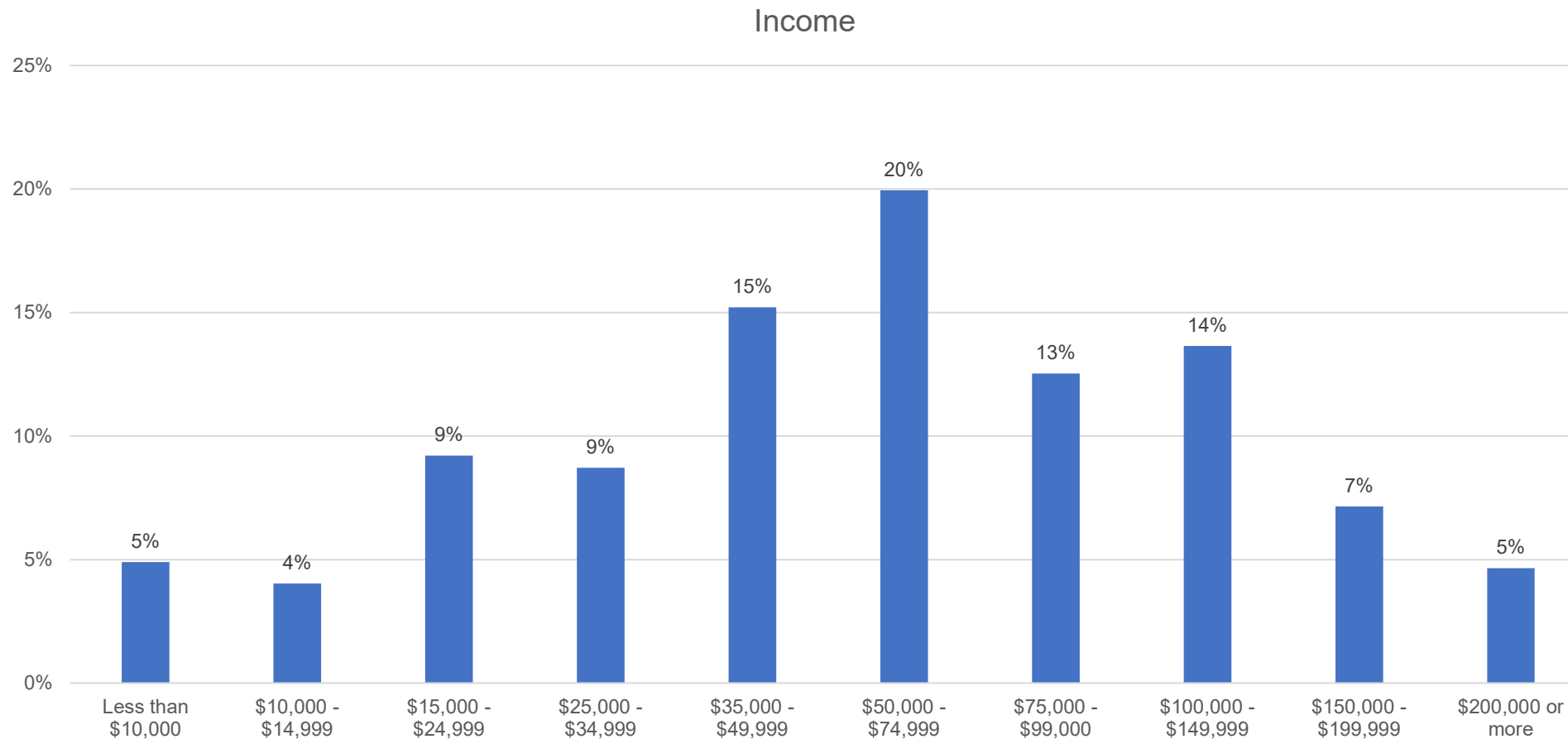
Source: American Community Survey 2015-2019

# Age



Source: American Community Survey 2015-2019

# Income



Source: American Community Survey 2015-2019

# Engagement Strategy

- *Lays out engagement goals for the Near Southeast Plan*
- *Describes the methods that will be used to achieve those goals*
- *Identifies how progress will be tracked*
- *Draft will be developed with input from steering committee and community*

# Goals

- *Engage community members who are representative of the demographics of those who live, work, visit, and study in the Plan Area.*
- *Empower traditionally marginalized or underrepresented communities. Focus populations include, but are not limited to, youth, seniors, people of color (particularly black, brown, and indigenous residents), non-native English speakers, people experiencing homelessness, lower-income residents, people with disabilities, and renters.*
- *Build trust between all participants and create a space to listen and help heal old wounds.*
- *Educate participants on their role, the project, and the importance of a collaborative planning process.*

# Equitable Engagement

Group	Potential strategies/partners for engagement
<b>Hispanic/Latinx residents</b>	Spanish language media; Denver Latino Commission; Mexican Cultural Center
<b>Black residents</b>	Colorado Black Chamber of Commerce; Denver African American Commission; African Community Center
<b>Immigrant communities</b>	Denver Immigrant and Refugee Commission; church/daycare employees/associations; African Community Center; Eritrean Community Center
<b>Youth</b>	School-based engagement; YMCA/recreation groups; religious youth groups
<b>Seniors</b>	Senior apartments; targeted mailings; Denver Commission on Aging
<b>Renters</b>	Small group meetings; apartment managers
<b>Lower income residents</b>	Affordable housing communities; Affordable housing waitlists; Department of Housing Stability; Neighborhood Development Council

# Special Considerations

Topic	Potential strategies/partners for engagement
<b>Many small RNOs</b>	RNO focus group; stakeholder group; RNO-specific survey
<b>Lack of business organizations away from the Evans corridor</b>	Citywide groups (Denver Chamber of Commerce; Colorado Black Chamber of Commerce, etc.)
<b>Variety of religious communities and organizations</b>	Interfaith alliance; equal opportunities to participate
<b>Proximity to other jurisdictions</b>	Partner with adjacent jurisdictions; Neighborhood-specific approach

# Engagement Tools

- *Community Workshops*
- *Surveys*
- *Steering Committee*
- *Intercept Surveys*
- *Neighborhood Meetings*
- *Group Meetings and Stakeholder Engagement*
- *Focused Population Engagement*
- *Focus Groups*
- *Neighborhood Tours and Field Assessments*
- *Community Navigators*
- *Community Resource Fairs*
- *Existing Community Events*
- *Office Hours*
- *Public Hearings*

# 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*

# Questions & Discussion

# Understanding the Area

## *SWOT Exercise*

# SWOT Exercise

- *Strengths – characteristics or features that contribute to quality of life – what is working well?*
- *Weaknesses – characteristics or features that detract from quality of life – what is not working well?*
- *Opportunities – characteristics or features that could become strengths if they are enhanced*
- *Threats – characteristics or features that could become weaknesses if they are not addressed*