



Boulder County Comprehensive Plan

TRANSPORTATION ELEMENT

Introduction, Definition, Goals & Policies

As the county has experienced significant changes in demographics and travel patterns since the 1995 update to the Boulder County Comprehensive Plan (BCCP) Transportation Element, the world has likewise experienced changes. Boulder County, along with many others, has developed a greater awareness of the impacts individual and collective actions have on the world and local environments. Safe and efficient travel is necessary to participate in life's activities. Yet, from an economic, social, and environmental perspective, peoples' travel needs can no longer be met by roads and cars alone. New ways of providing safe, reliable, and convenient travel options that will be available to both current and future generations are necessary.

Introduction

Implementation of the Boulder County transportation system must be consistent not only with this element of the Comprehensive Plan, but also with the goals and policies of the entire BCCP. Drawing upon the principles and definitions identified in the BCCP Sustainability Element, the 2009 BCCP Transportation Element recognizes the need to develop policies and practices that create a sustainable transportation system. It centers itself on the three “pillars” of sustainability: environment, social equity, and economy. The goals, objectives, and policies included in the BCCP Transportation Element translate these three components of sustainability into action and help the County achieve its vision to provide high quality, safe, sustainable, and environmentally responsible transportation to meet the mobility and access needs of all users.

Transportation Policies

- **Objective**

Provide a Multimodal Transportation System

Plan, design, construct, manage, and maintain the Boulder County transportation system to be efficient, safe, convenient, and appealing for pedestrians, bicyclists, transit riders, motorists, and other users. Provide convenient and affordable mobility options for all users irrespective of ability, income, or personal vehicle ownership.

TR 1.01 Identify Transportation Corridors

Identify and classify transportation corridors based on the function and role they serve in the County transportation system.



Work closely and proactively with the communities within the County and other local, state, and regional agencies to develop a sustainable land use and transportation system

TR 1.02 Design Complete Corridors
Develop County transportation standards that assign specific design treatments for transit, pedestrian, bicycle, and motor vehicle facilities for each transportation corridor classification. Develop standards for new transportation technologies as they become available and anticipated for common use.

TR 1.03 Enhance the Bicycle and Pedestrian Network
Expand the bikeway and pedestrian network to provide safe, appealing, and convenient connections throughout the County for travel and recreation.

TR 1.04 Develop a Regional Trails Network
Implement a Countywide Regional Trails Plan to provide off-road travel and recreational opportunities for pedestrian, bicycle, equestrian, and other non-motorized uses, where each is warranted.

TR 1.05 Establish Connections to Development
Provide transit, pedestrian, bicycle, trail, and motor vehicle connections in developments to link residential and employment areas, commercial centers, recreational and open space areas, and educational facilities.

TR 1.06 Support Transit Service
Support fast, frequent, affordable, and reliable transit service between communities within the County and to major activity centers outside of the County, including the I-25 corridor, Denver International Airport, Denver, and the western metro area. Provide high-quality transit stop facilities and enable access to all stops.

TR 1.07 Accommodate Freight
Identify primary travel corridors for freight vehicles. Ensure that County transportation standards accommodate freight or other long wheelbase vehicles in transportation facility design.

● **Objective**

Facilitate Regional Collaboration and Coordination

Work closely and proactively with the communities within the County and other local, state, and regional agencies to develop a sustainable land use and transportation system.

TR 2.01 Integrate Transportation and Land Use Planning

Coordinate land use and transportation planning so that urban development is located in urban areas and near appropriate transportation corridors and services.

TR 2.02 Facilitate Project Collaboration.

Promote efforts to collaborate on the design and implementation of local and regional projects. Initiate activities that bring together different communities, agencies, and other stakeholders to develop creative ways to meet County goals and those of others.

TR 2.03 Encourage Alternative Transportation

Support efforts by local communities that decrease single-occupant vehicle travel on the Countywide transportation system.

TR 2.04 Connect Communities

Focus County services and resources on enabling seamless multimodal travel between urban areas within the County and region.

● **Objective**

Optimize County Facility Management and Maintenance

Maintain and operate County transportation facilities at the highest level of quality, commensurate with available resources and consistent with the goals of the Comprehensive Plan. The County's investment in the existing transportation system shall be protected by emphasizing maintenance of existing facilities.

TR 3.01 Prioritize Travel Corridors

In order to benefit the most people, and connect all parts of the County, give priority to improving mobility in, and the maintenance and rehabilitation of, the County's arterial and collector transportation corridors.

TR 3.02 Prioritize Operations Over Construction

Implement operational improvements to improve mobility in a corridor before initiating construction-based solutions. Reduce the need for new capital improvements through investments in operations, demand management strategies, and system management activities that improve the efficiency of the current system.

TR 3.03 Ensure Sustainable Design

Design all new County facilities to minimize future maintenance costs and environmental impacts, and to encourage the use alternative modes to the degree feasible.

TR 3.04 Maintain Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities

Maintain bicycle and pedestrian facilities on County-owned or controlled right-of-way in a safe condition.

TR 3.05 Monitor Gravel Roads

Consider the paving of County-owned roads when the minimum level of 500 vehicles per day, average daily traffic, is attained. In making paving decisions, evaluate factors such as safety, costs, residential density, traffic volume, traffic composition, air quality levels and mitigation, and compliance with applicable regulations. In addition, consider the impact of paving on health, the rural character of the County, the nature of the surrounding community, potential effects on growth, public input, and other goals of the Comprehensive Plan.

Maintain and operate County transportation facilities at the highest level of quality, commensurate with available resources and consistent with the goals of the Comprehensive Plan

Implement a transportation system that moves people safely and effectively independent of an assumed mode of travel.

TR 3.06 Require Appropriate Right Of Way Dedications

Require new development and redevelopment to dedicate their fair share of right-of-way for any County transportation facility shown on an adopted transportation plan on which the development abuts, consistent with the right-of-way widths specified on the transportation plan.

TR 3.07 Encourage Right of Way Annexation

Encourage local communities to annex the full right-of-way when the adjacent land is annexed.

● **Objective**

Move People

Implement a transportation system that moves people safely and effectively independent of an assumed mode of travel.

TR 4.01 Reduce Single-Occupant-Vehicle Travel

Reduce single-occupant-vehicle (SOV) travel and shift SOV travel to off-peak periods through a variety of programs and techniques, including Transportation Demand Management (TDM).

TR 4.02 Increase Person Capacity

Increase the overall person-carrying capacity of the transportation network through the efficient use of existing rights-of-way.

TR 4.03 Make Balanced Multimodal Decisions

When considering proposed improvements, use a person-based, rather than vehicle-based, evaluation to balance transit, pedestrian, bicycle, and vehicle mobility.

TR 4.04 Facilitate Active Living

Create a transportation system that enables active and healthy lifestyles by providing safe and attractive opportunities to walk and bike as part of everyday living.

● **Objective**

Minimize Reliance on Fossil Fuels

Foster a transportation system that reduces demand for and reliance upon petroleum.

TR 5.01 Reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled

Set goals for vehicle miles traveled (VMT) per capita reductions for 2015, 2020 and 2030. Encourage incorporated areas inside the County to adopt similar goals.

TR 5.02 Use Energy Efficient Transportation Technologies and Fuels

Encourage public use of renewable energy and energy-efficient vehicle technologies and plan for related infrastructure needs. Participate in efforts to decrease use of GHG-intensive fuels and increase vehicle fuel efficiency.

TR 5.03 Use Sustainable Practices

Use resource-efficient materials and equipment to the greatest extent feasible in the construction, maintenance, and operation of County transportation facilities.

- discourage development in natural hazard areas or other dangerous locations where unsafe conditions may be exacerbated or emergency services not practically or safely available.

TR 5.04 Manage Parking

Develop parking management policies for public and private facilities that encourage the use of alternative modes.

Methods to address these concerns may include revising Boulder County Road Standards and Specifications, limiting public funding or authorization for maintenance of unimproved roads, and adopting zoning provisions to balance remote rural land uses with the absence of developed vehicular access in such areas.

● **Objective**

Provide Safe and Environmentally Compatible Transportation Improvements

Require all transportation improvements to uphold the goals of the Comprehensive Plan.

TR 6.02 Minimize and Mitigate Impacts

Ensure that transportation system facilities and access improvements, which may include sections on public and/or private lands, are designed, constructed, and maintained to minimize impacts to the natural environment, including scenic views and rural character, and to the surrounding community. All improvements shall reasonably mitigate the adverse impacts resulting from them.

Ensure that transportation system facilities and access improvements are designed, constructed, and maintained to minimize impacts to the natural environment.

TR 6.01 Manage Rural Roads to Preserve Rural Character

Explore reasonable means to retain necessary existing, unimproved or unmaintained public roads in a relatively undeveloped state to:

- prevent the over-intensive use of sensitive or remote lands,
- preserve the County’s valued rural character,
- minimize adverse scenic and environmental impacts,
- avoid inappropriate and costly road maintenance activities in environmentally fragile areas, and

Allow for special assessments to fund transportation improvements to the properties that specially benefit from such improvements, such as subdivisions or commercial, institutional, private recreational, or other benefitted development.

TR 6.03 Prohibit Improvements with Unacceptable Impacts

After considering reasonable mitigation, transportation system facilities and access improvements may be prohibited. This may include improvements on public and/or private lands that cause unacceptable impacts to the natural environment, including scenic views and rural character, or to the surrounding community; that unreasonably compromise public safety or emergency response; or that facilitate development incompatible with the goals of the Comprehensive Plan.

TR 6.04 Promote Public Safety

Promote the safety of transportation system users and the public as a core parameter when designing, constructing, or approving transportation facilities. Coordinate with local fire districts, emergency responders, and other agencies to implement appropriate transportation public safety measures.

TR 6.05 Manage Access to the Transportation Network

Implement an access management program that systematically manages the number, location, spacing, design and operation of driveways, median openings and road connections to ensure the safety and mobility of all road users, and to minimize environmental impacts.

TR 6.06 Provide Implementation through the Transportation Standards

The Boulder County Road Standards and Specifications shall reflect the goals of the Comprehensive Plan. All transportation improvements shall be designed and constructed consistent with the Boulder County Road Standards and Specifications and the Boulder County Land Use Code.

● **Objective**

Secure Funding in an Equitable Manner

Explore multiple funding sources to serve citizens and meet Countywide transportation needs in a fair and equitable manner.

TR 7.01 Allow for Special Assessments

Allow for special assessments to fund transportation improvements to the properties that specially benefit from such improvements, such as subdivisions or commercial, institutional, private recreational, or other benefitted development. Funding mechanisms may include special assessments or other appropriate revenue-generating programs.

TR 7.02 Create Funding Partnerships

To improve, maintain, and insure the integrity of the transportation system, pursue to the extent possible funding partnerships and creative funding sources.

TR 7.03 Explore User Fees

Explore appropriate user fee programs that take into account the full costs of travel, including immediate and long-term impacts to facilities and the environment, to help fund transportation enhancements.

TR 7.04 Require Appropriate Off-site Improvements

Require property owners or developers to provide appropriate off-site transportation improvements that are necessitated by or reasonably related to the impacts of new development.

- **Objective**

Foster a Community Connection

Preserve, highlight, and enhance the County’s rural character, environment and rich history.

TR 8.01 Context Sensitive Design

Consider the surrounding natural environment, local community, scenic vistas, and landscape features, through aesthetic treatments and the context-sensitive design of transportation facilities.

TR 8.02 Encourage Community Involvement

Recognize that public feedback is an important source of information for decisions about the development of transportation facilities and services. Work collaboratively with the public by providing meaningful opportunities to be involved in decision-making processes. Make decision-making transparent by sharing information and encouraging discussion.

TR 8.03 Preserve View Corridors

Prevent the disruption of scenic views by transportation improvements. Promote overlooks, trails, and turnouts on recreational routes and in unique scenic areas.

TR 8.04 Ensure Natural Preservation

Make every effort to preserve mature trees, landscape plantings, and other elements of the natural environment during the design, construction, and maintenance of transportation improvements.

TR 8.05 Preserve Cultural and Historic Resources

Consider the cultural and historical context of the surrounding area when planning and designing transportation improvements. Work with residents of townsites, such as Eldorado Springs, Allenspark, Raymond/Riverside, Gold Hill, and Eldora and other distinct communities, to identify important aspects of community character that should be preserved and enhanced by transportation improvements.

Work collaboratively with the public by providing meaningful opportunities to be involved in decision-making processes.

TR 8.06 Manage Public Rights-of-Way

Manage and preserve existing public rights-of-way for current and future community benefit. Vacate public rights-of-way only when it no longer plays a role in the present or planned transportation network nor serves any other public interest.

● **Objective**

Ensure Transportation System Access for Low-Income, Elderly, and Mobility-Impaired Populations

Work to create a transportation system that provides affordable and convenient transportation options for all income levels and special mobility populations.

Support programs that reduce the financial burden on and increase affordable transportation options for low-income populations.

TR 9.01 Promote Affordable Transportation

Support programs that reduce the financial burden on and increase affordable transportation options for low-income populations.

TR 9.02 Serve the Mobility-Impaired

Support coordinated programs that provide safe, accessible, and affordable transportation options for people with limited mobility, including older adults and people with disabilities.

Glossary

Maintenance: Snow removal, sweeping, asphalt patching, crack filling, road grading, cleaning of culverts and roadside drainage, and repair or replacement of traffic signs and pavement markings.

Rehabilitation: Reconstruction, asphalt overlay, and surface treatments.