



F3. Regional Solutions and State-Level Advocacy

The availability of affordable housing has become an increasing concern throughout the county and region. A regional approach may be required. With more workers commuting farther between home and work, increased traffic congestion and greenhouse gas emissions have become a greater concern. Also, Boulder has set a precedent of endorsing policy and action on the state level and beyond that aligns with our vision for the city. One example is the city signing the Kyoto Protocol, thereby assuming a leadership role on the climate change front.

Key Issues:

- A regional dialogue around housing could better connect housing and the workforce, and could ensure that communities throughout the region preserve and pursue affordable housing for their residents.
- Though there are significant opportunities to expand our housing stock, Boulder cannot house its whole workforce (Housing Choice Survey, 2014).
- Boulder has become increasingly interdependent with other communities also facing unique and dynamic housing challenges and opportunities.
- While regional efforts can be fruitful, the work required does not guarantee results because of often divergent interests at the table.
- Some constraints on housing solutions in Boulder are legislated at the state level (e.g., HOA rules, rent control).

Background:

- The city has ongoing regional ties through the HOME Consortium, RTD, the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG), and the September 2013 flood event.
- Despite years of interest, a dedicated regional housing dialogue would be a new undertaking.
- Similarly, one of the draft strategies in Human Services' [Homeless Action Plan](#) is to "strengthen regional partnerships to address homeless housing and service issues."
- At this writing (2014), Human Services is engaged in regional conversations with the Metro Denver Homeless Initiative (MDHI) to identify additional funding for Boulder County and determine how MDHI can support homeless system improvements in Boulder. Human Services was recently engaged in the 25 Cities Initiative, led by MDHI and Denver's Road Home, a pilot-coordinated assessment and placement system to effectively use housing resources.

Implementation Options:

1. Collaboratively organize a Housing Forum with Boulder County governments, agencies, nonprofits, and others interested in exploring regional housing solutions.
2. Explore creating a process for establishing a city legislative agenda to promote greater housing choice and affordability.
3. Study and consider improvements in transportation options.
4. Consider funding affordable housing in other communities.

Goals Addressed Through this Tool:

✓ Strengthen Our Commitments

Maintain the Middle

✓ Create Diverse Housing Choices in Every Neighborhood

Create 15-Minute Neighborhoods

Strengthen Partnerships

Enable Aging in Place



Northwest Corridor. Source: www.rtd-fastracks.com