

**PLANNING BOARD
INFORMATION PACKET
MEMORANDUM**

To: Members of Planning Board

From: Michael Gardner-Sweeney, Director of Public Works for Transportation
Gerrit Slatter, Principal Transportation Engineer for Capital Projects
Noreen Walsh, Senior Transportation Planner

Date: April 14, 2016

Subject: Information Item: Canyon Boulevard Complete Street Study

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The City of Boulder has initiated the Canyon Boulevard Complete Street Study to improve travel and the travel experience for pedestrians, bicyclists, transit users and drivers along and across Canyon Boulevard from 9th to 17th streets. This process is anticipated to take 18 months to complete and also includes the selection of a recommended design option and preliminary engineering and cost estimation for the future implementation of improvements along Canyon Boulevard.

The project team has been reviewing the existing conditions, various related city plans and needs and developing conceptual design options. These options will be shared with the community this spring beginning with a public meeting, joint boards meeting and a council study session.

The purpose of this memo is to introduce the study to the board and invite them to participate in the April 27 public meeting and the May 18 joint boards meeting. Additional detail on the study timeline, work status and community involvement role and opportunities are included below.

BACKGROUND:

The City of Boulder has initiated the Canyon Boulevard Complete Street Study to improve travel and the travel experience for pedestrians, bicyclists, transit users and drivers along and across Canyon Boulevard from 9th to 17th streets. This section of roadway is part of the SH119/CDOT State Highway System and is classified as a principal arterial roadway in the City of Boulder with over 26,000 vehicles traveling daily (including buses and trucks) as well as pedestrians, bicyclists and transit users.

The Boulder Civic Area Plan, approved by City Council in 2013, envisioned improvements along and across the roadway to create greater connection and access to and through the area as well as better connecting the downtown, Civic Area and University Hill areas. The 2014 Transportation Master Plan Update also identified a corridor study to be undertaken for Canyon Boulevard to recommend ways to improve travel for all modes that also integrates the multiple adjacent and overlapping planning efforts and needs for this section of Canyon Boulevard. The other studies, plans and needs that the Canyon Boulevard Complete Street Study will be considering are the East Arapahoe Transportation Study, Civic Area Master Plan, the Fastracks Local Optimization Downtown Transit Station study, historic resources and landmark

preservation processes, floodplain regulations and downtown design guidelines. This study also includes participation and input with the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), and Regional Transportation District (RTD).

The project is a two phase process which will first develop a vision and conceptual design options and evaluate the options to select a preferred conceptual design option. The second phase will complete additional engineering design and cost estimation for the Canyon Boulevard (9th – 17th Streets) corridor and consider funding and phasing strategies to implement the design concept.

Process Timeline

The Canyon Boulevard Complete Street Study has two phases and is anticipated to take approximately 18 months to complete. Phase 1 includes the development of conceptual design options, evaluation of the design options and selection of a recommended option to complete further engineering design and cost estimation. Phase 1 began in late 2015 and is anticipated to be completed in late 2016.

Once a recommendation on a conceptual design option is made by City Council, the Canyon Boulevard Complete Street Study will move to Phase 2 which will bring the concept to a 30% engineering design level and cost estimation to implement and construct these changes. Phase 2 will also include the development of various funding and implementation options for the recommended corridor improvements. Phase 2 is anticipated to begin in late 2016/early 2017 and be completed in the Spring/Summer of 2017.

Status of Study Work

The project staff team began meeting in late 2015 with a walk audit of the area and meetings to discuss and listen to the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and constraints as identified by the project team members. The project staff team is composed of representatives from the city's transportation division and the community planning and sustainability, parks and recreation departments as well as CDOT and RTD staff representatives.

From the initial information gathering period the vision, goals and objectives for Canyon Boulevard design options were developed and the existing conditions are being summarized. The development of conceptual design options is underway. This information will be presented during the upcoming public engagement period to begin in late April 2016.

Community Involvement

It is important that the study is conducted with the community and that feedback received from multiple project stakeholders is incorporated throughout the planning process. The upcoming public engagement process to be conducted this spring is intended to gather and listen to community feedback on the conceptual design options and the measures by which the options will be evaluated. Meetings include an April 27 public meeting, May 18 Joint Boards meeting and a May 31 City Council meeting. In addition to the meetings there will be opportunities to provide online feedback on the conceptual design options and proposed evaluation measures. The study's upcoming outreach activities will be great opportunities for the Planning Board to provide feedback on the conceptual design options and measures to evaluate the conceptual design options as well as gain an understanding of feedback provided by all participating community members and Boards and Commissions.

After the spring public engagement effort, the next public engagement period will be in the fall of 2016 and will include a community meeting, Board and Commission feedback and recommendations and City Council consideration of a recommendation. The fall public

engagement period will focus on the evaluation of the conceptual design options and the community feedback will assist in the selection of a conceptual design option. The selected conceptual design option will be presented to City Council for their consideration of recommendation.