



2017

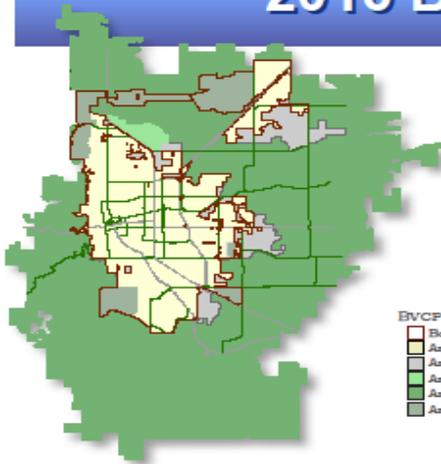
State and Federal Legislative Agenda



Revised

March 7, 2017

2016 Boulder Community Profile



25.8

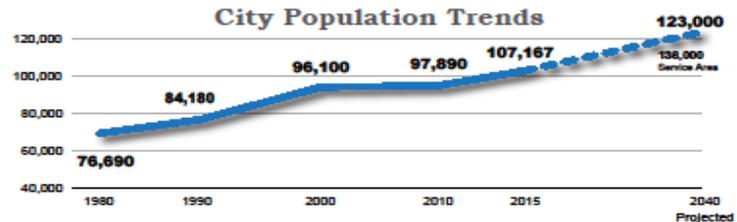
City Square Miles

71

City Open Space Square Miles¹

107,167

City Population²
119,199 Service Area Population

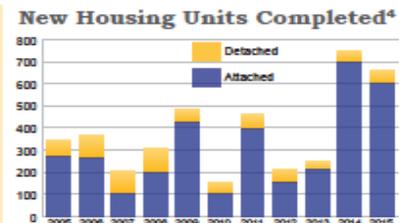
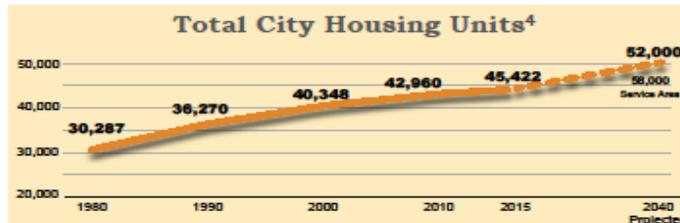


45,422

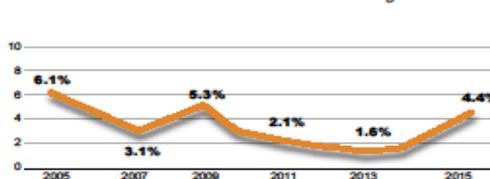
Housing Units²

51,132 Service Area Housing Units

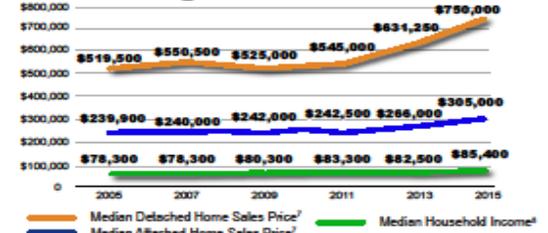
Rental vs Owner Occupied Housing Units⁵



Residential Rental Vacancy Rates⁶



Housing Costs & Incomes



100,148

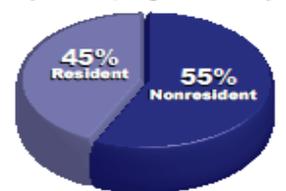
Jobs²

104,263 Service Area Jobs



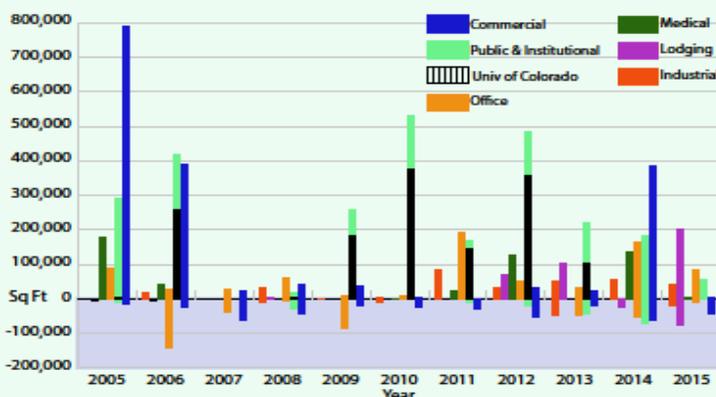
Boulder Employee Commuting Pattern Estimates²

(of the 100,148 jobs in Boulder)

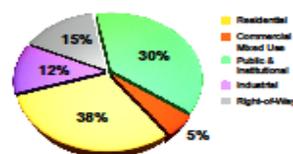


2005-2015 Non-Residential Square Footage Trends

Gross New and Demolished Non-Residential Square Footage 2005 - 2015²



Land Area by Zoning²



Vacancy Rate⁹

Retail	1.9%
Office	4.4%
Warehouse	2.5%
R&D/Flex	4.6%

Top 10 Employers (2015)

(listed in alphabetical order)

- Ball Aerospace
- Boulder Community Hospital
- Boulder County
- Boulder Valley School District
- City of Boulder
- Coviden
- IBM
- Micro-Motion
- UCAR/NCAR
- University of Colorado Boulder

Footnotes:

All numbers are through 12/31/15 unless otherwise noted. The reverse page of this document provides more background & sources.

- City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks
- 2015 Estimates, City of Boulder Dept. of Planning, Housing and Sustainability. See reverse page for more details. Job estimates for City includes Area I & Area II Assessments. Population and job estimates are rounded numbers.
- Area I & II = Service Area
- Based on number of Certificates of Occupancy issued for new housing units in the City of Boulder as of 12/31/15.
- 2014 American Community Survey (ACS)
- Apartment Association of Metro Denver Vacancy and Rent Report. Reflects average of city and university suburbs.
- Information Real Estate Services, Boulder Area Real Estate Association. Sale prices are for the city of Boulder.
- Housing Division, Area Median Income (AMI) data (3-person household). AMI data is for the Boulder County MSA.
- Source Boulder Economic Council - Market Profile 2016.

BVC Planning Areas

To manage growth and provide urban services efficiently, the Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan designates three areas for long term planning:

- Area I: Land within city limits, provided with urban services.
- Area II: Unincorporated land in Boulder County, eligible for annexation and provision of urban services within the 15 year planning period of the BVC.
- Area III: Unincorporated land in Boulder County outside the Service Area, intended to remain rural in character.

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legislation

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PURPOSE OF THE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

The purpose of the City of Boulder’s 2017 State and Federal Legislative Agenda (the “Legislative Agenda”) is to formalize city positions on legislation expected to be considered by the Colorado General Assembly and the U.S. Congress. The city offers the Legislative Agenda as a guideline to legislators for reference when considering legislation impacting the City of Boulder. Strategic, targeted, and/or abbreviated versions of the information contained in this agenda will also be created throughout the year for use in further legislative communications.

The Legislative Agenda was developed in advance of the convening of the 2017 Colorado General Assembly and the First Session of the 115th U.S. Congress. Consequently, it does not address legislation by bill number. Instead, it describes the underlying interest the city has on specific issues. With the coordination of the city’s Policy Advisor, it will be used by individual council members and city staff to inform city positions taken on specific bills once these legislative sessions begin. At that point, council may also consider amendments to the Legislative Agenda and address specific bills that have been proposed.

The city often attempts to influence state and federal policies through other avenues, beyond the Legislative Agenda, such as by submitting comments on administrative rulemakings or “sunset” reviews of expiring legislation, or by making direct appeals to federal and state administrative officials. While the Legislative Agenda is not designed to direct such action, it can be looked toward as a resource to inform such city efforts.

Council may revisit the Legislative Agenda at any point. It may do so as a body, or through its Legislative Committee. Council created this committee for the purpose of convening on an ad hoc basis with the Policy Advisor and other city staff as necessary when one or more of the following circumstances exist:

1. There is an immediate need for council members to participate with staff in developing a legislative strategy to advance or defeat a bill which is clearly addressed by the city’s legislative agenda or other council-approved policy documents, or;
2. There is action expected on pending legislation that affects a matter which council has previously provided general direction on and that could significantly impact the city, but which council did not provide sufficient specific direction on (either through its legislative agenda or other approved policy documents) and with timing that will not allow for council direction to be obtained. In these limited situations, the Policy Advisor may turn to the committee for direction on such legislation so that the city can advocate accordingly. Council is to be informed whenever such committee direction has been provided, and may choose to subsequently revisit such direction.

Council’s Legislative Committee is also turned to during non-legislative periods to provide suggestions on revisions to the legislative agenda and to plan agendas for meetings with legislators.

As has been done in years past, council is again adopting a goal that modifications to this legislative agenda require consistency, when applicable, with the six criteria described below:

1. Uniformity with current city council goals;

2. Expected relevance in the upcoming or present state and federal legislative sessions;
3. Uniqueness of issue or impact to the City of Boulder;
4. Viability or likelihood of achieving goal;
5. Opportunity for providing funding for City of Boulder; and,
6. High probability of metrics of success in order to allow the position to be deleted from future agendas if achieved.

Departures from these criteria are made in unique circumstances as determined by council, such as when adoption of a city position is important to support its regional partners, even while the legislation is otherwise of limited consequence to the city.

The city welcomes the opportunity to discuss the city's Legislative Agenda. Please direct any questions to City Council members or to the city's Policy Advisor at 303-441-3009.

2017 STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES AT A GLANCE

The city expects to adopt and communicate positions on dozens of state bills during the 2017 state legislative session. The positions listed below, however, address the bills that the city expects to focus the bulk of its limited resources and political capital on. These priorities are selected not only due to their importance to the city but because related legislation is expected to be introduced in 2017 and involvement of the city and its legislative delegation could be determinative to their outcome. The priorities take into account the expected political realities of the upcoming session and accordingly are first and foremost pragmatic. Nevertheless, they are considered important in their own right and are also considered incremental steps that will create support in future years for some of the city's more ambitious legislative goals.

1. Support legislation that would assist and expedite Colorado's implementation of the federal **Clean Power Plan**, rules designed to reduce carbon emissions from coal-fired power plants across the country, or of Governor Hickenlooper's draft Executive Order requiring a 35 percent reduction in carbon dioxide emissions from the power sector by 2020, as compared to 2012 levels. Conversely, oppose any legislation that would delay or prevent the implementation of either the federal rule or the Governor's order.
2. Support legislation that enables and encourages electric utilities to support greater adoption of **electric vehicles** by investing in electric vehicle charging, educating customers about EVs, and providing customer incentives.
3. Preserve the authority of local governments to use **red light cameras or photo radar enforcement**. Page 32 describes how these tools are used by the city and their importance to the public's safety.
4. Protect against significant **threats to the city's water rights**, especially those allowing for out-of-priority, un-augmented well use in the South Platte basin. Page 40 describes the negative impact to the city of permitting such use.
5. Support efforts to provide **budget flexibility under the TABOR revenue cap** by changing the hospital provider fee from a cash fund to an enterprise, thereby minimizing proposed funding cuts to K-12 and higher education. The city considers this an important first step in an effort that should eventually result in the referral of a measure to the voters permitting the state to spend all revenue collected over its TABOR limit.

2017 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES AT A GLANCE

1. Seek federal support for Boulder's federally funded labs and the University of Colorado Boulder. As described further on pages 17 and 36, these institutions are foundational to the economic and cultural well-being of the city.
2. Support legislation necessary to seek federal assistance for flood disaster recovery needs and expenses described further on page 28.
3. Continue to brief federal officials on the city's municipalization efforts and seek support as necessary, while positioning Boulder as a national pilot for building a resilient electricity system, adopting distributed generation and implementing aggressive demand-side initiatives, as explained further on page 9 of the agenda.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

The burning of coal, oil and gas for energy is warming Earth's atmosphere and changing our climate. As a result, we have experienced more frequent and intense temperature extremes and destructive weather events. For Boulder, climate action is about resilience and transformation: we need to adapt to the climate changes that are already in motion, as well as reduce the emissions-heavy activities that drive future climate change. We face a great challenge but also a great opportunity to make Boulder better-- to create a healthier, safer and more prosperous community. In order to realize this opportunity, we need unprecedented levels of federal and state cooperation and legislative action.

1. ADOPT COMPREHENSIVE STATE CLIMATE MITIGATION GOALS AND IMPLEMENTING STRATEGIES

In 2007, Governor Bill Ritter, Jr., included in his Colorado Climate Action Plan goals for reductions in statewide heat-trapping emissions of 20 percent by 2020 and 80 percent by 2050, compared to 2005 levels. In 2008, Governor Ritter also included these goals in Executive Order D 004 08. While that executive order has not been amended or superseded, and so remains official state policy, the goals are not being given the attention necessary to drive action aimed at achieving them. The city supports state legislation establishing new goals and implementing strategies to reduce heat-trapping emissions to levels sufficiently aggressive as to support the city's goal of achieving 100 renewable electricity by 2030 and reducing citywide greenhouse gas emissions from all sectors by at least 80 percent below 2005 levels by 2050. These goals must be no less stringent than the goals established by Governor Ritter or than those set by the federal government as a national target in its official submission to the United Nations under the Paris Agreement, which are to reduce national net heat-trapping emissions by 26 percent to 28 percent below 2005 levels by 2025, and to make best efforts to reduce them by 28 percent.

2. PRESERVE AND SUPPORT THE ABILITY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO ENGAGE IN CLIMATE ACTION EFFORTS

Preserve and support the ability of local governments to develop and implement effective energy strategies that reduce environmental impacts by:

- Forming their own energy utilities;
- Enhancing the right of local governments to condemn electric assets at fair market value, while opposing utility efforts to seek lost revenues;
- Securing access to information from regulated utilities of designated undergrounding funds and communitywide energy information relevant to climate action programs;
- Facilitating local government purchases of street lighting; and,
- Funding local government energy efficiency and renewable energy programs.

3. FACILITATE ACCESS TO RENEWABLE ENERGY

Facilitate access to renewable energy by:

- Allowing for aggregation of residential or commercial electric customers in municipal purchase of renewable energy on behalf of these groups of customers (a.k.a. community choice aggregation);
- Allowing mobile home owners to receive the same rebates and incentives for installation of solar panels as are available to other homeowners;
- Establishing a small state level carbon tax with proceeds used to fund renewable energy projects as well as transmission and distribution system improvements that enable additional deployment of renewables and energy efficiency measures;
- Supporting federal policies that establish a price on carbon emissions domestically as well as internationally;
- Increasing or removing the 120 percent cap on net metered generation; and,
- Allowing customer access to diverse solar options through a variety of well-designed and equitable policies (including net metering, feed-in tariffs, “value of solar” tariffs, or minimum bills) that fully recognize the value of local solar.

4. EXPAND THE DEVELOPMENT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION STRATEGIES

The city understands that the early impacts of climate change have already appeared and that scientists believe further impacts are inevitable, regardless of decreases to future global greenhouse gas emissions. In addition, the city recognizes that decisions we make today about land use, infrastructure, health, water management, agriculture, biodiversity and housing will have lasting consequences. It is therefore important to begin planning now for the impacts of climate change in the future. Consequently, the city supports legislation that expands the development of climate change adaptation strategies such as those that initiate, foster and enhance existing efforts to improve economic and social well-being, public safety and security, public health, environmental justice, species and habitat protection, and ecological function.

5. ENHANCE CUSTOMER ENERGY CHOICE

Enhance the energy choices available to customers by:

- Making any necessary changes to the community solar gardens law (HB10-1342) to allow for its successful implementation, especially with regard to facilitating formation of smaller (500 kW and under) solar gardens, and enabling local ownership of wind and solar gardens above and beyond ERP requirements and without incentives, if a community chooses;
- Enacting time-of-day electricity price signals that would, among other things, promote charging of vehicles when renewable resources are abundant;
- Requiring statewide lighting, appliance and other equipment efficiency standards and/or incentives, as appropriate, for efficient technologies;

- Facilitating new and creative customer choice options such as peer-to-peer customer sharing of electricity generation, virtual net metering or microgrid development;
- Allowing local governments to develop regional energy networks that implement energy efficiency programs with direct funding from utilities; and,
- Precluding utilities from imposing excessive charges onto their customers for net metering of distributed renewable energy generation, customer-sited combined heat and power systems, or on-site energy recapture systems.

6. INCREASE PUBLIC ACCESS TO ENERGY DATA

Increase the public's access to energy data by:

- Standardizing regulated utility filings to increase transparency at the PUC and requiring all PUC discovery to be publicly available and filed in machine-readable formats;
- Promoting best practices related to energy data, such as adoption of the Green Button Program by regulated utilities;
- Facilitating the development of a third-party demand-side management program implementer, including energy efficiency and distributed generation programs;
- Facilitating the development of an energy data center or energy statistics branch within a state energy agency to produce data sets related to research and policymaking;
- Enabling regulated utilities to provide aggregated whole-building data to building owners and property managers for use in building benchmarking and energy efficiency improvements; and,
- Creating an exception to the Colorado Open Records Act that confirms the ability of local governments to protect customers' energy data when they participate in local energy efficiency programs and greenhouse gas emissions reporting initiatives.

7. SUPPORT ENERGY UTILITY AND REGULATORY ENHANCEMENTS

Support energy utility and regulatory enhancements by:

- Requiring utilities to file grid modernization plans with commitments to distribution grid upgrades and targets that facilitate energy efficiency, renewable energy and grid-connected energy storage;
- Encouraging investments in conservation by replacing the current focus solely on energy rates to one focusing on minimization of the consumer's total energy bill;
- Including all environmental and health costs and risks, sometimes referred as the social cost of carbon, when evaluating integrated resources plans of the investor-owned utilities;
- Unbundling rates to clearly differentiate fixed and variable energy costs;
- Facilitating the use of investor-owned transmission lines at fair and reasonable prices to convey renewable energy from multiple sources (a.k.a. retail wheeling);

- Encouraging the Public Utilities Commission to consider comprehensive performance-based regulation for utilities, which would compensate them based on providing customer choice and satisfaction, reliability and resilience, and reduced carbon emissions, as opposed to applying traditional cost of service concepts;
- Clarifying that, for purposes of the rules governing intervention in administrative hearings before the Colorado Public Utilities Commission (PUC), customers of a business regulated by the PUC qualify as persons who "will be interested in or affected by" the PUC's order;
- Supporting legislation that would assist and expedite Colorado's implementation of the federal Clean Power Plan, rules designed to reduce carbon emissions from coal-fired power plants across the country, or of Governor Hickenlooper's draft Executive Order requiring a 35 percent reduction in carbon dioxide emissions from the power sector by 2020, as compared to 2012 levels. Conversely, opposing any legislation that would delay or prevent the implementation of either the federal rule or the Governor's order;
- Increasing the state's current Renewable Energy Standard to 50 percent by 2025 and applying that standard to all qualifying retail utilities in Colorado; and,
- Requiring legislative approval and oversight of the creation of, or proposed membership in, any future regional transmission organization or regional wholesale market by Colorado electric utilities and including an evaluation of related greenhouse gas impacts on Colorado electricity supply.

8. INCREASE ENERGY EFFICIENCY

- Increase energy efficiency by establishing high performance residential and commercial building codes. At the state level, encourage the adoption of at least the 2012 version of the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC);
- Allow local governments to develop regional energy networks that implement energy efficiency programs;
- Facilitate development of a third-party demand-side management program implementer.
- Facilitate the development of outcome-based and beyond net zero energy codes;
- Reinstate the energy-efficient commercial and residential buildings federal tax deductions that expired at the end of 2013;
- Expand and extend the Colorado Energy Efficiency Resource Standard which requires electricity savings goals of 5 percent of the utility's 2006 peak demand and electricity sales by 2018 for Colorado's investor-owned electric utilities; and,
- Support continued and expanded funding for programs that help low-income Coloradoans meet their energy needs such as the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program and the Weatherization Assistance Program.

9. ENCOURAGE MORE WIDESPREAD ADOPTION OF ELECTRIC AND EFFICIENT MOTORIZED VEHICLES

Ground transportation in the City of Boulder accounts for 21% of greenhouse gas emissions. Increasing marketplace uptake of electric vehicles (EVs) can provide reductions in both GHG emissions and other

pollutants. While the primary approach will always be to encourage alternative modes of transportation that reduce vehicle miles travelled, the city will also support legislative change that reduces energy use and emissions of air pollutants from vehicles, specifically legislation that:

- Enables and encourages electric utilities to support greater adoption of electric vehicles by investing in electric vehicle charging, educating customers about EVs and providing customer incentives;
- Uses existing “Alternative Fuels Colorado Program” state funding to ensure the development of a network of strategically located public DC fast-charging stations along the state’s major corridors, irrespective of whether they are co-located with compressed natural gas stations;
- Modifies current “HOV Exemption Program,” which provides owners of 2,000 low-emission and energy efficient vehicles free access to high-occupancy-toll lanes, to limit the exemption to three years per vehicles and to allocate the new permits to only the owners of the most energy efficient vehicles, which should be updated periodically.
- Requires the state’s vehicle registration database to be structured to allow local governments to have access to fuel efficiency information of the vehicles registered in their jurisdiction;
- Provides Colorado counties the option to implement a revenue-neutral system that imposes higher vehicle registration fees on the purchase of less efficient vehicles and rebates on the purchase of more efficient vehicles (assuming social equity concerns can be addressed);
- Supports the adoption of the next phase (post-2025) of federal vehicle efficiency standards for light duty vehicles and of the next phase (post 2016) of federal efficiency standards for medium and heavy duty vehicles;
- Requires a percentage of vehicles sold in Colorado to meet “zero emission vehicle standards,” as enacted in California (requires 15% of vehicles sales to be ZEV by 2025) and subsequently adopted by nine other states;
- Increases state biofuel infrastructure and develop a statewide biofuels strategy (including renewable diesel), and;
- Encourages the proliferation of public charging stations for electric vehicles by requiring new parking lots and parking structures to provide a minimum number of public charging stations.

10. SUPPORT REFORM OF RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY ASSESSED CLEAN ENERGY (PACE) FINANCE STATUTES TO ALLOW FOR RESUMPTION OF BOULDER COUNTY’S RESIDENTIAL PACE PROGRAM

The city has been an active supporter of Boulder County’s PACE finance program, formerly known as the Climate Smart Loan Program. Many city residents have taken advantage of residential PACE to secure low-interest loans to make energy efficiency and renewable energy upgrades to their homes. However, actions taken in 2010 by Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, and the Federal Housing Finance Agency have forced local governments across the country, including Boulder County, to suspend their residential PACE financing programs. The city supports reversal or resolution of these federal actions, either through legislation or regulation, to allow residential PACE programs to again move forward. If such federal action is taken, the city would also urge the Colorado General Assembly to quickly take any action necessary to conform Colorado’s PACE enabling statutes to the new federal requirements.

11. PROMOTE WASTE REDUCTION AND DIVERSION EFFORTS

In Colorado, there are currently no statewide minimum waste diversion goals. In addition, there exist artificially inexpensive landfill tip fees and no minimum recycled content standards. This often makes the most environmentally responsible management practices like source reduction and recycling and composting cost prohibitive. The city supports statewide legislation that would:

- Encourage product stewardship and take-back programs (a.k.a. “extended producer responsibility”);
- Ban specific materials;
- Require post-consumer minimum content standards for product manufacture;
- Implement statewide or regional landfill tip fee surcharges to be used for waste reduction;
- Create tax credits to encourage source reduction, recycling and composting and markets for recycled materials, and;
- Establish a statewide waste diversion goal structured to include incentives and assistance programs to spur waste diversion state-wide, and encourage additional resource recovery.

While the city opposes "waste to energy" technologies involving trash incineration or incentivizing landfilling for the sake of energy creation, the city supports energy capture from anaerobic digestive technologies at composting and wastewater treatment plants. The city also supports energy production from the organic matter portions of the waste stream that would otherwise end up in a landfill if not used to make energy or energy products. Examples of this type of beneficial use include woody construction and demolition waste and yard or food waste that is not able to be otherwise diverted from landfilling and can be used to produce electricity or liquid fuel components. The city, however, views all energy production uses as last in priority to other beneficial uses such as composting, recycling and re-purposing.

The city also has specific concerns about the environmental hazards posed by electronic waste in landfills. Therefore, the city supports legislation that requires extended producer responsibility that is regulated to be environmentally and socially acceptable. Finally, the city would support repeal of the prohibition contained in state law (C.R.S. Section 25-17-104) on local government bans on “use or sale of specific types of plastic materials or products” or restrictions on “containers . . . for any consumer products.”

12. SUPPORT IMPROVEMENTS TO THE COLORADO OIL AND GAS CONSERVATION COMMISSION’S OVERSIGHT OF OIL AND GAS DRILLING AND PRESERVATION OF LOCAL CONTROL TO ADOPT REGULATIONS, MORATORIUMS OR OTHER LIMITS AS NECESSARY

Oil and gas drilling is an industrial activity that is increasing in Colorado and within the northern Front Range, and which poses significant risks and potential adverse impacts. These include damage to air and water quality, scenic values, property values, public infrastructure and public health and that can significantly affect both local quality of life and economic prosperity.

There is growing public concern about the proximity of oil and gas development to communities and other sensitive resources and about industry techniques, such as hydraulic fracturing (or “fracking”), used to access oil and gas resources. Fracking is a process whereby fluids are injected at high pressure into underground rock formations to blast them open and enable new or increased exploitation of fossil fuel resources. Chemicals typically used in the fracking process include diesel fuel, benzene, industrial solvents and other carcinogens and endocrine disrupters. According to the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (COGCC), nearly all of the more than 51,000 oil and gas wells operating in Colorado are fracked.

There is increasing evidence and growing concern that oil and gas operations emit toxic air pollutants, volatile organic compounds that cause ground-level ozone, and potentially large amounts of methane, one of the most potent greenhouse gasses. Further, according to the COGCC, since 2010, there have been more than 3,400 spills in Colorado – an average of 550 each year – and more than 15% of these spills have contaminated water supplies. Accordingly, the city believes that fracking should not be an exempted activity under the Clean Water Act or Safe Drinking Water Act or other federal environmental laws.

In July of 1993 the City of Boulder adopted its own regulations to govern oil and gas operations and production on city open space lands. These regulations require an application to the city manager, and hearings conducted by the Open Space Board of Trustees and City Council. Since the adoption of these regulations in 1993, no one has applied to conduct new drilling operations on Open Space lands. These regulations, however, do not address the issue of fracking or other emerging concerns about oil and gas impacts, nor do they address any potential drilling that might be proposed within city limits on non-open space lands.

The City of Boulder believes that local governments have both the right and responsibility to take action to protect the public health and well-being of its residents as well as the environment. The city supports the state setting minimum standards and best management practices for the oil and gas industry (such as those suggested by the International Energy Agency on this subject, entitled “Golden Rules for a Golden Age of Gas”), but also believes that local jurisdictions must be allowed to adopt strong rules as needed to address local concerns and conditions. To that end, the city supports legislation that clarifies and strengthens the authority of local governments to use their existing land use authorities to manage and tailor oil and gas activities within their borders to ensure public health, safety and welfare, and to protect the environment. The city also opposes legislation that would preempt local authority to establish and enforce regulations over such fracking operations.

In addition, the city supports legislation that would address specific oil and gas drilling impacts, including legislation to:

- Better protect homes and communities by increasing the minimum distance between wells and occupied buildings from the current 500’ setback to 1000’, 1,500’ for schools, giving local governments an effective role in controlling the pace and footprint of development in their jurisdictions.
- Lift the current prohibition on local governments passing along the cost of inspections to industry.

- Adopt statewide protections for water including: requiring setbacks from all streams and lakes; requiring baseline and periodic water monitoring at all drilling sites; raising casing and cementing standards to ensure wellbore integrity; and requiring operators to formulate a water management plan and recycle wastewater before acquiring new supplies.
- Better protect air quality at and near oil and gas operations and decrease greenhouse gas emissions by requiring strict controls on fugitive emissions from oil and gas facilities, including adopting the latest technology in leak detection and repair.
- Address the dual mandate and composition of the COGCC to make its primary role the regulation of the oil and gas industry to protect the public health, safety and the environment.
- Support further study of air, water and public health impacts oil and gas operations and ways to mitigate or avoid impacts.

13. FEDERAL AND STATE SUPPORT FOR BUILDING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

In December 2013, Boulder was selected as one of 32 inaugural cities to participate in 100 Resilient Cities (100RC), a global network pioneered by the Rockefeller Foundation to help cities around the world become more resilient to the physical, social and economic challenges of the 21st century. Boulder joined the network as part of the initiative's first wave and through its participation is committed to demonstrating leadership in resilience as well as leveraging the resources and opportunities it presents.

Boulder supports a view of resilience that includes not just the shocks – floods, wildfires, violence, and other acute events but also the stresses that weaken the fabric of a city on a day to day or cyclical basis, such as economic hardship or social inequality. By addressing both the shocks and the stresses in a holistic manner, a city increases its ability to respond to adverse events, and is better able to deliver basic functions in both good times and bad, to all populations.

With Rockefeller Foundation support, the city hired its first Chief Resilience Officer in 2014 to lead the coordination and development of a broad reaching Resilience Strategy. The city recently released its draft Resilience Strategy, a plan that builds on past successes and looks to new integrated systems and solutions to ensure a thriving future for our community. The strategy identifies core areas where the city's work has helped advance resilience principles already and established a strong foundation for future action; details specific actions for further embedding resilience principles and concepts into city operations; and define an approach for developing an ethos of preparedness and vigilance in the community. In order for Boulder and other communities around the nation to implement resilience-building strategies, coordination and financial and technical support from the state and federal governments will be necessary. The city will support legislation that furthers addresses such needs.

DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE

14. SUPPORT FOR AN AMENDMENT TO THE U.S. CONSTITUTION ABOLISHING CORPORATE PERSONHOOD

On November 1, 2011, the residents of Boulder voted, by a 73 percent majority, to approve Ballot Question No. 2H which called for “reclaiming democracy from the corrupting effects of corporate influence by amending the United States Constitution to establish that: 1) Only human beings, not corporations, are entitled to constitutional rights; and 2) Money is not speech, and therefore regulating political contributions and spending is not equivalent to limiting political speech.”

The City of Boulder will support state and federal legislation similar to SJR12-1034, or action by other intergovernmental partners, that furthers efforts to amend the U.S. Constitution with language that captures the sentiment, if not the exact language, expressed by Ballot Question No. 2H. This includes support for the joint resolution that was introduced in the U.S. Senate on December 8, 2011 by Senator Bernie Sanders to amend the Constitution to exclude corporations from First Amendment rights to spend money on Political Campaigns (a.k.a. the Saving American Democracy Amendment).

ECONOMIC VITALITY

15. PROTECT CORE PROVISIONS OF THE COLORADO URBAN RENEWAL LAW, WHICH PROVIDE EFFECTIVE REDEVELOPMENT TOOLS FOR MUNICIPALITIES SUCH AS TAX INCREMENT FINANCING AND EMINENT DOMAIN

Unlike many communities that contain vast areas of undeveloped land planned for future commercial and residential use, Boulder's future economic sustainability will depend on effective and ongoing re-use of existing developed property. The majority of future redevelopment in Boulder will be completed by private entities and through private investment. However, in rare circumstances, and based on the requirements of the urban renewal law, projects that demonstrate a compelling community need may only be achievable through a public/private urban renewal partnership. Municipalities should retain the capacity to facilitate revitalization of their urbanized areas.

16. SUPPORT CONTINUED FUNDING AND SUPPORT FOR THE FEDERALLY FUNDED LABS LOCATED IN BOULDER

The city's economic vitality policy strongly supports the federally funded laboratories that are located in the city, specifically:

- Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences (CIRES)
- Joint Institute for Laboratory Astrophysics (JILA)
- Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics (LASP)
- National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR)

- National Ecological Observatory Network (NEON)
- National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
 - Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR)
 - National Weather Service (NWS)
 - National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service (NESDIS)
- National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)
- University Corporation for Atmospheric Research (UCAR)
- UNAVCO
- United States Geological Survey (USGS)

The labs, the research they conduct, and the researchers and staff they employ are vitally important to the City of Boulder, Boulder County, the Denver metropolitan region, the state and the nation as a whole. The research funding they receive is redistributed throughout Colorado and beyond in the form of discretionary employee income, purchases of goods and services from suppliers, and contractual agreements with universities and private industry. Technologies they've created have led to technology transfer and spin-off companies.

In the Boulder metro area alone, federal research labs employed over 3,539 people in 2012. The NOAA, NIST and NTIA labs accounted for over one-third of this employment. These are high-skilled, highly educated employees whose average annual compensation in 2012 was \$107,900. In August 2013, CU's Leeds School of Business released a study entitled, "CO-LABS Economic Impact Study: Economic and Fiscal Impacts of Federally Funded Research Facilities". According to the report, the net economic benefit to Boulder County of the federal labs, combined with other federally funded research laboratories in Colorado, totaled \$743.2 million in FY 2012.

Boulder highly values the scientific contributions the labs and their employees have made to the entire nation, as well as the economic impact they have on our community. These institutions work closely with scientific researchers from the University of Colorado in Boulder and Colorado State University in nearby Ft. Collins. This synergy of scientific knowledge is found nowhere else in the United States.

Just as the labs generate direct benefits (employment, local spending) and associated indirect activity through an economic multiplier effect, the opposite holds true for funding reductions. According to CU's Leeds School of Business, for every job lost at these federal laboratories, an additional 1.17 jobs will be lost in Colorado. For every \$1 million in funding cuts to the labs, an additional \$1.13 million in economic impact will be lost. Perhaps even more troubling, our national capacity for research and innovation will be damaged by lay-offs of scientists and researchers, jeopardizing new advanced technologies, future businesses formed to commercialize developing technologies, and our global competitiveness.

HOUSING

17. OPPOSE FEDERAL EFFORTS TO REDUCE APPROPRIATIONS FOR HUD PUBLIC HOUSING AND SECTION 8 PROGRAMS WHICH PROVIDE RENTAL ASSISTANCE TO LOW-INCOME HOUSEHOLDS

In the continuum of housing options for Boulder citizens, public housing and Section 8 vouchers provide a unique source of safe and affordable homes for approximately 1,000 families. Public housing and voucher assistance serve the lowest income families in Boulder, 95 percent of whom have incomes below \$14,000 annually and pay an average of less than \$300 per month in rent. There are very few, if any, market options for these families who depend entirely on the availability of federal assistance in order to live with dignity and assurance of shelter.

18. OPPOSE FEDERAL REDUCTIONS TO COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM AND HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIPS

Boulder has participated in the CDBG program since 1975, and funds have been used in the past for a variety of projects ranging from assistance to nonprofit agencies that provide services to the city's low and moderate income residents, to construction of the Pearl Street Mall, and renovation of the Chautauqua Auditorium. Boulder has also participated in the HOME program since 1992 and program funds have supported the production and preservation of affordable housing. For the past nine years, Boulder has been the lead agency for a regional HOME Consortium including all of Boulder and Broomfield Counties. Half of the HOME funds received by Boulder are used in Boulder and half in the other Consortium communities. In 2016, the city received \$722,528 in CDBG funding, a 29% reduction since 2010, and \$916,882 in HOME funding, a 32% decrease in five years, from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The CDBG and HOME programs allow the city to strengthen public infrastructure, increase supply of affordable housing, and improve the quality of life for the city's low and moderate income residents.

19. SUPPORT FOR STATE HOUSING TRUST FUND

The city is supportive of legislative efforts that would lead to creation and financing of a state affordable housing trust fund. One example is the mechanism that was put in place through HB14-1017, which created a state low income housing tax credit operated through the Colorado Housing and Finance Authority (CHFA). In the last two years, nearly 2,000 affordable housing units were developed in various municipalities throughout the state using state tax credits. This program is another tool for the state to develop affordable housing in communities.

20. SUPPORT LEGISLATION THAT HELPS ADDRESS THE POWER IMBALANCE BETWEEN OWNERS OF MOBILE HOMES AND OWNERS OF MOBILE HOME PARKS

It is the policy of the city to encourage affordable housing ownership, including manufactured housing. The following are examples of the changes that the city may support in this regard:

- Create an enhanced enforcement mechanism for the provisions of the Colorado Mobile Park Act and associated funding source;
- Require a minimum one-year lease;
- Prohibit changes in park rules during term of lease;
- Create an opportunity to purchase a mobile home park by residents or non-profit organizations;
- Expanded (i.e., 6 month) notification requirement if mobile home park is to be closed; and,
- Incentivize owners of mobile home parks to submit a dispute to mediation when attempting to evict a tenant for a violation of park rules or the rental agreement.

21. DECREASE STATE IMPEDIEMENTS TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF FOR-SALE ATTACHED DWELLING UNITS

A series of laws were enacted in Colorado earlier last decade that increased the liability imposed upon homebuilders for construction defects. Since then, metro-area cities have seen a significant decline in the construction of for-sale attached dwelling units both in total and as compared to the number of apartments constructed. This has led to a decrease in the diversity of available housing stock options and, of particular concern, the options for affordable for-sale housing located in transit-oriented developments.

Most Denver-metro local governments have concluded that the increased incidence, cost and duration of litigation to resolve construction defect claims are discouraging developers from reentering the owner-occupied attached for-sale market. While Boulder is still gathering information on the matter, it is inclined to agree with its municipal colleagues. Boulder's preliminary conclusions are informed by numerous reports from builders and developers on their reasoning for not building condos as well as the fact that just four percent (93 of 2,142) of the market-rate attached residential properties developed in Boulder from 2009 to 2016 were for sale.

There are several approaches to reform Colorado's construction defects law. In 2017 they include: (1) SB17-045, addressing the allocation of litigation defense costs; (2) SB17-155, limiting the scope of what constitutes a 'construction defect' in the 'Construction Defect Action Reform Act'; (3) SB17-156, requiring HOAs to obtain written consent of a majority of homeowners in the association, disclose projected costs, duration, and financial impact of claim, and enter into mediation or arbitration by a neutral third party; (4) SB17-157, which similar to SB 17-156, requires informed consent to all condo owners and consent by the majority, but does not require parties to enter into mediation or arbitration, and; (5) HB17-1169, clarifying a builders' right to receive notice from prospective claimant concerning alleged construction

defect, inspect the property; and then elect to either repair the defect as they determine appropriate or tender an offer of settlement before filing of lawsuit.

The city is not prepared to support the approaches proposed by these bills. The concern is that they would diminish the rights of residents to receive timely and appropriate redress for construction defects. Consideration of other legislative solutions will be reviewed based on their ability to address these same interests. In the meantime, the city will convene a panel of experts to explore the extent that the construction defects law is negatively impacting the city and the surrounding region and to understand the state and/or local solutions that should be advanced in response.

HUMAN SERVICES/HUMAN RIGHTS

22. SUPPORT COMPREHENSIVE FEDERAL IMMIGRATION REFORM

The City of Boulder has been, and remains, committed to the protection of civil and human rights for all people. It believes in the dignity of all Boulder residents, regardless of immigration status, and recognizes the importance of their many contributions to the social, religious, cultural and economic life of the city.

The failures of the U.S. immigration system have had profound impacts within the Boulder community. These include very young students losing motivation to excel in their learning because of knowledge that they lack affordable higher educational opportunities and the existence of an underclass, climate of fear, informal economy and work force inequities.

Accordingly, the city welcomes and encourages cooperation at all levels of government to work together to support swift and responsible legislative action to produce equitable, humane, effective and comprehensive federal immigration reform that provides for:

- Enforceable immigration laws;
- A rational and humane approach to the undocumented population;
- A simplified visa system which allows for family unification of those who have been separated by the legal immigration backlog process and which provides for legal status for the existing immigrant workforce;
- A rate and system of controlled immigration that matches the needs of our economy;
- Social integration for our existing immigrant workforce and their families;
- Unaccompanied minors receive appropriate child welfare services, legal support and expeditious reunification with their families already in the United States;
- Recognizing employers as key allies in implementing immigration policy and enhancing enforcement of labor laws to remove the market advantage that leads to exploiting immigration status to pay lower wages, avoid taxes and violate labor laws;
- A system which ultimately aids in border control; and,
- Bilateral partnerships with other countries to promote economic development that will reduce the flow of immigrants.

The city also supports federal legislation, such as the often introduced Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors Act (The “DREAM Act”), that would qualify students for immigration relief if they have resided in the United States for several consecutive years, arrived in the U.S. as young children and demonstrated good moral character; put such students on a pathway to citizenship if they graduate from high school or obtain a GED and complete at least 2 years towards a 4-year degree or serve in the U.S. military for at least two years, and; eliminate a federal provision that discourages states from providing in-state tuition to their undocumented immigrant student residents, thus restoring full authority to the states to determine state college and university fees. Similarly, the city supports legislation, like HB14-1124, which would allow instate tuition for American Indian Tribe members with ties to Colorado.

Finally, the city supports legislation like the Uniting American Families Act, which would ensure that all Americans, regardless of sexual orientation, receive equal treatment under immigration laws. The bill specifically would have allowed partners and children of U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents to obtain lawful permanent resident status the same way heterosexual spouses can. It would also allow for family-based immigration for gay and lesbian Americans and the reunification of families, which strengthens our communities.

23. SUPPORT THE NECESSARY FUNDING FOR STATE OFFICES TO PROVIDE DRIVERS LICENSES UNDER THE “COLORADO ROAD AND COMMUNITY SAFETY ACT”

In 2013, Colorado enacted SB 13-251, the “Colorado Road and Community Safety Act,” which allowed an estimated 150,000 undocumented Colorado residents, who cannot provide proof of legal presence in the United States, to apply for driver’s licenses and ID cards. When the program went into effect the state became the 10th in the country to license undocumented immigrants. Demand has been strong, but has been met with long waits and limited D.M.V. appointments. The city believes that licensing immigrants makes the roads safer by educating drivers and making them likelier to carry insurance and supports efforts to provide the necessary funding to allow state offices to meet demand.

24. FURTHER THE RIGHTS OF ALL PEOPLE REGARDLESS OF THEIR ACTUAL OR PERCEIVED SEXUAL ORIENTATION OR GENDER VARIANCE STATUS

On May 18, 2004, Boulder’s City Council adopted Resolution No. 947. This resolution affirms the city’s commitment to the protection of civil rights for all people as outlined in the city’s human rights ordinance. Furthermore, the resolution recognized the many contributions that the city’s gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender residents have provided that have enhanced the lives of all in the community.

Consistent with the city’s long history of support for the equal rights of all people regardless of their actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender variance status, the city supports the Equality Act, introduced in Congress last July in the Senate (S. 1858). This legislation would amend the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to include protections that ban discrimination on the basis of gender identity and sexual orientation in the areas of employment, housing, public accommodations, public education, federal

funding, credit and the jury system. President Obama announced his support for this measure on Nov. 10, 2015.

25. ALLOW MUNICIPALITIES TO ESTABLISH THEIR OWN MINIMUM WAGE LAWS HIGHER THAN THE STATE OR FEDERAL MINIMUM WAGE

26. OPPOSE FURTHER CUTS TO STATE FUNDED HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICE PROGRAMS, ESPECIALLY THOSE THAT ARE PREVENTIVE IN NATURE

In recent years, the state made drastic cuts to services that help provide a safety net to thousands of city residents. This includes services to very low income residents, children and families, mentally ill and disabled people without health insurance. The city urges the General Assembly to avoid making further cuts to those essential services that serve the city's most vulnerable, especially intervention and prevention services that keep people out of crisis.

INTERNAL ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

27. PROTECT WORKERS' COMPENSATION SYSTEM

The city's self-insurance program is a cost-efficient method to provide workers' compensation. The workers' compensation system serves a dual purpose, providing benefits promptly to injured employees in a cost-effective manner and minimizing costly litigation. Consequently, the city will support legislation that improves the administrative efficiency of the State of Colorado's Division of Workers' Compensation.

State intervention or taxation can negatively impact the city. Consequently, the city will oppose legislation that increases insurance premium costs to employers, adds administrative burdens or taxes to self-insurance programs, promotes litigation or removes existing off-sets to workers' compensation benefits.

The city also opposes efforts to expand "presumptive disease" claims associated with workers' compensation insurance. Presumptive disease claims are a change in the philosophy guiding workers' compensation insurance. They presume an existing or previous employee obtained the disease from work associated with that person's employer unless the employer can prove otherwise. The 2007 legislative session enacted legislation that requires that, under the Workers' Compensation Act of Colorado, if a firefighter contracts cancer of the brain, skin, digestive system, hematological system or genitourinary system, the condition be deemed to have occurred within the scope of employment unless the employer can prove that the covered cancer did not occur within the scope of employment. This is a particularly difficult proposition for employers as many diseases have a genetic component and cannot be definitively detected in baseline (time of hiring or imposition of new law) testing. The result of this legislation was a 15 percent increase in premiums associated with fire employees. The city opposes any effort to further shift the burden of proof for workers' compensation claims.

28. PROTECT GOVERNMENTAL IMMUNITY

The complexity and diversity of city operations and services required to meet the needs of the residents of Boulder may expose the city and its officers and employees to liability for damage and injury. City officers and employees must be confident that they have the city's support in the lawful and proper performance of their assigned duties and responsibilities.

Consequently, the city will support legislation that provides immunity to municipalities and their officers and employees in the lawful and proper performance of their duties and responsibilities and that discourages baseless and frivolous claims against the same. Conversely, the city will oppose legislation that expands or increases municipal liability or further limits municipal immunity beyond current law.

29. OPPOSE CHANGES THAT COULD UNNECESSARILY RESULT IN INCREASED CONTRIBUTIONS OR FORCE A REDUCTION IN BENEFITS FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION (PERA)

Two significant pieces of legislation were enacted in recent years aimed at putting PERA back on track to being fully funded. The first, SB06-235, passed in 2006, made several changes, including: (1) temporary increases in the amount that employers from each division must contribute to PERA, with increases staying in effect until accounts in those divisions are found to be 100% funded; (2) the addition of an eight percent cap per year on the Highest Average Salary (HAS) for new hires; (3) a change of the Rule of 80 to a Rule of 85 with a minimum retirement age of 55 for new hires; (4) a prescribed amortization period reduced from 40 years to 30 years; (5) a requirement for independent actuarial studies to be conducted before future benefit increases could occur; and, (6) a new requirement to purchase service at full actuarial cost.

Then in 2010, SB10-001 was enacted to require, among other things: (1) additional increases in the temporary employer contributions beyond previous requirements, with exemptions for the local government division where further increases were deemed unnecessary; (2) reductions in the cost of living adjustments (COLA); (3) application of the 3-year HAS with a base year and an eight percent spike cap applicable to current members not eligible to retire on January 1, 2011; (4) extension of the Rule of 85 to existing members with less than five years of service credit as of January 1, 2011, creation of a Rule of 88 for new hires and a Rule of 90 for hires after 2017, and; (5) a new requirement for contributions from retirees who return to work.

Despite this legislation, a result of comprehensive and collaborative efforts by PERA, legislators and representatives of employer groups, and despite a 2012 independent auditor finding that PERA's assumed 8 percent rate of return (since lowered to 7.25 percent) is "within a reasonable range of possible scenarios," a variety of legislation has since been and is expected to continue to be introduced in the Colorado General Assembly to further change the PERA system. The city recognizes that further reforms may indeed be required and consequently supports legislation deemed necessary to stabilize PERA's funds, but only when informed by a comprehensive evaluation of the impacts of those changes so as to protect against unnecessary increases to employer or employee contributions or reductions in employee benefits. One reform the city would support without further analysis is changes to the composition of the

16-member PERA Board of Trustees to provide more balanced representation from non-PERA covered members. However, as one of the largest of the 24 member governments in PERA's Local Government Division, Boulder will oppose piecemeal state legislation that has unknown financial impacts.

LOCAL CONTROL

30. OPPOSE THREATS TO LOCAL CONTROL AND HOME RULE AUTHORITY

Several bills are introduced each session that threaten to erode local powers. As a general matter, the city believes that local problems need local solutions and that the current authority and powers of municipal governments to make decisions on matters related to land use, zoning, personnel, municipal courts, fees and sales tax, should not be further eroded. Legislation threatening local control, that does not further interests otherwise specified in this legislative agenda or recognized by City Council, will be opposed by the city.

MUNICIPAL COURTS

31. FUND AND PROTECT THE MUNICIPAL JUSTICE SYSTEMS ABILITY TO COMBAT HOMELESSNESS

In 2010, the City of Boulder was one of several local governments and multiple community partners in Boulder County to adopt the Boulder County Ten-Year Plan to Address Homelessness. Despite progress, homelessness remains a significant community concern with a need for specific and targeted innovative city and regional solutions, including those involving law enforcement and courts. A small percentage of Boulder's homeless have frequent interactions with the city's police department and municipal court, resulting in multiple tickets and arrests and a heavy burden on the city. The Boulder Police Department and Municipal Court have been very aware of the system of services available to help the homeless and have worked to build referrals and connections through the officers on the street, probation officers, and now the Homeless Outreach Team, Court Navigator and through the sentencing alternatives that have been traditionally provided by the court. The city supports state legislation that funds and facilitates such efforts. At the same time, the city opposes legislation that would diminish its local control and authority to address homelessness in the manner best suited for community needs.

In recent years, legislation has been introduced (i.e., HB15-1264, "Colorado Right to Rest Act" and HB16-1191 "Bill of Rights for Persons Who Are Homeless") aimed at protecting the homeless by, among other things, prohibiting local governments from banning camping in public spaces. These efforts, while well intentioned, are ineffective responses to the challenges presented by homelessness. If enacted, it would turn public property into residential areas without the proper facilities and ultimately make Boulder less safe and less desirable for everyone. Moreover, it would seriously undermine municipal home rule authority and basic principles of local control. Accordingly, the city will oppose this type of legislation if introduced again.

In an effort to ensure that public property is available, welcoming and safe for all users, Boulder prohibits camping on public property. It does so while simultaneously working with partners across the county and region to coordinate and develop successful permanent solutions to homelessness, such as permanent and transitional housing programs, emergency and day shelter services, coordinated case management and assessment, landlord recruitment and regional housing placement for those who want to get off the streets. In all, the city spends over \$1,000,000 per year to assist homeless people in Boulder; more than any other Front Range city on a per capita basis. If the state were to limit the city's ability to ban camping in public spaces, the availability and public support for such funding would likely diminish as a result of the inevitable expenses associated with the litigation, monitoring, clean up and public health and safety concerns that would arise.

32. SUPPORT ELIMINATION OF UNNECESSARY REQUIREMENTS FOR ADVISEMENTS

A bill enacted last year (HB 16-1309, creating requirement for defense attorney at first appearance), inadvertently imposed new advisements and determinations on municipal court violations, including non-criminal infractions. HB17-083 would address this by removing low-level, non-jailable traffic offense (four points or less) from the municipal court advisement requirement. Boulder supports this legislative fix because it would allow municipal courts to run more efficiently.

NATURAL RESOURCES, WILDLIFE AND PARKS

33. PROTECT THE ABILITY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND THE LAND TRUST COMMUNITY TO ACQUIRE AND PROTECT PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

Colorado Lottery proceeds have been one of the few sources of state funding for conservation of natural resources, wildlife and parks, providing \$2.3 billion statewide over the past 28 years. Profits from the sale of lottery products are allocated according to the following formula: up to 50 percent to the Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) Trust Fund, 40 percent to the Conservation Trust Fund (CTF), and 10 percent to the Colorado Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation. GOCO provides competitive grants to projects that preserve, protect and enhance Colorado's wildlife, parks, rivers, trails and open space. The fund is capped (approximately \$54 million in 2011) and any spillover is directed to the BEST rural school capital construction assistance fund. The CTF funds are used by local communities across the state for outdoor projects including trail construction, ball fields, playgrounds and adding new parks or enhancing existing parks.

CTF and GOCO funds have for years been a critical part of the city's capital budget. Important acquisitions have been added to Boulder's inventory of parks and open space that have helped shape our community, preserve ecological systems and create opportunities for active and passive recreation for people of all ages. Among the projects accomplished with GOCO funding include Valmont Bike Park, winner of the 2011 Colorado Parks and Recreation Association award for recreation facility design and host of the 2014 USA Cyclo-Cross National Championships.

The city supports preservation of the current lottery distribution formula and will oppose legislation that would change that allocation or create new lottery scratch tickets for other purposes that would decrease demand for the existing lottery tickets.

34. SUPPORT STATE LEGISLATION FURTHERING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CITY'S ECOLOGICAL CONSERVATION EFFORTS, INCLUDING THE URBAN WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PLAN AS WELL AS THE FOREST AND GRASSLAND ECOSYSTEM PLANS

The Urban Wildlife Management Plan (UWMP) was developed to provide guidance on how Boulder's urban areas will provide diverse, self-sustaining, native wildlife populations in a manner compatible with basic human needs, social and economic values and long-term ecological sustainability. The plan also seeks to reduce conflicts between humans and wildlife in the urban core. Management of the city's lands outside of the urban core such as Open Space and Mountain Parks lands and utilities lands (Silver Lake Watershed, Boulder Reservoir) are covered by the plans of the appropriate managing department.

Because of the network of nearby natural lands, its geographic setting at the intersection of the mountains and plains, Boulder's urban areas are visited or inhabited by a wide range of wildlife species. Some species keep a low profile, present little or no conflict and go unnoticed by most urban residents. Other species are highly valued by the community, but most of these present little or no conflict with urban services or land uses. There are, however species that are valued by the community that do come into conflict with people. These include prairie dogs, black bear, mountain lions, Canada geese and mule deer. The city is often attempting to simultaneously conserve these species on open space lands, while managing conflict in the urban area.

There are often opportunities on a species-specific level to support legislation at a state or federal level to complement our conservation and conflict management efforts. Examples include support of funding for mosquito management to address state or federal public health issues/mandates; modifications of laws to allow prairie dog relocation to other counties without commissioner approval; and, modifications to in-stream flow legislation that would allow the city to retain the value of its water rights while simultaneously conserving native and sport fisheries.

35. SUPPORT RESTORATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITY TO REGULATE CERTAIN PESTICIDE USES AND FOR ADDITIONAL PROTECTIONS FOR POLLINATORS, HUMAN HEALTH AND WATER QUALITY

The Colorado Pesticide Applicators' Act applies to pesticide applicators with the focus primarily on licensing of commercial pesticide applicators. The act is administered and enforced by the Colorado Department of Agriculture which also administers EPA rules and federal pesticide law in Colorado. Until 2006, when industry-backed legislation was enacted, the Act allowed local governments in Colorado wide discretion to enact pesticide regulations. Since 2006, however, local control to regulate almost all aspects of pesticide use has been preempted by state law. The 2006 legislation expanded state preemption for all pesticide users. The only exception is for the posting of notification of pesticide applications for non-commercial pesticide applicators.

Given the city's vested concerns in regaining some of its former authority to protect human health and the environment from the potential adverse effects of pesticides, the city will advocate for legislation that provides a more balanced perspective on pesticide use that takes into account recent studies concerning the human health and environmental impacts of pesticides. Specifically, it will support state protections concerning pesticide exposure that affects children, pollinators and water quality and restoration of the ability in specific situations for local governments to regain some authority to restrict pesticide use when immediate risk to human health or the environment cannot be addressed by the federal or state governments to adequately safeguard the public interest in a timely manner. The city will also support funding for increased education or research on alternatives to pesticides and programs that provide increased pesticide-free habitat, sustainable agriculture and preservation of biodiversity.

Rapid decline of honeybees and other pollinators threatens the U.S. agricultural system and the functioning of general ecosystem services. Urgent regulatory action is needed at all levels of government. State restoration of local control would allow municipalities to address pollinator-specific concerns. The city also supports measures for pollinator protections at all levels of government, including federal legislation such as the Saving America's Pollinators Act.

36. SUPPORT EFFORTS THAT PROTECT THE BOULDER COMMUNITY FROM WILDFIRE AND PROMOTE ECOLOGICAL FOREST HEALTH

The city owns and manages 10,000 acres of forested open space and mountain parks land, almost all outside the boundaries of the city but immediately adjacent to residential areas. The health of these forests is critical to preventing catastrophic fires and to supporting biodiversity and creating resiliency. Historic fire suppression has led to overly dense forest conditions around Boulder that can have a direct impact on wildfire intensity and frequency, habitat function, water quality and recreational values. The city is dedicated to protecting these natural resource values by implementing vegetation management activities that improve the overall ecological health of our forests, decrease the risk of high intensity wildfires, maintain and improve habitat for fish, wildlife, and plants and protect public and private resources. Accordingly, the city will support federal and state legislation that promotes wildfire mitigation and forest restoration efforts in the wildland/urban interface.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY

37. STATE AND FEDERAL ASSISTANCE FOR FLOOD DISASTER RECOVERY NEEDS AND EXPENSES

September 2013 brought unprecedented rainfall to the region causing significant flooding and extensive damage to many Colorado communities. In Boulder, total damage to city infrastructure and public lands is estimated at \$27.6 million, and private-property damage is estimated at \$200 million. The city was declared a national disaster which created the opportunity for possible reimbursement through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the State of Colorado. As of August 2016, the city had spent approximately \$20.7 million on flood recovery. Estimated reimbursements from FEMA, the State of Colorado and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) are currently anticipated to be \$17.6 million. From FEMA specifically, the city has received \$10

million in reimbursements to date. The city continues to expend significant resources to ensure that FEMA projects and expenses remain eligible for reimbursement. The city wants to ensure that the State of Colorado and FEMA region VIII possess the appropriate capacity to provide the technical assistance necessary to ensure an efficient flood recovery process. The city will support efforts to ensure that the state and FEMA receive appropriate resources to support local governments' efforts to rebuild as more resilient communities.

The city still has one FEMA project from the 2013 floods which is under a second appeal before the Assistant Administrator for the Mitigation Directorate in Washington D.C. The city will support efforts to ensure that FEMA policies adequately support the unique aspects of flood recovery in mountain states.

FEMA is currently considering a major revision to the Public Assistance program that would establish a disaster deductible, requiring a predetermined level of financial or other commitment from a Recipient (Grantee), generally the State, Tribal, or Territorial government, before FEMA will provide assistance under the Public Assistance Program when authorized by a Presidential major disaster declaration. The city wants to ensure that the FEMA rulemaking procedure fairly represents the interests of local government and appropriately recognizes disaster response, recovery, and resilience in mountain states.

The city, in collaboration with the other jurisdictions in Boulder County, have been working together to obtain Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds. This program is administered through the State of Colorado, and similar to the FEMA Public Assistance program, the city wants to ensure the state possesses the appropriate resources, and continues to coordinate with local jurisdictions on where the remaining needs are. The city appreciates HUD's approval of the sub allocation approach to allocating CDBG-DR funding in Boulder County to allow projects to be sufficiently funded and the local unmet needs analysis to direct all future funding decisions.

38. SUPPORT SAFE USE AND COMMERCIAL REGULATION OF RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA

The city will support or oppose legislation, as necessary, in furtherance of the following principles:

- Maintaining or creating new mechanisms to ensure marijuana is appropriately labeled and regulated so that only adults intentionally choosing to use marijuana are exposed to it, that such users receive a safe product with complete information about the impacts of what they are choosing to ingest, and that these substances are kept away from children.
- Maintaining a dual licensing system to allow both the state and local governments to issue and enforce licensing of commercial marijuana facilities.
- Allowing local governments to recover the full costs of any commercial licenses they choose to allow.
- Maintaining as a matter of state interest and responsibility the creation of overall safety requirements related to recreational marijuana while reserving to local governments specific abilities, but not mandate, to adopt additional requirements and monitor and enforce those rules.

39. SUPPORT REMOVAL OF BARRIERS THAT PREVENT LEGITIMATE MARIJUANA BUSINESSES TO ACCESS BANKING SERVICES

Many legitimate marijuana businesses in Boulder are forced to operate on a cash-only basis because the substance's federal status currently bars banks from doing business with them. This inequity creates a vulnerability to several of the enforcement priorities outlined in the Deputy Attorney General's letter dated August 29, 2013. More importantly it creates a serious local public safety problem. Statutory solutions are at the federal level and there are efforts underway to try and address this, most recently by Rep. Ed Perlmutter. The city will support these efforts to remove legal and administrative barriers that prevent these businesses from accessing banking services.

40. PROMOTE HEALTH AND SAFETY CONCERNS ASSOCIATED WITH ALCOHOL ABUSE IN THE GREATER COMMUNITY

Boulder's City Council adopted Resolution 960 on October 19, 2004, concerning alcohol abuse within the community. This resolution affirmed the city's commitment to finding solutions to address the critical issues of health, safety and well-being stemming from alcohol abuse within the city.

Since this time, Council has expressly stated its support for appropriate legislation that would:

- Require the sale of kegs containing alcohol to have a tag attached that would permit tracing of the purchaser;
- Require mandatory server training;
- Repeal the provision contained in C.R.S. Section 27-81-117 preventing municipalities from adopting public drunkenness ordinances; and,
- Permit municipalities to regulate licensees' hours of alcohol service.

The city will support appropriate legislation that furthers these goals. Conversely, the city will oppose any legislation that undermines these goals, including efforts similar to SB12-118 which would eliminate the 25 percent food requirement for Hotel and Restaurant liquor licenses.

41. SUPPORT EFFORTS TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE

The city supports the following specific measures to prevent gun violence:

- Change federal law to require universal background checks on all sales of firearms, including private sales. Current federal law allows individuals not "engaged in the business" of selling firearms to sell guns without a license—and without processing any paperwork. Sometimes referred to as the "Gun Show Loophole," the sales excluded from the federal background check requirement include firearms sold at gun shows and through classified newspaper ads, the Internet and between individuals virtually anywhere. While criminal background checks are currently required for almost all firearm transfers in Colorado, there are states that do not have

such laws. In order to ensure that guns are not placed in the hands of criminals in Colorado, a change to federal law is necessary.

- Oppose expanding the immunity given to homeowners if they shoot and kill intruders, also known as the “make my day” law, beyond personal residences.
- Oppose legislation limiting the state’s ability to regulate concealed weapons or local government’s ability to restrict possession of weapons in public facilities. The city will oppose federal legislation that would require Colorado to honor concealed carry permits granted by other states, even when those permit holders could not meet the standards required by Colorado law. Boulder also has concerns with regard to the open carrying of guns. While cities are prevented from restricting permitted holders of concealed weapons, Boulder wants to make sure it maintains the ability to prevent the open carrying of guns in its public facilities. The open carrying of weapons is alarming to many people and can create logistical issues for the police department.

42. OPPOSE MANDATES FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT ENFORCEMENT OF FEDERAL IMMIGRATION LAWS

The city supports preserving the option for its police officers to enforce federal laws, including federal immigration laws. However, it will vigorously oppose any state or federal legislation that mandates that its police enforce federal immigration laws, especially if they are unfunded mandates or are likely to result in enforcement officers engaging in racial profiling or discrimination based on race, ethnicity or national origin.

43. OPPOSE INFRINGEMENTS ON EMPLOYMENT AND PERSONNEL DECISIONS MADE BY MUNICIPAL POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENTS

Employees of the city’s fire and police departments are part of collective bargaining units. As part of those units, they have the right to negotiate the terms of their employment. The city opposes any state or federal law that would mandate municipalities to collectively bargain with public safety employee labor unions over wages, benefits or working conditions, under one-size-fits-all rules.

44. OPPOSE IMPOSITION OF ONEROUS INFORMATION GATHERING AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS ON PUBLIC SAFETY, ESPECIALLY WHEN THOSE REQUIREMENTS COME WITH SUBSTANTIAL COSTS THAT ARE NOT SUPPORTED BY ADEQUATE FUNDING

An example of a reporting requirement that has been imposed on local law enforcement agencies in the past is the state law requiring the arrest of undocumented immigrants to be reported to Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

45. INCREASE THE FINANCIAL THRESHOLD OF PROPERTY DAMAGE THAT TRIGGERS A POLICE INVESTIGATION OF NON-INJURY TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS

It takes very little damage to a vehicle to reach the current threshold of \$1,000. While the city's police department currently responds to most accidents, increasing the damage threshold will provide greater flexibility and more local control over the use of police resources.

46. OPPOSE LIMITATIONS ON MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY TO OPERATE RED LIGHT OR PHOTO RADAR CAMERAS TO ENFORCE TRAFFIC SAFETY

Boulder is one of nine cities in Colorado that use photo enforcement to enhance the safety of its streets. The red-light locations in Boulder were carefully selected due to a historic rate of higher accidents over other locations. Use of photo enforcement at these red-light locations has yielded significant safety benefits and reduced red light running accidents by 68 percent. Moreover, fewer and fewer red light tickets are issued at these locations each year due to increased compliance. Removal of these cameras could result in accident rates and non-compliance returning to pre-enforcement levels.

Quantifying photo speed enforcement success is somewhat more difficult. It is implemented per strict state statute requirements that limit where it can be placed. It enables the city to enforce speed limits in neighborhood locations that do not have a high enough volume of traffic to justify deployment of officers. It is particularly effective in school zones. One conclusion that can be made is that photo speed enforcement has enhanced the safety of neighborhood streets and school zones by reducing speeding.

Between 1999, when Boulder first introduced photo enforcement, and 2015, fines associated with violations of the city's photo enforcement program and red light violations generated \$19,814,109 in revenue at a direct cost to the city of \$18,299,626. When soft costs of overseeing the program are factored in, the costs of running the program essentially run even to the revenue it generates.

The true cost associated with motorists running red lights and speeding through neighborhoods is not captured in the financial information provided above. It is best quantified in the cost to our community associated with the personal injury and property damage from motorists speeding and running red lights. Recent studies have shown that the average red light camera location in the U.S. results in \$38,000 a year in reduced societal costs, not to mention the number of lives and grief saved from fewer right-angle crashes. For Boulder, with our eight (8) red light running cameras, this results in \$304,000 in societal cost saved annually.

For these reasons, the city will oppose any legislation that would prohibit or unreasonably further restrict the rights of local governments to use red light cameras or photo radar enforcement.

ROCKY FLATS

47. SUPPORT FUNDING FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY FOR THE OFFICE OF LEGACY MANAGEMENT AND U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE IN ORDER TO MANAGE ROCKY FLATS AS A NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE WITH THE APPROPRIATE SYSTEMS IN PLACE FOR LONG TERM STEWARDSHIP

In February of 2006, the Rocky Flats Stewardship Council (RFSC) was formed to focus on the post-closure management of Rocky Flats, the former nuclear weapons plant southwest of Boulder. As a member of RFSC, the city is very supportive of the 2001 federal legislation (Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge Act of 2001) that designated Rocky Flats as a national wildlife refuge site as well as the requirement that long-term liability, ownership and management of the site remain with the federal government. The city supports legislation authorizing, funding, or otherwise providing assistance for the Rocky Flats Legacy Stakeholders Organization, or alternative organization, to work on coordinating regional open space and conservation efforts as they relate to Rocky Flats

TAX POLICY

48. SUPPORT THE MARKET FAIRNESS ACT AND OTHER ACTION TO PRESERVE AND EXPAND THE AUTHORITY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO COLLECT TAXES

According to research undertaken by Forrester Research for Internet Retailer, national online retail spending climbed to nearly \$200 billion in 2011, up from \$30 billion in 2000, and will grow approximately 10 percent per year to reach \$280 billion and comprise more than seven percent of overall national retail spending by 2015. At the state level, the National Conference of State Legislatures estimates that Colorado will lose \$352 million in 2012 from uncollected sales taxes. The growth in internet retail activity presents a clear challenge to the operating budgets of Colorado's local governments, many of which rely on sales taxes to fund critical municipal services, as well as the state budget. Consequently, the city supports legislation, such as the Marketplace Fairness Act, that provides authority for states and Colorado local governments to collect sales taxes on purchases made over the internet, regardless of whether the vendor has a physical nexus with the state. Appropriate limitations on this authority might include exemptions for small businesses, centralized collection of taxes on non-nexus sales and adoption of a common tax base for non-nexus sales. However, the city will not support changes which would allow the state to collect and remit tax revenues on non-nexus sales based on anything other than each municipality's individual sales tax rate (e.g., the city opposes use of a blended tax rate) or which would dictate the tax base or assume authority to collect revenues on local nexus sales which the city already has the authority to tax and collect.

49. PRESERVE THE MUNICIPAL BOND FEDERAL INCOME TAX EXEMPTION

Municipal bonds are the primary way local governments finance infrastructure and have been for over a century. Eliminating the tax exemption would increase the cost to taxpayers for schools, water treatment

facilities, libraries, bridges, and many other public projects. The exemption benefits all Americans. It is not a special interest loophole and should not be treated as such.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

50. REESTABLISH THE RIGHT OF MUNICIPALITIES TO PROVIDE TELECOMMUNICATION SERVICES SUCH AS LARGE AND COMPLEX CITY-WIDE FIBER AND PREMISE NETWORKS

The provision of telecommunication access to ensure effective and appropriate access to educational and city resources are seen as a must in today's society. Utilizing current infrastructure and public-private partnerships can create necessary competition to retain low-cost, high-speed access to our residents, regardless of economic status. Senate Bill 05-152 preempted home rule municipalities from providing telecommunication services (with certain limited exceptions) without a vote of the people, even if infrastructure had already been built. Boulder believes that this legislation is overly restrictive in its private sector "non-compete" provisions.

TRANSPORTATION

51. SUPPORT FOR 2017 STATEWIDE TRANSPORTATION FUNDING MEASURE

The city urges the Colorado General Assembly to refer a measure to the 2017 ballot which would create one or more new funding streams for statewide transportation needs consistent with the following city goals:

- Avoids diversion of revenues from current state spending priorities;
- Relies eventually on funding sources tied to transportation use, including vehicle registration, car rentals, gasoline consumption or vehicle miles traveled;
- Directs a significant share of new funding (25% or greater) to municipalities for local transportation needs and priorities;
- Dedicates significant portion (33% was agreed to as part of earlier MPACT 64 statewide effort) of remaining state share of new funding to operational and capital transit, bike and pedestrian needs, while reserving decisions for how this funding is spent to local governments in collaboration with transit providers;
- Ensures that funding for new highway capacity be tied to commitment to manage those lanes, as done on US36, to ensure new capacity remains congestion-free and encourages transit and high occupancy/car share alternatives;
- Avoids new bonding authority not accompanied by new revenue; and
- If a project lists is created, includes substantial funding for projects identified by the Northwest Area Mobility Study (NAMS).

52. PRIORITIZE EXPENDITURE OF EXISTING AND NEW TRANSPORTATION FUNDING ON PROJECTS THAT MAINTAIN EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE, ARE MULTIMODAL IN DESIGN AND THAT OTHERWISE PROMOTE SMART GROWTH

The city and the entire Denver metropolitan area are in need of new funding to maintain existing infrastructure and transit services, for multi-modal transportation improvements related to roadway, bicycle, pedestrian, carpool/vanpool and for travel demand management activities that would increase the efficiency of the existing system. There is a critical need for federal and state funds to ensure completion of the US 36 BRT project, including funding to acquire the best vehicles and BRT amenities possible and first and final mile connections to that corridor. Funding is also necessary for implementation of the recommendations of the Northwest Area Mobility Study (NAMS); specifically, North I-25 bi-directional HOV/Transit lanes and development of an arterial BRT system along SH119, US287, 120th Ave, South Boulder Road, Arapahoe/SH7, and SH 42.

The city supports turning to funding sources that are tied to transportation use, including vehicle registration, car rentals, gasoline consumption or vehicle miles traveled, provided that a significant portion of the funding generated is directed toward specific, identified projects, including US Highway 36 and arterial BRT, or to programs that fund alternative modes of transportation.

This city also supports CDOT's Policy Directive 1603.0 which requires that managed lanes be strongly considered during the planning and development of capacity improvements on state highways. In fact, the city believes that any significant new lane capacity built with state funds should be required to be managed. Managed lanes should result in regulation of demand to ensure choices for the traveler beyond the single occupancy vehicle by providing for the option of travel by bus and free or discounted access to high occupancy vehicles ("HOVs"), as well as allowing pricing to help manage corridor performance, such as dynamic, variable-priced tolls linked to congestion. Public-private partnerships (PPPs) are often essential to identifying funding to construct managed lanes. The challenge, however, is that the partnerships can sometimes focus too much on revenue generation and insufficiently on transportation performance. Moreover, decisions can be made by the state that do not receive sufficient vetting and/or oversight from the affected local governments. In order to ensure that only appropriate toll projects are built, the city would support legislation to require all PPPs for managed lanes to undergo a transparent approval process and to demonstrate maximization in the transportation of people (not just vehicles); reinvestment of at least a portion of toll operating revenues into the corridor for continued improvements; and prioritization of travel choices with a portion of toll revenues supporting transit and/or travel demand management, in order to maximize the value of the transportation investment and to ensure that lower-income residents benefit from the public investment in a toll road. The city also supports legislation mandating a determination by the appropriate Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) that all toll projects, including those which do not use state or federal funding, be analyzed for consistency with the development policies of the MPO's plan, and that the MPOs assess implications of such projects on the region's fiscal health, air and water quality, energy, climate change and long-term sustainability. Finally, the city would support legislation similar to HB12-1171 that would prohibit the use of so called "non-compete" clauses which are sometimes included in PPPs to preclude maintenance of, or improvements to, existing roads (e.g., Highway 93) in order to increase travel demand on new tolled lanes.

The city believes that new or existing funding should be used for regional priorities as determined by the area MPO, or, where no MPO exists, by the local Transportation Planning Region (TPR) where the improvements are supported by the affected local governments. The city also believes that state legislation should require MPOs and TPRs to model projects for their expected contribution to greenhouse gases and vehicle miles traveled and to prioritize those projects that reduce both.

53. REALIGN THE COLORADO TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION TO INCLUDE POPULATION, NOT JUST GEOGRAPHY, TO ENSURE FAIR REPRESENTATION OF THE METROPOLITAN AREA

54. PROMOTE “COMPLETE STREETS,” ACCOMMODATING ALL MODES OF TRAVEL

The city supports legislation that furthers the concept of “Complete Streets” where modes are interconnected and a complete set of options are made available to improve efficiency and mobility for all. The city also supports legislation that promotes sustainable transportation solutions recognizing energy sources, impacts of vehicle miles traveled, connections to land use, urban design, and increased accessibility for all.

55. OPPOSE LIMITATIONS ON THE CITY’S ABILITY TO REGULATE VEHICLE USE ON SIDEWALKS, MULTI-USE PATHWAYS, AND BIKE LANES, OR THAT REQUIRES THE CITY TO ALTER ITS CURRENT CODE IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN CURRENT POLICY ON ALLOWED USES OF THOSE FACILITIES

The city’s current ordinances prohibit the use of Segways or motorized “toy vehicles” such as scooters, electric skateboards or mini bikes on sidewalks, multi-use paths or bike lanes. City-initiated changes to such policies would best be informed by a public process where input from the various sidewalk, multi-use path, and trail users could be solicited and evaluated. The city opposes changes to state law that would require the city to change its policy or force an unnecessary and potentially controversial re-evaluation of its policy.

56. OPPOSE TRANSFERING THE MAINTENANCE RESPONSIBILITIES FOR REGIONAL HIGHWAYS FROM THE COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

In past years, the Colorado General Assembly has been asked to consider legislation that would lead to the unilateral transfer to local governments of state highways. Boulder has several state highways that would be subject to such “devolution,” including U.S. 36 and Highways 93, 7 and 119. The city believes that these types of regional highways, which service multiple communities and counties, need to remain the responsibility of the state government.

57. SUPPORT FLEXIBLE SOLUTIONS AND NEW FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES TO ADDRESS IMPACTS OF TRAIN HORN NOISE AND SUPPORT CREATION OF QUIET ZONES

The city supports more flexible and affordable options that work within the context of the local communities and support the safety goals of the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) as well as the sustainability goals of EPA, HUD, DOT (FTA & FHWA). Addressing train horn noise and quiet zones is important to achieve local, regional and national goals for multimodal transportation options, safety, housing, jobs and the environment. Opportunities to amend the FRA train horn rules and quiet zone requirements, as well as identify funding sources for implementation, can address existing community concerns caused by train horn noise and support transportation options and mixed use, transit oriented development areas within the core areas of the city and other communities located along the Burlington Northern Santa Fe railroad corridor.

58. SUPPORT EXTENSION OF EXISTING STATE ENABLING LEGISLATION THAT PROVIDES AUTHORITY FOR REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITIES TO COLLECT PROPERTY TAXES FOR TRANSIT PROGRAMS

The formation of Regional Transportation Authorities (RTAs) is enabled by state statute. RTAs are formed by two or more local governments to finance, construct, operate and maintain regional transportation systems. Under the current state enabling legislation, RTAs are authorized to derive funding from several types of fees and taxes, subject to voter approval. The authority RTAs currently hold to collect a property tax up to a maximum levy of five mills on property within the RTA territory, expires at the end of 2018. The city supports extending this authority for RTAs to collect property taxes for regional transit programs.

59. SUPPORT STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATION THAT ENCOURAGES CONNECTED AND AUTONOMOUS VEHICLE DEPLOYMENT IN FURTHERANCE OF BOULDER'S SUSTAINABILITY GOALS WHILE RETAINING LOCAL AUTHORITY TO ADDRESS COMMUNITY-SPECIFIC POLICY OBJECTIVES THAT CANNOT OTHERWISE BE MET

A range of connected and autonomous vehicles are expected to soon be available to the public. While this raises the prospect for new and exciting mobility options, it also means that once these vehicles become commonplace they will dramatically transform every aspect of livability in the communities in which they are driven – for better or for worse. While AVs bring the possibility of improved safety, reduced congestion, reduced parking demand and a route to faster adoption of electric vehicles, recent studies have suggested that these benefits could be undermined by widespread individual ownership of AVs and dramatic increases in vehicle miles travelled.

While Boulder has a long history of planning and establishing community goals and objectives, it is only in the very early stages of evaluating how to plan for and manage this breakthrough technology. At the same time, legislation is already being considered at the state and federal levels that will set in motion a series of decisions that will difficult to later revisit. Unfortunately, these bills are being shaped almost exclusively by the future manufacturers and commercial users of these vehicles. It is essential that local government voices influence these discussions.

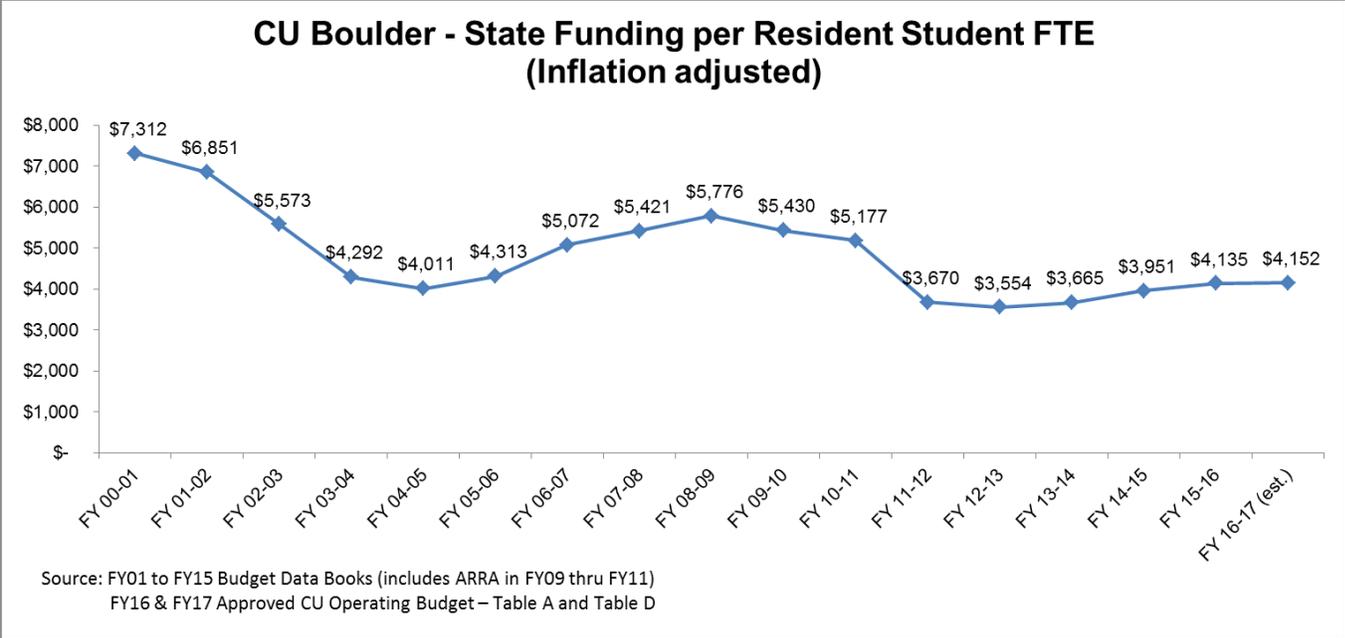
Boulder will take a lead role in advocating for legislation that encourages the deployment of connected and autonomous vehicles in Colorado while simultaneously insisting that such deployment promotes clean-fueled and safe vehicles that do not sacrifice the safety of other modes of travel, that are shared and accessible and that lead to a decrease in parking demand and vehicle miles driven when compared to conventional vehicles. Conversely, the city will oppose legislation that either does not further these goals or that denies local government regulatory authority to pursue these goals on its own.

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO

60. SUPPORT A RENEWED COMMITMENT BY THE STATE AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS TO FUND THE UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO AND ITS CAPITAL PROGRAMS

The City of Boulder has been the proud home to the flagship campus of the University of Colorado (CU) since 1876. CU Boulder brings to the city the Colorado Shakespeare Festival, the Conference on World Affairs, the CU Concerts and Artist Series, CU on the Weekends, Science Discovery camps, access to libraries, museums, athletic events, noncredit courses, and numerous other social and cultural offerings, all of which significantly contribute to the city's vibrancy.

Furthermore, CU Boulder directly employed 15,796 people in fiscal year (FY) 2015-16, 7,747 of whom were non-students (including temporary workers) earning average salaries of approximately \$67,565. Nonstudent employment and wages at the CU Boulder accounted for about 5.5% of total employment and wages in Boulder County in 2015. The CU Boulder FY2015-16 budget totaled \$1.50 billion; the FY2016-17 budget is \$1.58 billion. The University is not only a local institution, but much of the supply chain is also inherently local since the primary services delivered include classroom instruction and research. Additional investments in the local economy include operations, construction, student spending and visitation. With its largely non-local funding CU also leverages outside investment in our local economy. The presence of CU's research facilities and the highly skilled labor force that CU produces, have attracted major federal facilities, satellite institutions, and major private firms to the city.



Yet, as reflected in the above graph, state funding for CU Boulder has seen more than a 43 percent decline in state funding for resident students since FY 2001. In light of the extraordinary importance of CU to the city, the city will support state and federal legislation that provides a renewed attention to funding CU, its capital programs (facing a deferred maintenance backlog of approximately \$655 million as of July 2016), and particularly legislation that helps preserve the flagship status of CU Boulder.

WATER

61. SUPPORT LEGISLATION THAT PROMOTES THE EFFICIENT UTILIZATION AND CONSERVATION OF WATER

Boulder is on the forefront of support for water conservation and efficient utilization of water. Boulder uses a water budget rate structure to reward the efficient use of water and penalize wasteful practices. Boulder has adopted water conservation goals for build-out that will help meet the city's adopted reliability criteria for water supplies without significant new water acquisitions when fully using water sources already owned by the city. Water conservation can be an important public outreach and educational tool and can help to maximize reservoir storage levels and water use reductions needed during drought periods. Although the first priority for conserved water is drought protection and the extent to which the city can direct conserved water to any particular use is limited, when reservoirs are full, some conserved water can be provided for non-permanent uses such as annual agricultural leasing or instream flow enhancement. Accordingly, Boulder will support legislation that promotes water conservation, instream flow enhancement and the efficient utilization of water when such legislation is structured to also be protective of the city's water rights. By way of example, the city would support legislation that would phase in a requirement that new indoor water fixtures (including toilets, urinals,

showers and faucets) sold in Colorado meet reduced flush volume requirements consistent with the US Environmental Protection Agencies WaterSense guidelines, provided that the legislation would not mandate retrofitting nor require local governments to assure compliance.

62. OPPOSE SIGNIFICANT THREATS TO THE CITY'S WATER RIGHTS

In prior years, Boulder has lost thousands of acre-feet of the city's water because of the lack of proper well augmentation on the South Platte River. Loss of this reservoir water increases Boulder's risk of severe water shortage during drought years. In non-drought years, the city supports Boulder Creek basin farmers through annual leases of any water in excess of the city's short-term and long-term needs for approximately \$35 per acre foot. Offsetting un-augmented well use in the South Platte basin would represent a \$120,000 loss to the city in a year that 4,000 acre-feet of water is given up and would also decrease water for Boulder Creek farmers by reducing the city's leasable supplies. If other water users with junior water rights were to operate without proper augmentation and cause Boulder to need to permanently replace the water rights for 4,000 acre-feet of municipal water to protect the city against drought and any negative effects of climate change that might occur, it would cost \$48,000,000 or more.

Recent Colorado Supreme Court decisions have found that the State Engineer was not properly administering some water rights, such as for agricultural irrigation wells that were operating under junior water rights without providing senior water rights owners with sufficient augmentation water. New state legislation passed in the years from 2003 to 2009 clarifies that many well owners must file in water court for well augmentation plans and address the amount of augmentation water to be provided. To protect the yield of its existing water rights, Boulder has coordinated with other water users owning senior surface water rights, including many farmers, to participate in water court cases and monitor legislative actions regarding water rights. Many of the underlying disputes have now been addressed. Nevertheless, some issues remain that may result in the General Assembly again becoming the arena for water bills that attempt to incrementally adjust, or in many cases by-pass, the state constitution's Prior Appropriation Doctrine.

Bills that may be introduced might include attempts to limit the amount of augmentation water that junior diverters are required to return to the river to less than their impact on more senior water rights or to replace the jurisdiction of water courts with state engineer authority such that decisions on the adequacy of augmentation plans would be less transparent and subject to political influence. The city is committed to the legal principle of maximum utilization of both surface water and groundwater and believes this can best be achieved through water court-approved augmentation plans rather than the political process. To the extent that future bills significantly threaten the city's water rights, such as by shifting responsibility for well augmentation from well users to senior water rights owners, or increasing reliability for junior water rights by decreasing reliability for senior water rights, they will be vigorously opposed.