

Boulder County Subregional Forum

September 12, 2025

Linking Boulder County
A Shared Vision for Transit



What we'll cover today:

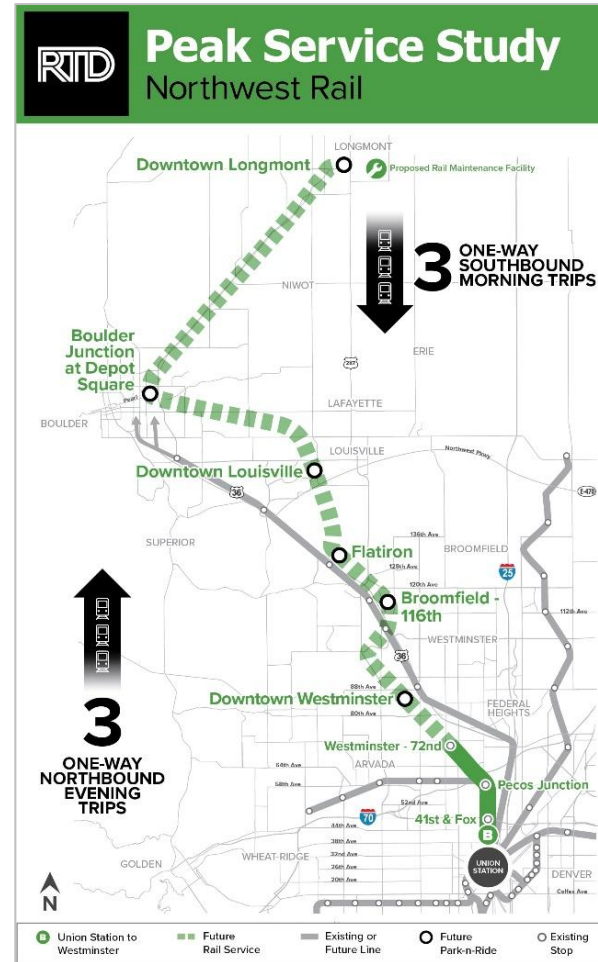
- 1 Project Overview
- 2 Early Learnings
- 3 Fall Priorities





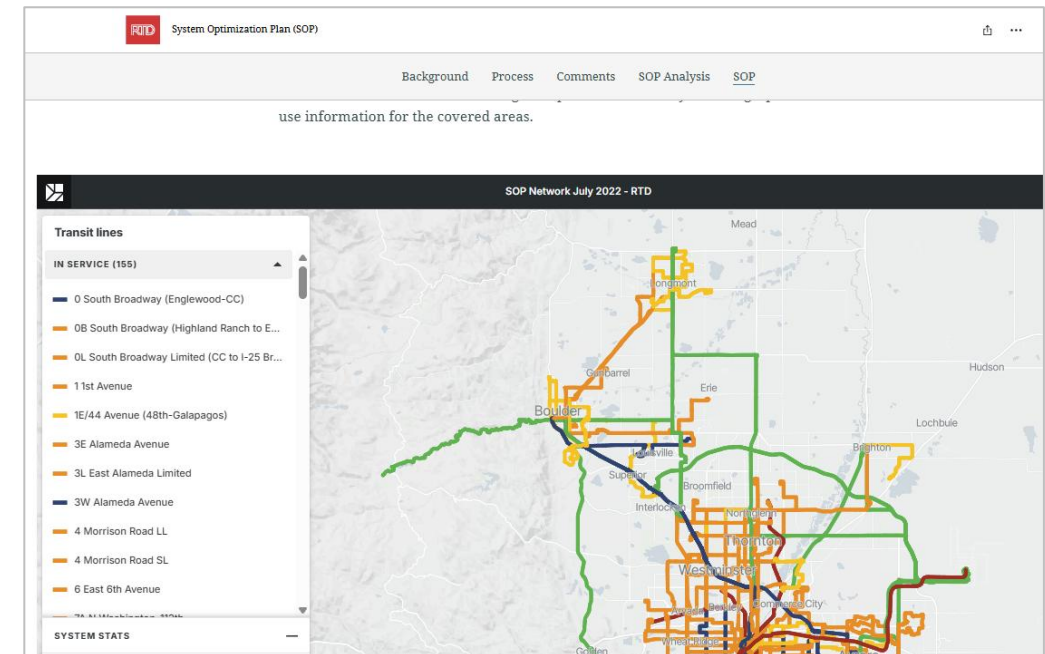
Project Overview

Building Blocks



Longmont Ride Free Fare Program

The Longmont Ride Free Fare Program, or RFL, provides free rides on local Longmont bus service – routes 323, 324, 326 and 327. The Longmont Ride Free Fare Program is managed and



What We Mean by “Transit”



Linking Boulder County is ...

- **A vision** for transit service in Boulder County that is high-quality, universally accessible, and equitable
- **A strategy** to address the County's transit needs and opportunities today and in the coming years
- **A road map** for transit service expansion, including specific action items and how they will be funded and implemented
- **A reflection** of what the community hopes to see and is excited to support



Priorities from the BOCC

- **The plan must be realistic.**
 - It can't be a wish list that we'll never be able to fund.
 - Having an ambitious vision is good, but that must be complemented with near-term, affordable actions.
- **It should advance three priorities:**
 - Reduce greenhouse gas emissions
 - Increase affordability
 - Advance racially equitable outcomes
- **We need to build on what's underway.**
 - Projects that have been on the books for decades are important "givens."
 - People have shared many priorities, and this plan can help to deliver them.



Boulder County Board of County Commissioners

Our Approach



Listen & Learn

- Strong project management
- Equity framework
- Outreach across the county
- Big opportunities and challenges



Create & Apply

- Visioning workshop
- Evaluation approach
- Integrated scenarios
- Projects, programs, and policies



Integrate & Refine

- Sustainable funding models
- Inclusive governance
- Clear and achievable implementation plan
- Final plan video

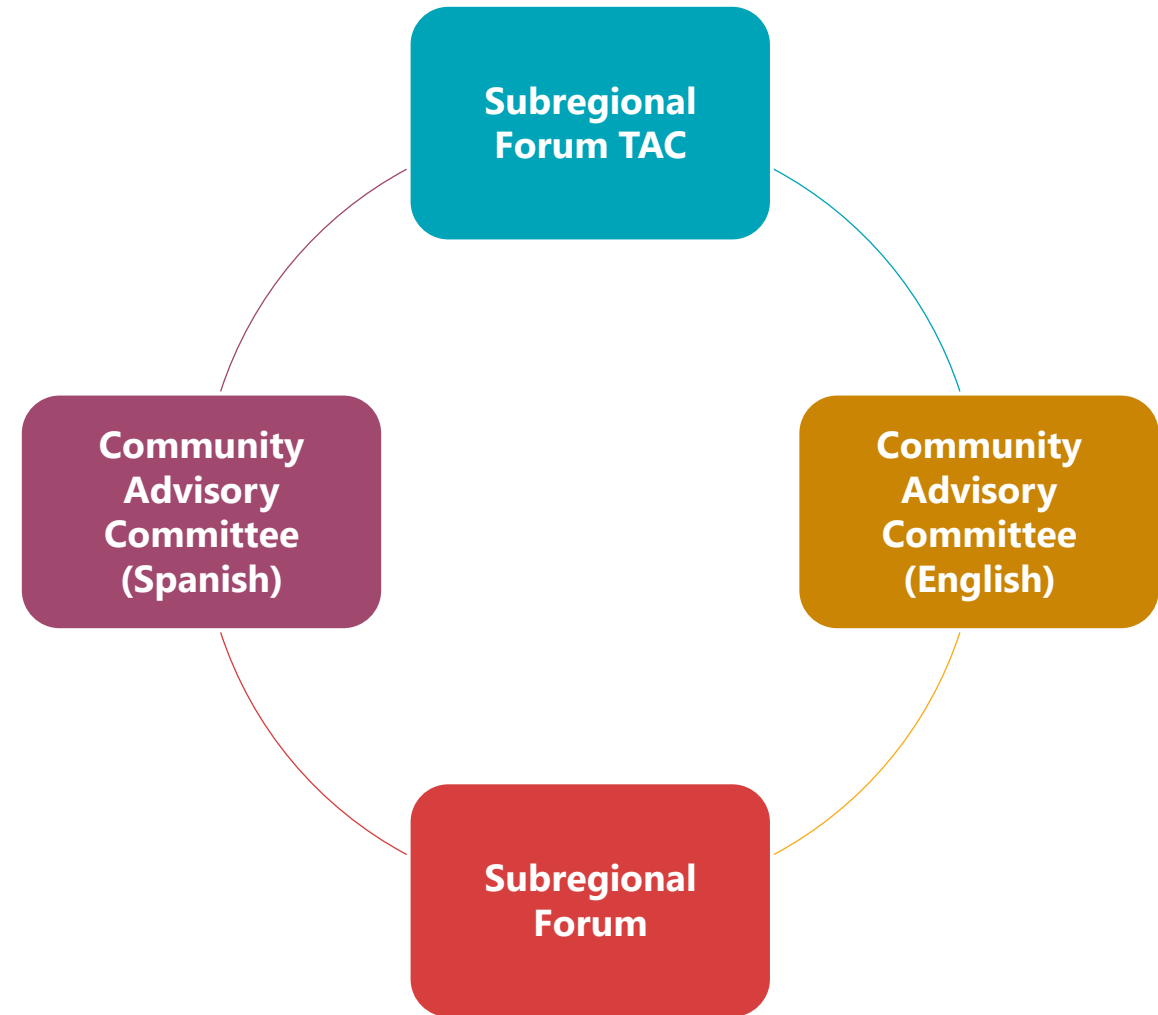
Outreach Strategies

- Open houses
- Community surveys
- Interviews and focus groups
- Pop-ups and intercepts
- Advisory committee meetings
- Traditional and social media
- Website and mailers
- Creative connections



Project Advisory Committees

- Bring together **diverse perspectives**
- Meet up to **6 times** linked to key milestones
- Explore opportunities for 1-2 **joint meetings**
- Support **deep outreach** and dialogue
- Provide **feedback** on all project elements
- Build **support** for recommendations



Linking Boulder County Schedule

TASK	2025						2026											
	Q3			Q4			Q1			Q2			Q3			Q4		
	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Management																		
Outreach & Involvement	Survey 1: Community Needs Round 1: Existing Conditions & Vision Round 2: Transit Strategies & Priorities Round 3: Draft Plan																	
Existing Conditions & Travel Needs																		
Vision & Goals																		
Alternatives & Strategies																		
Governance & Implementation																		
Final Plan																		



Hearing from You: Countywide Focus

- What are the **biggest challenges or opportunities** this project should address?
- Who is **important to reach** as we begin our work on Linking Boulder County?

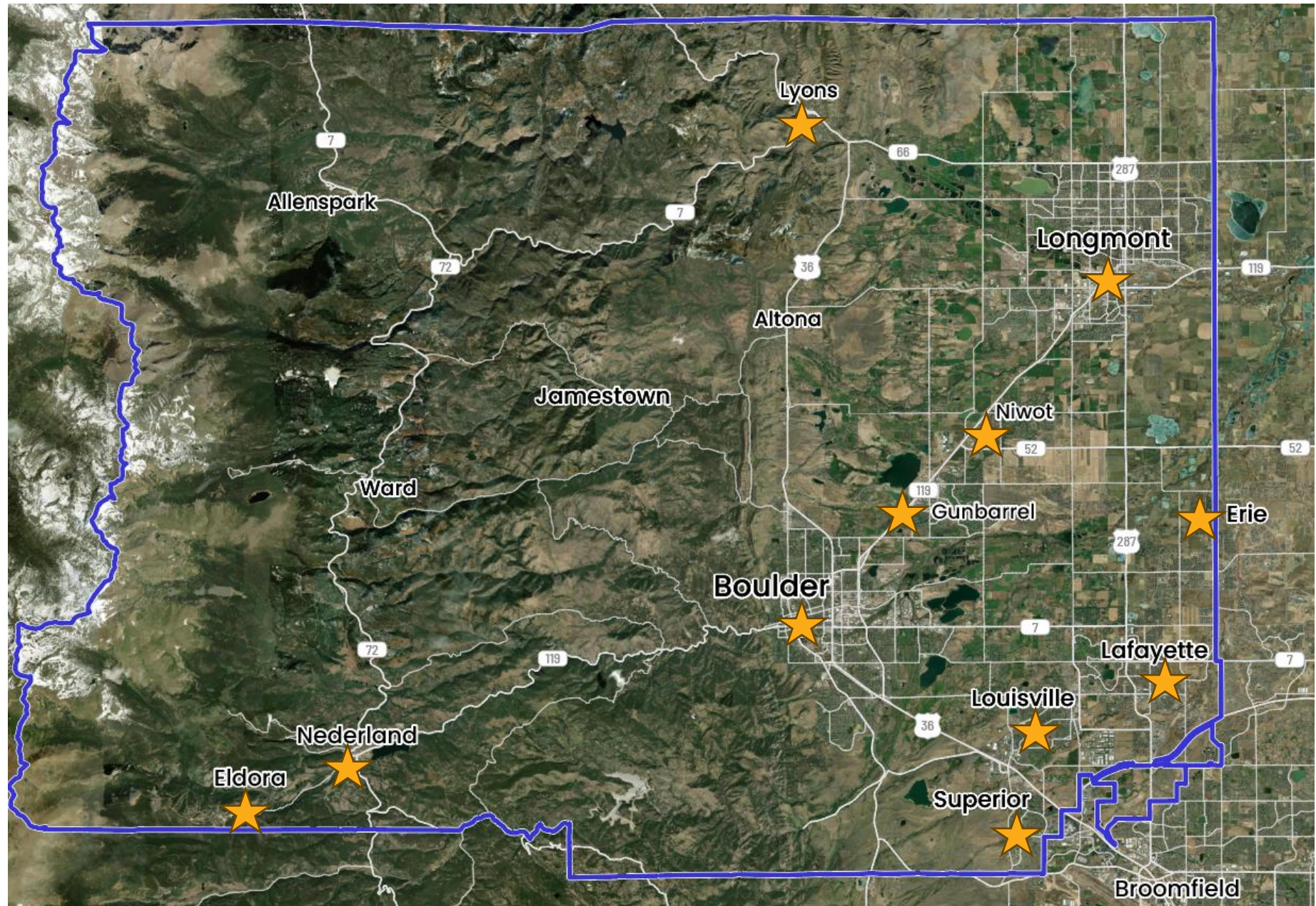




Early Learnings

Getting to Know Boulder County

- CU Boulder
- BCTC and Commuting Solutions
- Latino Chamber of Commerce
- MAC
- NEPPIDAC
- RTD
- Transfort
- Via Mobility Services
- B-Cycle
- North Front Range MPO



Themes from Conversations

- Transit **reliability** is vital and builds trust
- Serving **non-work trips** is increasingly important
- **First-/last-mile access** is often more than 1 mile
- **Equitable** transit programs are essential
- Transit is an **economic development** tool
- Capital investments must **pair with service**
- **Funding** remains a challenge
- Regional **coordination** is non-negotiable



Destination Diversity

Transit provides access to all kinds of destinations, but connections are difficult.

Transit services cover many parts of the county, helping people reach jobs, appointments, services, and recreational destinations. However, this can mean stops are outside of higher density areas, limiting connectivity.



Service Needs

Transit coverage comes at a cost, and frequency and reliability are challenges.

Making trips throughout the county requires planning and flexibility, especially for trips outside of peak periods. Connections aren't always well-timed, and it can be difficult to transfer or make multiple stops.



Transit Connections

Walking, rolling, and biking infrastructure and high-quality amenities are inconsistent.

Stop amenities and transit-supportive infrastructure vary across communities and land uses. Amenities impact the rider experience, especially considering Boulder County's seasons.



Information & Branding

With a dozen transit providers in the county, understanding the system isn't easy.

Riding services across the county requires multiple apps and payment types (which don't work for everyone). Information is inconsistent and difficult to find, especially at stops and online. Branded buses can help but sometimes serve other routes, creating confusion.



Accessibility & Equity

Transit services in Boulder County meet many needs, but there is more to do.

The commitment to offering transportation choices for people who do and don't have access to a vehicle is apparent. Creating seamless connections between services and modes and expanding access for more people are important opportunities.



Hearing from You: Countywide Focus

- Do these **early learnings** align with what you hear from your communities? What have we missed so far?
- What are the **key questions** you hope we'll answer as part of our existing conditions work?





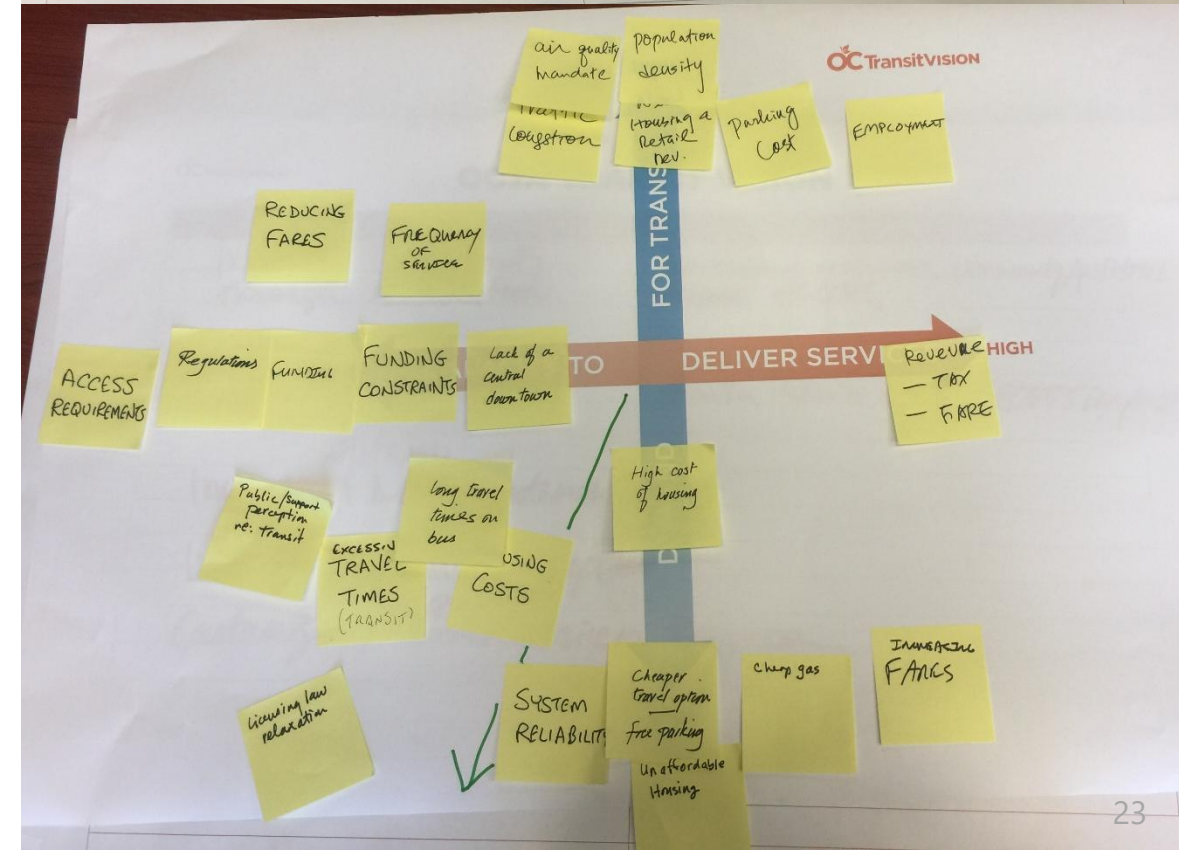
Fall Priorities

Visioning Approach

- Build from **stated Boulder County goals**
- Use **findings** from interviews, community survey, and existing conditions analysis
- Explore **internal and external factors** that can shape transit demand and delivery capacity
- Use workshop(s) with project advisory committees to **co-create the vision**
- Share draft vision with the **community for review and feedback**

OCTA TRANSIT VISION

OUTCOMES	RISKS
Increase ridership + transit share	Funding
Change perception about transit	Delivering Service that meets Expectations
Vision with varied options	How to deliver & integrate
- something for everybody	
Location of next streetcar route	Lack of Political Support



September & October Next Steps

- Equity framework
- Website launch
- Public survey
- Project advisory committee meetings
- Data review and analysis
- Key trends and leading practices
- Early existing conditions findings



Hearing from You: Countywide Focus

- If this project accomplishes just one thing, what do you think is **most important** for the county?
- Do you have **additional questions or feedback** for the team as we get started?



Thank you!



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