

Reference #
16156702

Public Hearings

I am speaking/writing on (select one): / Hablo/Escribo sobre (seleccione uno):

25-1578: A bill for an ordinance approving and accepting the Downtown Denver Area Plan, which Plan shall become a part of Comprehensive Plan 2040 for the City and County of Denver pursuant to the provisions of Section 12-61 of the Denver Revised Municipal Code. / Un proyecto de ley para una ordenanza que aprueba y acepta el Plan del Área del Centro de Denver, cuyo Plan pasará a formar parte del Plan Integral 2040 para la Ciudad y el Condado de Denver de conformidad con las disposiciones de la Sección 12-61 del Código Municipal Revisado de Denver.

First Name / Nombre

Ryan

Last Name / Apellido

Ross

I am a resident of: / Soy residente del:

District 10 / Distrito 10

I am... / Estoy...

AGAINST the item / en CONTRA del artículo

My testimony: / Mi testimonio:

As a supplement to my previously submitted testimony:

Downtown Area Plan

Amendment Re: Big-Picture Projects

Add a new Section 7, as follows:

Revitalizing downtown requires considering projects that help elevate all of downtown. Some of these projects can be constructed and operated by private entities on public right-of-way. The Plan doesn't include these projects because the city doesn't on its own have the funds to construct or operate them, but it's important that the city find out what private developers are willing to propose, what the costs would be, and how they would be financed. To that end, the city will upon adoption of this Plan create a Public-Private Partnership (P3) guided by a nine-member board charged with writing and issuing request for proposals (RFPs) as it deems appropriate, to solicit from the private sector projects to help revitalize all of downtown, review

and evaluate the responses, and recommend to the city and its private-sector partners which should be pursued and how.

Finish Time

2025-11-17 14:29:45

Reference #

16153561

Public Hearings

I am speaking/writing on (select one): / Hablo/Escribo sobre (seleccione uno):

25-1578: A bill for an ordinance approving and accepting the Downtown Denver Area Plan, which Plan shall become a part of Comprehensive Plan 2040 for the City and County of Denver pursuant to the provisions of Section 12-61 of the Denver Revised Municipal Code. / Un proyecto de ley para una ordenanza que aprueba y acepta el Plan del Área del Centro de Denver, cuyo Plan pasará a formar parte del Plan Integral 2040 para la Ciudad y el Condado de Denver de conformidad con las disposiciones de la Sección 12-61 del Código Municipal Revisado de Denver.

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My testimony: / Mi testimonio:

Public Hearing

Written Comments

Nov. 17, 2025

To: Denver City Council members

From: Ryan Ross, Director New Downtown Denver, Inc.

Re: 25-1578 (adoption of Downtown Area Plan)

This is a request that the Council remit this ordinance to the South Platte River Committee with a request that it schedule an additional public hearing.

I make this request as director of a non-profit organization that has reformulated several proposals to revitalize downtown Denver, including a Ferris Wheel to showcase the mountain views, an indoor/outdoor amphitheater, moving sidewalks for the he 16th street mall, and an

automated transit network that would whisk downtown visitors residents and workers throughout downtown in a elevated guideway, much like gondolas take skiers up the slopes. None of these ideas were considered by the author of the Downtown Area Plan. Downtown Denver Partnership Director Kourtny Garrett urged us to submit our proposals for consideration as part of the DAP process, then rebuffed our requests to meet with Community Advisory Committee leading the drafting of the plan.

The refusal to meet with us was, alas, symptomatic of a deeply flawed planning process. There were no public hearings. There was no opportunity to comment for anyone to comment at the most recent “public hearing” on the plan held by thsoie writing it.

I missed the Oct 29 meeting of the council’s South Platte River committee, but no public comment was solicited during that “public hearing,” either.

In other words, the Council is being asked to approve a plan drafted without formal public comment from anyone in “the public.”

One consequence is that the plan is deeply flawed. It’s myopic in its scope. It doesn’t contain any proposals that would help all of downtown. It doesn’t offer anything other than platitudes to improve safety downtown. It doesn't have any big ideas expect for one, and it’s silly. It doesn't contain any revenue-generating proposals. And it would condemn downtown to another 20 or so years of blah, pushing it even farther behind similarly-sized cities across the globe.

Fortunately there’s no reason to rush this one. Denver residents deserve an opportunity to be heard in a public hearing before the city is saddled with a plan that does little to pave the way for a truly revitalized downtown.

Finish Time

2025-11-16 13:21:51