

East Boulder / Crossroads Listening Session

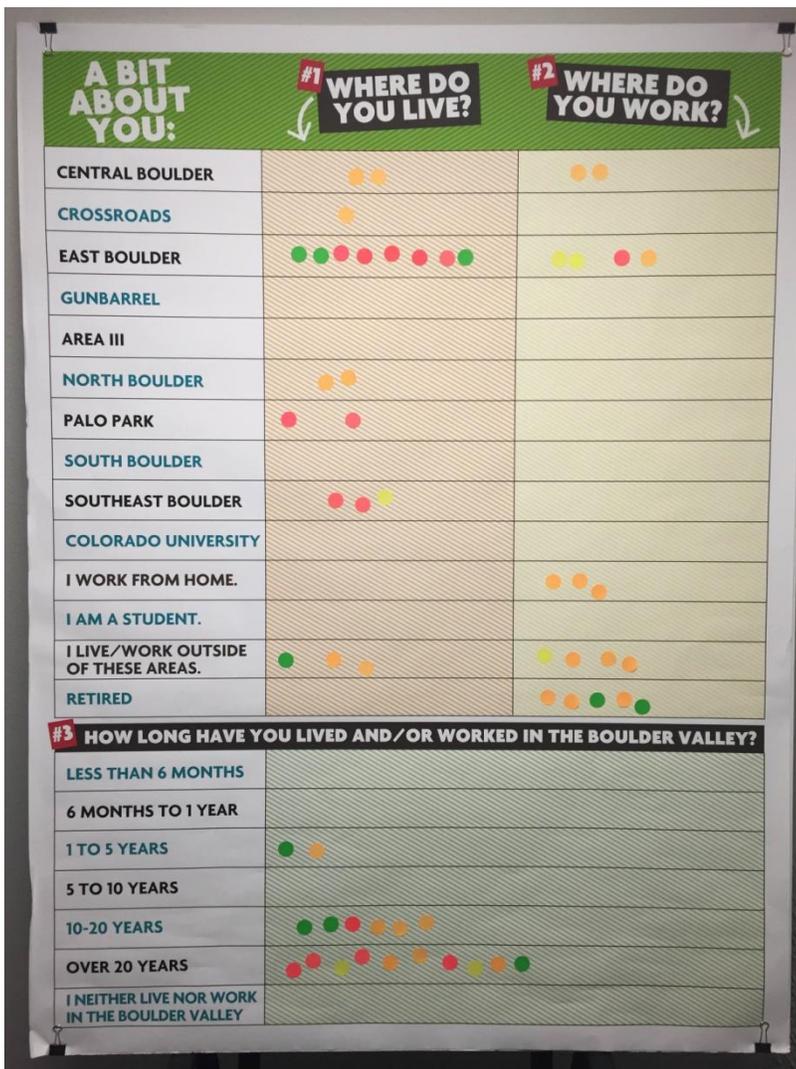
December 9, 2015

Meeting Summary and Discussion Notes



The purpose of the local community “listening sessions” is to invite community members to share concerns, questions, and ideas related to the update of the Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan (BVCP) as well as city (and county) services and programs. Sessions have been scheduled for six locations around the community and include an open house with a variety of information on a range of city programs and projects from many departments. These are followed by a short BVCP presentation with round table discussions following. Demographic information from the meetings is included below.

People were asked to suggest key topics for longer group discussion. The longer discussion topics selected are listed below in bold with summary notes.



Suggested topics for discussion:

Transportation, Flatiron Park, Noise Levels, New Development Mobile Home Park, Cyber Security, Housing Affordability, Traffic Congestion, and Growth.

Topic	Summary Notes East Boulder & Crossroads
Transportation	
Pedestrians	Should be better signal timing to help with flow of traffic; concern that ped lights are slowing flow - others think ped lights are good because those peds are people not in cars; peds relieve congestion; peds should make eye contact with drivers to make sure they are visible; concerned that walking / biking at night isn't safe on paths between Arapahoe and Valmont.
East Arapahoe	How much cooperation with city and county along E. Arapahoe; is county helping with congestion? Perhaps employees should have shuttles for workers to help with coordinated connections between bus/employment centers. RTD guy was asked about light rail in Boulder - basically said "not my job". How is Boulder addressing coordination with RTD?
Buses	Perhaps there is a problem with service and timing in East Boulder buses? 204 seems to never be on time. Idea of east/west circular; smaller more efficient buses would be good; N/S connection ok but not E/W. Need a signal at Kings Ridge, dangerous to get out on Valmont - only have 1 in/out subdivision. Bus service few / far between - would like to see smaller buses with greater frequency.
Diagonal / Valmont	Perhaps there is a better way to connect to the Diagonal? Too much development getting funneled on to Valmont has led to congestion, challenges for Kings Ridge neighborhood. Suggest removing office building near residence Inn (turning N out to Foothills from Valmont) south on 47th not wide enough so tough to turn off 47th on to Valmont.
Route Challenges	RTD needs to be overhauled, people aren't taking the bus because it doesn't get them anywhere; maybe a new small system should step in.
Jobs and Housing	New jobs will make traffic worse - how can employers help mitigate traffic? Important to have affordable housing stock to have a place for workers to live.
Traffic	Traffic might be worse than before but it isn't as bad as other cities; wants to see new businesses coming in, wants to see younger people / families. Should be more creative thinking to handle traffic.
Dedicated Bus Lanes	Mexico City bus BRT runs like a metro. Boulder could be like this; in a dedicated ROW; concerns about dedicated lane on Arapahoe because not enough people are using the bus - others at table like dedicated lane.
Increase Ridership	How do we get non-bus riders on the bus? One person had a bad experience - won't ride again. Suggestion to have more pullouts for buses rather than dedicated lanes. Shuttle buses could link to regional buses. Where are people going in buses vs. cars? perhaps we need to better understand where people are going to/from. Maybe there could be more amenities to walk to, closer to neighborhoods. Maybe there should be a "hike" route to circulate to popular hiking trails.

Valmont	Concerns about Valmont from 47th east but also between 30th and 47th. If there was a better N/S grid east of 30th perhaps the congestion on Valmont wouldn't be so bad.
Congestion	Active city, people looking for access to all amenities the city has to offer. Bike paths have their own congestion at times.
Neighborhood Services	Maybe the city needs to start from scratch? Should all neighborhoods be self-contained so you don't need to leave your neighborhood?
Transitions	
Changes in the Area	The area used to be much more industrial. It is transitioning to more businesses, active businesses. It is great to be able to walk to work. Ok with more industrial if there aren't bad impacts (pollution, noise). Differences in group - some seeing more entrepreneurs and some seeing trend to more government.
Growth Transportation	Huge issues that affect a lot of people - everyone has gone through changes - need fairness. Change happens over time. Would like to see something in the Comp Plan so Boulder doesn't end up a big city full of noise. At least control what we can.
Change / Opportunity	Office park changes might be good. Density is ok if well-planned. Walking options are good. This side of town has possibility if created well. Industrial manufacturing area could be a different mix.
Housing	Seniors are pretty good neighbors. Incorporate affordable housing in all neighborhoods. Likely include congregate care with other seniors. Need more mix of people. There isn't much middle class now.
Traffic	Valmont and Glenwood - 29th - need better ped facilities for crossing. Not just rush hour.
Mixed Use	Would like to encourage more - not cramped sardines - in the right areas, designed well. Have been trying to downsize to a smaller house but I get 1/2 the space for same \$\$\$. Could have more options but there isn't affordable housing for middle class people. Also want to see more live-work units.
Height Limit	30-55 ft. depending on the area.
Outreach	Telephone meetings?? Innovative but like in person Q&A - real town hall meetings.
Economic Vitality	Hope economic viability is being considered in Comp Plan effort. CU, municipalization - some measure / action to ensure options are economically viable - city and county.
Start-Ups	Seems like businesses grow and move out of town. Want to create possibility for start-ups to grow slowly and stay. Options - some businesses grow out of work at home options. Millennials want to get out of the bigger cities and like a smaller place like Boulder.

Wildlife	47th and Valmont - have had everything but bear and moose. Wildlife follow the ditches. Keep! Love it. Great that they are still here.
Boulder	What we've created here is pretty unique. Need development that recognizes the uniqueness. Pay attention.
Redevelopment	Repurpose buildings rather than scraping everything.
Internet	Need good internet to be on cutting edge.

Comments from Written Comment Sheets

Do you have any ideas, concerns or questions about the area where you live or work? Let us know! If your comments regard specific areas of town, please indicate that clearly.