



BOULDER COUNTY
MOBILITY & ACCESS
FOR ALL

Project Update

Aging Advisory Council

December 2021

About the Project

About the Project

- Improve mobility for seniors, people with disabilities, and low-income individuals.
- Organizations involved coordinate and provide transportation services.
- Federal transit law requirement for Section 5310 (Enhanced Mobility for Individuals and Individuals with Disabilities Program) project funding.
- Projects "must be included in a locally developed coordinated plan."
- This is the first such plan of its kind for Boulder County.



The Process

Learning:

- Advisory Committee
- Feedback from transit riders, community leaders, and human service organizations
- Online survey of transit providers and organizations

Existing Conditions:

- Demographics
- Transit Services
- Needs

Strategies to Meet Needs:

- Goals
- Implementation

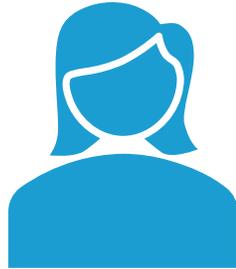


Who Is Involved



Technical Advisory Committee

25 Partner Agency
Representatives



Community Partners

CDOT Transit & Safe Routes to School
Regional Planners (DRCOG & NFRMPO)
Boulder County Area Agency on Aging
RTD Paratransit
CU Boulder and CU Denver
Aging Advisory Council
IDD Mill Levy Advisory Council
Local Coordinating Council
Bicycle Colorado



Affinity/Focus Groups

Youth Programs Leadership
People with Disabilities
Racial, Ethnic, Income, and Age Equity
Healthcare Workers
Municipal Planners
Boulder Valley and St. Vrain Valley School District

Virtual Open House (English: 8/10/2021)

- 37 live attendees
- 72 follow-up survey responses
- 111 views on YouTube to date
- Example suggestions:
 - *“It’s interesting to contemplate “humanity” as a goal separate from “equity”. That could include indicators such as comfort, convenience, and dignity...”*
 - *“Volunteer drivers is a good strategy. There are some virtual communities in which people freely contribute, such as open source software. There could be a good number of people willing to drive others for free. They need to be organized, such as by an app.”*



Virtual Open House (Spanish: 8/11/2021)

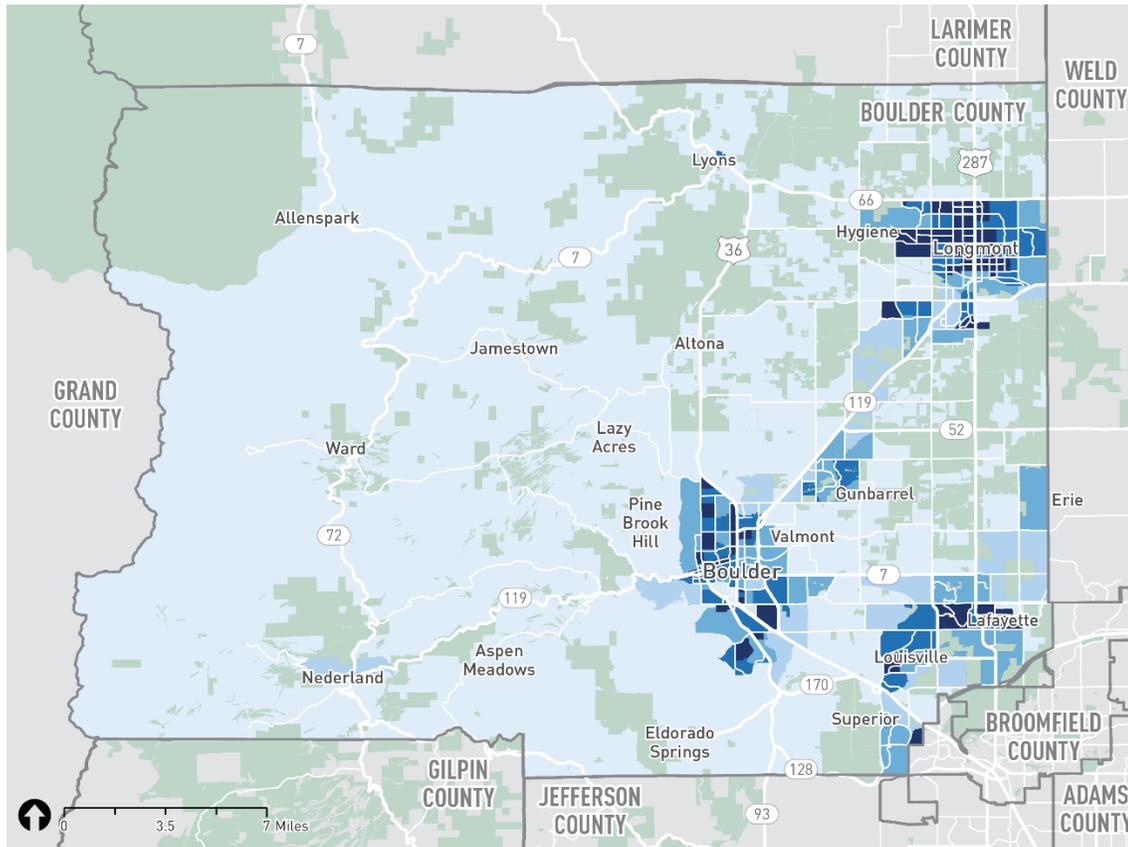
- 16 live attendees
- 1 follow-up survey response
- 38 views on YouTube to date
- Example suggestions (translated):
 - *“Maps with content and accessibility formats that can be used by people with some type of disability”*
 - *“...Visit neighborhoods directly, neighborhoods and communities or organizations that work directly with the groups to whom you want to bring these services closer.”*



Key Findings

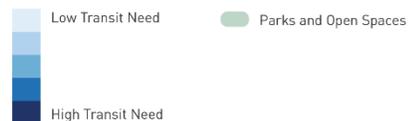
What is Boulder County's Transit Propensity?

- Older Adults
- Youth
- Disabled
- Low-Income



Transit Need

Needs is based on cumulative density of older adults population, youth population, low-income households (40% AMI and lower), and people with disabilities.



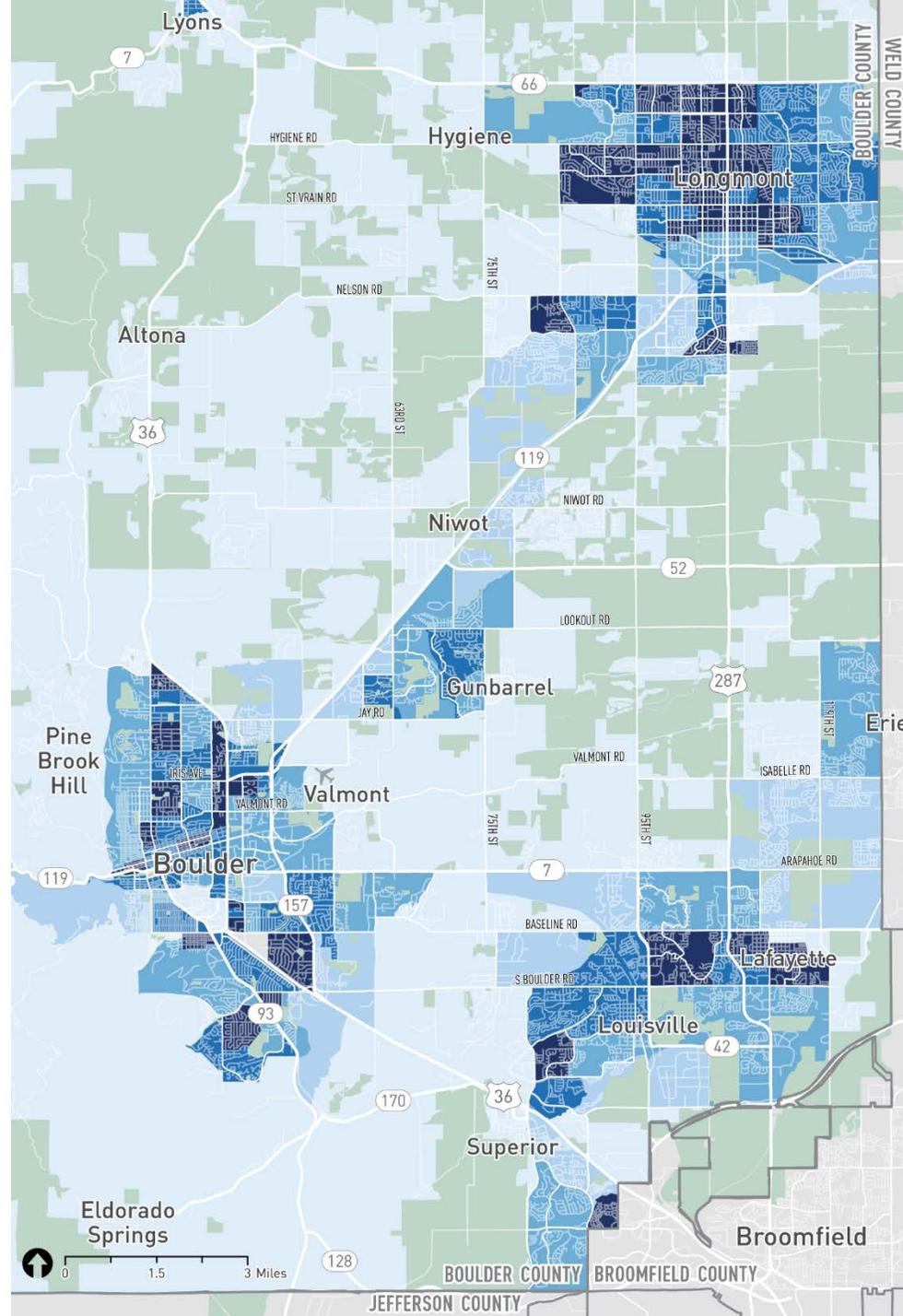
Source: Esri, US Census Bureau, ACS 5-year Estimate (2015-2019), Boulder County. Map created March 2021.

Transit Need

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Source: Esri, US Census Bureau, ACS 5-year Estimate (2015-2019), Boulder County. Map created March 2021.



Summary of Needs

- Need for additional data and organizational support for transportation planning and policy.
- Region's land use and urban design is not conducive to transit-supportive communities, compromising the journey one takes to access transit.
- The cost of transportation is a burden on top of the rising cost of housing.
- Community groups, non-profits, and governments alike may not necessarily have enough resources (administrative staff, operators, etc.).

Summary of Needs

- Service gaps for localities and communities outside regional transit hubs.
- Limited awareness of all transportation options.
- Ongoing challenges demand big moves:
 - climate change
 - systemic discrimination
 - aging infrastructure and population
 - technology's role in transportation

Goals and Objectives

Goals & Objectives



Accessibility

- Supporting alternatives to car ownership
- Expanding information and access to multimodal transportation options



Equity

- Determining which places are sufficiently serviced relative to special needs
- Listening to marginalized communities and responding directly to their needs



Reliability

- Recognizing and supporting personnel who keep the transportation system running
- Helping increase regular program and service use

Goals & Objectives



Efficiency

- Reducing strain on existing resources
- Evaluating program and service effectiveness



Sustainability

- Investing in Boulder County's future social and financial growth
- Continuing County's drive for greater fuel efficiency and fewer climate impacts



Safety

- Embracing a philosophy of universal design for all ages and abilities
- Helping people feel more comfortable with multiple transportation options

Strategies to Meet Needs

About the Strategies

- Strategies are organized by the need they are meeting
- There are two timeframes based on priority votes from the Advisory Committee and feedback from the public meetings:
 - TIER I - Implementation in next 2 years
 - TIER II - Implementation in 3 to 5 years
- We acknowledge that the ongoing shortage of drivers may affect the timeline of strategies
- There are also policies addressing ongoing needs with a **long-term** timeframe

Data Strategies



TIER I

- Study transit service areas, lines, and layover sites in need of greater utilization

TIER II

- Formalize data analysis, collection, and reporting to study transportation demand and priority gaps, including mode choice for individual schools and workplaces throughout Boulder County
- Study cost-effectiveness and/or destinations served of programs subsidizing taxis and ridehailing

Access Strategy

TIER I

- Paved access routes and upgrades to bus stops



Cost Strategies



TIER I

- Expand affordable and/or free transit fare programs

TIER II

- Cover/reimburse bus pass requests made by community liaisons

Resource Strategies



TIER I

- Support driver training and retention
- Part-time or full-time grant writing assistance
- Youth representation on local Mobility Access Council group
- Create a Youth Transportation Resource Hub for future coordination on countywide youth transportation solutions

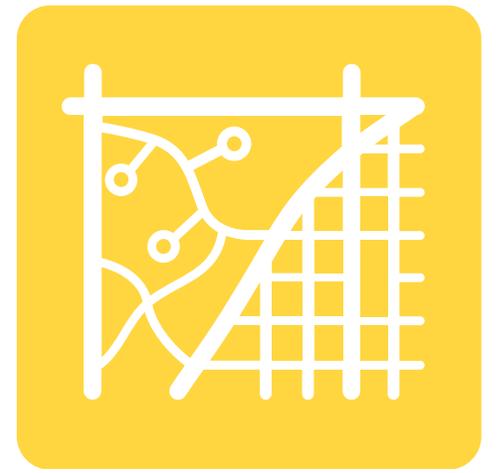
Resource Strategies



TIER II

- Expand pot of competitive funding for projects (similar to DRCOG set-aside)
- Volunteer travel buddies program (mobile travel trainers)

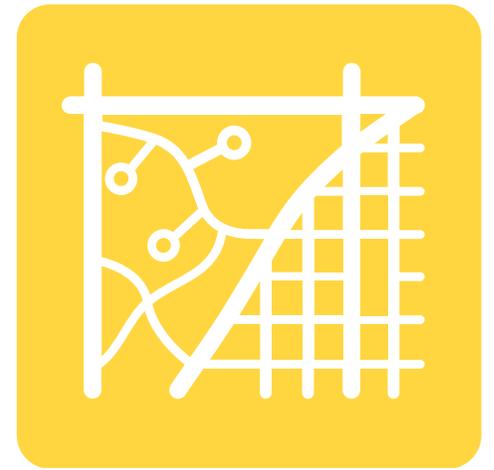
Service Gap Strategies



TIER I

- Bring RTD Access-a-Ride Certification Center to Boulder County
- Support volunteer driver programs as locally relevant transportation options to help post-pandemic recovery and close access gaps throughout the County's more isolated areas
- Collaborate with transit to survey major employers to determine consistent shift times and reschedule bus arrivals at employment sites that match those times
- Include coordination clauses as part of grants awarded to transportation providers

Service Gap Strategies



TIER II

- Pilot a hybrid connector service (Fixed-route with deviations on request like Flexride) in areas underserved by fixed-route transit
- Encourage nonprofit transportation providers to coordinate with one another to share fleets and reduce the burdens of maintenance
- Set up Via and others with fleets to service youths with families of limited means who enroll in a facility/program outside of their locally assigned school
- Transportation for veterans under 60 to VA sites in Cheyenne, WY and Aurora, CO

Awareness Strategies



TIER I

- Expand travel training to youth, families, and caregivers, especially those with or tending to individuals with special needs, and people who speak languages other than English
- Support food pantries, libraries, and other existing community services to advertise Mobility for All, trainings, apps, etc.
- Educate human service agencies on available funding streams/grants to meet transportation needs; Encourage more Coordinating County on Access and Mobility (CCAM) and Area Agency on Aging (AAA) grants/funding streams

Awareness Strategies



TIER II

- Promotion/expansion of vocational training in transportation trades (CDLs, bicycle repair, etc.)
- Bicycle Friendly Driver training funding support

Ongoing Policies



LONG-TERM

- Thoughtful land use planning which promotes coordinated transportation, encourages walkability, and locates services and activity where there's existing population and infrastructure
- Universal design in all rail, rapid bus, and station area planning within County Limits
- Adopting clear standards and expectations for transportation data sharing between governments and future private partners, developers, and services

Ongoing Policies



LONG-TERM

- Be involved in local/regional advocacy groups and efforts that support new funding streams for transportation and mobility (e.g., Colorado Association of Transit Agencies)
- Continued equitable investments in communities, programs, and infrastructure

Next Steps

Next Steps

This Month

- Drafting the plan report with strategy implementation guidance
- Developing a directory of transportation resources
- Advisory Committee to review and provide feedback on the draft report



Next Steps

November

- Finalizing the plan report
- Presentations to Mobility & Access Coalition

December

- Plan adoption



THANK YOU!

Please visit the [coordinated plan's website](#)
for information & updates



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