



## Project Purpose and Updated Process Goals and Objectives and Issues

Last Updated June 12, 2012

### *Project Purpose*

The purpose of the civic area planning project is to develop a comprehensive vision for the area and better define the area's role in the larger city. The plan will guide decisions for the future of city facilities currently in high hazard flood zones, determine best uses for city parcels, and develop an urban design vision for public and private properties in the area. The planning process will explore potential civic, cultural, recreational and commercial uses and take into consideration the trade-offs inherent in different flood mitigation options.

### *Updated Process Goals and Objectives*

The following goals and objective will guide the planning process.

#### Process Goal:

**To develop a comprehensive vision for the natural and built components of Boulder's civic area that will distinguish it as a special place (or several places with unique characteristics) and embody Boulder's values and environmental, energy and climate, social, and economic sustainability goals and establish a decision-making framework for key issues—flood hazard mitigation, the future of city facilities, the desired mix of civic, cultural, arts, recreational, and commercial uses, and placemaking (urban design, streetscape, connectivity, and public spaces).**

#### Process Objectives

1. Provide information to the community and leaders to create awareness and excitement for what the civic area could become and to identify opportunities, issues, constraints, and needs.
2. Engage the Boulder community throughout the effort in meaningful ways to capture new ideas and build support for the plan, using a mix of hands-on and digital tools.
3. Coordinate with key stakeholders, including nonprofits, businesses and property

owners in and adjacent to the area, as well as civic, cultural and business organizations with specific interest in the area.

City Council will provide overall guidance for the plan. The project will entail coordination among multiple city departments and integration of ongoing projects in and adjacent to the planning area.

### *Issues*

The following issues will be addressed during the civic area planning process:

- Opportunities, constraints, measures and trade-offs related to flood hazard mitigation;
- Potential removal/relocation of city facilities currently in the high hazard flood zone;
- Facilities and space needed for delivery of municipal government services in the future;
- Concepts and broad vision for public and private properties within and adjacent to the planning area;
- Desired mix of civic, cultural, recreational and other facilities for city owned parcels, and the potential for commercial uses on city land and public/private partnerships;
- Placemaking (urban design, streetscape, and public space) improvements to make the area more inviting, usable, attractive, and unique;
- New or improved connections to better integrate the civic area with surrounding destinations and activity centers (e.g., downtown, Goss Grove neighborhood, Boulder High School, CU, and University Hill) and to support transit improvements associated with the 14<sup>th</sup> and Walnut Transit Center;
- Parking;
- Opportunity to make Canyon Boulevard a true boulevard and knit together north and south;
- Recognition of Boulder Creek as a central feature of the area; and
- Other themes and community values, such as art, local food and an expanded Farmers' Market.

The final plan will need to balance the programmatic needs of the city, desired community uses, flood hazards, available land and financial feasibility with the broader goals of creating the heart of a sustainable community and forging the future of municipal government.