

PROPOSED Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan (BVCP) Reorganized Contents

Updated Draft – Aug. 24, 2016

1—Vision and Values

(Formerly part of Sec. 1, Core Values...)

Will include:

- Boulder Valley Core Values
- Sustainability Framework and Resilience
- Boulder’s Planning History
- About this Major Update (i.e., Areas of Focus)
- How Plan is Organized (cross cutting topics)

2—How the Plan is Implemented and Relates to Other Plans

(Formerly Introduction)

Will include:

- How to Use this Plan
- Relationship to Other Plans and Programs
- Action Plan
- Plan Time Frame and Updates
- Intergovernmental Cooperation
- Most of Growth Management
- Framework for Annexation and Service Provision

3—Policies

Livable Community and High Quality Built Environment

(Formerly Sec. 2, Built Environment. Headings and sections will be refined as the focus and scenarios are prepared and analyzed. May include Growth Management policies from Intro and may include Land Use.)

Will include:

- City Structure, including: Projected Growth, Sustainable Urban Form Definition, Community Identity/Land Use Pattern, Rural Lands Preservation, Neighborhoods, Mixed Use and Higher Density Development, and Activity Centers
- Urban Design Linkages
- Community Conservation (Historic Preservation)
- Design Quality

Environmentally Sustainable Community

(Formerly Sec. 3, Natural Environment and Sec. 4 Energy and Climate, and 6)

Will include:

- Natural Environment policies (i.e., Native Ecosystems and Biodiversity, Urban Environmental Quality, Geologic Resources and Natural Hazards, and Water and Air Quality)
- Former Sec. 3, Energy and Climate (i.e., updated Climate and Energy policies, Waste and Recycling, and Sustainable Purchasing)
- Former Sec. 6, Agriculture and Local Food policies that related to land and environment

Economically Vital Community

(Formerly Sec. 5, Economy)

Refine headings to reflect outline. Will include existing policies, as refined, including:

- Strategic Redevelopment and Sustainable Employment
- Diverse Economic Base
- Quality of Life

- Sustainable and Resilient Business Practices
- Job Opportunities and Education, and Training.

Accessible and Connected Community

(Formerly Sec. 6, Transportation, and add new section about Communication)

Note: Refine headings to reflect city and county transportation master plan focus areas, including:

- Complete Transportation System
- Regional Travel
- Funding and Investments
- Land Use and Transportation Integration and Sustainable Initiatives
- Other Policies (Air Quality, Airport)
- Communications (new)

Housing the Community

(Formerly Sec. 7, Housing. Combine with Livability or keep as stand alone)

Pull forward the relevant existing sections and any new policies that emerge, including:

- Local Support for Community Housing Needs
- Preserve and Enhance Housing Choices
- Advance and Sustain Diversity
- Invest in Growth and Community Housing Goals

Healthy and Socially Thriving Community

(Formerly Sec. 8, Community Well-Being)

Will include:

- Human Services
- Social Equity
- Community Health
- Community Infrastructure and Facilities (Schools, community facilities, parks and recreation)
- Arts and Culture
- Agriculture and Food (policies as relevant to health, socially thriving)

Safe and Prepared Community

(New section.)

Will include safety and preparedness and resilience policies, police and fire that were formerly in Community Well-Being Chapter, etc.

Good Governance and Community Engagement

(New section.)

Will include some of the policies currently in the Introduction.

4—Land Use Map Descriptions

(Formerly Ch. III, Land Use Map Descriptions. May make sense to include with Built Environment)

Will include new table approach and definitions for land use types and open space and parks, and any new policies as relevant.

5—Subcommunities and Area Planning

(Formerly part of Ch. IV, Implementation)

Will carry forward the section related to Subcommunity and Area Planning and will include 1-2 page descriptions for each subcommunity and priorities for focused, localized planning.

6—Implementation and Master Plans

(Formerly Ch. IV)

Will include Master Plans and Trails Plan

7—Amendment Procedures

(Formerly Ch. II)

Reorganized to be easier to follow.

8-Urban Service Criteria and Standards and Referral Process

(Formerly Ch. VI and V)

Maps

(Suggest putting with relevant sections above)

- Land Use
- Area I, II, III
- Trails
- Natural Ecosystems

Core Values and Sustainability Framework

*Note: This section is a part of the current Chapter 1 and will become part of a refreshed introductory section which will include a vision statement, the longstanding core values, and the overview of sustainability and resilience as an organization framework for the plan's policies. It will also later contain Boulder's Planning History and information about how the plan is organized. The section will become more graphic to better convey the community's values and vision. Changes noted here reflect input from the 2015 BVCP survey and other input from public, boards, and elected bodies. **The values will continue to evolve, incorporating ongoing feedback.** Also please note that a further round of editing will occur to improve organization, reduce verbosity and redundancies, and renumber policies as necessary*

The Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan is a joint plan between the City of Boulder and Boulder County to inform and guide their shared responsibility for planning and development in the Boulder Valley. This section of the plan sets forth the plan's core values and sustainability framework.ⁱ

The Boulder Valley community honors its history and legacy of planning for a livable community surrounded by open space and rural lands while striving together to create and preserve a truly special place that is sustainable, resilient, equitable and inclusive – now and for future generations.

Core Values

Many of the key policies in the Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan stem from long-standing community values and represent a clear vision of our community and our commitment to:

- **Sustainability** as a unifying framework to meet environmental, economic and social goals
- A welcoming, **inclusive, and diverse** community
- Culture of creativity and **innovation**
- Strong **city and county** cooperation
- Our unique community **identity and sense of place**
- **Compact, contiguous** development and infill that supports evolution to a more **sustainable urban form**
- **Open space** preservation
- Great **neighborhoods** and **public spaces**
- **Environmental** stewardship and **climate** action
- A vibrant **economy** based on Boulder's quality of life and economic strengths
- A diversity of **housing** types and price ranges
- An all-mode **transportation** system to make getting around without a car easy and accessible to everyone
- Physical **health and well-being**ⁱⁱ

Interpreting Core Values and Policies

Applying a sustainability framework to decision-making in Boulder means considering the issues of environment, economy and social equity together. An action or decision in any one of these areas will have consequences on the others. The policies in this plan outline the future vision of the community, focusing on the built environment and its relationship to environmental, economic and social well-being and overall community livability. At the intersection of all these areas is the community's ability to sustainably meet its needs now and in the future, to adapt successfully to chronic stresses and rebound quickly from disruptive shocks, and to ensure that everyone in our community is able to thrive in a changing environment.

The policies of the Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan contained in the subsequent sections of the plan define and expand upon the vision and values expressed above and provide guidance and direction for achieving this plan's vision. The city and county strive to balance the values noted above, recognizing that achieving all the values may not be possible in any circumstance. Careful consideration of tradeoffs among the plan's policies is necessary when implementing the Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan.ⁱⁱⁱ

Aligning Plan Organization with City Sustainability Framework^{iv}

The city's sustainability framework addresses environment, economy and social equity goals and is used in master plans, decision-making and budgeting process. The notion of resilience has increasingly become important in the community – being ready to bounce back in times of emergency or disruption and to adapt over time to chronic stresses. That thread is now woven throughout the plan, including in the newer policy sections of “safety and preparedness” and “governance and engagement,” as noted below. The policies in this plan are generally organized according to the sustainability framework to achieve values toward:

- 1. Livability and a High Quality Built Environment**
- 2. Environmental Sustainability**
- 3. Economic Vitality**
- 4. Accessibility and Connectedness**
- 5. Housing**
- 6. Healthy, Socially Thriving Community**
- 7. Safety and Preparedness**
- 8. Good Governance and Community Involvement**

Sections to follow in this chapter:

- Boulder's Planning History (carried forward from current plan with better illustrations and description)
- About This Major Update – Current Conditions and Focus Topics and Emerging Themes

ⁱ These topics will be carried forward under separate cover.

-
- ii In addition to these long-standing values that the community largely affirmed in the 2015 survey, community members have suggested mentioning new values including: The ability to be safe everywhere in the community; Engaging the community in all civic matters; Representative and responsive government; and well-maintained infrastructure (and assets). These values are all addressed in the refined policies. They may or may not need to be added to the core values.
 - iii Planning team has heard input that this section needs clarification about how values and policies are to be interpreted. This might need a bit more work.
 - iv As proposed in draft plan organizational outline.

DRAFT

Core Values and Sustainability Framework

*Note: This section is a part of the current Chapter 1 and will become part of a refreshed introductory section which will include a vision statement, the longstanding core values, and the overview of sustainability and resilience as an organization framework for the plan's policies. It will also later contain Boulder's Planning History and information about how the plan is organized. The section will become more graphic to better convey the community's values and vision. Changes noted here reflect input from the 2015 BVCP survey and other input from public, boards, and elected bodies. **The values will continue to evolve, incorporating ongoing feedback.** Also please note that a further round of editing will occur to improve organization, reduce verbosity and redundancies, and renumber policies as necessary*

The Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan is a joint plan between the City of Boulder and Boulder County to inform and guide their shared responsibility for planning and development in the Boulder Valley. This section of the plan sets forth the plan's core values and sustainability framework, ~~and provides overall planning guidance for intergovernmental cooperation, growth management, annexation and provision of urban facilities and services.~~ⁱ

The Boulder Valley community honors its history and legacy of planning for a livable community surrounded by open space and rural lands while striving together to create and preserve a truly special place that is sustainable, resilient, equitable and inclusive – now and for future generations.

Core Values

Many of the key policies in the Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan stem from long-standing community values and represent a clear vision of our community and our commitment to:

- **Sustainability** as a unifying framework to meet environmental, economic and social goals
- A welcoming, ~~and inclusive, and diverse~~ community
- Culture of creativity and **innovation**
- Strong **city and county** cooperation
- Our unique community **identity and sense of place**
- **Compact, contiguous** development and infill that supports evolution to a more **sustainable urban form**
- **Open space** preservation
- Great **neighborhoods** and **public spaces**
- **Environmental** stewardship and **climate** action
- A vibrant **economy** based on Boulder's quality of life and economic strengths
- A diversity of **housing** types and price ranges
- An all-mode **transportation** system to make getting around without a car easy and accessible to everyone
- Physical **health and well-being**ⁱⁱ

Interpreting Core Values and Policies

Applying a sustainability framework to decision-making in Boulder means considering the issues of environment, economy and social equity together. An action or decision in any one of these areas will have consequences on the others. The policies in this plan outline the future vision of the community, focusing on the built environment and its relationship to environmental, economic and social well-being and overall community livability. At the intersection of all these areas is the community's ability to sustainably meet its needs now and in the future, to adapt successfully to ~~and be a resilient~~ community that is able to recover quickly after chronic stresses and rebound quickly from disruptive shocks, and to ensure that everyone in our community is able to thrive in a changing environment.

The policies of the Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan contained in the subsequent sections of the plan define and expand upon the vision and values expressed above and provide guidance and direction for achieving this plan's vision. The city and county strive to balance the values noted above, recognizing that achieving all the values may not be possible in any circumstance. Careful consideration of tradeoffs among the plan's policies is necessary when implementing the Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan.ⁱⁱⁱ

Aligning Plan Organization with City Sustainability Framework^{iv}

The city's sustainability framework addresses environment, economy and social equity goals and is used in master plans, decision-making and budgeting process. The notion of resilience has increasingly become important in the community – being ready to bounce back in times of emergency or disruption and to adapt over time to chronic stresses. That thread is now woven throughout the plan, including in the newer policy sections of “safety and preparedness” and “governance and engagement,” as noted below. The policies in this plan are generally organized according to the sustainability framework to achieve values toward:

- 1. Livability and a High Quality Built Environment**
- 2. Environmental Sustainability**
- 3. Economic Vitality**
- 4. Accessibility and Connectedness**
- 5. Housing**
- 6. Healthy, Socially Thriving Community**
- 7. Safety and Preparedness**
- 8. Good Governance and Community Involvement**

Sections to follow in this chapter:

- Boulder's Planning History (carried forward from current plan with better illustrations and description)
- About This Major Update – Current Conditions and Focus Topics and Emerging Themes

ⁱ These topics will be carried forward under separate cover.

ⁱⁱ In addition to these long-standing values that the community largely affirmed in the 2015 survey, community members have suggested mentioning new values including: The ability to be safe everywhere in the community; Engaging the community in all civic matters; Representative and responsive government; and well-maintained infrastructure (and assets). These values are all addressed in the refined policies. They may or may not need to be added to the core values.

ⁱⁱⁱ Planning team has heard input that this section needs clarification about how values and policies are to be interpreted. This might need a bit more work.

^{iv} As proposed in draft plan organizational outline.

DRAFT

3. Natural Environmentⁱ

*Proposed new section title: **Environmentally Sustainable Community.***

Note: This may be combined with other policies around energy and climate in addition to agriculture and food policies relating to land and environment. Also please note that a further round of editing will occur to improve organization, reduce verbosity and redundancies, and renumber policies as necessary.

The natural environment that characterizes the Boulder Valley is a critical asset that must be preserved and protected. Within the Boulder Valley's complex ecological system, there are inextricable links among the natural environment, plants and animals, the built environment, the economy and community livability. These natural and human systems are connected to the region and world, and changes to the ecosystems within the Boulder Valley can have a profound effect on their viability.

Over many decades, the city and county have actively protected and managed open space around the urban area, and city and county open space plans and policies apply to those public lands acquired and managed as natural areas or used for other purposes, such as agriculture.ⁱⁱ

The climate of the Boulder Valley has warmed and dried over the past three decades, and the potential for further changes and intensified weather events because of climate change heighten the need for the city and county to proactively strengthen intervention and investment in natural resources (e.g. urban forestry, wetland and groundwater protection, and natural hazard mitigation) to reduce risk and protect resources. The more the community can assess risks of changes due to climate change and be prepared to preserve and protect environmental resources, the better prepared the community can be for mitigating the causes and impacts of those changes to the natural environment.

Boulder has been at the forefront of environmental protection and preservation for many years. The predominant amount of natural land protected by the city and county contributes to the high quality of life for residents and critical habitat for native plants and animals. The community's historic and on-going emphasis on clean air and water has resulted in significant progress toward a sustainable, resilient and healthy urban environment.

The city places strong emphasis on being a leader and role model to other communities for its exemplary environmental protection practices and accomplishments. The city will continue to implement state-of-the-art environmental policies both community wide and within the city government organization to further environmental sustainability goals.

The policies in this section support the following city and county goals related to the conservation and preservation of land, water, air resources and pollution prevention and resilience:

- Native Ecosystems and Biodiversity
- Urban Environmental Quality

- Geologic Resources and Natural Hazards
- Water and Air Quality

3.01 Incorporating Ecological Systems into Planning

The city and county will approach planning and policy decisions in the Boulder Valley through an ecosystem framework in which natural regions like airsheds and watersheds are considered and incorporated into planning.

3.02 Adaptive Management Approach

The city will employ an adaptive management approach to resource protection and enhancement. An adaptive management approach involves ongoing monitoring of resource conditions, assessment of the effectiveness of management actions, revision of management actions based on new information from research, and learning from experience what works and what does not.

Native Ecosystems and Biodiversity

3.03 Natural Ecosystems

The city and county will protect and restore significant native ecosystems on public and private lands through land use planning, development review, conservation easements, acquisition and public land management practices. The protection and enhancement of biological diversity and habitat for state and federal endangered and threatened species, as well as critical wildlife habitats/migration corridors, environmental conservation areas, high biodiversity areas, rare plant areas, and significant natural communities and local species of concern will be emphasized.ⁱⁱⁱ Degraded habitat may be restored and selected extirpated species may be reintroduced as a means of enhancing native flora and fauna in the Boulder Valley.

3.04 Ecosystem Connections and Buffers

The city and county recognize the importance of preserving large areas of unfragmented habitat in supporting the biodiversity of its natural lands and viable habitat for native species. The city and county will work together to preserve, enhance, restore and maintain land identified as critical and having significant ecological value for providing ecosystem connections and buffers to support movement of native organisms between ecosystems.

(Note: Suggest adding new policy language to “Built Environment chapter” to address conservation and design of open space connections and buffers in urban areas, recognizing that urban lands can also be important for supporting biodiversity and maintaining wildlife habitat.)

3.05 Maintain and Restore Natural Disturbance and Ecological Processes

Recognizing that ecological processes, such as wildfire and flooding, are integral to the productivity and health of natural ecosystems, the city and county will work to ensure that, when appropriate precautions have been taken for human safety and welfare, ecological processes will be maintained or mimicked in the management of natural lands.

3.06 Wetland and Riparian Protection

Natural and human-made wetlands and riparian areas are valuable for their ecological and, where appropriate, recreational functions, including their ability to enhance water and air quality and

reduce the impacts of flooding. Wetlands and riparian areas also function as important wildlife habitat, especially for rare, threatened and endangered plants, fish and wildlife. The city and county will continue to develop programs to protect and enhance wetlands and riparian areas in the Boulder Valley. The city will strive for no net loss of wetlands and riparian areas by discouraging their destruction or requiring the creation and restoration of wetland and riparian areas in the rare cases when development is permitted and the filling of wetlands or destruction of riparian areas cannot be avoided.

3.07 Invasive Species Management

The city and county will promote efforts, both public and private, to prevent the introduction or growth of invasive and non-native plant and animal species and seek to prevent their spread. High priority will be given to managing invasive species that have, or potentially could have, a substantial impact on city and county resources. Management of both non-native and non-local native species will be based on weighing impacts vs. benefits that includes documented threats to species of concern specific to each site, acknowledging that some non-native species may have become naturalized. Management decisions should also take into account changing species composition due to climate change and other human impacts, as well as the role in the ecosystem provided by each organism based on the best available science.^{iv}

3.08 Public Access to Public Lands

Certain city and county-owned or managed lands provide a means for educating users on the importance of the natural environment. Public lands may include areas for recreation, preservation of agricultural use, unique natural features and wildlife and plant habitat. Public access to natural lands will be provided for, except where closure is necessary to protect areas from unacceptable degradation or impacts to agriculture, habitat or wildlife, for public safety, or limits on access necessary to preserve the quality of the visitor experience.

New Policy: Climate Change Preparation and Adaptation

The city and county are both working on climate mitigation and recognize that adaptation plans will be necessary as well. To prepare open space lands and natural areas for climate change, the city and county will consider allowing or facilitating ecosystems' transition to new states in some sites (e.g., newly adapting plants and wildlife) and increasing the stability and resiliency of the natural environment elsewhere. Biological indicators can help to identify high risk species for monitoring and/or relocations and may conduct restoration projects using arid-adapted ecotypes or species. Open space master plans guide other topics related to climate change, such as visitor experiences to open space.^v

Urban Environmental Quality

3.09 Management of Wildlife-Human Conflicts

The city recognizes the intrinsic value of wildlife in both the urban and rural setting. The city will promote wildlife and land use management practices to minimize conflicts with residents and urban land uses while identifying, preserving and restoring appropriate habitat for wildlife species in the urban area. When a wildlife species is determined to be a nuisance or a public health hazard, a full range of alternative wildlife and land use management techniques will be considered by the city and county in order to mitigate the problem in a manner that is humane, effective, economical and ecologically responsible.^{vi}

3.10 Urban Environmental Quality

To the extent possible, the city and county will seek to protect the environmental quality of areas under significant human influence such as agricultural and urban lands and will balance human needs and public safety with environmental protection. The city will develop community-wide programs and standards for new development and redevelopment so that negative environmental impacts will be mitigated and overall environmental quality of the urban environment will not worsen and may improve.

3.11 Urban Forests

The city will support, promote and, in some cases, regulate the protection of healthy existing trees and the long-term health and vitality of the urban forest in the planning and design of public improvements and private development. Urban canopy plays an important role in ameliorating the role of climate change; therefore the city will guide short- and long-term urban forest management.^{vii} that encourages overall species diversity and native and low water demand tree species where appropriate.

3.12 Water Conservation

The city and county will promote the conservation of water resources through water quality protection, public education, monitoring and policies that promote appropriate water usage. The city will endeavor to minimize water waste and reduce water use during peak demand periods. New development and redevelopment designed to conserve water will be encouraged.

3.13 Integrated Pest Management

The city and county will discourage the use of pesticides and synthetic, inorganic fertilizers.^{viii} In its own practices, the city and county will carefully consider when pest management actions are necessary and focus on creating healthy and thriving ecosystems to lower pest pressure by natural processes. When pest management is necessary, the city commits to the use of ecologically-based integrated pest management principles, which emphasize the selection of the most environmentally sound approach to pest management and the overall goal of reducing or eliminating the dependence on chemical pest-control strategies. When public or environmental health risks are identified, the city will balance the impacts and risks to the residents and the environment when choosing management measures.^{ix}

New Policy: Soil Carbon Sequestration

The city recognizes that soil sequestration has a range of potential benefits, including water retention, soil health and stabilization. The city and county will consider soil sequestration strategies, including land management practices that may be used to sequester carbon out of the atmosphere, and explore opportunities to incentivize carbon sequestration.^x

(Note: This policy will continue to be refined.)

Geologic Resources and Natural Hazards

3.14 Unique Geological Features

Due to its location at the interface of the Great Plains and the Rocky Mountains, the Boulder Valley has a number of significant or unique geological and paleontological features. The city and county will attempt to protect these features from alteration or destruction through a variety of

means, such as public acquisition, public land management, land use planning and regulation, and density transfer within a particular site.

3.15 Mineral Deposits

Deposits of sand, gravel, coal and similar finite resource areas will be delineated and managed according to state and federal laws. The use of mineral deposits and other non-renewable resources will be evaluated considering the need for these resources and other community values and priorities such as natural and cultural resource protection, community and environmental health and carbon emission reduction. The city and county will work together to acquire mineral rights as appropriate.^{xi}

3.16 Hazardous Areas

Hazardous areas that present danger to life and property from flood, forest fire, steep slopes, erosion, unstable soil, subsidence or similar geological development constraints will be delineated, and development in such areas will be carefully controlled or prohibited.

3.17 Hillside Protection

Hillside and ridge-line development will be carried out in a manner that, to the extent possible, avoids both negative environmental consequences to the immediate and surrounding area and the degradation of views and vistas from and of public areas. Due to the risk of earth movement and/or mud slides under adverse weather conditions, special attention needs to be paid to soil types and underlying geological strata before and during planning, design and construction of any development on or at the base of hillsides.^{xii}

3.18 Wildfire Protection and Management

The city and county will require on-site and off-site measures to guard against the danger of fire in developments adjacent to natural lands and consistent with forest and grassland ecosystem management principles and practices. Recognizing that fire is a widely accepted means of managing ecosystems, the city and county will integrate ecosystem management principles with wildfire hazard mitigation planning and urban design.

3.19 Preservation of Floodplains

Undeveloped floodplains will be preserved or restored where possible through public land acquisition of high hazard properties, private land dedication and multiple program coordination. Comprehensive planning and management of floodplain lands will promote the preservation of natural and beneficial functions of floodplains whenever possible.

3.20 Flood Management^{xiii}

The city and county will protect the public and property from the impacts of flooding in a timely and cost-effective manner while balancing community interests with public safety needs. The city and county will manage the potential for floods by implementing the following guiding principles: a) Preserve floodplains; b) Be prepared for floods; c) Help people protect themselves from flood hazards; d) Prevent unwise uses and adverse impacts in the floodplain; and e) Seek to accommodate floods, not control them. The city seeks to manage flood recovery by protecting critical facilities in the 500-year floodplain and implementing multi-hazard mitigation and flood response and recovery plans.

3.21 Non-Structural Approach

The city and county will seek to preserve the natural and beneficial functions of floodplains by emphasizing and balancing the use of non-structural measures with structural mitigation. Where drainageway improvements are proposed, a non-structural approach should be applied wherever possible to preserve the natural values of local waterways while balancing private property interests and associated cost to the city.

3.22 Protection of High Hazard Areas

The city will prevent redevelopment of significantly flood-damaged properties in high hazard areas. The city will prepare a plan for property acquisition and other forms of mitigation for flood-damaged and undeveloped land in high-hazard flood areas. Undeveloped high hazard flood areas will be retained in their natural state whenever possible. In urban areas, compatible uses of riparian corridors, such as natural ecosystems, wildlife habitat and wetlands will be encouraged wherever appropriate. Trails or other open recreational facilities may be feasible in certain areas.^{xiv}

3.23 Larger Flooding Events

The city recognizes that floods larger than the 100-year event will occur resulting in greater risks and flood damage that will affect even improvements constructed with standard flood protection measures. The city will seek to better understand the impact of larger flood events and consider necessary floodplain management strategies, including the protection of critical facilities.

Water and Air Quality

3.24 Protection of Water Quality

Water quality is a critical health, economic and aesthetic concern. The city and county will protect, maintain and improve water quality within the Boulder Creek watershed as a necessary component of existing ecosystems and as a critical resource for the human community. The city and county will seek to reduce point and nonpoint sources of pollutants, protect and restore natural water system, and conserve water resources. Special emphasis will be placed on regional efforts, such as watershed planning, and priority will be placed on pollution prevention over treatment.

3.25 Water Resource Planning and Acquisition

Water resource planning efforts will be regional in nature and incorporate the goals of water quality protection as well as surface and ground water conservation. The city will continue to obtain additional municipal water supplies to ensure adequate drinking water, maintain instream flows and preserve agricultural uses. The city will seek to minimize or mitigate the environmental, agricultural and economic impacts to other jurisdictions in its acquisition of additional municipal water supply to further the goals of maintaining instream flows and preventing the permanent removal of land from agricultural production elsewhere in the state.

3.26 Drinking Water

The city and county will continually seek to improve the quality of drinking water and work with other water and land use interests as needed to assure the integrity and quality of its drinking water supplies. The city and county will employ a system-wide approach to protect drinking

water quality from sources waters to the water treatment plant and throughout the water distribution system.

3.27 Minimum Flow Program

The city will pursue expansion of the existing in-stream flow program consistent with applicable law and manage stream flows to protect riparian and aquatic ecosystems within the Boulder Creek watershed.

3.28 Surface and Ground Water

Surface and groundwater resources will be managed to prevent their degradation and to protect and enhance aquatic, wetland and riparian ecosystems. Land use and development planning and public land management practices will consider the interdependency of surface and groundwater and potential impacts to these resources from pollutant sources, changes in hydrology and dewatering activities.

(Note: Additional policies and regulatory standards will be analyzed to strengthen this language about groundwater to identify risks and potential impacts.)^{xv}

3.29 Wastewater

The city will pursue sustainable wastewater treatment processes to achieve water quality improvements with greater energy efficiency and minimal chemical use. Pollution prevention and proactive maintenance strategies will be incorporated in wastewater collection system management. The county will discourage the installation of private on-site wastewater systems where municipal collection systems are available or where a potential pollution or health hazard would be created.

3.30 Protection of Air Quality

Air quality is a critical health, economic and aesthetic concern. The city and county will seek to reduce stationary and mobile source emissions of pollutants. Special emphasis will be placed on local and regional efforts to reduce pollutants, which cause adverse health effects and impair visibility.

(Note: Suggest adding language in “Built Environment” chapter about the important role of street trees and vegetative plantings in mitigating air quality and reducing exposure to pollutants at the street level.)^{xvi}

Potential New Policy: Natural Environment Investments for Resilience

The city and county recognize natural environment investments contribute toward resilience by reducing risk and promoting stability. Additionally, urban forestry, tree planting, natural hazard mitigation, improvement of air quality, added recreational activities and storm water mitigation activities have co-benefits.^{xvii}

(Note: Policy directions about coordinated approach, vulnerable populations and resident involvement are suggested in HR&A Report and will need further review over coming weeks.)

ENDNOTES

ⁱ The changes to this chapter reflect work since the 2010 Plan including:

- The city currently is working on updates to its Integrated Pest Management policy, an Urban Forest Strategic Plan, the Resilience Strategy, and draft Climate Commitment.

-
- The city adopted the Bee Safe Resolution (2015) banning the use of neonicotinoids on city property and a Bear Protection Ordinance to secure waste from bears (2014). The county adopted a resolution to reduce and eliminate pesticide use to protect both people and pollinators (2015).
 - Boulder County adopted the Environmental Resources Element of the Boulder County Comprehensive Plan (2015) and is currently working on policy related to Genetically Modified Organisms in the county.
 - The city will be developing an Open Space Master Plan (2017).
 - Boulder County is analyzing on how to address local oil and gas regulations, and looking at potential policy updates to better align the Fourmile Canyon Creek Watershed Master Plan (2015), Boulder Creek Watershed Master Plan (Urban Drainage and Flood Control District, 2015), and Consortium of Cities Water Stewardship Task Force Final Report (2013).
 - HR&A's Recommendations for Resilience Integration (2016)

ⁱⁱ OSBT in particular asked for clarification about how this section of policies apply – to the urban vs. wildlands area, and to OSMP lands vs. more generally. This added language aims at providing that clarification. Additionally, the board asked that the section be edited to sound a bit less human-centric.

ⁱⁱⁱ North Trail Study process clarification and better integration with Boulder County Comprehensive Plan.

^{iv} Clarification of how city and county are programmatically operating – learning from best practices about an ecosystems management approach. OSBT also suggested some language for this policy, reflected here.

^v From city's Climate Commitment document.

^{vi} OSBT asked for clarification of this policy regarding “nuisance species”. This language is consistent with the Urban Wildlife Management plan which has not been updated recently, so it may need some minor adjustments over coming months to clarify.

^{vii} City is in process of developing an Urban Canopy Master Plan.

^{viii} Stronger language suggested by Planning Board (including applying for private lands, which the city cannot regulate according to state law). Also consistent with city programs.

^{ix} Change reflects decades of learning and best practices to integrate Integrated Pest Management into an ecological approach to land management.

^x City and county are exploring soil carbon sequestration. Also requested by public.

^{xi} Attempting to clarify that intent of the policy is to balance relevant community values with the use of mineral deposit.

^{xii} Recommended after 2013 flood experience. OSBT suggested to add “before”... and during development.

^{xiii} This is an existing policy that hasn't been changed. It has generally not been applied to open space lands – its intent more focused around lands with development potential.

^{xiv} Clarification suggested by OSBT.

^{xv} Planning Board suggested such language.

^{xvi} OSBT suggested some language about mitigating against pollutants at street level with plantings, etc.

^{xvii} From HR&A Resilience Report.

3. Natural Environmentⁱ

*Proposed new section title: **Environmentally Sustainable Community.***

Note: This may be combined with other policies around energy and climate in addition to agriculture and food policies relating to land and environment. Also please note that a further round of editing will occur to improve organization, reduce verbosity and redundancies, and renumber policies as necessary.

The natural environment that characterizes the Boulder Valley is a critical asset that must be preserved and protected. Within the Boulder Valley's complex ecological system, there are inextricable links among the natural environment, plants and animals, the built environment, the economy and community livability. These natural and human systems are connected to the region and world, and changes to the ecosystems within the Boulder Valley can have a profound effect on their viability.

Over many decades, the city and county have actively protected and managed open space around the urban area, and city and county open space plans and policies apply to those public lands acquired and managed as natural areas or used for other purposes, such as agriculture.ⁱⁱ

The climate of the Boulder Valley has warmed and dried over the past three decades, and the potential for further changes and intensified weather events because of climate change heighten the need for the city and county to proactively strengthen intervention and investment in natural resources (e.g. urban forestry, wetland and groundwater protection, and natural hazard mitigation) to reduce risk and protect resources. The more the community can assess risks of changes due to climate change and be prepared to preserve and protect environmental resources, the better prepared the community can be for mitigating the causes and impacts of those changes to the natural environment.

~~The natural environment that characterizes the Boulder Valley is a critical asset that must be preserved and protected. It is the framework within which growth and development take place. The city and county recognize that the Boulder Valley is a complex ecological system and that there are inextricable links among our natural environment, the economy, the built environment and community livability. The Boulder Valley is an open system in that our natural and human systems are connected to the region as well as to the entire world. The city and county acknowledge that regional and global changes can have a profound effect on the local environment and that the local economy and built environment can have adverse impacts on natural systems beyond the Boulder Valley.~~

Boulder has been at the forefront of environmental protection and preservation for many years. The ~~predominant~~^{vast} amount of natural land protected by the city and county contributes to the high quality of life for residents and critical habitat for native plants and animals. The community's historic and on-going emphasis on clean air and water has resulted in significant progress toward a sustainable, resilient and healthy urban environment.

The city places strong emphasis on being a leader and role model to other communities for its exemplary environmental protection practices and accomplishments. The city will continue to ~~develop and~~ implement state-of-the-art environmental policies both community wide and within the city government organization to further ~~its~~ environmental sustainability goals.

The policies in this section support the following city and county goals related to the conservation and preservation of land, water, air resources and pollution prevention and resilience:

- Native Ecosystems and Biodiversity ~~and Native Ecosystems~~
- Urban Environmental Quality
- Geologic Resources and Natural Hazards
- Water and Air Quality

3.01 Incorporating Ecological Systems into Planning

The city and county will approach planning and policy decisions in the Boulder Valley through an ecosystem framework in which natural regions like airsheds and watersheds are considered and incorporated into planning.

3.02 Adaptive Management Approach

The city will employ an adaptive management approach to resource protection and enhancement. An adaptive management approach involves ongoing monitoring of resource conditions, assessment of the effectiveness of management actions, revision of management actions based on new information from research, and learning from experience what works and what does not.

Native Ecosystems and Biodiversity ~~and Native Ecosystems~~

3.03 Natural Ecosystems

The city and county will protect and restore significant native ecosystems on public and private lands through land use planning, development review, conservation easements, acquisition and public land management practices. The protection and enhancement of biological diversity ~~and~~ habitat for state and federal endangered and threatened species ~~and state, as well as county-critical wildlife habitats/migration corridors, environmental conservation areas, high biodiversity areas, rare plant areas, and significant natural communities~~ and local species of concern will be emphasized.ⁱⁱⁱ Degraded habitat may be restored and selected extirpated species may be reintroduced as a means of enhancing native flora and fauna in the Boulder Valley.

3.04 Ecosystem Connections and Buffers

The city and county recognize the importance of preserving large areas of unfragmented habitat in supporting the biodiversity of its natural lands and viable habitat for native species. The city and county will work together to preserve, enhance, restore and maintain undeveloped lands identified as critical and having significant ecological value for providing ecosystem connections and buffers to support movement of native organisms between ~~for joining significant~~ ecosystems.

(Note: Suggest adding new policy language to “Built Environment chapter” to address conservation and design of open space connections and buffers in urban areas, recognizing that urban lands can also be important for supporting biodiversity and maintaining wildlife habitat.)

3.05 Maintain and Restore Natural Disturbance and Ecological Processes

Recognizing that ecological processes, such as wildfire and flooding, are integral to the productivity and health of natural ecosystems, the city and county will work to ensure that, when appropriate precautions have been taken for human safety and welfare, ecological processes will be maintained or mimicked in the management of natural lands.

3.06 Wetland and Riparian Protection

Natural and human-made wetlands and riparian areas are valuable for their ecological and, where appropriate, recreational functions, including their ability to enhance water and air quality and reduce the impacts of flooding. Wetlands and riparian areas also function as important wildlife habitat, especially for rare, threatened and endangered plants, fish and wildlife. The city and county will continue to develop programs to protect and enhance wetlands and riparian areas in the Boulder Valley. The city will strive for no net loss of wetlands and riparian areas by discouraging their destruction or requiring the creation and restoration of wetland and riparian areas in the rare cases when development is permitted and the filling of wetlands or destruction of riparian areas cannot be avoided.

3.07 Invasive Species Management

The city and county will promote efforts, both public and private, to prevent the introduction or growth culture of invasive and non-native plant and animal species and seek to prevent control their spread. High priority will be given to managing invasive species that have, or potentially could have, a substantial impact on city and county resources. Management of both non-native and non-local native species will be based on weighing impacts vs. benefits that includes documented threats to species of concern specific to each site, acknowledging that some non-native species may have become naturalized. Management decisions should also take into account changing species composition due to climate change and other human impacts, as well as the role in the ecosystem provided by each organism based on the best available science.^{iv}

3.08 Public Access to Public Lands

Certain city and county-owned or managed lands provide a means for educating users on the importance of the natural environment. Public lands may include areas for recreation, preservation of agricultural use, unique natural features, and wildlife and plant habitat. Public access to natural lands will be provided for, except where closure is necessary to protect areas from unacceptable degradation or impacts to agriculture, habitat or wildlife, for public safety, or limits on access necessary to preserve the quality of the visitor experience.

New Policy: Climate Change Preparation and Adaptation

The city and county are both working on climate mitigation and recognize that adaptation plans will be necessary as well. To prepare open space lands and natural areas for climate change, the city and county will consider allowing or facilitating ecosystems’ transition to new states in some sites (e.g., newly adapting plants and wildlife) and increasing the stability and resiliency of the

natural environment elsewhere. Biological indicators can help to identify high risk species for monitoring and/or relocations and may conduct restoration projects using arid-adapted ecotypes or species. Open space master plans guide other topics related to climate change, such as visitor experiences to open space.^v

Urban Environmental Quality

3.09 Management of Wildlife-Human Conflicts

The city recognizes the intrinsic value of wildlife in both the urban and rural setting. The city will promote wildlife and land use management practices to minimize conflicts with residents and urban land uses while identifying, preserving and restoring appropriate habitat for wildlife species in the urban area. When a wildlife species is determined to be a nuisance or a public health hazard, a full range of alternative wildlife and land use management techniques will be considered by the city and county in order to mitigate the problem in a manner that is humane, effective, economical and ecologically responsible.^{vi}

3.10 Urban Environmental Quality

To the extent possible, the city and county will seek to protect the environmental quality of areas under significant human influence such as agricultural and urban lands and will balance human needs and public safety with environmental protection. The city will develop community-wide programs and standards for new development and redevelopment so that negative environmental impacts will be mitigated and overall environmental quality of the urban environment will not worsen and may improve.

3.11 Urban Forests

The city will support, promote and, in some cases, regulate the protection of healthy existing trees and the long-term health and vitality of the urban forest in the planning and design of public improvements and private development. Urban canopy plays an important role in ameliorating the role of climate change; therefore, the city will guide short- and long-term urban forest management.^{vii} that encourages overall species diversity and, native and low water demand tree species where appropriate.

3.12 Water Conservation

The city and county will promote the conservation of water resources through water quality protection, public education, monitoring and policies that promote appropriate water usage. The city will endeavor to minimize water waste and reduce water use during peak demand periods. New development and redevelopment designed to conserve water will be encouraged.

3.13 Integrated Pest Management

The city and county will ~~discourage~~ encourage efforts to reduce the use of pesticides and synthetic, inorganic fertilizers.^{viii} In its own practices, the city and county will carefully consider when pest management actions are necessary and focus on creating healthy and thriving ecosystems to lower pest pressure by natural processes. When pest management is necessary, the city commits to the use of ecologically-based integrated pest management principles, which emphasizes the selection of the most environmentally sound approach to pest management and the overall goal of reducing or eliminating the dependence on chemical pest-control strategies. When public or environmental health risks are identified, the city will balance the impacts and risks to the residents and the environment when choosing management~~control~~ measures.^{ix}

New Policy: Soil Carbon Sequestration

The city recognizes that soil sequestration has a range of potential benefits, including water retention, soil health and stabilization. The city and county will consider soil sequestration strategies, including land management practices that may be used to sequester carbon out of the atmosphere, and explore opportunities to incentivize carbon sequestration.^x

(Note: This policy will continue to be refined.)

Geologic Resources and Natural Hazards

3.14 Unique Geological Features

Due to its location at the interface of the Great Plains and the Rocky Mountains, the Boulder Valley has a number of significant or unique geological and paleontological features. The city and county will attempt to protect these features from alteration or destruction through a variety of means, such as public acquisition, public land management, land use planning and regulation, and density transfer within a particular site.

3.15 Mineral Deposits

Deposits of sand, gravel, coal and similar finite resource areas will be delineated and managed according to state and federal laws. ~~Mineral deposits and other non renewable resources will be used with the greatest practical efficiency and the least possible disturbance to existing natural and cultural resources.~~ The use of mineral deposits and other non-renewable resources will be evaluated considering the need for these resources and other community values and priorities such as natural and cultural resource protection, community and environmental health and carbon emission reduction. The city and county will work together to acquire mineral rights as appropriate.^{xi}

3.16 Hazardous Areas

Hazardous areas that present danger to life and property from flood, forest fire, steep slopes, erosion, unstable soil, subsidence or similar geological development constraints will be delineated, and development in such areas will be carefully controlled or prohibited.

3.17 Hillside Protection

Hillside and ridge-line development will be carried out in a manner that, to the extent possible, avoids both negative environmental consequences to the immediate and surrounding area and the degradation of views and vistas from and of public areas. Due to the risk of earth movement and/or mud slides under adverse weather conditions, special attention needs to be paid to soil types and underlying geological strata before and during planning, design and construction of any development on or at the base of hillsides.^{xii}

3.18 Wildfire Protection and Management

The city and county will require on-site and off-site measures to guard against the danger of fire in developments adjacent to natural lands and consistent with forest and grassland ecosystem management principles and practices. Recognizing that fire is a widely accepted means of managing ecosystems, the city and county will integrate ecosystem management principles with wildfire hazard mitigation planning and urban design.

3.19 Preservation of Floodplains

Undeveloped floodplains will be preserved or restored where possible through public land acquisition of high hazard properties, private land dedication and multiple program coordination. Comprehensive planning and management of floodplain lands will promote the preservation of natural and beneficial functions of floodplains whenever possible.

3.20 Flood Management [xiii](#)

The city and county will protect the public and property from the impacts of flooding in a timely and cost-effective manner while balancing community interests with public safety needs. The city and county will manage the potential for floods by implementing the following guiding principles: a) Preserve floodplains; b) Be prepared for floods; c) Help people protect themselves from flood hazards; d) Prevent unwise uses and adverse impacts in the floodplain; and e) Seek to accommodate floods, not control them. The city seeks to manage flood recovery by protecting critical facilities in the 500-year floodplain and implementing multi-hazard mitigation and flood response and recovery plans.

3.21 Non-Structural Approach

The city and county will seek to preserve the natural and beneficial functions of floodplains by emphasizing and balancing the use of non-structural measures with structural mitigation. Where drainageway improvements are proposed, a non-structural approach should be applied wherever possible to preserve the natural values of local waterways while balancing private property interests and associated cost to the city.

3.22 Protection of High Hazard Areas

The city will prevent redevelopment of significantly flood-damaged properties in high hazard areas. The city will prepare a plan for property acquisition and other forms of mitigation for flood-damaged and undeveloped land in high-hazard flood areas. Undeveloped high hazard flood areas will be retained in their natural state whenever possible. In urban areas, compatible uses of riparian corridors, such as natural ecosystems, wildlife habitat and wetlands will be encouraged wherever appropriate. Trails or other open recreational facilities may be feasible in certain areas. [xiv](#)

3.23 Larger Flooding Events

The city recognizes that floods larger than the 100-year event will occur resulting in greater risks and flood damage that will affect even improvements constructed with standard flood protection measures. The city will seek to better understand the impact of larger flood events and consider necessary floodplain management strategies, including the protection of critical facilities.

Water and Air Quality

3.24 Protection of Water Quality

Water quality is a critical health, economic and aesthetic concern. The city and county will protect, maintain and improve water quality within the Boulder Creek watershed as a necessary component of existing ecosystems and as a critical resource for the human community. The city and county will seek to reduce point and nonpoint sources of pollutants, protect and restore natural water system, and conserve water resources. Special emphasis will be placed on regional efforts, such as watershed planning, and priority will be placed on pollution prevention over treatment.

3.25 Water Resource Planning and Acquisition

Water resource planning efforts will be regional in nature and incorporate the goals of water quality protection, ~~and as well as~~ surface and ground water conservation. The city will continue to obtain additional municipal water supplies to ensure adequate drinking water, maintain instream flows and preserve agricultural uses. The city will seek to minimize or mitigate the environmental, agricultural and economic impacts to other jurisdictions in its acquisition of additional municipal water supply to further the goals of maintaining instream flows and preventing the permanent removal of land from agricultural production elsewhere in the state.

3.26 Drinking Water

The city and county will continually seek to improve the quality of drinking water and work with other water and land use interests as needed to assure the integrity and quality of its drinking water supplies. The city and county will employ a system-wide approach to protect drinking water quality from sources waters to the water treatment plant and throughout the water distribution system.

3.27 Minimum Flow Program

The city will pursue expansion of the existing in-stream flow program consistent with applicable law and manage stream flows to protect riparian and aquatic ecosystems within the Boulder Creek watershed.

3.28 Surface and Ground Water

Surface and groundwater resources will be managed to prevent their degradation and to protect and enhance aquatic, wetland and riparian ecosystems. Land use and development planning and public land management practices will consider the interdependency of surface and groundwater and potential impacts to these resources from pollutant sources, changes in hydrology, and dewatering activities.

(Note: Additional policies and regulatory standards will be analyzed to strengthen this language about groundwater to -identify risks and potential impacts.)^{xv}

3.29 Wastewater

The city will pursue sustainable wastewater treatment processes to achieve water quality improvements with greater energy efficiency and minimal chemical use. Pollution prevention and proactive maintenance strategies will be incorporated in wastewater collection system management. The county will discourage the installation of private on-site wastewater systems where municipal collection systems are available or where a potential pollution or health hazard would be created.

3.30 Protection of Air Quality

Air quality is a critical health, economic and aesthetic concern. The city and county will seek to reduce stationary and mobile source emissions of pollutants. Special emphasis will be placed on local and regional efforts to reduce pollutants, which cause adverse health effects and impair visibility.

(Note: Suggest adding language in “Built Environment” chapter about the important role of street trees and vegetative plantings in mitigating air quality and reducing exposure to pollutants at the street level.)^{xvi}

Potential New Policy: Natural Environment Investments for Resilience

The city and county recognize natural environment investments contribute toward resilience by reducing risk and promoting stability. Additionally, urban forestry, tree planting, natural hazard mitigation, improvement of air quality, added recreational activities and storm water mitigation activities have co-benefits.^{xvii}

(Note: Policy directions about coordinated approach, vulnerable populations and resident involvement are suggested in HR&A Report and will need further review over coming weeks.)

ENDNOTES

ⁱ The changes to this chapter reflect work since the 2010 Plan including:

- The city currently is working on updates to its Integrated Pest Management policy, an Urban Forest Strategic Plan, the Resilience Strategy, and draft Climate Commitment.
- The city adopted the Bee Safe Resolution (2015) banning the use of neonicotinoids on city property and a Bear Protection Ordinance to secure waste from bears (2014). The county adopted a resolution to reduce and eliminate pesticide use to protect both people and pollinators (2015).
- Boulder County adopted the Environmental Resources Element of the Boulder County Comprehensive Plan (2015) and is currently working on policy related to Genetically Modified Organisms in the county.
- The city will be developing an Open Space Master Plan (2017).
- Boulder County is analyzing on how to address local oil and gas regulations, and looking at potential policy updates to better align the Fourmile Canyon Creek Watershed Master Plan (2015), Boulder Creek Watershed Master Plan (Urban Drainage and Flood Control District, 2015), and Consortium of Cities Water Stewardship Task Force Final Report (2013).
- HR&A's Recommendations for Resilience Integration (2016)

ⁱⁱ OSBT in particular asked for clarification about how this section of policies apply – to the urban vs. wildlands area, and to OSMP lands vs. more generally. This added language aims at providing that clarification. Additionally, the board asked that the section be edited to sound a bit less human-centric.

ⁱⁱⁱ North Trail Study process clarification and better integration with Boulder County Comprehensive Plan.

^{iv} Clarification of how city and county are programmatically operating – learning from best practices about an ecosystems management approach. OSBT also suggested some language for this policy, reflected here.

^v From city's Climate Commitment document.

^{vi} OSBT asked for clarification of this policy regarding “nuisance species”. This language is consistent with the Urban Wildlife Management plan which has not been updated recently, so it may need some minor adjustments over coming months to clarify.

^{vii} City is in process of developing an Urban Canopy Master Plan.

^{viii} Stronger language suggested by Planning Board (including applying for private lands, which the city cannot regulate according to state law). Also consistent with city programs.

^{ix} Change reflects decades of learning and best practices to integrate Integrated Pest Management into an ecological approach to land management.

^x City and county are exploring soil carbon sequestration. Also requested by public.

^{xi} Attempting to clarify that intent of the policy is to balance relevant community values with the use of mineral deposit.

^{xii} Recommended after 2013 flood experience. OSBT suggested to add “before”... and during development.

^{xiii} This is an existing policy that hasn't been changed. It has generally not been applied to open space lands – its intent more focused around lands with development potential.

^{xiv} Clarification suggested by OSBT.

^{xv} Planning Board suggested such language.

^{xvi} OSBT suggested some language about mitigating against pollutants at street level with plantings, etc.

^{xvii} [From HR&A Resilience Report.](#)

DRAFT

4. Energy and Climateⁱ

*Proposed new section title: **Environmentally Sustainable Community***

Note: This may be combined with other policies around natural environment and agriculture and local food. Also please note that a further round of editing will occur to improve organization, reduce verbosity and redundancies, and renumber policies as necessary.

Boulder’s efforts to promote energy efficiency and renewable energy are essential to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and helping to reduce the severity of future climate change. Promoting transportation options and a compact city form also contribute to climate action. The objective is to help address energy and climate goals and integrate them with other planning activities, such as decisions regarding development patterns, infrastructure, transportation, economic development, building and site design and natural resources. The city and county will continue to prioritize emission reductions programs that address climate action, create local economic opportunities, enhance community well-being and resilience and inspire other communities.

Changes in the dynamics of energy markets as well as the threat of climate change may profoundly affect our community both economically and physically. A number of factors are increasing uncertainty about future energy issues, but rapidly evolving technology and the economic benefits of energy efficiency and renewable energy are providing Boulder and Boulder County with new opportunities to take charge of our energy future and make greater use of local and regional energy resources. Changes and solutions related to energy and climate are occurring at a rapid rate and therefore necessitate an agile, predictive and responsive approach. Recognizing the need for a comprehensive strategy, Boulder’s Climate Commitment focuses on the areas of energy, resources, and ecosystems. Energy use (in buildings, mobility, and clean energy sources, and energy resilience) is the primary near-term focus due to the critical importance of reducing fossil fuel use. Simultaneously, the city and county continue to explore ways to use natural resources more wisely and reduce waste, and to understand how ecosystem management can help sustain our community and play a key role in climate stability. This chapter addresses:

- Climate Action and Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Energy Conservation and Renewable Energy
- Energy-Efficient Land Use and Building Design
- Waste Minimization, Recycling, and Sustainable Purchasing

Climate Action and Greenhouse Gas Emissions

4.01 Climate Action: Reduce Emissions

The city and county will continue to take action to mitigate climate change, addressing its root cause of fossil-fuel related emissions. Both bodies will identify and implement innovative as well as cost-effective actions to dramatically reduce the community’s contribution to total global greenhouse gas emissions and power a vibrant future. The city’s goal is to reduce its energy-related emissions 80 percent or more below 2005 levels by 2050, and the Climate Commitment Strategy identifies interim goals before 2050.ⁱⁱ

4.02 Climate Adaptation Planning

In addition to climate mitigation planning addressed in the policy above, the city and county will cooperatively develop and implement a climate change adaptation plan to identify current vulnerabilities and determine strategies to protect the community against the potential negative impacts associated with climate change. These challenges include droughts, flash flooding, communicable diseases, heat waves, fire mitigation and fire protection and increased road maintenance, among others. The city and county seek to improve the community's ability to effectively and quickly respond to and recover from adversity and disruptions.

Energy Conservation and Renewable Energy

4.03 Energy Conservation and Renewable Energy

Boulder's transition to clean energy through innovative strategies, products, and services aims to dramatically reduce greenhouse gas emissions, enhance community resilience, enhance local environmental health and diversity, promote creative solutions, and support a vital and equitable economy. The city and county will plan for and implement innovative programs and opportunities for individuals, businesses and organizations to reduce energy consumption. The city will support private decisions to use renewable energy and preserve options for developing renewable energy in the future.

The city and county will set goals to ensure that the community has access to reliable, competitively-priced and increasingly clean energy.ⁱⁱⁱ

New Policy: Local Energy Generation Opportunities

The city and county support innovative programs and opportunities for individuals, businesses and organizations to develop and share local energy generation and will consider the local and regional impacts of distributed energy development^{iv}. The city will support private decisions to use renewable energy, develop local renewable energy resources and preserve options for developing renewable energy in the future. The city will review and consider revisions to regulations to support on-site energy generation, including solar and wind.^v

New Policy: Clean Mobility

The city recognizes accelerated retirement of fossil-fuel based transportation is a critical element of the city's emissions reduction strategy. To achieve this, the city supports efforts in three broad areas: reducing vehicle miles traveled, replacing fossil fuel-based transportation and continuing to plan a built environment that reduces the need for people to drive. The city supports innovations in these areas of transportation and clean mobility.^{vi}

New Policy: Energy System Resilience

The city recognizes that energy resilience is necessary for properly functioning emergency infrastructure and overall community resilience. The city supports a communitywide network that can deliver basic services in case of a grid disruption through strategies such as modernizing, on-site generation, storage technologies and reduced demand.^{vii}

Energy-Efficient Land Use and Building Design

4.04 Energy-Efficient Land Use

The city and county will encourage energy conservation through land use policies and regulations governing placement and orientation of land uses to minimize energy use, including co-location of mixed use developments that are surrounded by open space.^{viii}

4.05 Energy-Efficient Building Design

The city and county will pursue efforts to improve the energy and resource efficiency of new and existing buildings. The city and county will consider the energy consumption associated with the building process (i.e., from the raw materials through construction),^{ix} improve regulations ensuring energy and resource efficiency in new construction, remodels and renovation projects, and will establish energy efficiency requirements for existing buildings. Energy conservation programs will be sensitive to the unique situations that involve historic preservation and low-income homeowners and renters and will ensure that programs assisting these groups are continued.

Waste Minimization, Recycling, and Sustainable Purchasing

4.06 Building Construction Waste Minimization

To minimize construction waste, the city and county will strongly encourage renovation of existing buildings over demolition. The city and county will support policies and programs that promote the reuse of materials salvaged after deconstruction as a resource.^x

4.07 Waste Minimization and Recycling^{xi}

The city and county will pursue and support programs and activities that reduce the amount of waste that must be landfilled and pursue Zero Waste as a long term goal. Neither entity is responsible for waste hauling; they rely on a strong network of nonprofit, for-profit, governmental and community partnerships to invest resources toward zero waste systems. Policies, programs and regulations will emphasize waste prevention, reuse, composting, recycling and the use of materials with recycled content. The city and county will pursue the goal of 85% waste diversion in residential single-family, residential multi-family and commercial uses by 2025.

4.08 Environmental Purchasing Policy

The city will maintain a robust Environmental Purchasing Policy for the city organization that promotes the purchase of recycled and compostable products and encourages consideration of materials, length of use, re-use and disposal options, as well as cost when procuring materials and products.

Relevant Links:

- CAP and Community Guide
- Waste Reduction MP
- Built Environment Policies – energy efficient land use
- Economy: sustainable business practices

ENDNOTES

ⁱ Slightly reorganize the chapter to reflect Boulder’s Climate Commitment (draft Oct. 2015), and reflect ongoing work being done related to Boulder’s Energy Future, building codes, and Zero Waste Strategic Plan (2015). Boulder County suggests additional alignment with several plans and policies including:

- Zero Waste Action Plan (2010),
- Environmental Sustainability Plan (2012),
- Solid Waste Element of the Comprehensive Plan (is in the process of being updated in 2016)

The following plans may also be relevant in a resilience section:

- OEM’s All-Hazards Recovery Plan (2013),
- Boulder Recovery Plan Support Annex A – Damage Assessment (2013),
- OEM’s Emergency Operations Plan (2014),
- Disaster Debris Management Plan (2016)

ⁱⁱ This policy has been modified to reflect Climate Commitment goals.

ⁱⁱⁱ Planning Board expressed support for innovative solutions such as solar gardens, etc. This policy more generally reflects that intent.

^{iv} This is new language suggested based on the city’s Climate Commitment. Planning Board also suggested language about sharing infrastructure and resources. It is framed as a city policy that would need to be verified with county.

^v New language is suggested based on Planning Board feedback.

^{vi} This policy is consistent with the TMP and Climate Commitment and reflects Planning Board input. It is framed as a city-only policy.

^{vii} This policy is an emerging area being addressed as part of energy future and currently framed as city-only.

^{viii} Modified language generally suggested by Planning Board to clarify intent behind “clustering” of development (which is a term typically used in rural areas).

^{ix} New language suggested based on Planning Board feedback.

^x New language suggested based on Planning Board feedback.

^{xi} Consistent with Zero Waste Strategic Plan.

4. Energy and Climateⁱ

Proposed new section title: Environmentally Sustainable Community

Note: This may be combined with other policies around natural environment and agriculture and local food. Also please note that a further round of editing will occur to improve organization, reduce verbosity and redundancies, and renumber policies as necessary.

Boulder’s efforts to promote energy efficiency and renewable energy are essential to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and helping to reduce the severity of future climate change. ~~as are our efforts to promote alternative~~ Promoting transportation options and a compact city form ~~also contribute to climate action~~. The objective is to help address energy and climate goals and integrate them with other planning activities, such as decisions regarding development patterns, infrastructure, transportation, economic development, building and site design, and natural resources. The city and county will continue to prioritize emission reductions programs that address climate action, create local economic opportunities, enhance community well-being and resilience and inspire other communities.

Changes in the dynamics of energy markets as well as the threat of climate change may profoundly affect our community both economically and physically. A number of factors are increasing uncertainty about future energy issues, but rapidly evolving technology and the economic benefits of energy efficiency and renewable energy are providing Boulder and Boulder County with new opportunities to take charge of our energy future and make greater use of local and regional energy resources. Changes and solutions related to energy and climate are occurring at a rapid rate and therefore necessitate an agile, predictive and responsive approach. Recognizing the need for a comprehensive strategy, Boulder’s Climate Commitment focuses on the areas of energy, resources, and ecosystems. Energy use (in buildings, mobility, and clean energy sources, and energy resilience) is the primary near-term focus due to the critical importance of reducing fossil fuel use. Simultaneously, the city and county continue to explore ways to use natural resources more wisely and reduce waste, and to understand how ecosystem management can help sustain our community and play a key role in climate stability. This chapter addresses:

~~The policies in this section support the city and county’s goals of meeting energy needs, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and adapting to climate changes:~~

- Climate Action and Greenhouse Gases Emissions
- Energy Conservation and Renewable Energy
- Energy-Efficient Land Use and Building Design
- Waste Minimization, and Recycling, and Sustainable Purchasing
- ~~Sustainable Purchasing~~

Climate Action and Greenhouse Gas Emissions

4.01 Greenhouse Gas Climate Action: Reduce Emissions

The city and county will continue to take action to mitigate climate change, addressing its root cause of fossil-fuel related emissions. The city and county Both bodies will identify and implement

innovative as well as cost-effective actions to dramatically reduce the community's contribution to total global greenhouse gas emissions, and power a vibrant future. The city's goal is to reduce its energy-related emissions 80 percent or more below 2005 levels by 2050, and the Climate Commitment Strategy identifies interim goals before 2050.ⁱⁱ

4.02 ~~New Policy:~~ Climate Adaptation Planning

In addition to climate mitigation planning addressed in the policy above, ~~t~~The city and county will cooperatively develop and implement a climate change adaptation plan to identify current vulnerabilities and determine strategies to protect the community against the potential negative impacts associated with climate change. These challenges include droughts, flash flooding, communicable diseases, heat waves, fire mitigation and fire protection and increased road maintenance, among others. The city and county seek to improve the community's ability to effectively and quickly respond to and recover from adversity and disruptions.

Energy Conservation and Renewable Energy

4.03 Energy Conservation and Renewable Energy

Boulder's transition to clean energy through innovative strategies, products, and services aims to dramatically reduce greenhouse gas emissions, enhance community resilience, enhance local environmental health and diversity, promote creative solutions, and support a vital and equitable economy. The city and county will plan for and implement innovative programs and opportunities for individuals, businesses and organizations to reduce energy consumption ~~and develop local energy generation.~~ The city will support private decisions to use renewable energy, ~~develop local renewable energy resources~~ and preserve options for developing renewable energy in the future. ~~The city will review and consider revisions to regulations to support on-site energy generation, including solar and wind.~~

The city and county ~~will pursue an energy path that not only dramatically reduces carbon emissions, but also promotes innovation, competition and economic vitality, and~~ will set goals to ensure that the community has access to reliable, ~~competitively-competitively~~ priced and increasingly clean energy.ⁱⁱⁱ

New Policy: Local Energy Generation Opportunities

The city and county support innovative programs and opportunities for individuals, businesses and organizations to develop and share local energy generation and will consider the local and regional impacts of distributed energy development^{iv}. The city will support private decisions to use renewable energy, develop local renewable energy resources and preserve options for developing renewable energy in the future. The city will review and consider revisions to regulations to support on-site energy generation, including solar and wind.^v

New Policy: Clean Mobility

The city recognizes accelerated retirement of fossil-fuel based transportation is a critical element of the city's emissions reduction strategy. To achieve this, the city supports efforts in three broad areas: reducing vehicle miles traveled, replacing fossil fuel-based transportation and continuing to plan a built environment that reduces the need for people to drive. The city supports innovations in these areas of transportation and clean mobility.^{vi}

New Policy: Energy System Resilience

The city recognizes that energy resilience is necessary for properly functioning emergency infrastructure and overall community resilience. The city supports a communitywide network that can deliver basic services in case of a grid disruption through strategies such as modernizing, on-site generation, storage technologies and reduced demand.^{vii}

Energy-Efficient Land Use and Building Design

4.04 Energy-Efficient Land Use

The city and county will encourage energy conservation through land use policies and regulations governing placement ~~and~~, orientation ~~and clustering of development~~ of land uses to minimize energy use, including co-location of mixed use developments that are surrounded by open space.^{viii}

4.05 Energy-Efficient Building Design

The city and county will pursue efforts to improve the energy and resource efficiency of new and existing buildings. The city and county will consider the energy consumption associated with the building process (i.e., from the raw materials through construction),^{ix} improve regulations ensuring energy and resource efficiency in new construction, remodels and renovation projects, and will establish energy efficiency requirements for existing buildings. Energy conservation programs will be sensitive to the unique situations that involve historic preservation and low-income homeowners and renters and will ensure that programs assisting these groups are continued.

Waste Minimization, ~~and~~ Recycling, and Sustainable Purchasing

4.06 ~~New Policy: Building~~ Construction Waste Minimization

To minimize construction waste, the city and county will strongly encourage renovation of existing buildings over demolition. ~~The city and county and will develop~~ will support policies and programs that promote the reuse of materials salvaged after deconstruction ~~as a resource~~.^x

4.07 Waste Minimization and Recycling^{xi}

The city and county will pursue and support programs and activities that reduce the amount of waste that must be landfilled and pursue Zero Waste as a long term goal. Neither entity is responsible for waste hauling; they rely on a strong network of nonprofit, for-profit, governmental and community partnerships to invest resources toward zero waste systems. Policies, programs and regulations will emphasize waste prevention, reuse, composting, recycling and the use of materials with recycled content. The city and county will pursue the goal of 85% waste diversion in residential single-family, residential multi-family and commercial uses by 2025.

Sustainable Purchasing

4.08 Environmental Purchasing Policy

The city will maintain a robust Environmental Purchasing Policy for the city organization that promotes the purchase of recycled and compostable products and encourages consideration of materials, length of use, re-use and disposal options, as well as cost when procuring materials and products.

Relevant Links:

- CAP and Community Guide
- Waste Reduction MP
- Built Environment Policies – energy efficient land use
- Economy: sustainable business practices

ENDNOTES

ⁱ Slightly reorganize the chapter to reflect Boulder’s Climate Commitment (draft Oct. 2015), and reflect ongoing work being done related to Boulder’s Energy Future, building codes, and Zero Waste Strategic Plan (2015). Boulder County suggests additional alignment with several plans and policies including:

- Zero Waste Action Plan (2010),
- Environmental Sustainability Plan (2012),
- Solid Waste Element of the Comprehensive Plan (is in the process of being updated in 2016)

The following plans may also be relevant in a resilience section:

- OEM’s All-Hazards Recovery Plan (2013),
- Boulder Recovery Plan Support Annex A – Damage Assessment (2013),
- OEM’s Emergency Operations Plan (2014),
- Disaster Debris Management Plan (2016)

ⁱⁱ This policy has been modified to reflect Climate Commitment goals.

ⁱⁱⁱ Planning Board expressed support for innovative solutions such as solar gardens, etc. This policy more generally reflects that intent.

^{iv} This is new language suggested based on the city’s Climate Commitment. Planning Board also suggested language about sharing infrastructure and resources. It is framed as a city policy that would need to be verified with county.

^v New language is suggested based on Planning Board feedback.

^{vi} This policy is consistent with the TMP and Climate Commitment and reflects Planning Board input. It is framed as a city-only policy.

^{vii} This policy is an emerging area being addressed as part of energy future and currently framed as city-only.

^{viii} Modified language generally suggested by Planning Board to clarify intent behind “clustering” of development (which is a term typically used in rural areas).

^{ix} New language suggested based on Planning Board feedback.

^x New language suggested based on Planning Board feedback.

^{xi} Consistent with Zero Waste Strategic Plan.

5. Economyⁱ

*Proposed new section title: **Economically Vital Community***

Please note that a further round of editing will occur to improve organization, reduce verbosity and redundancies, and renumber policies as necessary.

Boulder’s highly-educated workforce, quality of life, high concentration of companies in growing industries, and synergies with the University of Colorado and federally-funded research labs are the foundation of its economic vitality. The city fosters and retains high-caliber employees and talented entrepreneurs and has earned recognition as one of the nation’s best places for startups. Boulder has a diverse mix of small and mid-sized businesses as well as several large employers.

A balanced approach to a healthy economy maintains the outstanding quality of life enjoyed by existing residents and businesses while collaborating for economic vitality. Boulder recognizes that economic strength can bring many benefits to the community including greater tax revenues, local job opportunities, increased diversity, a variety of services and business types and physical improvements.

While the city is fortunate to enjoy economic success, it also faces challenges. Cyclical global and economic downturns affect the local economic climate, and the rising costs of commercial space and housing affects businesses and their ability to recruit and retain new employees. Additionally, redevelopment or growth may lead to displacement of existing businesses, increase demands for services and infrastructure, and strain regional transportation systems and local housing affordability.ⁱⁱ

Through its Resilience Strategy, the city is adopting strategies to foster preparedness for uncertainty and disruptions to economic prosperity. Boulder is also following a sustainable path to economic development through the implementation of an Economic Sustainability Strategy that focuses on business formation, retention and growth. The policies in this section support the following goals related to maintaining a sustainable and resilient economy:

- Strategic Redevelopment and Sustainable Employment
- Diverse Economic Base
- Quality of Life
- Sustainable and Resilient Business Practices
- Job Opportunities, Education and Trainingⁱⁱⁱ

Strategic Redevelopment and Sustainable Employment

Newly Separated Policy: Existing Businesses

The city will support the growth and success of existing businesses, including primary and secondary employers. The city recognizes the importance of community-serving local businesses and the importance of balancing their needs against redevelopment in certain areas with strategies that minimize their displacement.^{iv}

5.01 Revitalizing Commercial and Industrial Areas^v

The city supports place-based strategies that support redevelopment of commercial and industrial areas. Revitalization should reflect the unique characteristics and amenities in those areas and

nearby neighborhoods. Examples of commercial and industrial areas for revitalization identified in previous planning efforts are Diagonal Plaza and University Hill Commercial district, and the East Boulder Industrial area.

The city will use a variety of tools to create public/private partnerships that lead to successful redevelopment. These tools may include, but are not limited to, area planning with community input, infrastructure improvements, shared parking strategies, changes to zoning or development standards and incentives (e.g., financial, development potential, or urban renewal authority). As an integral part of redevelopment and area planning efforts, the city acknowledges that displacement and loss of service and affordable retail uses need to be considered as a potential tradeoff in the context of redevelopment and planning goals

5.02 Regional Job Center

The city supports strategies that further Boulder's continued role as a regional job center, consistent with sustainability goals and projected employment growth and will continue to address related impacts on housing affordability and transportation.^{vi}

Diverse Economic Base

5.03 Diverse Mix of Uses and Business Types^{vii}

The city and county will support a diversified employment base within the Boulder Valley, reflecting labor force capabilities and recognizing the community's strengths and quality of life. Therefore, the city will continue to identify and protect industrial, service and office uses and will evaluate areas with non-residential zoning to ensure the existing and future economic vitality of Boulder while responding to the needs of a rapidly changing more global economy.

5.04 Vital and Productive Retail Base

The city recognizes the importance of its retail base and will develop and implement a retail strategy that takes into account emerging trends such as shifting demographics and changing consumer behavior, addresses the market opportunities and shopping needs of the community, ensures an appropriate mix of retail, and identifies strategies to improve the retail base and the city's sales tax revenues, including maintaining affordable retail space.^{viii}

5.05 Support for Local Business and Business Retention^{ix}

Boulder's economic sustainability and resilience efforts recognize the importance of jobs already in the city; business retention and support for homegrown companies and existing jobs is a priority. The city and county recognize the significant contribution of existing businesses and will work to nurture and support them and maintain a positive climate to retain them.

5.06 Industry Clusters^x

The city will adopt an industry cluster approach to business development and consider special financial and technical assistance programs and other tools to retain, expand and attract businesses in those clusters. Cluster efforts focus on supporting multiple businesses in an industry. Boulder's key industry clusters include aerospace, bioscience, clean tech, data storage, digital media, natural and organic products, recreation, software, tourism and the creative sector. Boulder acknowledges that these clusters will evolve and change over time.

Quality of Life

5.07 Funding City Services and Urban Infrastructure^{xi}

The city will encourage a strong sustainable economy to generate revenues to fund quality city services and recognizes that urban infrastructure, facilities, services, and amenities are important to the quality of life of residents, employees and visitors to the community. A strong and complete transportation system and transportation demand management programs are essential to a thriving economy, as they can offer options for commuters, help attract and retain key businesses and employers and provide regional access to global markets. The city will continue to plan for and invest in urban amenities and infrastructure such as bike paths, parks, shared and managed parking, public spaces, quality gathering places, cultural destinations, and public art; as well as community services including but not limited to open space and mountain parks, high speed internet, fire-rescue, public safety, and senior services.

5.08 Role of Tourism in the Economy

Recognizing the importance of tourism to the Boulder economy, the city will continue to work with various partners including the Boulder Convention and Visitors Bureau to study the existing and future role of different types of tourism in the community, track the benefits and impact of tourism on the economy, and invest in ways to enhance the sector.^{xii}

5.09 Role of Arts, Cultural, Historic and Parks and Recreation Amenities

The city and county will support the resiliency, sustainability and innovation of arts, cultural, historic, parks and recreation amenities so they continue to **contribute to** the economic vitality of the community, provide unique offerings, foster meaningful connections to Boulder among its residents, workforce, and visitors; and offer additional benefit to the community. The city values the arts within the public realm and will work to enhance the capacity of arts and culture as an important contributor to economic vitality and quality of life.^{xiii} *(Note: Most of these topics are addressed in the Built Environment chapter, so this policy will likely need some refining.)*

5.10 Communications

The city will support and facilitate the development of technologically-advanced communications infrastructure and other improvements that will provide support to the community, help businesses thrive and grow, foster the growth of emerging telecommunications industries, and support emergency systems.

Sustainable and Resilient Business Practices

5.11 Sustainable Business Practices

The city supports sustainable and energy efficient business practices and will continue to establish and maintain programs to assist and encourage businesses and their employees to employ sustainable practices including reducing waste and greenhouse gas emissions, increasing energy process and building efficiency (in existing or renovated structures), reducing energy costs, conserving water, and reducing transportation impacts.^{xiv}

5.12 Home Occupations

The city will evaluate regulations for home based occupations to balance potential impacts to residential neighborhoods and reflect the goal of allowing more flexibility to have home based businesses, neighborhood services, and employment opportunities. The city supports the

entrepreneurial activity of residents who are in the very early stages of creating startup companies or providing neighborhood services. The city also supports efforts to reduce the number and length of trips through working from home. The city will revise its regulations to be responsive to new uses and types of businesses and neighborhood services that may be compatible with residential areas.

5.13 Responsive to Changes in the Marketplace

The city recognizes that development regulations and processes have an impact on the ability of business to respond to changes in the marketplace. The city will work with the local business community and the community at large to make sure the city's policies, regulations, and development review processes provide a level of flexibility to allow for creative solutions while meeting broader community goals. This could involve modifying regulations to make them more responsive to emerging technologies and evolving industry sectors and continually improving the application and permitting process.

New Policy: Economic Resilience^{xv}

The city will develop an economic resilience plan and work with the county and other partners to identify risks to future economic vitality and facilitate disaster preparedness, response and recovery for businesses.

Job Opportunities, Education and Training

5.14 Employment Opportunities

The city and county will encourage local employers to provide employment opportunities for all persons including the local unemployed and underemployed work force, and to implement equal opportunity and workplace diversity programs in cooperation with various agencies providing employment assistance programs.

5.15 Partnerships to Support Economic Vitality Goals

The efforts of the city and the private sector to enhance the economic prosperity of the community are directly and indirectly supported by many organizations and entities, including but are not limited to the University of Colorado, Downtown Boulder Inc., Boulder Chamber, Boulder Economic Council, Boulder Convention and Visitors Bureau, Boulder Innovation Center, Latino Chamber of Boulder County, Boulder Small Business Development Center, Boulder Valley School District, the Boulder Independent Business Association, CO-LABS and other diverse and emerging groups. Though each has an independent focus, their work contributes to the overall quality of life enjoyed within the community.^{xvi}

5.16 Support for the University of Colorado and Federal Labs

The city and county understand the important role that federally-funded labs and the University of Colorado play in our economy and will continue to work with our state and federal elected officials regarding their important economic contribution. The city will take an active role in efforts to preserve the state and federal funding for these entities to ensure they remain in Boulder and will pursue mutually beneficial partnerships. The city recognizes the importance of having strong institutions for higher education, continuing education and workforce training thriving in the community. Also, the seminal role of the University of Colorado, a world class research university, and the federal labs in business support, technology transfer and tech startups needs to be fully understood, evaluated and enhanced. The city will work with CU to further the

community’s goals for sustainable urban form as university owned land is developed or redeveloped.

5.17 Diverse Workforce, Education and Training^{xvii}

The city and county will encourage and support the Boulder Valley School District and post-secondary educational institutions to offer quality continuing education and vocational training. The city will work with employers, educators, and partners to support programs designed to help develop and attract workers in multiple fields with specialized skills and experience and support efforts to add focused workforce vocational training facilities, including but not limited to those that provide training for “green” jobs.

Moved from Policy 5.03 above: Addressing Disproportionate Impacts

The city recognizes that the rising costs of commercial space and housing can disproportionately affect lower-income and minority residents and small businesses and non-profits and will develop strategies to maintain a range of options to support a diverse workforce and employment base.^{xviii}

Related Topics:

- See the Built Environment Section for policies related to infill/redevelopment priorities, enhancing activity centers, mixed-use development, and historic preservation.
- See Community Well-Being Section for policies on community infrastructure, the ability of people to meet their basic needs, and arts and culture.
- See Transportation Section for policies on improving and creating a more resilient transportation system and increasing transportation options with local partners for commuters through regional transit alternatives other than single-occupant vehicles.
- See Energy and Climate Action for policies on support for sustainable practices and buildings.
- See Local Food and Agriculture for policies on access to markets for food and agricultural products.
- See Housing for the policy regarding supporting economic resilience through planning for residential displacement.

ENDNOTES

ⁱ Overall, changes to this chapter reflect work since the 2010 plan including:

- Economic Sustainability Strategy (ESS) (2013)
- Community Cultural Plan (CCP) (2015)
- HR&A’s Recommendations for Resilience Integration (2016)
- In addition, the city will be developing a citywide retail strategy, framework for redevelopment and revitalization through public/private partnerships, and plans to enhance economic resilience, sustainable tourism, innovation/entrepreneurship, and multimodal access to support economic activity.

ⁱⁱ Some of this new introductory language reflects input from Economic Sustainability Strategy as well as from Planning Board to emphasize balanced approach to economic “vitality” vs. “growth” strategy.

ⁱⁱⁱ Consistent with content from Economic Sustainability Strategy (ESS) and Community Cultural Plan (CCP).

^{iv} Some language carried over from previous policy 5.02, and also reflects language recommended by Planning Board to present a balance perspective on redevelopment and retention of existing businesses.

^v This modified language in policy 5.01 is consistent with the ESS and includes some additional suggestions from Planning Board.

-
- ^{vi} Some new language has been added to this policy to reflect feedback from Planning Board. The “support for existing business” last statement got moved to a separate policy; it seemed a bit out of place here.
- ^{vii} This language is updated to be consistent with ESS. It was suggested to be more descriptive of different types of tourism, but that could increase the workload for partners. (e.g., heritage, cultural, sports, open space). Would need to confirm.
- ^{viii} This language reflects ongoing program work in Economic Vitality and suggestions from Planning Board regarding “affordable space.”
- ^{ix} This language is updated to be consistent with ESS
- ^x Updated clusters are consistent with Primary Employer Study and ESS
- ^{xi} Updated policy 5.07 to include reference to Access Management and Parking Strategy (AMPS) and clarify that infrastructure, services and amenities that contribute to business attraction are not limited to transportation infrastructure alone. Additional examples reflect suggestions from ESS and input from Planning Board
- ^{xii} Language reflects additional suggestions from Planning Board to enhance it. Note: Historic Preservation policies (in Built Environment) could also say more about the role of heritage tourism and value of historic preservation.
- ^{xiii} A former policy about the “Creative Economy” was consistent with the CPP. However, Planning Board suggested that the policy sounded exclusive, so it has been removed. This policy has been modified to show support for the arts and recognition as it contributing to economic vitality. This may need some further refining, depending on other community input.
- ^{xiv} Policy 5.11 has been modified to be consistent with the ESS and programs and practice. It also reflects some input from Planning Board.
- ^{xv} This new resilience policy is consistent with work that has been ongoing and recommendations from city’s resilience strategy.
- ^{xvi} List intended to be inclusive and reflective of the groups who work together to support economic vitality.
- ^{xvii} Modified policy 5.17 is consistent with ESS.
- ^{xviii} This new language reflects input from Economic Vitality and Planning Board.

5. Economyⁱ

Proposed new section title: *Economically Vital Community*

Please note that a further round of editing will occur to improve organization, reduce verbosity and redundancies, and renumber policies as necessary.

Boulder’s highly-educated workforce, quality of life, high concentration of companies in growing industries, and synergies with the University of Colorado and federally-funded research labs are the foundation of its economic vitality. The city fosters and retains high-caliber employees and talented entrepreneurs and has earned recognition as one of the nation’s best places for startups. Boulder has a diverse mix of small and mid-sized businesses as well as several large employers.

A balanced approach to a healthy economy maintains the outstanding quality of life enjoyed by existing residents and businesses while collaborating for economic vitality. Boulder recognizes that economic strength can bring many benefits to the community including greater tax revenues, local job opportunities, increased diversity, a variety of services and business types and physical improvements.

While the city is fortunate to enjoy economic success, it also faces challenges. Cyclical global and economic downturns affect the local economic climate, and the rising costs of commercial space and housing affects businesses and their ability to recruit and retain new employees. Additionally, redevelopment or growth may lead to displacement of existing businesses, increase demands for services and infrastructure, and strain regional transportation systems and local housing affordability.ⁱⁱ

Boulder also recognizes that economic growth can bring many benefits to the community including greater tax revenues, local job opportunities, increased diversity, a variety of services and business types and physical improvements. The city will collaborate with the business community to facilitate growth, development and infrastructure improvements that benefit residents and businesses alike.

Through its Resilience Strategy, the city is adopting strategies to foster preparedness for uncertainty and disruptions to economic prosperity. Boulder is also following a sustainable path to economic development through the implementation of an Economic Sustainability Strategy that focuses on business formation, retention and growth. The policies in this section support the following goals related to maintaining a sustainable and resilient economy:

- Strategic Redevelopment and Sustainable Employment
- Diverse Economic Base
- Quality of Life
- Sustainable and Resilient Business Practices
- Job Opportunities, Education and Trainingⁱⁱⁱ

Strategic Redevelopment ~~Opportunities~~ and Sustainable Employment

Newly Separated Policy: Existing Businesses

The city will support the growth and success of existing businesses, including primary and secondary employers. The city recognizes the importance of community-serving local businesses

and the importance of balancing their needs against redevelopment in certain areas with strategies that minimize their displacement.^{iv}

5.01 Revitalizing Commercial and Industrial Areas^v

The city ~~will develop specific~~ supports ~~-place-based~~ strategies ~~that to support~~ optimize redevelopment of commercial and industrial areas. Revitalization should reflect the unique characteristics and amenities in those areas and nearby neighborhoods. Examples of commercial and industrial areas for revitalization ~~that have been~~ identified in previous planning efforts are Diagonal Plaza, and University Hill Commercial district, and the East Boulder Industrial area.

The city will use a variety of tools to create public/private partnerships that lead to successful redevelopment. These tools may include, but are not limited to, area planning with community input, infrastructure improvements, shared parking strategies, changes to zoning or development standards and incentives ~~including (e.g., financial incentives, increased~~ development potential, or urban renewal authority). As an integral part of redevelopment and area planning efforts, the city acknowledges that displacement and loss of service and affordable retail uses need to be considered as a potential tradeoff in the context of redevelopment and planning goals

5.02 Regional Job Center

~~The city is one of several job centers in the region, and significant additional employment growth is projected in the future.~~ The city ~~will adopt policies and~~ supports strategies that support the city's further Boulder's continued its role as a regional job center, in the future consistent with sustainability goals and projected employment growth and will continue to address related impacts on housing affordability and transportation.^{vi} ~~The city will support the growth and success of existing businesses, including primary and secondary employers.~~

Diverse Economic Base

5.03 Diverse Mix of Uses and Business Types^{vii}

The city and county will support a diversified employment base within the Boulder Valley, reflecting labor force capabilities and recognizing the community's strengths ~~in scientific, professional, technological and related industries and quality of life~~. ~~Therefore, the city will identify areas that should be~~ continue to identify and ~~protected for~~ industrial, service and office uses and will evaluate areas with non-residential zoning to ensure the existing and future economic vitality of Boulder while responding to the needs of a rapidly changing more global economy. ~~ensure that the existing and future needs of a rapidly changing and technologically oriented global economy and employment base are adequately accommodated.~~

~~As an integral part of redevelopment and area planning efforts, the city acknowledges that displacement and loss of service and affordable retail uses will be considered in the context of redevelopment and planning goals.~~

5.04 Vital and Productive Retail Base

The city recognizes the importance of its retail base and will develop and implement a retail strategy that ~~will take into account~~ emerging trends such as shifting demographics and changing consumer behavior, addresses the market opportunities and shopping needs of the

community, ensure an appropriate mix of retail, and identify strategies to improve the retail base and the city's sales tax revenues, including maintaining affordable retail space.^{viii}

5.05 Support for Local Business and Business Retention^{ix}

Boulder's economic sustainability and resilience efforts recognize the importance of jobs already in the city; business retention and support for homegrown companies and existing jobs is a priority. The city and county recognize the significant contribution of existing businesses in the local economy and will work to nurture and support established businesses and maintain a positive climate to retain businesses.

~~Business retention and expansion is a primary focus for the city. The existing jobs that are in Boulder are the city's most important jobs.~~

5.06 Industry Clusters^x

The city will adopt an industry cluster approach to business development and consider special financial and technical assistance programs and other tools to retain, expand and attract businesses in those clusters. Cluster efforts focus on supporting multiple businesses in an industry. ~~Boulder's primary clusters include: the technological and scientific sectors, natural and organic products, bio sciences, active living / outdoor recreation, clean technology and creative arts. Boulder's key industry clusters include aerospace, bioscience, clean tech, data storage, digital media, natural and organic products, recreation, software, tourism and the creative sector.~~ Boulder acknowledges that these clusters will evolve and change over time.

Quality of Life

5.07 Funding City Services and Urban Infrastructure^{xi}

The city will encourage a strong sustainable economy to generate revenues to fund quality city services ~~for the public that are consistent with community goals and character and~~.

~~The city~~ recognizes that urban infrastructure, facilities, services, and amenities are important to the quality of life of residents, employees and visitors to the community. A strong and complete transportation system ~~and transportation demand management programs~~ are essential to a thriving economy, ~~as they can offer options for commuters, help~~ attract and retain key businesses and employers ~~and~~ ~~and~~ provide regional access to global markets. The city will continue to plan for and invest in urban amenities ~~and infrastructure~~ such as bike paths, parks, ~~shared and managed parking~~, public spaces, quality gathering places, ~~cultural destinations, and public art~~; ~~as well as community services including but not limited to open space and mountain parks, high speed internet, fire-rescue, public safety, and senior services.~~

5.08 Role of Tourism in the Economy

Recognizing the ~~importance of tourism to the unique qualities of~~ Boulder economy, the city ~~will continue to work supports ongoing tourism efforts~~ with various partners including the Boulder Convention and Visitors Bureau, ~~to~~ study the existing and future role of ~~different types of~~ tourism in the community, track the ~~benefits and~~ impact of tourism on the economy, and invest in ways to enhance the sector.^{xii}

5.09 Role of Arts, ~~and Cultural~~, Historic and Parks and Recreation Amenities Programs

The city and county will support the resiliency, sustainability and innovation of arts, cultural, historic, parks and recreation amenities so they continue to contribute to the economic vitality of the community, provide unique offerings, foster meaningful connections to Boulder among its residents, workforce, and visitors; and offer additional benefit to the community and encourage further development of arts and cultural programs that can serve as attractors for new business investment and visitors to the city. The city values the arts within the public realm and will work to enhance the capacity of arts and culture ~~to act as an economic generator~~ as an important contributor to economic vitality and quality of life.^{xiii}

(Note: Most of these topics are addressed in the Built Environment chapter, so this policy will likely need some refining.)

5.10 ~~New Policy:~~ Communications

The city will support and facilitate the development of technologically-advanced communications infrastructure and other improvements that will provide support to the community, help businesses thrive and grow ~~as well as~~, facilitate ~~foster~~ the growth of emerging telecommunications industries, and support emergency systems.

Sustainable and Resilient Business Practices

5.11 ~~New Policy:~~ Sustainable Business Practices

The city ~~will promote and encourages~~ supports sustainable and energy efficient business practices and. ~~The city~~ will continue to establish and maintain programs to assist and encourage businesses and their employees individual to employ sustainable practices including reducing waste and green house gas emissions, increasing energy process and building efficiency (in existing or renovated structures), reducing energy costs, conserving water, employing sustainable practices, making building renovations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and reducing transportation impacts.^{xiv}

5.12 ~~New Policy:~~ Home Occupations

The city will evaluate regulations for home based occupations to balance potential impacts to residential neighborhoods and reflect the goal of allowing more flexibility to have home based businesses, neighborhood services, and employment opportunities. ~~The city~~ supports the entrepreneurial activity of residents who are in the very early stages of creating start-up companies or providing neighborhood services. The city and also, ~~supports~~ people's efforts to reduce the number and length of trips through working from home. The city will revise its regulations to be responsive to new uses and types of businesses, and neighborhood services that may be compatible with residential areas.

5.13 ~~New Policy:~~ Responsive to Changes in the Marketplace

The city recognizes that development regulations and processes have an impact on the ability of business to respond to changes in the marketplace. The city will work with the local business community and the community at large to make sure the city's policies, regulations, and development review processes provide a level of flexibility to allow for creative solutions while meeting broader community goals. This could involve modifying regulations to make them more

responsive to emerging technologies and evolving industry sectors and continually improving the application and permitting process.

New Policy: Economic Resilience^{xv}

The city will develop an economic resilience plan and work with the county and other partners to identify risks to future economic vitality and facilitate disaster preparedness, response and recovery for businesses.

Job Opportunities, Education and Training

5.14 Employment Opportunities

The city and county will encourage local employers to provide employment opportunities for all persons including the local unemployed and underemployed work force, and to implement equal opportunity and workplace diversity programs in cooperation with various agencies providing employment assistance programs.

5.15 Business Partnerships to Support Economic Vitality Goals

The efforts of the city and the private sector to enhance the economic prosperity of the community are directly and indirectly supported by many organizations and entities. These include but are not limited to the University of Colorado, Downtown Boulder Inc., Boulder Chamber, Boulder Economic Council, Boulder Convention and Visitors Bureau, Boulder Innovation Center, Latino Chamber of Boulder County, Boulder Small Business Development Center, Boulder Valley School District, the Boulder Independent Business Association, CO-LABS and other diverse and emerging groups. Though each has an independent focus, their work contributes to the overall quality of life enjoyed within the community.^{xvi}

5.16 Support for the University of Colorado and Federal Labs

The city and county understand the central-important role that the federally-funded labs and the University of Colorado play in our economy and will continue to work with our state and federal elected officials regarding their important economic contribution. The city will take an active role in efforts to preserve the state and federal funding for these entities to ensure they remain in Boulder and will pursue mutually beneficial partnerships. The city recognizes the importance of having strong institutions for higher education, continuing education and workforce training thriving in the community. Also, the seminal role of the University of Colorado, a world class research university, and the federal labs in business support, technology transfer and tech start ups and entrepreneurial business creation needs to be fully understood, evaluated and enhanced. The city will work with CU to further the community's goals for sustainable urban form as university owned land is developed or redeveloped.

5.17 New Policy: Diverse Workforce, Education and Training^{xvii}

The city and county will encourage and support the Boulder Valley School District as well as the variety of and post-secondary educational institutions to offer quality continuing education and vocational training. The city will work with employers, educators, and partners to support programs designed to help develop and attract workers in multiple fields with specialized skills and experience and ~~will~~ support efforts to add focused workforce vocational training facilities, including but not limited to those that provide training for “green” jobs.

Moved from Policy 5.03 above: Addressing Disproportionate Impacts

The city recognizes that the rising costs of commercial space and housing can disproportionately affect lower-income and minority residents and small businesses and non-profits and will develop strategies to maintain a range of options to support a diverse workforce and employment base.^{xviii}

Related Topics:

- See the Built Environment Section for policies related to infill/redevelopment priorities, enhancing activity centers, mixed-use development, and historic preservation.
- See Community Well-Being Section for policies on community infrastructure, the and ability of people to meet their basic needs, and arts and culture.
- See Transportation Section for policies on improving and creating a more resilient the transportation system and- increasing transportation options with local partners for commuters through regional transit alternatives other than single-occupant vehicles.
- See Energy and Climate Action for policies on support for sustainable practices and buildings.
- See Local Food and Agriculture for policies on access to markets for food and agricultural products.
- See Housing for the policy regarding supporting economic resilience through planning for residential displacement.

ENDNOTES

ⁱ Overall, changes to this chapter reflect work since the 2010 plan including:

- Economic Sustainability Strategy (ESS) (2013)
- Community Cultural Plan (CCP) (2015)
- HR&A’s Recommendations for Resilience Integration (2016)
- In addition, the city will be developing a citywide retail strategy, framework for redevelopment and revitalization through public/private partnerships, and plans to enhance economic resilience, sustainable tourism, innovation/entrepreneurship, and multimodal access to support economic activity.

ⁱⁱ Some of this new introductory language reflects input from Economic Sustainability Strategy as well as from Planning Board to emphasize balanced approach to economic “vitality” vs. “growth” strategy.

ⁱⁱⁱ Consistent with content from Economic Sustainability Strategy (ESS) and Community Cultural Plan (CCP).

^{iv} Some language carried over from previous policy 5.02, and also reflects language recommended by Planning Board to present a balance perspective on redevelopment and retention of existing businesses.

^v This modified language in policy 5.01 is consistent with the ESS and includes some additional suggestions from Planning Board.:

^{vi} Some new language has been added to this policy to reflect feedback from Planning Board. The “support for existing business” last statement got moved to a separate policy; it seemed a bit out of place here.

^{vii} This language is updated to be consistent with ESS. It was suggested to be more descriptive of different types of tourism, but that could increase the workload for partners. (e.g., heritage, cultural, sports, open space). Would need to confirm.

^{viii} This language reflects ongoing program work in Economic Vitality and suggestions from Planning Board regarding “affordable space.”

^{ix} This language is updated to be consistent with ESS

^x Updated clusters are consistent with Primary Employer Study and -ESS

^{xi} Updated policy 5.07 to include reference to Access Management and Parking Strategy (AMPS) and clarify that infrastructure, services and amenities that contribute to business attraction are not limited to

transportation infrastructure alone. Additional examples reflect suggestions from ESS and input from Planning Board

^{xii} Language reflects additional suggestions from Planning Board to enhance it. Note: Historic Preservation policies (in Built Environment) could also say more about the role of heritage tourism and value of historic preservation.

^{xiii} A former policy about the “Creative Economy” was consistent with the CPP. However, Planning Board suggested that the policy sounded exclusive, so it has been removed. This policy has been modified to show support for the arts and recognition as it contributing to economic vitality. This may need some further refining, depending on other community input.

^{xiv} Policy 5.11 has been modified to be consistent with the ESS and programs and practice. It also reflects some input from Planning Board.

^{xv} This new resilience policy is consistent with work that has been ongoing and recommendations from city’s resilience strategy.

^{xvi} List intended to be inclusive and reflective of the groups who work together to support economic vitality.

^{xvii} Modified policy 5.17 is consistent with ESS.

^{xviii} This new language reflects input from Economic Vitality and Planning Board.

DRAFT

6. Transportationⁱ

Proposed new section title: Accessible and Connected Community

Note: This chapter will be further refined to include the city and county plan visions and to be organizing in a more logical sequence – starting with the vision and travel modes and ending with relevant metrics. Also please note that a further round of editing will occur to improve organization, reduce verbosity and redundancies, and renumber policies as necessary.

The Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan and the county and city’s Transportation Master Plans reflect the fundamental premise that the transportation system be developed and managed in service of land use, social, economic and environmental goals. The vision is to create and maintain a safe and efficient transportation system that meets the sustainability goals of the community and the Boulder Valley to accommodate increased person trips by providing travel choices and reducing the share of single occupant auto trips.

A mature community like Boulder has little opportunity or ability to add road capacity, as widening streets and building new roads would have significant negative environmental, community character and financial impacts. Consequently, the strategies of the city’s Transportation Master Plan (TMP) center on maintaining a safe and efficient system as noted above.

The policies in this section generally reflect the Focus Areas of the city’s TMP and the adopted Boulder County Transportation Master Plan including:

- Complete Transportation System
- Regional Travel
- Funding and Investments
- Land Use and Transportation Integration and Sustainability Initiatives
- Other Transportation Policies

Complete Transportation System

6.01 All-Mode Transportation System and Complete Streets

The Boulder Valley will be served by an integrated all-mode transportation system developed cooperatively by the city and county. The city’s transportation system will be based on complete streets including completed networks for each mode, making safe and convenient connections between modes, providing seamless connections between the city and county systems, and promoting access and placemaking for the adjacent land uses and activities. Improvements to urban travel corridors will recognize pedestrian travel as the primary mode and preserve or improve the safety and efficiency of all modes. For rural parts of the Boulder Valley, the transportation system is focused on sustainable mobility through development of a multimodal system, creating the complete trip and investing in key transportation corridors.

6.02 Reduction of Single Occupancy Auto Tripsⁱⁱ

The city and county will support and promote the greater use of alternatives to single occupancy automobile travel. It is the city's specific objective to reduce vehicle miles of travel (VMT) 20 percent from 1994 levels through the year 2035 within the Boulder Valley to achieve transportation and greenhouse gas reduction goals. These efforts will require inclusion of other communities and entities (especially origin communities such as Longmont, Lafayette, Louisville, and Erie) in developing and implementing integrated travel demand management (TDM) programs, new mobility services and improved local and regional transit service. Within the city, new developments will be required to include travel demand management to reduce the vehicle miles traveled and single occupant vehicle trips produced by the development.

6.03 Congestion

The city will strive to limit the extent and duration of congestion, defined as Level of Service (LOS) F, to 20 percent of the roadway system within the Boulder Valley while providing for increased mobility for people using all modes of travel.ⁱⁱⁱ

New Policy: Renewed Vision for Transit^{iv}

Transit investments and improvements will occur in an integrated manner in the areas of service, capital, policies, programs and implementation. These will expand the Community Transit Network (CTN) and improve regional transit service and connections outside the city such as bus rapid transit (BRT) along state highways and regional bus services.

Modified Policies 6.05& 6.06 from below: Accessibility and Mobility for All^v

The city and county will develop a complete all-mode transportation system accommodating all users, including people with mobility impairments, youth, older adults and low-income persons. This will include increased support for mobility services for older adults and people with disabilities, reflecting the expected increases in these populations. Efforts should focus on giving people options to live well without a car and may include prioritizing affordable public transportation and transit passes as well as new technologies and mobility services.

New Policy: Integrated TDM Programs

The city and county will cooperate in developing comprehensive TDM programs for residents and employees. These include incentives such as developing a universal community transit pass program; promoting shared use mobility, ridesharing, bikesharing, carsharing, vanpools and teleworking; and supporting programs for walking and biking such as secured long term bike parking. Strategies such as shared, unbundled, paid and managed parking (i.e., SUMP principles) can reflect the real cost of Single Occupancy Vehicle (SOV) travel. The city will require TDM plans for new larger, residential and commercial developments.^{vi}

New Policy: Safety^{vii}

Safety for people of all ages using any mode within the transportation system (i.e., walking, bicycling, riding) is a fundamental goal. The city's policy "Toward Vision Zero" is aimed at reducing serious injury and fatal collisions involving people using all modes of travel, focusing on crash trends and mitigation strategies identified in the Safe Streets Boulder Report and on-going local, regional, and state-wide safety assessments.^{viii}

Regional Travel

6.04 Regional Travel Coordination

City transportation and land use decisions have regional transportation impacts. The city and county will work to develop regional consensus for multimodal improvements to regional corridors. This can be achieved by working with the Colorado Department of Transportation, the Regional Transportation District (RTD) and other providers to develop high quality, high frequency regional transportation options, including improvements identified in the Northwest Mobility Study (NAMS), FasTracks arterial bus rapid transit (BRT) service and commuter bikeways between the communities, with first and final mile connections to local systems and longer-term rail planning.

New Policy: Regional Transit Facilities^{ix}

The city will develop and enhance the regional transit anchors that serve the primary attractors of Downtown Boulder, the University of Colorado and Boulder Valley Regional Center, including at Boulder Junction. Developing Mobility Hubs and first and last mile connections to these facilities are a priority to support employees commuting into and throughout Boulder.

Funding and Investment

6.07 Investment Priorities

To protect previous investments and ensure efficient use of existing travel corridors, the city and county will prioritize investment for safety and maintenance improvements for all modes of the existing systems. Second priority is given to capacity additions for the non-automotive modes and efficiency improvements for existing road facilities that increase person carrying capacity without adding general purpose lanes. Any additional road capacity will be managed and priced to provide reliable and rapid travel times for transit, high occupancy vehicle lanes and other car sharing options.^x

(Note: 6.08 has been moved to below.)

Integration of Land Use and Transportation and with Sustainability Initiatives

New Policy: Access Management and Parking^{xi}

Vehicular and bicycle parking will be considered a component of a total access system of all modes of transportation - bicycle, pedestrian, transit and vehicular - and will be consistent with the desire to reduce single occupant vehicle travel, balance the use of public spaces, consider the needs of residential and commercial areas, and address neighborhood parking impacts.^{xii} Parking demand will be accommodated in the most efficient way possible with the minimal necessary number of new spaces. The city will promote parking reductions through a variety of tools including parking maximums, shared parking, unbundled parking, parking districts and transportation demand management programs. Parking districts will be expanded and managed based on SUMP principles (shared, unbundled, managed and paid) to support the city's transportation and GhG reduction goals, as well as broader sustainability goals including economic vitality and neighborhood livability.

Moved from 6.08 Above: Transportation Impact

Transportation or traffic impacts from a proposed development that cause unacceptable community or environmental impacts or unacceptable reduction in a multimodal level of service or parking impacts to surrounding areas will be mitigated.^{xiii} All development will be designed and built to be multimodal, pedestrian-oriented and include TDM strategies to reduce the vehicle miles traveled generated by the development. New development will provide continuous pedestrian, bike and transit systems through the development and connect these systems to those surrounding the development. The city and county will provide tools and resources to help businesses manage employee access and mobility and support public-private partnerships, such as transportation management organizations, to facilitate these efforts.

New Policy: Concurrent Land Use and Transportation Planning

Overall citywide transportation and land use planning should be coordinated. Future major changes to the land use map and policies of this plan and the Transportation Master Plan should be, to the extent practicable, be coordinated, modeled and evaluated concurrently.^{xiv}

6.09 Integrated Planning for Multimodal Centers

Land use in and surrounding the three intermodal regional centers (i.e., Downtown Boulder, the University of Colorado and the Boulder Valley Regional Center including Boulder Junction), will support their function as anchors to regional transit connections and Mobility Hubs for connecting pedestrian, bicycle and local transit to regional services.

Separate New Policy: Integrated Planning for Corridors

The land along multimodal corridors will be designated as multimodal transportation zones where transit service is provided on that corridor. In and along these multimodal transportation zones, the city will plan for a highly connected and continuous transportation system for all modes, emphasis on high quality pedestrian experience and urban design, identify locations for mixed use and higher density development integrated with transportation functions through appropriate design, and develop parking maximums and encourage parking reductions. The city will complete missing links in the transportation grid through the use of area transportation plans and at the time of parcel redevelopment.

(Note: The Built Environment chapter will more clearly define land use for different types of centers and corridors and where intensity is most appropriate or not^{xv}.)

6.11 Transportation Facilities in Neighborhoods

The city will strive to protect and improve the quality of life within city neighborhoods while developing a balanced transportation system. Improving access and safety within neighborhoods by controlling vehicle speeds or providing multi-modal connections will be given priority over vehicle mobility. The city and county will design and construct new transportation facilities to minimize noise levels to the extent practical. Neighborhood needs and goals will be balanced against the community necessity or benefit of a transportation improvement. Additionally, neighborhood parking permit (NPP) programs will seek to balance access and parking demands of neighborhoods and adjacent traffic generators.^{xvi}

New or Modified Policy: Transportation Infrastructure to Support Walkable 15-Minute Neighborhoods^{xvii}

The city will prioritize improvements to transportation facilities to create a variety of neighborhood supporting activities and supportive infrastructure within approximately a one-

quarter mile radius where residents and employees can fulfill more of their daily needs through safe, healthy and convenient walking and biking.

(Note: The Built Environment chapter includes policies related to neighborhood centers, mix of land uses and amenities such as parks and schools, and area planning within neighborhoods to support complete neighborhoods to serve neighborhood needs. The scenarios will also address this topic.)^{xviii}

6.12 Neighborhood Streets Connectivity

Neighborhood streets and alleys are part of the public realm and will be planned as a well-connected and fine grained pattern to facilitate public access, promote safe and convenient travel for all, disperse and distribute vehicle traffic, and maintain character and community cohesion. In historic districts, alleys are particularly important for maintaining character and providing travel routes for pedestrians and bicycles.^{xix}

New Policy: Mobility Hubs^{xx}

As guided by the Transportation Master Plan, the city will establish Mobility Hubs that provide seamless integration between transit and pedestrian and bicycle facilities, car/ridesharing, and context-appropriate parking supply for people of all physical abilities. Mobility Hubs will emphasize excellent pedestrian infrastructure within a quarter- to half-mile walkshed and connections to the bicycle network as well as high quality urban design of structures and public spaces.^{xxi}

Other Transportation Policies

6.13 Improving Air Quality and Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Both the city and county are committed to reductions in greenhouse gas emissions with the city committing to an 80 percent reduction from 2005 levels by 2050. The city and county will design the transportation system to minimize air pollution and reduce GhG emissions by promoting the use of non-automotive low emission transportation modes, reducing auto traffic and encouraging the use of fuel efficient and clean-fueled vehicles that demonstrate air pollution reductions, and maintaining acceptable traffic flow.

6.14 Municipal Airport

Boulder Municipal Airport is a general aviation airport that has been in existence since 1928. The airport will continue at the appropriate scale to ensure it meets the needs of the community by providing a safe environment for aviation business and business-related travel; scientific and research flights; recreation and tourism; flight training and vocational education; aerial fire-fighting; emergency medical flights; as well as flood and other disaster-related support for the city and county. The city will seek to mitigate noise, safety and other impacts of airport operation while assuring that new development in proximity will be compatible with existing and planned use of the airport.^{xxii}

Potential New Transportation Resilience Policies

The HR&A Resilience report suggests the following:

New Policy: Infrastructure Investments

The city will support infrastructure investments that provide multiple benefits, such as greenways, which both serve as a public amenity and mitigate risk. (*The county's climate change preparedness section might also be useful here.*)

New Policy: Emergency Response Access

The city and county will assess and develop solutions with stakeholders to coordinate transportation policies, infrastructure planning, and response plans in the event of a disruption.

Graphics and Maps to Add to This Chapter

- Add new Renewed Vision for Transit
- Transportation GHG reduction graph – 40% of reduction needed in the Clean Energy and Innovations area
- Images of Mobility Hubs
- Photos of people walking, bicycling, and transit
- Photos of recently completed capital construction projects (e.g. Boulder Junction and Broadway Euclid)
- Call out the metrics from the TMP including LOS, VMT, GHG goals, etc.

ENDNOTES

ⁱThe changes to this chapter reflect work since the 2010 plan including:

- Boulder County Transportation Master Plan (2012) and Multimodal Transportation Standards (2013)
- City Transportation Master Plan (2014) which included county and other partner input;
- City draft Climate Commitment strategy (2015);
- City Transportation Report on Progress (2016);
- County Mobility4All Needs Assessment (2016);
- The city has also been working on an Access Management and Parking Strategy (AMPS) and adopted new standards related to Transportation Demand Management (TDM).
- HR&A's Recommendations for Resilience Integration (2016)

ⁱⁱ Includes new language from TMP.

ⁱⁱⁱ The city and county transportation master plans address this issue differently. This policy may need additional input and work to clarify respective policies.

^{iv} Transit policy from TMP

^v Combined with policy 6.06 Mobility Services.

^{vi} Revised language reflects input from Transportation Advisory Board.

^{vii} From TMP and some new language to reflect Planning Board input.

^{viii} Transportation Master Plan focuses on a broad range of crash cause rather than calling out any specific type of cause (e.g., distracted drivers). Needs a broad approach that will be applicable over time.

^{ix} Consistent with TMP.

^x Consistent with TMP.

^{xi} Portions of this policy are from previous policy 6.10, which has been modified to reflect work completed during the Access Management Parking Strategy work.

^{xii} Planning Board members suggested addressing parking impacts in neighborhoods as well.

^{xiii} Addressing parking impacts (particularly from parking reductions) suggested by Planning Board.

^{xiv} Planning Board suggestion to reflect on overall citywide coordination of TMP and BVCP before getting to more specific language about multimodal centers and corridors.

^{xv} Reflects suggestions from Planning Board.

^{xvi} New language is intended to convey different goals for city neighborhoods vs. rural neighborhoods.

Also, the parking language is a new suggestion from Planning Board.

^{xvii} Consistent with TMP.

^{xviii} TAB suggested some language about bicycling parking, and Planning Board suggested a refinement and additions to other parts of the plan to address the land use aspect of this concept of 15-minute neighborhoods, and an inclusive local process for planning them.

^{xix} Planning Board suggested this type of language to address historic value and connected nature of alleys – importance for pedestrian and bicycle transportation off the main streets.

^{xx} Consistent with TMP

^{xxi} Suggestion from TAB.

^{xxii} Reflects Airport Master Plan.

DRAFT

6. Transportationⁱ

Proposed new section title: Accessible and Connected Community

Note: This chapter will be further refined to include the city and county plan visions and to be organizing in a more logical sequence – starting with the vision and travel modes and ending with relevant metrics. Also please note that a further round of editing will occur to improve organization, reduce verbosity and redundancies, and renumber policies as necessary.

The Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan and the county and city's Transportation Master Plans have reflect the fundamental premise that the transportation system be developed and managed in conjunction in service of with land use, social, economic and environmental goals. The vision is to create and maintain a safe and efficient transportation system that meets the sustainability goals of the community and the Boulder Valley to accommodate increased person trips by providing travel choices and reducing the share of single occupant auto trips.

A mature community like Boulder has little opportunity or desire-ability to add road capacity, as widening streets and building new roads would have significant negative environmental, community character and financial impacts. Consequently, the strategies of the city's Transportation Master Plan (TMP) center on maintaining a safe and efficient system as noted above. and developing a balanced transportation system, that supporting increased person trips and all modes of travel. The TMP focuses on and making the system more efficient in carrying travelers increasing access for the community, maintaining a safe system and on shifting trips away from the single-occupant vehicle.

Boulder's challenge is to manage and improve the existing system to accommodate increasing demands for travel needs, both local and regionally through greater efficiency, better access, and by providing a broader range of travel choices. Important issues and trends include:

- Limited funding for both new infrastructure and maintenance of existing resources at all levels of government;
- Increasing importance of frequent and affordable regional transit; and
- Increasing energy costs with corresponding increases in the cost of travel.

The policies in this section generally reflect the Focus Areas of the city's TMP and the adopted Boulder County Transportation Master Plan including:

- Complete Transportation System
- Regional Travel
- Funding and Investments
- Land Use and Transportation Integration and Sustainability Initiatives
- Other Transportation Policies
- Complete Transportation System
- Integration of Land Use and Transportation
- Air Quality
- Boulder Municipal Airport

Complete Transportation System

6.01 All-Mode Transportation System and Complete Streets

The Boulder Valley will be served by an integrated all-mode transportation system, developed cooperatively by the city and county. The city's transportation system will be based on complete streets including completed networks for each mode, making safe and convenient connections between modes, and providing seamless connections between the city and county systems, and promoting access and place-making for the adjacent land uses and activities. Improvements to the urban travel corridors network will be made in a manner that recognize pedestrian travel as the primary mode and preserves or improves the capacity or safety and efficiency of all modes and recognizes pedestrian travel as a component of all trips. For rural parts of the Boulder Valley, the transportation system is focused on sustainable mobility through development of a multimodal system, creating the complete trip and investing in key transportation corridors.

6.02 Reduction of Single Occupancy Auto Tripsⁱⁱ

The city and county will support and promote the greater use of alternatives to single occupancy automobile travel. It is the city's specific objective to continue progress toward 'no long-term growth in traffic' reduce vehicle miles of travel (VMT) 20 percent from 1994 levels through the year 2025 within the Boulder Valley to achieve transportation and greenhouse gas reduction goals. These efforts will require inclusion of other communities and entities (especially origin communities such as Longmont, Lafayette, Louisville, and Erie) and will include developing and implementing integrated travel demand management (TDM) programs, and new mobility services and improved local and regional transit service. Within the city, new developments will be required to include travel demand management to reduce the vehicle miles traveled and single occupant vehicle trips produced by the development.

6.03 Congestion

The city and county will strive to limit the extent and duration of congestion, defined as Level of Service (LOS) F, to 20 percent of the roadway system within the Boulder Valley while providing for increased mobility for people using all modes of travel.ⁱⁱⁱ

New Policy: Renewed Vision for Transit^{iv}

Transit investments and improvements will occur in an integrated manner in the areas of service, capital, policies, programs and implementation. These will expand the Community Transit Network (CTN) and improved regional transit service and connections outside the city such as bus rapid transit (BRT) along state highways and regional bus services.

Modified Policies 6.05& 6.06 from below: Accessibility and Mobility for All^v

The city and county will develop a complete all-mode transportation system accommodating all users, including people with mobility impairments, youth, older adults and low-income persons. This will include increased support for mobility services for older adults and people with disabilities, reflecting the expected increases in these populations. Efforts should focus on giving people options to live well without a car and may include prioritizing affordable public transportation and transit passes as well as new technologies and mobility services.

New Policy: Integrated TDM Programs

The city and county will cooperate in developing comprehensive TDM programs for residents and employees. These include incentives such as developing a universal community transit pass program; promoting shared use mobility, ridesharing, bikesharing, carsharing, vanpools and teleworking; and supporting programs for walking and biking such as secured long term bike parking. Strategies such as shared, unbundled, paid and managed parking (i.e., SUMP principles) can reflect the real cost of Single Occupancy Vehicle (SOV) travel. The city will require TDM plans for new larger, residential and commercial developments.^{vi}

New Policy: Safety^{vii}

Safety for people of all ages using any mode within the transportation system (i.e., walking, bicycling, riding) is a fundamental goal. The city’s policy “Toward Vision Zero” is aimed at reducing serious injury and fatal collisions involving people using all modes of travel, focusing on crash trends and mitigation strategies identified in the Safe Streets Boulder Report and on-going local, regional, and state-wide safety assessments.^{viii}

Regional Travel

6.04 Regional Travel Coordination Cooperation

City transportation and land use decisions have regional transportation impacts. The city and county will work to develop regional consensus for multimodal improvements to regional corridors. This can be achieved by, and working with the Colorado Department of Transportation and the Transportation, the Regional Transportation District (RTD) and other providers to develop high quality, high frequency regional transportation options, including improvements identified in the Northwest Mobility Study (NAMS), FasTracks arterial bus rapid transit (BRT) service and commuter bikeways between the communities, with first and final mile connections to local systems and longer-term rail planning.

New Policy: Regional Transit Facilities^{ix}

The city will develop and enhance the regional transit anchors that serve the primary attractors of Downtown Boulder, the University of Colorado and Boulder Valley Regional Center, including at Boulder Junction. Developing Mobility Hubs and first and last mile connections to these facilities are a priority to support employees commuting into and throughout Boulder.

6.05 Accessibility

The city and county will develop a complete all-mode transportation system based on complete streets that accommodates all users, including people with mobility impairments, as well as youth, older adults and low-income persons. Efforts should focus on giving people options to live well without a car and may include prioritizing affordable public transportation and transit passes.

6.06 Mobility Services

The city and county will increase their support for mobility services for older adults and people with disabilities to reflect the expected increases in these populations.

Funding and Investment

6.07 Investment Priorities

To protect previous investments and ensure efficient use of existing travel corridors, the city and county will prioritize ~~their~~ investment ~~first to for safety and~~ maintenance ~~and safety~~ improvements for all modes of the existing systems. Second priority is given to capacity additions for the non-automotive modes and efficiency improvements for existing road facilities that increase ~~levels of service person carrying capacity~~ without adding general purpose lanes. Any additional road capacity will be managed and priced to provide reliable and rapid travel times for transit, high occupancy vehicle lanes and other car sharing options.^x

(Note: 6.08 has been moved to below.)

Integration of Land Use and Transportation and -with Sustainability Initiatives

New Policy: Access Management and Parking^{xi}

Vehicular and bicycle parking will be considered a component of a total access system of all modes of transportation - bicycle, pedestrian, transit and vehicular - and will be consistent with the desire to reduce single occupant vehicle travel, balance the use of public spaces, and consider the needs of residential and commercial areas, and address neighborhood parking impacts.^{xii} Parking demand will be accommodated in the most efficient way possible with the minimal necessary number of new spaces. The city will promote parking reductions through a variety of tools including parking maximums, shared parking, unbundled parking, parking districts and transportation demand management programs. Parking districts will be expanded and managed based on SUMP principles (shared, unbundled, managed and paid) to support the city's transportation and GhG reduction goals, as well as broader sustainability goals including economic vitality and neighborhood livability.

Moved from 6.08 Above: Transportation Impact

Transportation~~ffe~~ or traffic impacts from a proposed development that cause unacceptable community or environmental impacts or unacceptable reduction in a multimodal level of service or parking impacts to surrounding areas will be mitigated.^{xiii} All development will be designed and built to be multimodal, pedestrian-oriented and include TDM strategies to reduce the vehicle miles traveled generated by the development. New development will provide continuous pedestrian, bike and transit systems through the development and connection of these systems to those surrounding the development. The city and county will provide tools and resources to help businesses manage employee access and mobility and support public-private partnerships, such as transportation management organizations, to facilitate these efforts.

New Policy: Concurrent Land Use and Transportation Planning

Overall citywide transportation and land use planning should be coordinated. Future major changes to the land use map and policies of this plan and the Transportation Master Plan should be, to the extent practicable, be coordinated, modeled and evaluated concurrently.^{xiv}

6.09 ~~Integration with Land Use~~ Integrated Planning for Multimodal Centers

~~Land use in and surrounding the~~ Three intermodal regional centers (i.e., of, will be developed or maintained Downtown Boulder, the University of Colorado and the Boulder Valley Regional Center at, including including Boulder Junction), in the downtown, Boulder Junction and on the university's main campus as will support their function as anchors to regional transit connections and ~~as~~ Mobility Hubs for connecting pedestrian, bicycle and local transit to regional services.

Separate New Policy: Integrated Planning for Corridors

The land along multimodal corridors will be designated as multimodal transportation zones where ~~en~~ transit service is provided on that corridor. In and along these multimodal transportation zones, the city will develop plan for a highly connected and continuous transportation system for all modes, emphasis on high quality pedestrian experience and urban design, identify locations for mixed use and higher density development integrated with transportation functions through appropriate design, and develop parking maximums and encourage parking reductions. The city will complete missing links in the transportation grid through the use of area transportation plans and at the time of parcel redevelopment.

(Note: The Built Environment chapter will more clearly define land use for different types of centers and corridors and where intensity is most appropriate or not^{xv}.)

~~6.10 Managing Parking Supply~~

~~Providing for vehicular parking will be considered as a component of a total access system of all modes of transportation—bicycle, pedestrian, transit and vehicular—and will be consistent with the desire to reduce single occupant vehicle travel, limit congestion, balance the use of public spaces and consider the needs of residential and commercial areas. Parking demand will be accommodated in the most efficient way possible with the minimal necessary number of new spaces. The city will promote parking reductions through parking maximums, shared parking, unbundled parking, parking districts and transportation demand management programs.~~

6.11 Transportation Facilities in Neighborhoods

The city ~~and county~~ will strive to protect and improve the quality of life within city neighborhoods while ~~developing~~ a balanced transportation system. Improving access and safety within neighborhoods by controlling vehicle speeds or providing multi-modal connections will be given priority over vehicle mobility. The city and county will design and construct new transportation facilities to minimize noise levels to the extent practical. Neighborhood needs and goals will be balanced against the community necessity or benefit of a transportation improvement. Additionally, neighborhood parking permit (NPP) programs will seek to balance access and parking demands of neighborhoods and adjacent traffic generators.^{xvi}

New or Modified Policy: Transportation Infrastructure to Support Walkable 15-Minute Neighborhoods^{xvii}

The city will prioritize improvements to transportation facilities to create a variety of neighborhood supporting activities and supportive infrastructure within approximately a one-quarter mile radius where residents and employees can fulfill more of their daily needs through safe, healthy and convenient walking and biking.

(Note: The Built Environment chapter includes policies related to neighborhood centers, mix of land uses and amenities such as parks and schools, and area planning within neighborhoods to

support complete neighborhoods to serve neighborhood needs. The scenarios will also address this topic.)^{xviii}

6.12 Neighborhood Streets Connectivity

Neighborhood streets and alleys are part of the public realm and will be ~~developed~~ planned as a well-connected and fine grained pattern to facilitate public access, ~~to promote safe and convenient travel for all, and to effectively~~ disperse and distribute vehicle traffic, and maintain character and community cohesion. In historic districts, alleys are particularly important for maintaining character and providing travel routes for pedestrians and bicycles.^{xix}

New Policy: Mobility Hubs^{xx}

As guided by the Transportation Master Plan, the city will establish Mobility Hubs that provide seamless integration between transit and pedestrian and bicycle facilities, car/ridesharing, and context-appropriate parking supply for people of all physical abilities. Mobility Hubs will emphasize excellent pedestrian infrastructure within a quarter- to half-mile walkshed and connections to the bicycle network as well as high quality urban design of structures and public spaces.^{xxi}

Other Transportation Policies

Air Quality

6.13 Improving Air Quality and Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Both the city and county are committed to reductions in greenhouse gas emissions with the city committing to an 80 percent reduction from 2005 levels by 2050. The city and county will design the transportation system to minimize air pollution and reduce GhG emissions by promoting the use of non-automotive low emission transportation modes, reducing auto traffic, and encouraging the use of fuel efficient and ~~alternatively clean~~ fueled vehicles that demonstrate air pollution reductions, and maintaining acceptable traffic flow.

Boulder Municipal Airport

6.14 Municipal Airport

Boulder Municipal Airport is a general aviation airport that has been in existence since 1928. ~~The Boulder Municipal Airport will continue a~~ The airport will continue at the appropriate scale to ensure it meets the needs of the community by providing a safe environment for aviation business and business-related travel; scientific and research flights; recreation and tourism; flight training and vocational education; aerial fire-fighting; emergency medical flights; as well as flood and other disaster-related support for the city and county. ~~s a small scale general aviation airport.~~ The city will seek to mitigate noise, safety and other impacts of airport operation while assuring that new development in proximity will be compatible with existing and planned use of the airport.^{xxii}

Potential New Transportation Resilience Policies

The HR&A Resilience report suggests the following:

New Policy: Infrastructure Investments

The city will support infrastructure investments that provide multiple benefits, such as greenways, which both serve as a public amenity and mitigate risk. (The county's climate change preparedness section might also be useful here.)

New Policy: Emergency Response Access

The city and county will assess and develop solutions with stakeholders to coordinate transportation policies, infrastructure planning, and response plans in the event of a disruption.

Graphics and Maps to Add to This Chapter

- Add new Renewed Vision for Transit
- Transportation GHG reduction graph – 40% of reduction needed in the Clean Energy and Innovations area
- Images of Mobility Hubs
- Photos of people walking, bicycling, and transit
- Photos of recently completed capital construction projects (e.g. Boulder Junction and Broadway Euclid)
- Call out the metrics from the TMP including LOS, VMT, GHG goals, etc.

ENDNOTES

i The changes to this chapter reflect work since the 2010 plan including:

- Boulder County Transportation Master Plan (2012) and Multimodal Transportation Standards (2013)
- City Transportation Master Plan (2014) which included county and other partner input;
- City draft Climate Commitment strategy (2015);
- City Transportation Report on Progress (2016);
- County Mobility4All Needs Assessment (2016);
- The city has also been working on an Access Management and Parking Strategy (AMPS) and adopted new standards related to Transportation Demand Management (TDM).
- HR&A's Recommendations for Resilience Integration (2016)

ii Includes new language from TMP.

iii The city and county transportation master plans address this issue differently. This policy may need additional input and work to clarify respective policies.

iv Transit policy from TMP

v Combined with policy 6.06 Mobility Services.

vi Revised language reflects input from Transportation Advisory Board.

vii From TMP and some new language to reflect Planning Board input.

viii Transportation Master Plan focuses on a broad range of crash cause rather than calling out any specific type of cause (e.g., distracted drivers). Needs a broad approach that will be applicable over time.

ix Consistent with TMP.

x Consistent with TMP.

xi Portions of this policy are from previous policy 6.10, which has been modified to reflect work completed during the Access Management Parking Strategy work.

xii Planning Board members suggested addressing parking impacts in neighborhoods as well.

xiii Addressing parking impacts (particularly from parking reductions) suggested by Planning Board.

xiv Planning Board suggestion to reflect on overall citywide coordination of TMP and BVCP before getting to more specific language about multimodal centers and corridors.

^{xv} Reflects suggestions from Planning Board.

^{xvi} New language is intended to convey different goals for city neighborhoods vs. rural neighborhoods. Also, the parking language is a new suggestion from Planning Board.

^{xvii} Consistent with TMP.

^{xviii} TAB suggested some language about bicycling parking, and Planning Board suggested a refinement and additions to other parts of the plan to address the land use aspect of this concept of 15-minute neighborhoods, and an inclusive local process for planning them.

^{xix} Planning Board suggested this type of language to address historic value and connected nature of alleys – importance for pedestrian and bicycle transportation off the main streets.

^{xx} Consistent with TMP

^{xxi} Suggestion from TAB.

^{xxii} Reflects Airport Master Plan.

DRAFT

8. Community Well-Beingⁱ

*Proposed new section title: **Healthy and Socially-Thriving Community***

Note: Some of the following policies relating to safety will move to a new “Safe and Resilient Community” section. Also please note that a further round of editing will occur to improve organization, reduce verbosity and redundancies, and renumber policies as necessary.

The Boulder Valley, like all communities, is much more than its physical form. It is composed of people as well as the places where they live and work; it is as much a social environment as it is a physical environment. The Boulder Valley is a center of active living, attracting residents, businesses and visitors who value community and individual health. The city and county are committed to continuing to be a national leader in promoting the physical health and well-being of everyone in the community as well as promoting civil and human rights. Additionally, the city and county will strive to foster mental and social health and well-being and health equity through the cultivation of a wide range of recreational, cultural, educational and social opportunities.

Boulder is a fluid and growing community with changing demographics. The city and county proactively anticipate and plan for emerging demographic trends and social issues and consider challenges faced by different demographic groups including:

- Supporting the ability of a growing **older population** to age well in our community;
- Ensuring **healthy starts for children and youth development** and opportunities to be contributing members of the community;
- Supporting inclusion of **immigrants and other culturally diverse people** into the community;
- Addressing the impacts of a large **university population** on housing and other infrastructure; and
- Addressing the full range of impacts from the community’s **lack of affordable housing** and the **increasing cost of affordable living**.

In providing human services, the city and county partner to comprehensively create and support a safety net of services and opportunities for individual and family economic mobility and self-sufficiency through coordinated regional planning, service delivery and integrated partnerships. Generally, Boulder County provides many of the critical state- and federally-supported programs, entitlement programs and countywide services. The city complements and augments these services and those identified as important to the Boulder community, including a range of services from safety net services to prevention services.

The policies in this section support the city’s and county’s goals related to:

- Human Services
- Social Equity
- Community Health
- Community Infrastructure and Facilities

Human Services

8.01 Providing for a Broad Spectrum of Human Needs

The city and county will develop and maintain human service programs that provide for the broad spectrum of human needs. An emphasis will be placed on supporting best practices and evidence-based programs that build upon community resilience through increased self-reliance and self-sufficiency. Using a resilience framework will help individuals avoid crisis and recover more quickly in emergency situations, which will in turn reduce the community's long term costs of providing services. Services will balance meeting emergency and short-term needs with long-term solutions and support for critical social issues.

8.02 Regional Approach to Human Servicesⁱⁱ

The city and county will continue their collaborative roles in human services planning and funding through partnerships with other agencies and local government as well as shared data and reporting that offers easy access for community residents and facilitates data-driven decision-making. The city and county will use a regional approach to policy and program development. The city and county will seek to build partnerships with surrounding communities and the region, which will help address the often disproportionate service burden placed on Boulder as a key regional center.

Social Equity

8.03 Equitable Distribution of Resources

The city and county will work to ensure that human services are accessible and affordable to those most in need. The city and county will consider the impacts of policies and planning efforts on low- and moderate- income and special needs populations and ensure impacts and costs of sustainable decision making do not unfairly burden any one geographic or socioeconomic group in the city. The city and county will consider ways to reduce the transportation burden for low income, older adult, and disabled populations, enabling equal access to community infrastructure.

8.04 Addressing Community Deficiencies

The city and county will use community feedback in conjunction with robust data resources to identify barriers to development and provision of important basic human services and will work closely with community partners to find solutions to critical deficiencies.

8.05 Diversity

The community values diversity as a source of strength and opportunity. The city and county will support the integration of diverse cultures and socio-economic groups in physical, social, cultural and economic environments and promote opportunities for community engagement and formal and informal representation of diverse community members in civic affairs.

New Policy: Youth Engagementⁱⁱⁱ

The city and county support youth engagement and partner with organizations in the community to offer opportunities to youth for civic engagement and education and fostering innovative thinking and leadership.

Safety and Community Health

8.06 Safety

The city and county promote safety by fostering good neighborhood and community relations, building a sense of community pride and involvement, and promoting safe and attractive neighborhoods. The city and county will provide police, fire protection and emergency management services and preparedness education to ensure a safe community. The city and county will adjust public safety service delivery to respond to changing community needs including demographic changes and redeveloping and urbanizing areas to support safe, livable neighborhoods and vibrant business districts.

8.07 Health and Well-Being

The city and county strive to ensure that the community continues to be a leader in promoting physical, mental and social well-being of community members and will support recreational, cultural, educational and social opportunities. The city and county recognize that healthy diet and physical activity are essential to individual and community well-being. Neighborhood and community design will encourage physical activity and healthy eating by establishing easy access to parks and trails, healthy food retailers, and locating activity centers close to where people live, work and attend school.

New Policy: Resilience in Public Safety and Risk Prevention

The city and county will provide focused efforts around public safety risk prevention and early intervention. Working with the community, the city and county will strive to prepare all segments of the community for uncertainty and disruptions by encouraging community and individual preparedness and creating a culture of risk awareness.

New Policy: Physical Safety

The city and county strive to ensure community members are safe from physical violence.^{iv}

Note: This is a new suggested policy in its early stages. Further development to follow.

New Policy: Community Connectivity and Preparedness^v

The city and county will support fostering social and community connectivity and communications which promote well-being, deepen a sense of community and encourage civic participation and empowerment. The city and county recognize that supporting connections in the community furthermore enhances preparedness and improves the ability to respond and recover when emergencies happen.

Community Infrastructure and Facilities

Elementary and Secondary Schools

8.08 Planning for School Sites and Facilities

The city and county will assist the Boulder Valley School District in its planning efforts to assure that the number, size and location of school lands and facilities is adequate to serve the population for the foreseeable future. The city and county will consider current and projected school enrollment and available school capacities when approving the type, scale and timing of

residential development. The city and county will work with the school district to consider transportation impacts when planning for school sites and facilities.

8.09 Accessibility to Schools

The city and county will work with the Boulder Valley School District to develop safe and convenient pedestrian, bicycle and transit access for students to existing and new schools. New school facilities will be located so that school-age children have the opportunity to arrive safely on their own.

Community Facility Needs

8.10 Support for Community Facilities

The city and county recognize the importance of educational, health, cultural and non-profit community agencies that provide vital services to the residents of the Boulder Valley and will work collaboratively with these agencies to reasonably accommodate their facility needs and consider location based on transportation accessibility or other needs.

Parks and Trails

8.11 Parks and Recreation

The city and county recognize park and recreation facilities provide one of the most effective ways to build people's sense of community and quality of life throughout the city, especially in redeveloping areas and in the revitalization of neighborhoods. Parks and Recreation programs and facilities will continue to provide for a well-balanced and healthy community by providing a range of activities that support mental and physical health through high-quality programs and services that meet the needs of the community. Such facilities and services will be designed in a manner that responds to the needs of the intended users.

New Policy: Parks as Gathering Spaces

The city will strive to ensure Boulder's public green spaces among residential areas are gathering places for neighbors and community members to build relationships and social ties that encourage safety and support within neighborhoods. These spaces will be planned and managed to remain clean, open, safe and accessible to neighbors and build strong social capital which is the backbone of a resilient and engaged community.

8.12 Trail Functions and Locations

Trails serve a variety of functions such as exercise, recreation, transportation, education and/or environmental protection. Trails should be designed and managed to minimize conflicts among trail users. Trailheads should be located so they are convenient and safe for those arriving by alternate modes of transportation as well as automobiles. In order to provide environmental protection, informal trails and the widening of trails by users should be discouraged by ensuring that formal trails are well-designed, monitored and adequately maintained. Trail and trailhead locations and alignments should avoid environmentally sensitive areas and minimize environmental impacts.

8.13 Trails Network

The city and county will coordinate with other trail providers and private landowners in trail system planning, construction, management and maintenance. Where compatible with

environmental protection goals and conservation easement agreements, trail connections will be developed to enhance the overall functioning of the trails network.

Culture

8.14 Libraries

Library facilities and services of the Boulder Valley will be responsive to the needs of all populations, providing an adequate range of informational, educational and intellectual opportunities for all residents.

8.15. Information Resource/Community Center

The city will provide access to information through a variety of formats providing materials, technology and services to enhance the personal development of the community's residents. In its role as the community's public and civic information center, the library will provide venues for community group meetings and resources and services to meet the needs of the community's multicultural and special populations. Other community gathering spaces and information sources include the city and county websites, municipal buildings and recreation and senior centers.

8.16 Education Resource

The city will seek to provide educational, cultural and literacy resources and opportunities for the community. The city will develop and maintain resources to assist learners and students of all ages, including support for formal education programs, and provide public workspaces and independent learning resources. The city will develop collaborative relationships with community educational institutions and function as a research center for residents.

8.17 Arts and Cultural Facilities

The city and county recognize the ability of cultural facilities and activity to positively contribute to community members' well-being and sense of community. The city and county will encourage the provision of venues and facilities for a wide range of arts and cultural expression that are available and affordable to everyone.

8.18 The Arts and Community Culture (reverse order of 8.17 and 8.18)

The city and county recognize and support the arts and community members' easy access to cultural experiences. Arts and culture advance civic dialogue, awareness and participation, contribute to people' authentic expression of diversity, and promote community inclusion. The city and county will encourage a rich mix of cultural offerings by supporting cultural organizations, artists and creative professionals, the expression of culture and creativity in the public realm and Boulder's cultural destinations.

8.19 Public Art

The city and county recognize the importance of public art and the environmental vibrancy it instills. The city and county will build a high-performing public art program to encourage the installation of art in public buildings and spaces.

ENDNOTES

ⁱ The changes to this chapter reflect work since the 2010 Plan including:

- Human Services Strategy (in progress)
- Homelessness Strategy (in progress)
- HR&A's Recommendations for Resilience Integration (2016)
- Community Cultural Plan (2015)
- Parks and Recreation Master Plan (2013)
- Fire-Rescue Master Plan (2011)
- Police Master Plan (2013)

ⁱⁱ Revisions based on Boulder County's Building a Community of Support (2016 Report) and Human Service Safety Net (2014 Report) and the City of Boulder's Human Services Strategy.

ⁱⁱⁱ New suggested policy by Planning Board. Could incorporate language from the inclusion report that regards public safety practices.

^{iv} Revisions based on Human Services Strategy guiding principles for human services delivery

^v On-going emphasis around youth engagement through YOAB, GUB, and recommendations in Community Cultural Plan Strategies.

DRAFT

8. Community Well-Beingⁱ

*Proposed new section title: **Healthy and Socially-Thriving Community***

Note: Some of the following policies relating to safety will move to a new “Safe and Resilient Community” section. Also please note that a further round of editing will occur to improve organization, reduce verbosity and redundancies, and renumber policies as necessary.

The Boulder Valley, like all communities, is much more than its physical form. It is composed of people as well as the places where they live and work; it is as much a social environment as it is a physical environment. The Boulder Valley is a center of active living, attracting residents, businesses and visitors who value community and individual health. The city and county are committed to continuing to be a national leader in promoting the physical health and ~~welfare~~ well-being of everyone in the community as well as promoting civil and human rights. Additionally, the city and county will strive to foster mental and social health and well-being and health equity through the cultivation of a wide range of recreational, cultural, educational and social opportunities.

Boulder is a fluid and growing community, with changing demographics. The city and county proactively anticipate and plan for emerging demographic trends and social issues, and consider challenges faced by different demographic groups including:

- ~~Needs of a growing older adult population and their family caregivers; Supporting the ability of a growing- older population to age well in our community;~~
- Ensuring healthy starts for children and youth development and opportunities to be contributing members of the community;
- Supporting ~~and~~ inclusion of immigrants and other culturally diverse people into the community;
- Addressing the impacts of a large university population on housing and other infrastructure; and
- Addressing the full range of impacts from the community’s lack of affordable housing and the increasing cost of affordable living.
- ~~Need for ongoing support of services and facilities for basic needs such as food, health care, shelter, child care, elder care, and education and training;~~
- ~~Support for community non-profits; and~~
- ~~Accessibility and affordability of basic health and human services.~~

In providing human services, the city and county partner vision for Boulder is to comprehensively create and support a ~~comprehensive~~ safety net of services and opportunities for individual and family economic mobility and self-sufficiency for residents, through coordinated regional planning, service delivery, and integrated partnerships. Generally, Boulder County provides many of the critical state- and federally-~~supported~~ mandated programs, entitlement programs and countywide services. The city complements and augments these services and those provides services identified as important to the Boulder community, including a range of services from safety net services to and early intervention and prevention services. ~~to meet critical human service needs.~~

The policies in this section support the city's and county's goals related to:

- Human Services
- Social Equity
- Community Health
- Community Infrastructure and Facilities

Human Services

8.01 Providing for a Broad Spectrum of Human Needs

The city and county will develop and maintain human service programs that provide for the broad spectrum of human needs. An emphasis will be placed on supporting best practices and evidence-based programs that build upon community resilience through increased self-reliance and self-sufficiency. Using a resilience framework will help individuals avoid crisis and recover more quickly in emergency situations, which will in turn reduce the community's long term costs of providing services, from safety net services to early intervention and prevention programs which mitigate more costly, long-term interventions and forestall worsening social conditions. Services will balance meeting emergency and short-term immediate needs with long-term solutions and supports for ~~to~~ critical social issues.

8.02 Regional Approach to Human Servicesⁱⁱ

The city and county will continue their~~its~~ collaborative roles in human services planning and funding through partnerships with other agencies and local government as well as shared data and reporting that offers easy access for community residents and facilitates data-driven decision-making. ~~s.~~ The city and county will use a eordinate a regional approach to policy and program development such as that articulated in the Ten Year Plan to Address Homelessness and the Human Services Strategic Plan. The city and county will seek to build partnerships with surrounding communities and the region, which will help address the often disproportionate service burden placed on Boulder as a key regional service center.

Social Equity

8.03 Equitable Distribution of Resources

The city and county will work to ensure that basic-human services are accessible and affordable to those most in need. The city and county will consider the impacts of policies and planning efforts on low- and moderate- income and special needs populations and ensure impacts and costs of sustainable decision making do not unfairly burden any one geographic or socio-economic group in the city. The city and county will consider ways to reduce the transportation burden for low income, older adult, and disabled populations, enabling equal access to community infrastructure.

8.04 Addressing Community Deficiencies

The city and county will use community feedback in conjunction with robust data resources to identify barriers to development and provision of important basic human services and will work closely with community partners to find solutions to critical deficiencies. ~~and work to find solutions to critical social issues such as lack of housing options for very low income and special~~

~~needs populations, access to and affordability of basic services, and limited availability of affordable retail products.~~

8.05 Diversity

The community values diversity as a source of strength and opportunity. The city and county will support the integration of diverse cultures and socio-economic groups in ~~the~~ physical, social, cultural and economic environments and promote opportunities for community engagement ~~of diverse community members;~~ and ~~promote~~ formal and informal representation of diverse community members in civic affairs.

New Policy: Youth Engagementⁱⁱⁱ

The city and county support youth engagement and partner with organizations in the community to offer opportunities to youth for civic engagement and education and fostering innovative thinking and leadership.

Safety and Community Health

8.06 Safety

The city and county will promote safety by fostering good neighborhood and community relations, building a sense of community pride and involvement, and promoting safe and attractive neighborhoods. The city and county will provide police, fire protection and emergency management services and preparedness education to ensure a safe community. The city and county will adjust public safety service delivery to respond to changing community needs including demographic changes and redeveloping and urbanizing areas to support safe, livable neighborhoods and vibrant business districts.

8.07 Physical Health and Well-Being

The city and county strive to ensure that ~~the~~ community continues to be a leader in promoting physical, mental and social well-being health and welfare of community members and will support recreational, cultural, educational and social opportunities. The city and county recognizes that healthy diet and physical activity are essential to individual and health and community well-being. ~~The city will support opportunities for people to exercise.~~ Neighborhood and community design will encourage physical activity and healthy eating by establishing easy access to parks and trails, healthy food retailers, and locating activity centers close to where people live, work and attend school. ~~The city will support community health programs such as: obesity prevention, outdoor education, safe routes to school, and healthy eating.~~

New Policy: Resilience in Public Safety and Risk Prevention

The city and county will provide focused efforts around public safety risk prevention and early intervention. Working with the community, the city and county will strive to prepare all segments of the community for uncertainty and disruptions by encouraging community and individual preparedness and creating a culture of risk awareness.

New Policy: Physical Safety

The city and county strive to ensure community members are safe from physical violence.^{iv}

Note: This is a new suggested policy in its early stages. Further development to follow.

New Policy: Community Connectivity and Preparedness^v

The city and county will support fostering social and community connectivity and communications which promote well-being, deepen a sense of community and encourage civic participation and empowerment. The city and county recognize that supporting connections in the community furthermore enhances preparedness and improves the ability to respond and recover when emergencies happen.

Community Infrastructure and Facilities

Elementary and Secondary Schools

8.08 Planning for School Sites and Facilities

The city and county will assist the Boulder Valley School District in its planning efforts to assure that the number, size and location of school lands and facilities is adequate to serve the population for the foreseeable future. The city and county will consider current and projected school enrollment and available school capacities when approving the type, scale and timing of residential development. The city and county will work with the school district to consider transportation impacts when planning for school sites and facilities.

8.09 Accessibility to Schools

The city and county will work with the Boulder Valley School District to develop safe and convenient pedestrian, bicycle and transit access for students to existing and new schools. New school facilities will be located so that school-age children have the opportunity to arrive safely on their own.

Community Facility Needs

8.10 Support for Community Facilities

The city and county recognize the importance of educational, health, cultural and non-profit community agencies that provide vital services to the residents of the Boulder Valley and will work collaboratively with these agencies to reasonably accommodate their facility needs and consider location based on transportation accessibility or other needs.

Parks and Trails

8.11 Parks and Recreation

The city and county recognize park and recreation facilities provide one of the most effective ways to build people's sense of community and quality of life throughout the city, especially in redeveloping areas and in the revitalization of neighborhoods. Parks and Recreation programs and facilities will continue to provide for a well-balanced and healthy community by providing a range of activities that support mental and physical health through high-quality programs and services that meet the needs of the community. Such facilities and services will be designed in a manner that responds to the needs of the intended users.

~~Park and recreation facilities and services of the city or other service entities will provide an adequate range of exercise and recreational opportunities for residents. Such facilities and services will be designed in a manner that responds to the needs of the intended users. City park~~

~~and recreation facilities will provide a variety of landscape types as amenities and recreational resources for urban dwellers, including irrigated green spaces, low water need plantings and natural vegetation areas.~~

New Policy: Parks as Gathering Spaces

~~The city will strive to ensure Boulder’s public green spaces among residential areas are gathering places for neighbors and community members to build relationships and social ties that encourage safety and support within neighborhoods. These spaces will be planned and managed to remain clean, open, safe and accessible to neighbors and build strong social capital which is the backbone of a resilient and engaged community.~~

8.12 Trail Functions and Locations

Trails serve a variety of functions such as exercise, recreation, transportation, education and/or environmental protection. Trails should be designed and managed to minimize conflicts among trail users. Trailheads should be located so they are convenient and safe for those arriving by alternate modes of transportation as well as automobiles. In order to provide environmental protection, informal trails and ~~the user~~-widening of trails ~~by users~~ should be discouraged by ensuring that formal trails are ~~well~~-well-designed, monitored and adequately maintained. Trail and trailhead locations and alignments should avoid environmentally sensitive areas and minimize environmental impacts.

8.13 Trails Network

The city and county will coordinate with other trail providers and private landowners in trail system planning, construction, management and maintenance. Where compatible with environmental protection goals and conservation easement agreements, trail connections will be developed to enhance the overall functioning of the trails network.

Culture

8.14 Libraries

Library facilities and services of the Boulder Valley will be responsive to the needs of all populations, providing an adequate range of informational, educational and intellectual opportunities for all residents.

8.15. Information Resource/Community Center

The city will provide access to information through a variety of formats providing materials, technology and services to enhance the personal development of the community’s residents. In its role as the community’s public and civic information center, the library will provide venues for community group meetings and resources and services to meet the needs of the community’s multicultural and special populations. Other community gathering spaces and information sources include the city and county websites, municipal buildings, and recreation and senior centers.

8.16 Education Resource

The city will seek to provide educational, cultural and literacy resources and ~~opportunities~~services for the community. The city will develop and maintain resources to assist learners and students of all ages, including support for formal education programs, and provide public workspaces and independent learning resources. The city will develop collaborative

relationships with community educational institutions and function as a research center for residents.

8.17 Performing and Visual Arts and Cultural Facilities

The city and county recognize the ability of cultural facilities and activity to positively contribute to community members' well-being and sense of community. The city and county, recognizing the need to enhance the personal development of the public and to build a sense of community by providing for cultural needs, will encourage the provision of venues and facilities for a wide range of the performing and visual arts and cultural expression that are available and affordable to everyone.
and the provision of art in public buildings and spaces.

8.18 The Arts and Community Culture (reverse order of 8.17 and 8.18)

The city and county recognize and support the arts and community members' easy access to cultural experiences. Arts and culture advance civic dialogue, awareness and participation, contribute to people' authentic expression of diversity, and promote community inclusion. They are central to the cultural life for children, youth and adults of the Boulder community and a clean industry that contributes significantly to the Boulder economy. They present significant quality of life advantages to the Boulder community through education, entertainment and the aesthetic environment and The city and county will encourage a rich mix of cultural offerings by supporting cultural organizations, artists and creative professionals, the expression of culture and creativity in the public realm and Boulder's cultural destinations. provide a vehicle to bring together people of all walks of life and diverse ages, genders, religions, abilities, opinions, races, ethnicities, classes, and economic means for better communication and mutual understanding.

8.19 Public Art

The city and county recognize the importance of public art and the environmental vibrancy it instills. The city and county will build a high-performing public art program to encourage the installation of art in public buildings and spaces.

The city and county will incorporate artistic elements in public projects whenever possible.

8.20 Canyon Boulevard Cultural Corridor

The city will encourage public and private projects within the Canyon Boulevard Cultural Corridor to have an arts focus and to incorporate public art.

ENDNOTES

ⁱ The changes to this chapter reflect work since the 2010 Plan including:

- Human Services Strategy (in progress)
- Homelessness Strategy (in progress)
- HR&A's Recommendations for Resilience Integration (2016)
- Community Cultural Plan (2015)
- Parks and Recreation Master Plan (2013)
- Fire-Rescue Master Plan (2011)
- Police Master Plan (2013)

ⁱⁱ Revisions based on Boulder County’s Building a Community of Support (2016 Report) and Human Service Safety Net (2014 Report) and the City of Boulder’s Human Services Strategy.

ⁱⁱⁱ New suggested policy by Planning Board. Could incorporate language from the inclusion report that regards public safety practices.

^{iv} Revisions based on Human Services Strategy guiding principles for human services delivery

^v On-going emphasis around youth engagement through YOAB, GUB, and recommendations in Community Cultural Plan Strategies.

DRAFT

9. Agriculture and Foodⁱ

Note: The proposed new section “Healthy and Socially Thriving Community” will include agricultural and food policies relating to a healthy, socially thriving community. The proposed new section “Environmentally Sustainable Community” will include agriculture and food policies relating to land and environment. Also please note that a further round of editing will occur to improve organization, reduce verbosity and redundancies, and renumber policies as necessary.

Food choices and their method of production represent one of the most significant impacts that humans have on the quality of our lives. A strong local food system can positively impact the resiliency, health, economy and environment of the Boulder Valley and its surrounding areas. Sustainable rural and urban agricultural practices and efficient transport of food can help reduce energy used to feed the community. Access to healthy food, including locally grown food for all Boulder residents, is a top priority for our community. It is important that such food be available to individuals and families in all neighborhoods, regardless of economic situation and location.

The city and county have made significant contributions to the preservation of lands suitable for agricultural production and the water needed to use these areas for agriculture. Most agricultural production in the Boulder Valley occurs on city and county open space.

The following policies on agricultural and food systems guide public policy and decision-making in our community.

- Support for Agriculture
- Sustainable Food Production Practices
- Regional Efforts to Enhance the Food System
- Urban Gardening and Food Production
- Access to Healthy Food

9.01 Support for Agriculture

The city and county encourage the preservation of working agricultural lands, and sustainable production of food on them to the degree they provide cultural, environmental, economic and resilient benefits to the community. These uses are important for preserving the rural character of Area III. The success of agriculture on these lands is vitally dependent on their water supplies. The city and county will demonstrate and encourage the protection of significant agricultural areas and related water supplies and facilities, including the historic and existing ditch systems, through a variety of means, which may include public acquisition, land use planning and sale or lease of water for agricultural use. The city and county will support farmers and ranchers in this area as they negotiate the challenges of operating in a semi-arid environment that is often near residential areas.

9.02 Urban Gardening and Food Production

The city encourages community and private gardens to be integrated in the city. City incentives include allowing flexibility and/or helping to remove restrictions for food production and sales on private lands and in shared open spaces and public areas, and encouraging rooftop gardens and composting and planting edible fruit and vegetable plants where appropriate.

9.03 Sustainable Food Production Practices

The city and county will promote sustainable food production practices on publicly- owned lands and will encourage them on private lands. Sustainable practices include food production methods that integrate ecological conservation objectives, responsibly use water and protect its quality, provide for pollinator and beneficial insect habitat, are respectful to workers, are humane to animals, provide fair wages to farmers, integrate whole farm planning and support farming communities. These can include a range of production types that take into account land suitability, water availability, invasive species, energy use and labor and capital needs. The city and county will also promote sustainable agriculture by recognizing the critical importance of delivering irrigation ditch water to agricultural lands.

9.04 Access to Healthy Food

The city will support cooperative efforts to establish community markets throughout the community and region. Such efforts include working to identify a location or develop facilities to allow one or more year-round farmers' markets, supporting sales of produce from small community gardens and working with local partners on food programs. The city and county support increased growth, sales, distribution and consumption of foods that are healthy, sustainably produced and locally grown for all Boulder Valley residents with an emphasis on affordable access to food and long term availability of food.

9.05 Regional Efforts to Enhance the Food System

The city and county will participate in regional agricultural efforts and implement recommendations at a local level to the extent appropriate and possible.

ENDNOTES

ⁱ The changes to this chapter reflect work since the 2010 Plan including:

- Agriculture Resources Management Plan (in progress)
- City of Boulder Water Efficiency Plan (2016)
- HR&A's Recommendations for Resilience Integration (2016)
- 2015 State of Colorado Water Plan (2015)
- Boulder County Environmental Element (2014)
- Parks and Recreation Master Plan (2012)
- City of Boulder Source Water Master Plan (2009)
- Ordinances and policy changes to promote local food sales
- Boulder County Cropland Policy (2011)

9. Agriculture and Food¹

Note: The proposed new section “Healthy and Socially Thriving Community” will include agricultural and food policies relating to a healthy, socially thriving community. The proposed new section “Environmentally Sustainable Community” will include agriculture and food policies relating to land and environment. Also please note that a further round of editing will occur to improve organization, reduce verbosity and redundancies, and renumber policies as necessary.

A strong local food system can positively impact the resiliency, health, economy and environment of the Boulder Valley and surrounding region. Food choices and their method of production represent one of the most significant impacts that humans have on the quality of our lives world around us. A strong local food system can positively impact the resiliency, health, economy and environment of the Boulder Valley and its surrounding areas. Sustainable rural and urban agricultural practices and efficient short distances to transport of food can help reduce energy used to feed the community. Access to healthysafe food, including locally grown food for all Boulder residents, is a top priority for our community. It is important that suchhealthy food be available to individuals and families in all neighborhoods, regardless of economic situation and location.

Roots in progressive food movements run deep in Boulder County and have contributed to the dynamic and thriving natural foods industry. Many local restaurants specialize in providing local ingredients in their food, garden to table processes have been developed in local schools, and the desire for a year round farmers market are all indications of people’s growing interest and demand for locally produced food.

The city and county have made significant contributions to the preservation of lands suitable for agricultural production, and the water needed to use these areas for agriculture. Most agricultural production in the Boulder Valley occurs on city and county open space.

The following policies on agricultural~~le~~ and ~~access to local~~ food ~~systems~~ guide public policy and decision-making ~~in to move~~ our community ~~toward a more robust agricultural economy and ensuring everyone has access to food.~~

- ~~Support for Agriculture~~
- ~~Local Food Production~~
- ~~Sustainable Food Production~~ Agricultural Practices
- ~~Regional Efforts to Enhance the Food System~~
- ~~Urban Gardening and Food Production~~
- Access to ~~Locally Produced~~ Healthy Food

9.01 Support for Agriculture

The city and county ~~will~~ encourage the preservation ~~of working agricultural lands,~~ and sustainable ~~production of food on them~~ use of agricultural lands as a current and renewable ~~source of food and feed and for their contribution to~~ the degree they provide cultural, environmental, ~~and economic~~ ~~diversity and resilient~~ benefits to the community. These ~~uses~~ areas

are important for preserving the rural character of Area III. The success of agriculture on these lands is vitally dependent on their water supplies. The city and county will demonstrate and encourage the protection of significant agricultural areas and related water supplies and facilities, including the historic and existing ditch systems, through a variety of means, which may include public acquisition, land use planning, and sale or lease of water for agricultural use. The city and county will support farmers and ranchers in this area as they negotiate the challenges of operating in a semi-arid environment that is often near residential areas.

9.025 Urban Gardening and Food Production

The city will encourage community and private gardens to be integrated in the city. City incentives include This may include allowing flexibility and/or helping to remove restrictions for food production and sales on private lands and, in shared open spaces and public areas, and encouraging rooftop gardens and composting and planting edible fruit and vegetable plants where appropriate.

9.02 Local Food Production

The city and county will encourage and support local food production to improve the availability and accessibility of healthy foods and to provide other educational, economic and social benefits. The city and county support increased growth, sales, distribution and consumption of foods that are healthy, sustainably produced and locally grown for all Boulder Valley residents with an emphasis on affordable access to food for everyone and long term availability of food.

9.03 Sustainable Food Production Agriculture Practices

The city and county will promote sustainable agricultural food production practices on publicly-owned lands and will encourage them on private lands. Sustainable practices include food production methods that are healthy, have low environmental impact, integrate ecological conservation objectives, responsibly use water and protect its quality, provide for pollinator and beneficial insect habitat, are respectful to workers, are humane to animals, provide fair wages to farmers, integrate whole farm planning and support farming communities. These can include a range of production types that take into account land suitability, water availability, invasive species, energy use and labor and capital needs. The city and county will also promote sustainable agriculture by recognizing the critical importance of delivering irrigation ditch water to agricultural lands.

9.04 Access to Healthy Food

The city will support cooperative efforts to establish community markets throughout the community and region. Such efforts include working to identify a location or develop facilities to allow one or more year-round farmers' markets, supporting sales of produce from small community gardens and working with local partners on food programs. The city and county support increased growth, sales, distribution and consumption of foods that are healthy, sustainably produced and locally grown for all Boulder Valley residents with an emphasis on affordable access to food and long term availability of food.

9.054 Regional Efforts to Enhance the Food System

The city and county will participate in regional agricultural efforts and implement recommendations at a local level to the extent appropriate and possible.

9.05 Urban Gardening and Food Production

~~The city will encourage community and private gardens to be integrated in the city. This may include allowing flexibility and/or helping to remove restrictions for food production in shared open spaces and public areas, encouraging rooftop gardens and composting and planting edible fruit and vegetable plants where appropriate.~~

~~9.06 Access to Locally Produced Food~~

~~The city will support cooperative efforts to establish community markets throughout the community and region. Such efforts include working to identify a location or develop facilities to allow a year round farmers market and support sales of produce from small community gardens.~~

ENDNOTES

ⁱ The changes to this chapter reflect work since the 2010 Plan including:

- [Agriculture Resources Management Plan \(in progress\)](#)
- [City of Boulder Water Efficiency Plan \(2016\)](#)
- [HR&A’s Recommendations for Resilience Integration \(2016\)](#)
- [2015 State of Colorado Water Plan \(2015\)](#)
- [Boulder County Environmental Element \(2014\)](#)
- [Parks and Recreation Master Plan \(2012\)](#)
- [City of Boulder Source Water Master Plan \(2009\)](#)
- [Ordinances and policy changes to promote local food sales](#)
- [Boulder County Cropland Policy \(2011\)](#)