



TO: City Council Land Use, Transportation & Infrastructure (LUTI) Committee

FROM: Sarah Showalter, CPD Planning Services

DATE: March 28, 2019

RE: **Comprehensive Plan 2040**

Community Planning and Development is pleased to submit *Comprehensive Plan 2040* to the Denver City Council LUTI Committee. The Denver Planning Board unanimously approved the plan after holding a required public hearing on March 20, 2019. The only condition in the Planning Board’s motion was the standard condition to edit the plan for clarity and correctness. No written public comment was received on the Planning Board draft or since the Planning Board hearing so no public comments are included in this report. Hundreds of written comments were received on the first two public review drafts of the plan, which may be found on the Denveright Comprehensive Plan 2040 webpage in the form of public comment logs.

This memorandum documents the planning process, briefly summarizes the plan’s content, and documents Comprehensive Plan 2040’s consistency with the code requirements for a comprehensive plan.

Planning Process

Comprehensive Plan 2040 is based on an inclusive, robust three-year public engagement process. The plan is one of five plans developed through the Denveright planning process, which launched publicly in May 2016. “Denveright” is a term for the planning process for five citywide plans to create an inclusive, healthy and connected city. Comprehensive Plan 2040 advances the vision from Denveright and serves as the overarching framework for the other Denveright plans. The following summarizes key components of community input throughout the Denveright process:

- **Summary of all Denveright Outreach**
 - Over 25,000 touch points for all Denveright between May 2016 and March 2019
 - 191 in-person events at 101 different venues across all 11 council districts:
 - 65 street team events
 - 43 community meetings
 - 40 task force meetings
 - 32 surveys
 - 10 office hours
 - 3 Denveright community think tank meetings

Throughout the planning process, the city worked to reach as many Denverites as possible. This included traditional community meetings, where child care and Spanish language interpretation were provided. The city used other methods to reach those who are not as likely to attend a meeting. This included online surveys, focus groups with underrepresented populations, and a street team who went to meet residents at events in their neighborhood – including concerts in the park and neighborhood block parties.

- **Visioning Workshops and Surveys** – in the fall of 2016, the city hosted five workshops across the city to ask Denverites about their vision for Denver. This engagement window included online surveys, through which hundreds of residents provided feedback. The community values and six vision elements in Comprehensive Plan 2040 came directly from the community’s input during the visioning phase.
- **Comprehensive Plan 2040 Public Review Draft #1** – in August 2018, a full draft of the plan was released for public review. The community submitted hundreds of comments over a 4-month period, which were incorporated into the second draft.
- **Comprehensive Plan Public Review Draft #2** – in January 2019, a second full draft of the plan was released for public review. Community input that draft was incorporated into the Planning Board draft.

Plan Content

A complete Planning Board draft of Comprehensive Plan 2040 is attached to this memo. It includes yellow review notes to highlight change made based on input on the second public review draft. Please note that the final version of the plan forwarded to City Council for adoption will not include the yellow review notes.

Comprehensive Plan contains an introduction chapter and a chapter on each of the six vision elements. The final chapter focuses on Denver’s role within the larger metropolitan region. For each vision element, the plan contains a set of goals and strategies to advance the vision. Comprehensive Plan 2040 also calls out additional citywide plans where the reader can find more specific strategies around implementation for each vision element.

The six vision elements are listed on the following page. See the plan for the goals and strategies that advance each vision element.



In 2040...

Denver is an equitable, inclusive community with a high quality of life for all residents, regardless of income level, race, ethnicity, gender, ability or age.



In 2040...

Denver's neighborhoods are complete, unique and reflective of our city's diverse history.



In 2040...

Denver is connected by safe, high-quality, multimodal transportation options.



In 2040...

Denver is a global city with a robust economy that reflects the diversity of our community.



In 2040...

Denver is a thriving, sustainable city connected to nature and resilient to climate change.



In 2040...

Denver is a city of safe, accessible and healthy communities.

Comprehensive Plan Supplements

At the time that the comprehensive plan is filed with the ordinance, city staff will provide a complete list of the plans to be adopted as supplements to the plan. This list will be included in the ordinance in order to clearly define the comprehensive plan supplements. The majority of existing plans will be re-adopted as supplements to Comprehensive Plan 2040. It will be through the creation of new small area plans, which will be adopted as future comprehensive plan supplements, that outdated small area plans are replaced.

Compliance with Code Requirements

Section 12-61 of the Denver Revised Municipal Code (DRMC) sets the requirements for Denver's comprehensive plan.

Section 12-61(a) of DRMC states "*Description and purpose.* The comprehensive plan shall provide an expression of the city's vision for the future with a listing of goals and objectives. Once prepared and adopted, the plan will guide and influence decisions that affect the future of the city."

Comprehensive Plan 2040 meets the description and purpose described above. It provides a holistic vision for the future of Denver, based on the community's input, and includes a complete set of goals and strategies to advance that vision.

Section 12-61(b) of DRMC states "*Form.* The comprehensive plan hereinafter provided for may include and consist of maps, charts, drawings, exhibits and other descriptive matter. The plan may consist of one (1) unit, may consist of several component parts, may be adopted in whole or may be adopted in parts, but, in any event, shall be comprehensive in that its scope encompasses the entire city."

Comprehensive Plan 2040, and its adopted supplements, meet the form described above. The plan itself is comprehensive and multidisciplinary. It covers the entire city of Denver and advances a holistic vision with multiple components. It is advanced by several supplements, including:

- Blueprint Denver – the city's land use and transportation plan. Blueprint Denver is also being updated through Denveright and will be adopted as a supplement to Comprehensive Plan 2040
- Game Plan for a Healthy City – a citywide long-range parks and recreation plan. This plan is also being updated through Denveright and will be adopted as a supplement to Comprehensive Plan 2040
- Small area plans – the city has multiple small area plans that will be re-adopted as supplements to Comprehensive Plan 2040. In the future, new small area plans will also be adopted as supplements to the comprehensive plan.

Section 12-61(c) of DRMC states “*Contents*. The comprehensive plan may include, but is not limited to, any or all of the following elements:

- (1) Land use;
- (2) Transportation including streets and highways, public transit, pedestrian and bicycle circulation, railroads, airports, and other aspects of the transportation system;
- (3) Capital and community facilities;
- (4) Parks and recreation;
- (5) Urban design;
- (6) Historic preservation;
- (7) Areas for development and redevelopment;
- (8) Housing;
- (9) Neighborhood revitalization;
- (10) Environment;
- (11) Economic development;
- (12) Human services; and
- (13) Metropolitan planning.”

Comprehensive Plan 2040 addresses all of these components, as summarized below.

- Land use – covered by multiple goals in the following comprehensive plan chapters: Equitable, Affordable and Inclusive; Connected, Safe and Accessible Places; Strong and Authentic Neighborhoods; and Denver and the Region. Land use is further advanced by the comprehensive plan supplement Blueprint Denver.
- Transportation – covered by comprehensive plan chapter Connected, Safe and Accessible Places. Transportation is further advanced by the comprehensive plan supplement Blueprint Denver.
- Capital and community facilities – covered by comprehensive plan chapters Strong and Authentic Neighborhoods and Healthy and Active. This is further advanced by the comprehensive plan supplement Game Plan for a Healthy City.
- Parks and recreation – covered by comprehensive plan chapters Equitable, Affordable and Inclusive; Connected, Safe and Accessible Places; Environmentally Resilient; and Healthy and Active. Parks and recreation is further advanced by the comprehensive plan supplement Game Plan for a Healthy City.
- Area for development and redevelopment – covered by comprehensive plan chapters Equitable, Affordable and Inclusive; Connected, Safe and Accessible Places; Strong and Authentic Neighborhoods; and Denver and the Region. This topic is further advanced by the comprehensive plan supplement Blueprint Denver.
- Urban design and Historic presentation – covered by comprehensive plan chapter Strong and Authentic Neighborhoods. Both are further advanced by the comprehensive plan supplement Blueprint Denver.
- Housing – covered by comprehensive plan chapters Equitable, Affordable and Inclusive. This item is also advanced by the comprehensive plan supplement Blueprint Denver.

- Neighborhood revitalization - covered by comprehensive plan chapters Strong and Authentic Neighborhoods and Economically Diverse and Vibrant. This item is also advanced by the comprehensive plan supplement Blueprint Denver.
- Environment – covered by comprehensive plan chapter Environmentally Resilient.
- Economic development – covered by comprehensive plan chapter Economically Diverse and Vibrant.
- Human Services – covered by comprehensive plan chapter Equitable, Affordable and Inclusive.
- Metropolitan planning – covered by comprehensive plan chapter Denver and the Region.

Staff finds that Comprehensive Plan 2040 meets all of the DRMC requirements for Denver’s comprehensive plan.

Staff Recommendation:

Based on the findings that the plan is consistent with the Denver Revised Municipal Code, staff recommends **approval of Comprehensive Plan 2040, with the condition that the document be edited for clarity and correctness.**