

**CITY OF BOULDER
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD
INFORMATION ITEM**

MEETING DATE: December 10, 2018

AGENDA TITLE: • **Staff briefing and TAB feedback regarding the Transportation Master Plan – Pedestrian Plan/Americans with Disabilities (ADA) Plan updates.**

PRESENTER/S: Michael Gardner-Sweeney, Director of Public Works-Transportation
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This memo provides an update to the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) on the Transportation Master Plan (TMP) – Pedestrian Plan update and the Americans with Disabilities (ADA) Plan. Staff is seeking feedback from TAB on the planning process for both projects and on the draft Pedestrian Plan Vision and Goals. The Pedestrian Plan and ADA Plan were presented to TAB as an agenda item at the August 2017 meeting and more recently under the monthly TMP updates.

BACKGROUND

Pedestrian Plan

The TMP – [Pedestrian Plan](#) is the community’s blueprint for improving walking conditions in Boulder. It is currently undergoing its first major update since 1996 and will include a detailed action plan for implementing improvements—whether engineering (infrastructure), education, encouragement, enforcement, or evaluation. Recent work includes gathering community input, mapping and documenting existing conditions, researching best practices, and hosting a diverse 20-member Pedestrian Advisory Committee (PAC) of Boulder residents. The PAC has already held several meetings/events and will have additional meetings through the first half of 2019.

Key elements of the TMP – Pedestrian Plan update include:

- **Existing Conditions Snapshot** to understand where we are today;
- **Vision Statement, Goals, Performance Measures** to determine the desired future and monitor progress;
- **Strategies** to achieve the vision;
- **Walk Network** development including potential projects to remove barriers to destinations; and

- **Action Plan**, including responsible parties, and timelines for the city and partners to follow.

An update to the City’s Pedestrian Crossing Treatment Installation Guidelines is also accompanying the development of the Pedestrian Plan, and the results from the Vision Zero Safe Streets Report are being incorporated into Existing Conditions and proposed projects.

ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan

The Pedestrian Plan effort also includes an assessment of the city’s compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) (“Self-Evaluation”) and a plan for how to implement identified improvements (“Transition Plan”); these documents are required under the federal ADA requirements for local governments.

The goal of this work is to ensure that transportation-related infrastructure, information, and programs are truly accessible to all.

The Self-Evaluation will include:

- Detailed examination of the **condition and barriers to access** the city’s pedestrian system and associated maintenance programs, including sidewalks, curb ramps, multi-use paths, pedestrian traffic signals, parking facilities and transit facilities that are located within the city rights of way;
- **Peer city review** of best practices and summary of findings;
- Examination and summary of **city policies, practices and programs** that influence the accessibility of the city’s transportation system; and
- Examination of the **accessibility of engagement opportunities and informational resources** (e.g., mailings, webpages, signs, etc.) related to the public rights of way.

The Transition Plan will document an approach to systematically address the barriers identified in the Self-Evaluation and will include:

- **Recommendations, methods, schedules and cost estimates** for remediating identified barriers; and
- Methods for **ongoing monitoring, reporting and/or updating**.

The project will begin assembling and documenting existing conditions in early 2019. Some of this work will be accomplished quickly because information already exists and needs only to be assessed and summarized in relation to ADA. Other work, such as the inventory of the transportation system, will take more time to complete. This work is currently estimated to continue through summer 2019.

The overall process and timeline for the Pedestrian Plan and ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan are depicted in **Attachment A**.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community engagement for the TMP–Ped Plan and ADA Plan is coordinated, follows the city’s Engagement Strategic Framework, and includes a variety of approaches—both in-person and online. Many of the in-person events dovetail the broader TMP Update community engagement. Online engagement is primarily through the [Ped Plan](#) and [ADA](#) project websites and [Be Heard Boulder](#). The tools used thus far include an interactive map and survey questions, which were available both at in-person events and online.

The Ped Plan-related questions asked of the community to date include:

- Where do you like to walk and why? (interactive map)
- Where do you not like to walk and why? (interactive map)
- How easy/difficult is it for you to walk to/from transit and why? (interactive map)
- What do you enjoy about walking? (survey question)
- What would make it easier for you to walk? (survey question)
- What are your hopes and concerns related to walking? (survey question)
- Which key destinations are most important for you to walk to? (survey question— posted as the November TMP Question of the Month; results will be provided at the December 2018 TAB meeting and posted online)

Highlights from community responses are included in **Attachment B** and have been incorporated into the draft Vision and Goals.

Pedestrian Advisory Committee (PAC)

One of the key methods of engagement for the Ped Plan is the Pedestrian Advisory Committee (PAC), on which TAB members Tila Duhaime (primary) and Jennifer Nicoll (alternate) participate. The PAC is comprised of 20 members from all parts of the city, representing a variety of ages and abilities. Staff received approximately over three times as many applications as there were spots on the committee, so applicants have been invited to join the PAC members on walkabouts and webinars. PAC-related events to date include:

Date	Event	Highlight Topic(s)
August 30	Meeting #1	Project/group introduction, draft existing conditions, community input
September 27	Walkabout #1	Downtown, experience on different types of facilities
October 15	Webinar #1	Community engagement
November 8	Meeting #2	Draft Vision and Goals

Walkabout #2 is scheduled for December 13 and will focus on a high-stress (low-comfort) in the dark in the vicinity of 30th/Colorado. Additional meetings, webinars, and walkabouts are planned for 2019.

ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan

The outreach for the ADA-related work will focus on educating the public about the project, keeping the community up to date on its progress, and enabling public input on an ongoing basis at key points in the project process.

Internal and external stakeholder interviews this fall have helped define the project scope and public engagement and communication needs for the project.

The next community engagement steps for the ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan are to:

- Develop an “ADA 101” document to explain the project work and the importance of an accessible community; and
- Introduce the project to the broader public through the project webpage, transportation e-newsletter and social media, including video content.

Looking ahead, public input will be requested at key points of the project, including:

- Following completion of the existing conditions work;
- Prior to finalizing a self-evaluation report;
- Initiation of the transition plan work;
- Following completion of the transition plan work; and
- Prior to finalizing a transition plan report.

ANALYSIS

Existing Conditions

Existing Conditions work has included documentation and assessment of

- Facilities (e.g., sidewalks, multi-use paths, pedestrian-related signals)
- Programs (e.g., Heads Up, Safe Routes to School)
- Existing usage (e.g., volunteer counts on multi-use paths)
- Safety (e.g., crash data from ongoing analysis for the Safe Streets Report, close calls)

Throughout the planning process, staff will continue to review best practices and policies from other cities. Some of the cities that have proven to be helpful models include:

- [Denver](#)
- [Portland](#)

- [Santa Monica](#)
- [Seattle](#)

Draft Vision and Goals

The Vision and Goals of the Pedestrian Plan lay the foundation for the rest of the document, particularly for the strategies and specific actions to implement the plan over time. The vision statement of the Ped Plan introduces what the community wants for the future of walking in Boulder. The goals provide the preferred courses of action in support of the vision and should be specific enough to help determine whether or not a proposed project, program, or course of action advances the community values expressed in the goals.

Staff developed the initial draft vision and goals by reflecting on previous feedback from the community regarding their hopes and concerns for walking and looking at best practices from other cities. The initial draft was presented to the Pedestrian Advisory Committee for review, and their suggestions have been incorporated into the version presented in this memo for TAB’s review and feedback:

Vision

Everyone enjoys walking in Boulder—it is easy, safe and well-connected.

Goals

- ***Safe and Comfortable:*** *Walking in Boulder is safe, secure, and comfortable for everyone, in support of Boulder’s Vision Zero goals.*
- ***Equitable and Inclusive:*** *Boulder is walkable and accessible for all, no matter who you are or where you live.*
- ***Vibrant and Inviting:*** *Public spaces and pedestrian facilities are vibrant and inviting, and walking is the preferred way to get around.*
- ***Healthy People and Environment:*** *Walking for transportation and recreation in Boulder helps improve health outcomes, social connectedness, pride in the community, and a sustainable and resilient environment.*
- ***Connected and Barrier-Free:*** *Access to destinations and other modes (“walk extenders”) is direct, efficient, easily navigable and integrates new technologies and innovations.*

Walk Network Development

One of the key components of the Pedestrian Plan is the development of a Walk Network to provide a safe, comfortable, and connected network of walking facilities for people of all ages and abilities. TAB received a memo update on the [Walk and Bike Network Plan](#) in November. The walk network is being developed based on the “15-minute neighborhood” assessment of a person’s ability and comfort to walk to a variety of destinations.

Key outputs will include a map of the planned corridors and any projects needed to help complete gaps and improve safety and comfort. The projects identified through this effort will be

coordinated with other projects (e.g., bike-related), as applicable, and folded into the Pedestrian Plan, the TMP's investment programs, and the city's Capital Improvement Program process.

Questions for TAB:

1. Does TAB have any suggestions about community engagement for the Pedestrian Plan and/or ADA Plan?
2. Does TAB have any feedback on the draft Vision and Goals for the Pedestrian Plan?

NEXT STEPS

- Refine and finalize Pedestrian Plan Vision and Goals; and
- Establish Pedestrian Plan metrics, strategies, and actions.
- Introduce the ADA Self-Evaluation project to the general public and stakeholder groups; and
- Evaluate and document existing conditions related to ADA.

Staff will continue to provide updated information to TAB, council, the PAC and the community at key milestones through meetings, the project websites, and [Be Heard Boulder](#). The Ped Plan and ADA Plan will be included as part of the TMP agenda item at the March 5 City Council study session.

For more information and updates on the Pedestrian Plan, please visit: <https://bouldercolorado.gov/transportation/pedestrian-system-plan>.

For more information and updates on the ADA Plan, please visit: <https://bouldercolorado.gov/transportation/ada>.

Attachments:

- A. Pedestrian Plan and ADA Plan Process and Timeline
- B. Pedestrian Survey Question Response Summary

Attachment A – Pedestrian Plan and ADA Plan Process and Timeline



Attachment B – Pedestrian Survey Question Response Summary

What do you ENJOY about walking?



What would make it EASIER to walk?

"Places to walk that are near to current neighborhoods"

"I [dislike] walking along or crossing all these 4-lane streets"

Fewer/slower cars

Walkable destinations

Fewer bike conflicts

"More protected bike lanes so there are fewer cyclists on the sidewalk"

Safer Crossings

"Cars [that] stop at intersections for pedestrians without me having to be assertive"

Sidewalk maintenance

"When they plow the main streets they leave huge mountains in front of the bus stop"

What are your HOPES and CONCERNS about walking?

