

**CITY OF BOULDER
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD
AGENDA ITEM**

MEETING DATE: SEPTEMBER 8, 2014

AGENDA TITLE: Staff briefing and TAB input regarding North Boulder Subcommunity Action Plan

PRESENTER/S:

Kathleen Bracke, GO Boulder Manager
Lesli Ellis, Comprehensive Planning Manager
Mike Sweeney, Transportation Operations and Planning Coordinator
Bill Cowern, Transportation Operations Engineer
Micki Kaplan, Senior Transportation Planner
Jeff Hirt, Planner II, Comprehensive Planning

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2013, City Council requested a targeted North Boulder Subcommunity Plan (1995 Plan) update focusing on the North Broadway area (see Figure 1). Following staff analysis, multiple events and a great deal of input from the community, staff is recommending the 2014 outcome be a targeted and updated set of action items to continue to advance the original plan's vision. While conditions have changed in the North Broadway area since the 1995 Plan, community input has indicated support for the overarching concepts and policies in the original plan.

Requested TAB Feedback

The plan update process has identified several transportation-related action items. The purpose of this memo is to seek feedback from TAB on these items. Specifically:

1. Does TAB have any suggested refinements of the transportation action items?
2. Does TAB have any feedback on the most effective way to advance the transportation action items?

The draft Action Plan will be ready for review and acceptance by City Council in early fall 2014. The North Boulder Subcommunity Draft Action Plan section below and Link A include the more detailed transportation action items.



Figure 1: North Boulder Subcommunity Plan Update Project Map



Figure 2: North Broadway 1992 and 2013

Figure 3: North

Other Board and Commission Feedback

Planning Board provided project guidance at two meetings throughout the project, and City Council recently discussed this project in May 2014. Planning Board will also discuss the draft Action Plan presented in this memo at their August 28, 2014 meeting. Both groups support:

- An action-oriented approach,
- A focus on the North Broadway area,
- An emphasis on fostering the growing arts and creative industries in the North Broadway area, and
- Advancing the 1995 Plan's vision for North Broadway as a walkable, bicycle-friendly main street concept.

Community Feedback

The following community feedback has informed development of draft action items in Link A. The Action Plan also provides a more detailed summary of community feedback and how the action items address key themes.

- **Focused Community Conversations:** Staff facilitated over 20 focused interviews with North Boulder community members in 2013 to identify the issues and opportunities this plan update should address.
- **October 2013 Project Kickoff Open House** (Approximately 100 in attendance) with opportunities to weigh in on the issues and opportunities the project should address
- **April 2014 Community Workshop** (Approximately 60 in attendance) with small group discussions around possible action items

Themes from all of these community input portals include:

Support For:

- Action plan approach,
- The concentration of creative industries in North Boulder and the arts district concept, but concerns about losing affordable artists and service industrial land uses as redevelopment occurs,
- An arts anchor land use to bolster the economic vitality of the area and foster the growing North Broadway arts community,
- North Broadway as a pedestrian friendly, human-scaled main street, as presented in the 1995 Plan,
- Improved connectivity for all modes, particularly east-west across Broadway, north-south bicycle connectivity along or near Broadway, and enhanced transit service,
- Fostering annexations of county enclaves,
- Placemaking opportunities along North Broadway, including arts-oriented placemaking and a vision for the Broadway and US 36 gateway area, and
- Improved parking conditions along North Broadway, particularly in the recently developed commercial and mixed use areas like Uptown and Main Street North (to support the retail businesses).

Mixed Opinions:

- The Village Center concept - some community members still support the 1995 Plan's concept of keeping the retail and mixed use areas concentrated in one area along North Broadway at approximately Yarmouth Avenue, on both sides of the street, while others think that North Broadway should act more as a corridor,

Boulder Historic Aerial Images

North Boulder, 1958



North Boulder, 1982



North Boulder, 1999



North Boulder, 2013



- Additional special needs and/or permanently affordable housing in North Boulder - community members support the mission of these housing types but feel there is an overconcentration in North Boulder and this may be a barrier towards investment along North Broadway, and
- Lack of support for a large grocery store in North Boulder, or any other type of large scale retail.

Background

The 1995 Plan contains numerous transportation related implementation items and a connections plan (see Figure 4). Since the city adopted the plan, private and public investment has facilitated numerous transportation implementation items, including:

- The city adopted an ordinance that requires dedication or reservation of Rights-of-Way in conformance with the North Boulder Subcommunity Transportation Plan.
- The city developed a draft North Broadway Streetscape Plan that has guided the streetscape design on the east side of Broadway from US 36 to Violet Avenue as properties have redeveloped (e.g., street trees, benches, lighting, on-street parking)
- Connectivity: As new development has occurred in North Boulder (particularly north of Violet Avenue), connectivity has been enhanced by introducing a street grid consistent with the Auto/Transit Improvements Right-of-Way Plan. Streets have generally been designed to be more bicycle and pedestrian friendly. Specific examples of enhanced connectivity since the 1995 Plan include:
 - New street grids in the Dakota Ridge, Holiday, and Uptown areas,
 - North Broadway reconstruction that included bicycle lanes, traffic signals at Lee Hill, Violet, and US 36, and
 - A Fourmile Canyon Creek pedestrian/bicycle underpass at Broadway.

OCTOBER 2013 COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE



APRIL 24, 2014 COMMUNITY WORKSHOP



The 2013-2014 North Boulder Subcommunity Plan update process highlighted that the community still supports the 1995 Plan’s transportation policies and connections plan. Private and public investment continues to implement this, including the Armory redevelopment concept plan that will establish Zamia and 13th Street connections through the site, and the Violet Crossing development that will establish a north-south pedestrian/bicycle connection from Violet Avenue across Fourmile Canyon Creek to 13th Street. With this, the 2014 Action Plan will not amend the 1995 Plan (and hence the adopted connections plan), but it will establish a new generation of action items that further advance the original plan’s vision for Broadway as a walkable, bicycle and transit friendly main street with particular emphasis on supporting the growing arts and creative scene with placemaking.

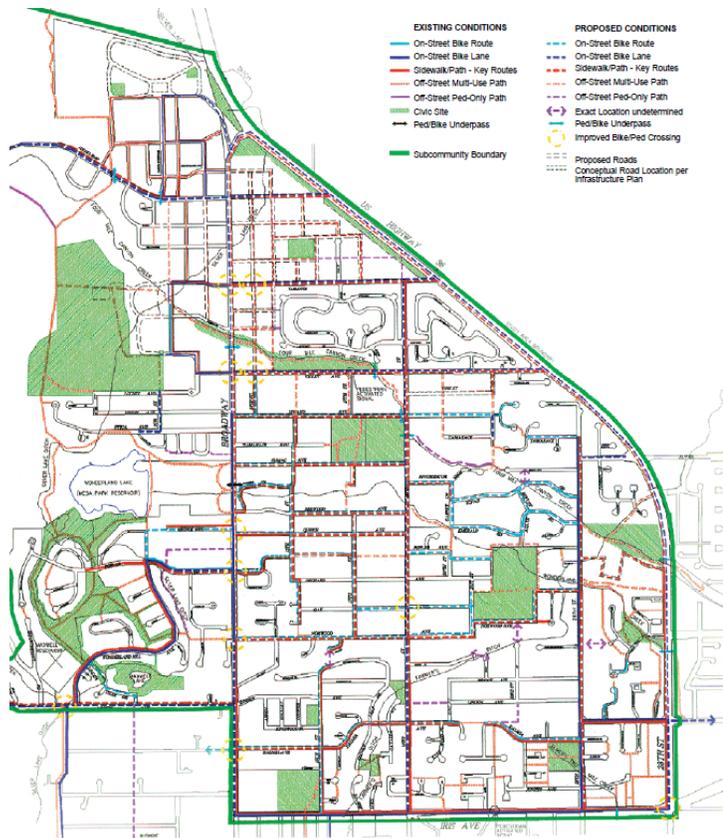


Figure 4: North Boulder Subcommunity Plan Connections Plan

North Boulder Subcommunity DRAFT Action Plan

Link A contains the entire draft action plan. The action items are categorized by 1) Arts and Place making, 2) Transportation, Access, and Parking, and 3) Land Use and Development. The list below presents the draft transportation related action items for TAB feedback. Pages 16 to 23 of the draft action plan contain the more detailed transportation action items that correspond to the table below.

| Action | Responsibility | Cost | Timing |
|---|--|------|-----------------|
| 2.1 Enhance North Broadway Pedestrian Connections | Public Works-Transportation, Library and Arts, Community Planning and Sustainability | TBD | Mid |
| 2.2 Enhance North Broadway Bicycle Facilities | Public Works-Transportation, Library and Arts, Community Planning and Sustainability | TBD | Mid |
| 2.3 Evaluate Extension of SKIP Terminus North and Mobility Hub at Broadway and US 36 | Public Works-Transportation, Community Planning and Sustainability | TBD | Long (Underway) |
| 2.4 Evaluate US 36 Transit Route | Public Works-Transportation | TBD | Long (Underway) |
| 2.5 Evaluate North Broadway Access Management Strategies | Public Works-Transportation | TBD | Mid |

| Action | Responsibility | Cost | Timing |
|---|---|---|--------|
| 2.6 Initiate North Broadway Streetscape Plan | Public Works-Transportation, Community Planning and Sustainability, Library and Arts | Staff Time, estimated \$50-\$100K consultant fees | Mid |
| 2.7 Conduct Parking Utilization Study for Redeveloped Areas and Develop Related Strategies | Public Works, Downtown and University Management Division/Parking Services, Community Planning and Sustainability | Staff time, estimated consultant fees: \$10,000 | Short |
| 2.8 Evaluate Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Programs | Public Works-Transportation | TBD | Mid |

Timing: Short: 6 months – 2 Years; Mid: 3-5; Years; Long: 5+ Years

Next Steps

Staff suggests the following next steps to advance the North Boulder Subcommunity Action Plan:

1. Email to notify all members on the North Boulder contact list of draft materials available on the webpage for comments
2. Host a feedback session with city staff available at a North Boulder location to discuss the Action Plan and possibly integrating with Action Items 1.7 (US 36 and Broadway Gateway) and 2.3 (US 36 and Broadway Mobility Hub Concept) (early/mid September, location TBD)
3. Revise the draft Action Plan
4. Present the Action Plan to City Council for acceptance (date TBD)

Attachments and Links

Link A: [1995 North Boulder Subcommunity Plan](#) and project website at www.noboplan.com.

Appendix 1: North Broadway Market Study

Appendix 2: 2013-2014 Community Input Summary

Appendix 3: 1995 Plan Implementation Background