



COMMUNITY PLANNING AND PERMITTING COMPOSTING INCIDENTAL TO FARMING



Presenters:

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Sabrina Torres, Sustainable Agriculture Planner

OBJECTIVES

Compost Benefits
Community Goals
Code Background
Code Update
Engagement
Summary





WELCOME

Who's here?

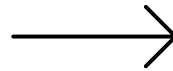
- Residents interested in composting
- Person actively working with composting programs or initiatives
- Ag producer working with composting programs or initiatives
- Other reasons



COMPOST BENEFITS

WHAT IS COMPOSTING?

Natural decomposition process that converts organic materials into a nutrient-rich amendment or mulch




COMPOST BENEFITS



- Reduces the waste stream & personal food waste
- Combats climate change



COMPOST BENEFITS

- 
- Improves soil health and lessens erosion
 - Promotes healthy plant growth
 - Conserves water



COMPOSTING CONCERNS

Odor
Dust
Runoff
Pathogens



A photograph of a city street scene. In the foreground, there are wooden benches and planters with green and purple foliage. A large red rectangle is overlaid in the center of the image, containing the text 'COMMUNITY GOALS' in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters. In the background, there are trees and a brick building with large windows. A person is visible walking on the sidewalk to the left, and a stroller is visible on the right side of the street.

COMMUNITY GOALS

AG COMMUNITY & PUBLIC

- Regenerative Agriculture Practices
- Local food & climate resilience
- Diverting organic materials from landfill
- Federal, State & Local funding



USDA Launches First Phase of Soil Carbon Monitoring Efforts through Conservation Reserve Program Initiative

WASHINGTON, Oct. 12, 2021 –The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is investing \$10 million in a new initiative to sample, measure, and monitor soil carbon on Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres to better quantify the climate outcomes of the program. CRP is an important tool in the Nation's fight to reduce the worst impacts of climate change facing our farmers, ranchers, and foresters. This initiative will begin implementation in fall 2021 with three partners. Today's announcement is part of a broader, long-term soil carbon monitoring effort across agricultural lands that supports USDA's commitment to deliver climate solutions to agricultural producers and rural America through voluntary, incentive-based solutions.



AG COMMUNITY & PUBLIC

Small-scale
farm compost operations



Agricultural community
land management goals



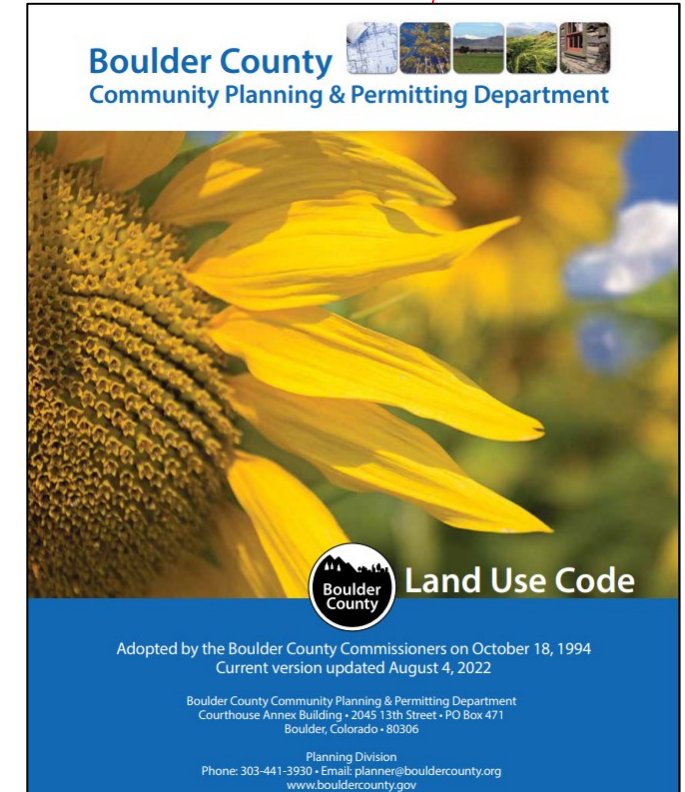
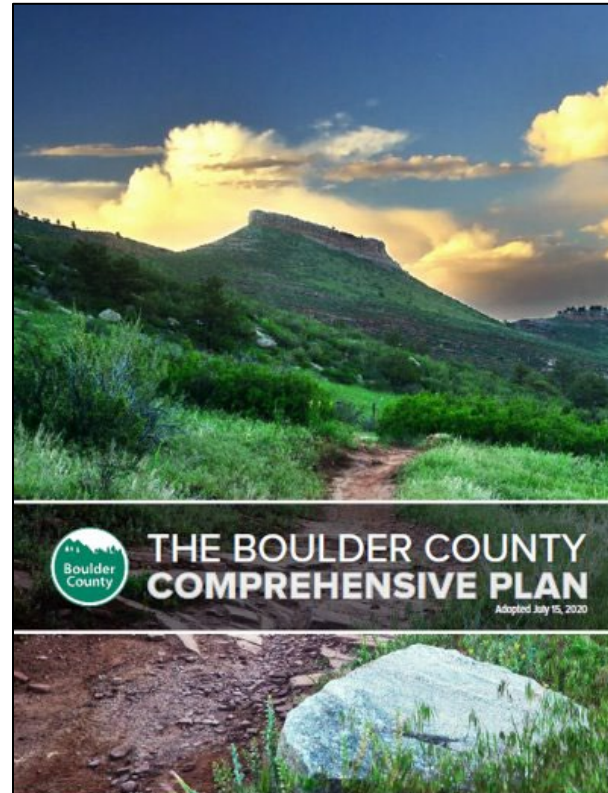
Public organic materials



Healthy soil & finished
compost products



COMMUNITY ADOPTED PLANS





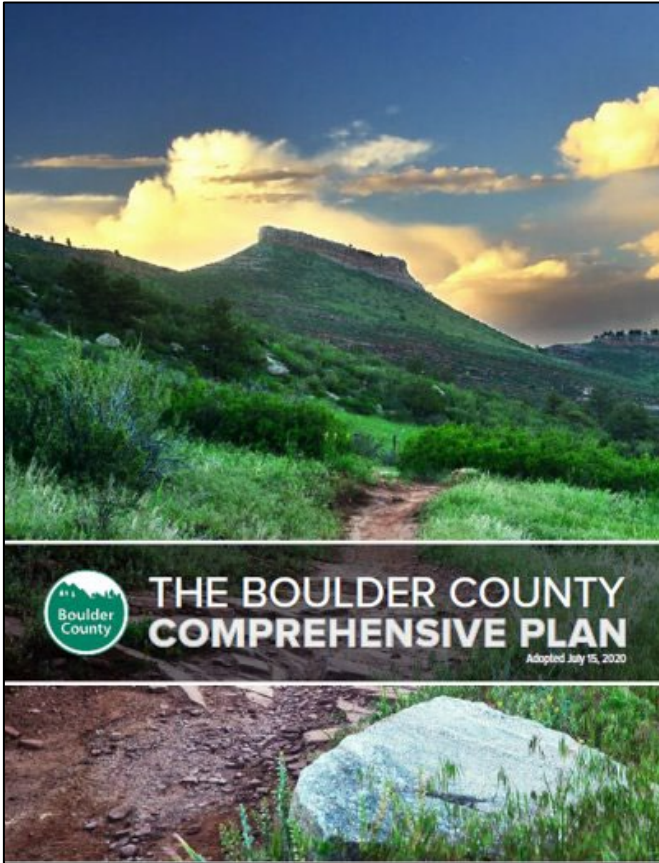
OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY, CLIMATE ACTION, & RESILIENCE

INCREASE CARBON SEQUESTRATION USING CARBON FARMING METHODS

IMPROVE WATER EFFICIENCY ON AG PROPERTIES

INCREASE FOOD AND YARD WASTE DIVERSION THROUGH COMPOSTING

"Working with agricultural producers to **increase carbon sequestration** potential of using carbon farming methods such as **adding compost to soils**"

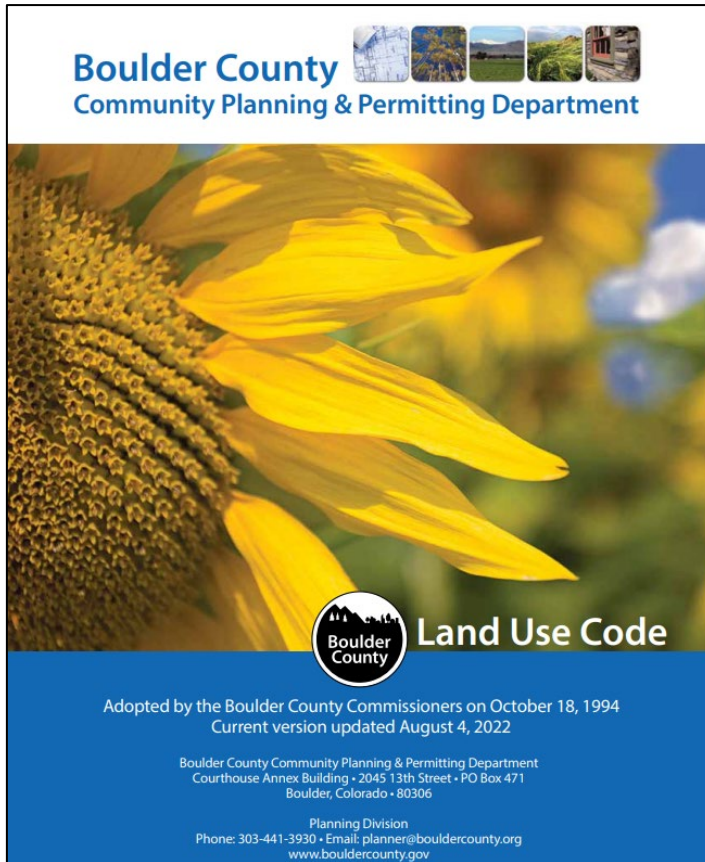


COMMUNITY PLANNING AND PERMITTING

USE SEQUESTRATION TO REDUCE CARBON IMPACTS WHERE APPLICABLE

SEEK TO MANAGE DISCARDED MATERIALS AS LOCALLY AS POSSIBLE

ALIGN WITH CIRCULAR ECONOMY PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICES



COMMUNITY PLANNING AND PERMITTING

IMPLEMENTS OUR COMMUNITY'S SHARED VISION

ENSURES PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY

ESTABLISHES THAT LAND USE IS COMPATIBLE WITH THE SURROUNDING AREAS

“The Boulder County Land Use Code is enacted to protect and promote the health, safety, and general welfare of the present and future inhabitants of Boulder County, and to guide future growth, development, and distribution of land uses.”

“

What brought you in today?
What are your composting goals?

”

BACKGROUND

LAND USE CODE



CURRENT CODE ALLOWANCES

Article 4 • 4-506 Industrial Uses

4-506 Industrial Uses

A. Composting Facility

1. Definition: A facility where organic materials are converted into a humus-like material under a process of managed biological decomposition.
2. Districts Permitted: By special review in A and GI
3. Parking Requirements: One space per 1000 square feet of floor area.
4. Loading Requirements: One space per 10,000 square feet of floor area.
5. Additional Provisions:
 - a. Backyard composting and composting incidental to farming operations are exempt from these requirements when:
 - (i) None of the materials to be composted are collected on-site from the general public;
 - (ii) Materials to be composted are limited to agricultural and yard by-products such as plant material and manure;
 - (iii) Composted material is not sold retail from the site;
 - (iv) The location of the composting is at least 300 feet from any property line if more than 50 cubic yards of material is being composted at any one time; and
 - (v) The total amount of active composting material does not exceed 1,000 cubic yards at any one time.
 - (vi) No more than 1,500 cubic yards of composted material may be removed from the site in any 36 month period.

INDUSTRIAL



CURRENT CODE ALLOWANCES

Article 4 • 4-506 Industrial Uses

4-506 Industrial Uses

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INDUSTRIAL



VS

INCIDENTAL



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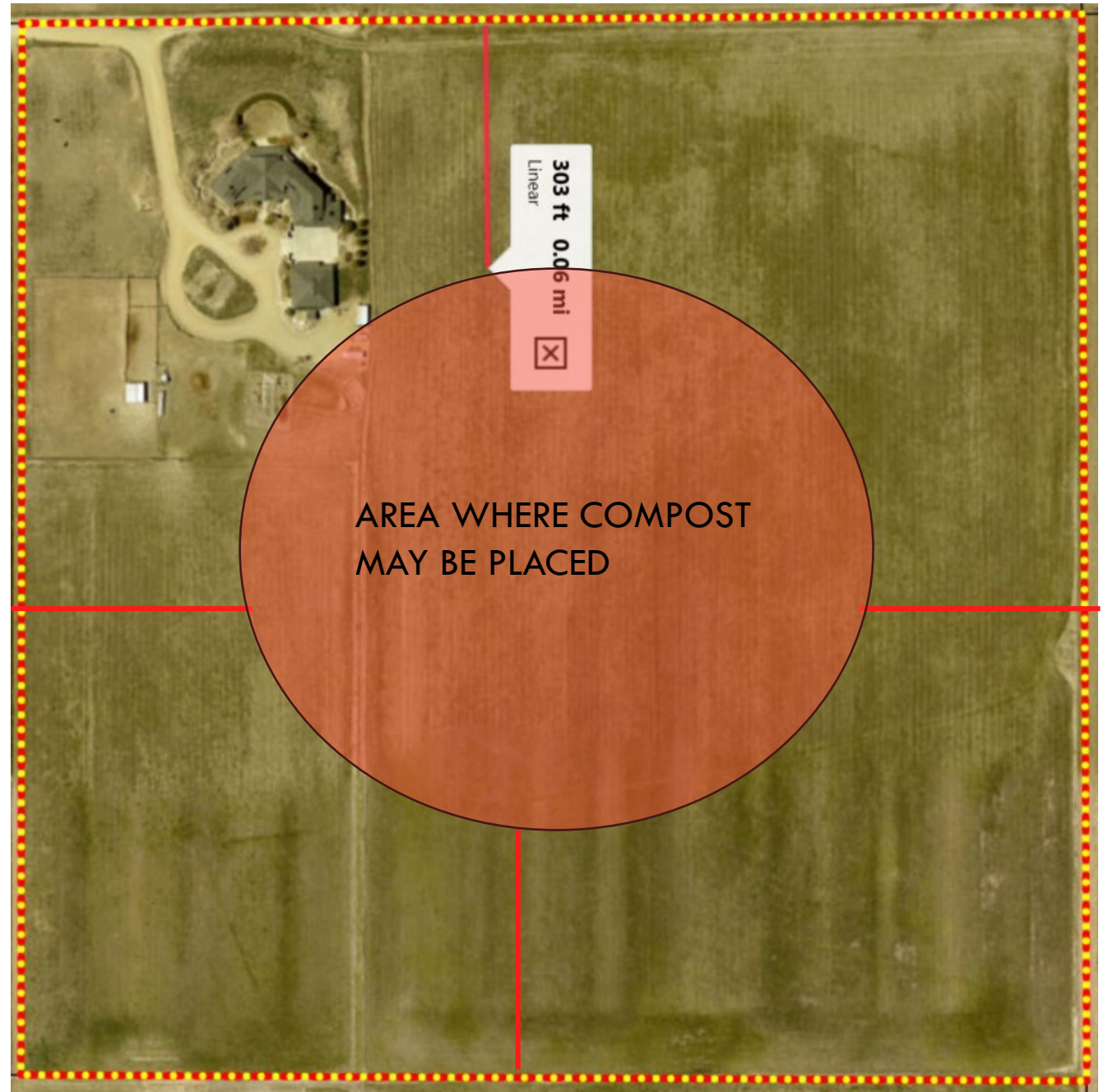
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**LOT SIZE: APPROX. 1300 FT X
1300 FT**

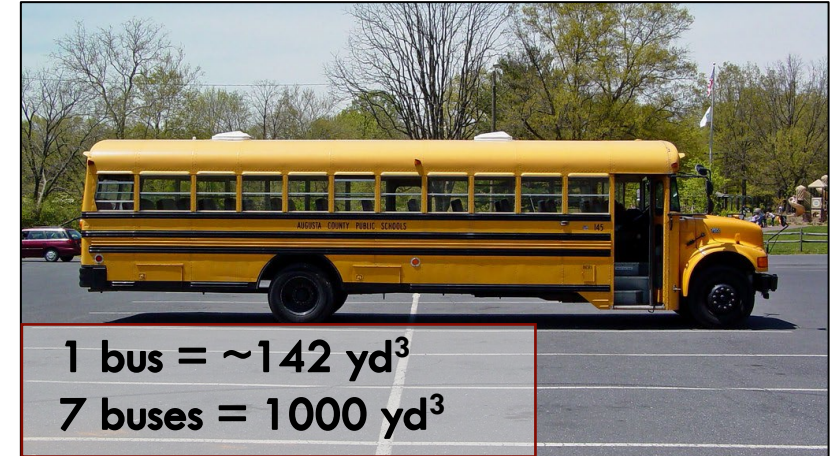
40 ACRES



CURRENT CODE ALLOWANCES

5. Additional Provisions:

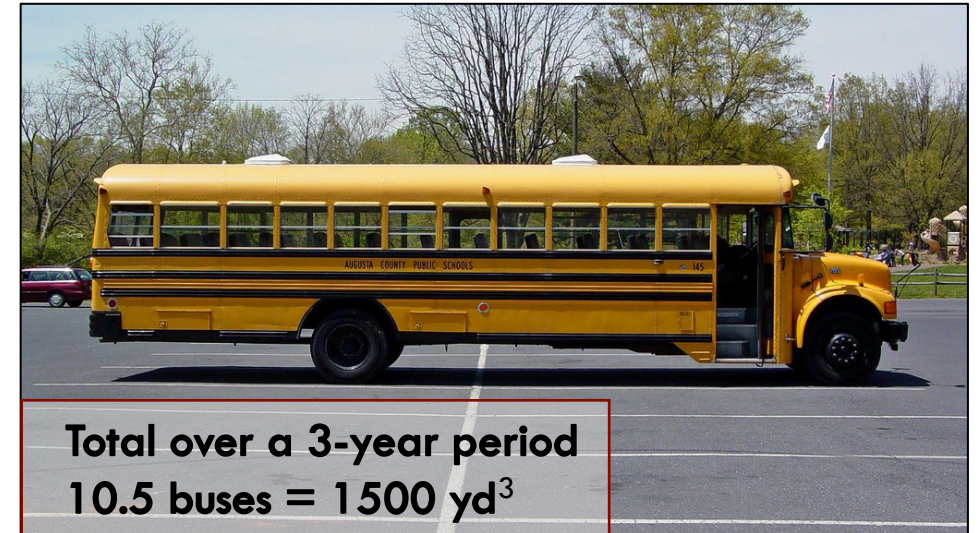
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PROPOSED CODE UPDATE



CODE UPDATE



Goal 1



Goal 2



Goal 3

CODE UPDATE



Goal 1

Reduce barriers to on-site
composting on ag properties



Goal 2

Close the loop on circular economy for ag producers



Goal 3

Develop clearer code
language

IMPLEMENTING THE GOALS

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MITIGATING CONCERNS

PUBLIC HEALTH



COLORADO
Department of Public
Health & Environment

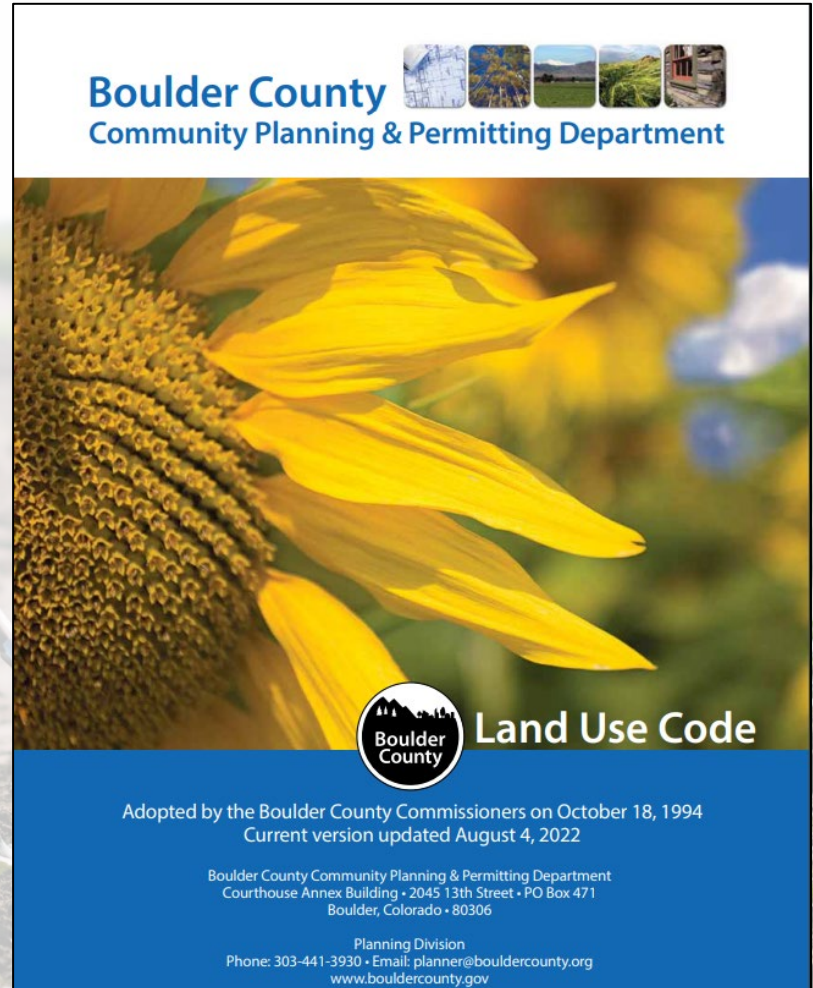


BOULDER COUNTY
**PUBLIC
HEALTH**



SIZE & SCALE

The Land Use Code establishes parameters to ensure compatibility with the surrounding area

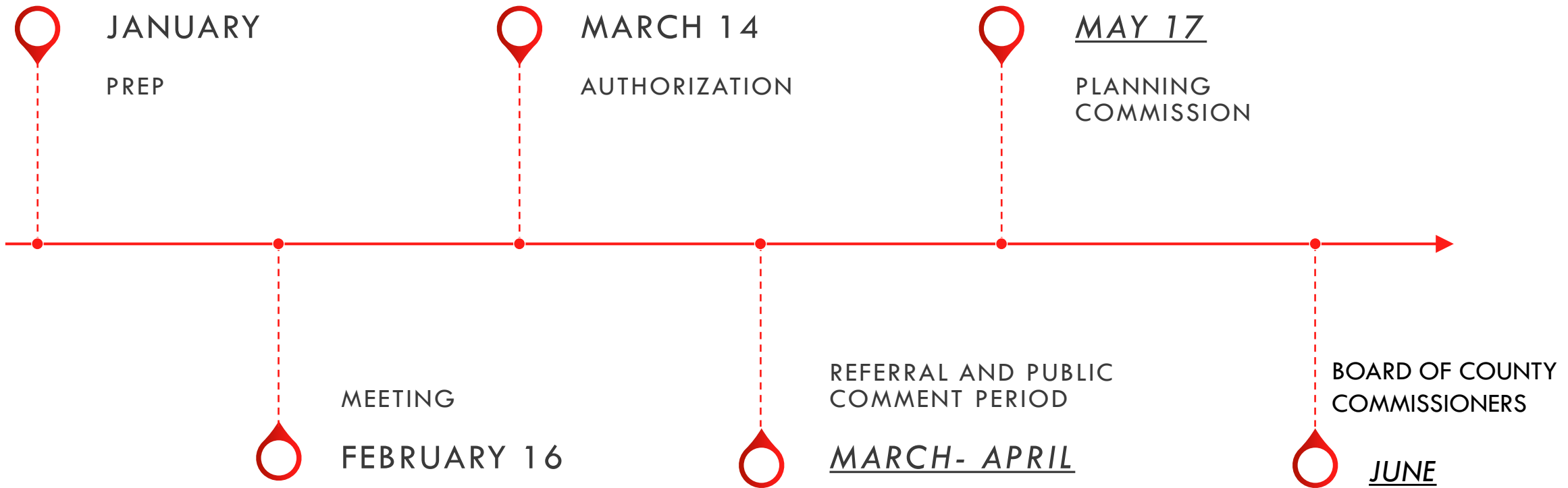




CONCLUSION

- Potential code update
- Input & questions
- Online Questionnaire

ANTICIPATED NEXT STEPS



THANK YOU

For more information, email a
Long-Range Planner

LongRange@bouldercounty.org

