



Boulder County Subregional Forum Technical Advisory Committee

Draft Transit Vision

March 16, 2026



What We'll Cover Today

- 1 Framing the Transit Vision
- 2 Draft Vision & Goals
- 3 Principles & Key Connections
- 4 Looking Ahead

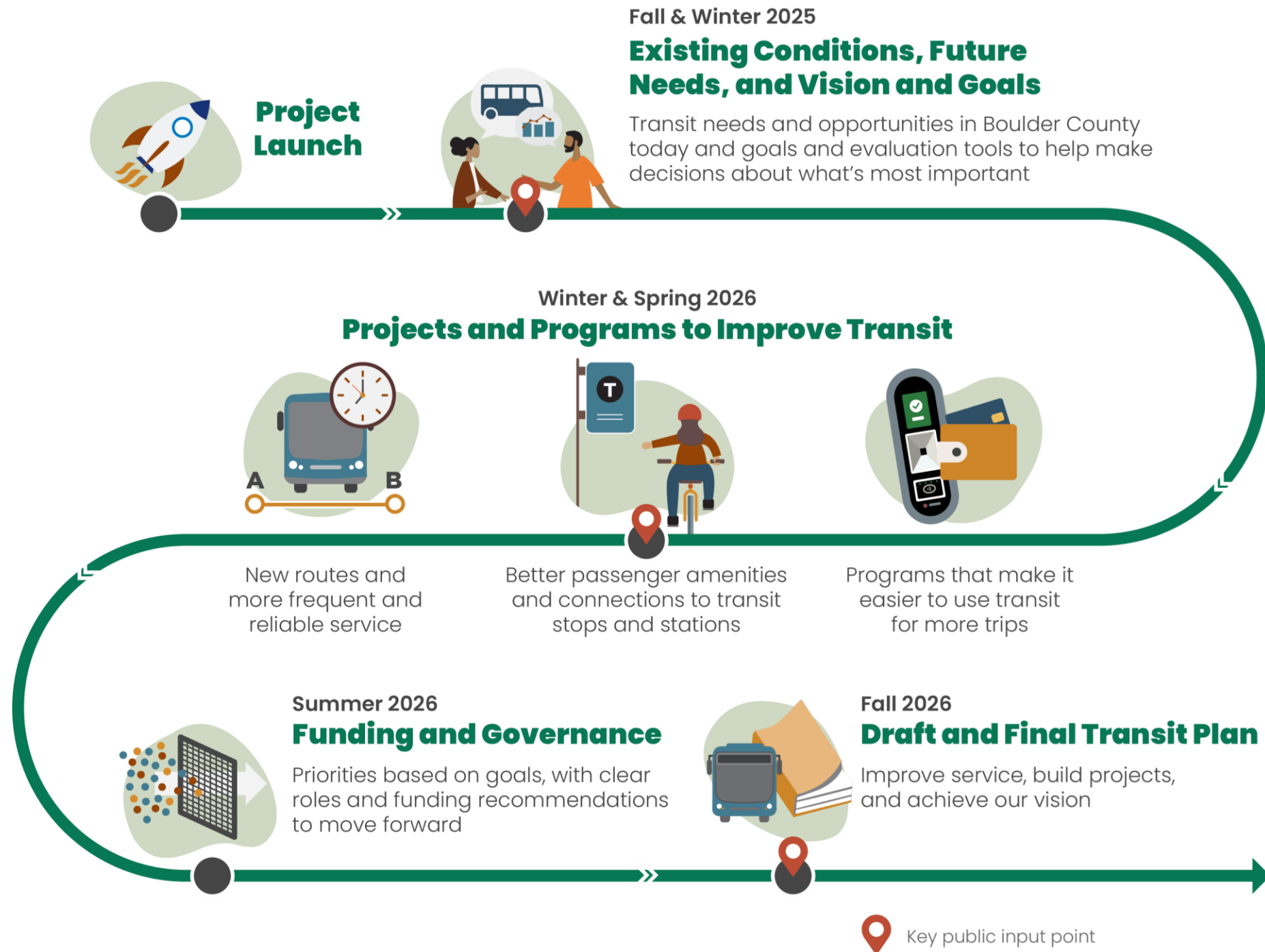




Framing the Transit Vision

Our Work

- Outreach
- Field work
- Data analysis
- Best practices
- Transit strategies
- Scenarios
- Clear priorities
- Funding and phasing
- Implementation



State of Transit Findings

- The **diversity of services and providers** offers significant coverage, but frequency, reliability, and legibility are challenges
- Ridership on most routes remains **below 2019 levels**, although micromobility and paratransit use has grown substantially
- Regional and key corridor services meet many needs and should be complemented with **more services to everyday destinations**
- **On-demand services** fill gaps in southeast Boulder County and Longmont but are expensive to provide
- **Recreational and seasonal routes** are among the highest ridership County-operated routes, pointing to high demand and expansion opportunities



State of Transit Findings

- **Rural and** low-density **suburban areas** lack transit services today and have demographic markers of transit need
- Current and future transit **demand in dense activity areas** makes a strong case for high-frequency service
- **Boulder and Longmont remain primary hubs** for all types of trips, and major gateways carry large numbers of travelers
- **Service patterns could be better aligned** with changes to trip-making, especially early morning and evening
- **First/last-mile** accessibility and connectivity—including through **micromobility** services—is an important area of focus



Inputs to the Vision



Last Week's Meetings

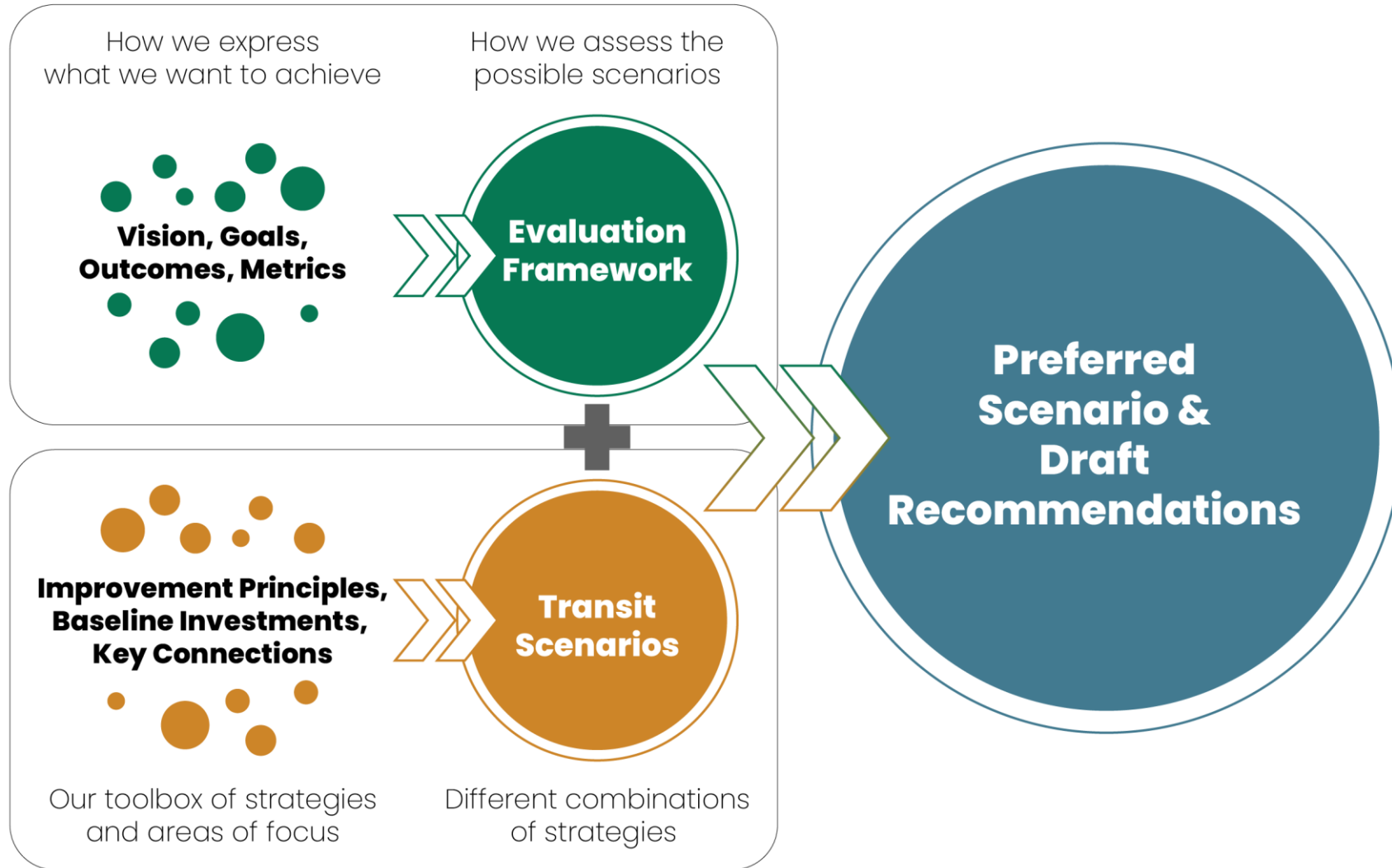
- Subregional Forum
- Longmont TAB
- Community Advisory Committees
(*English & Spanish*)
- Board of County Commissioners
- Initial Partner Meetings
(*Boulder, Longmont, & RTD*)
- Team Workshop



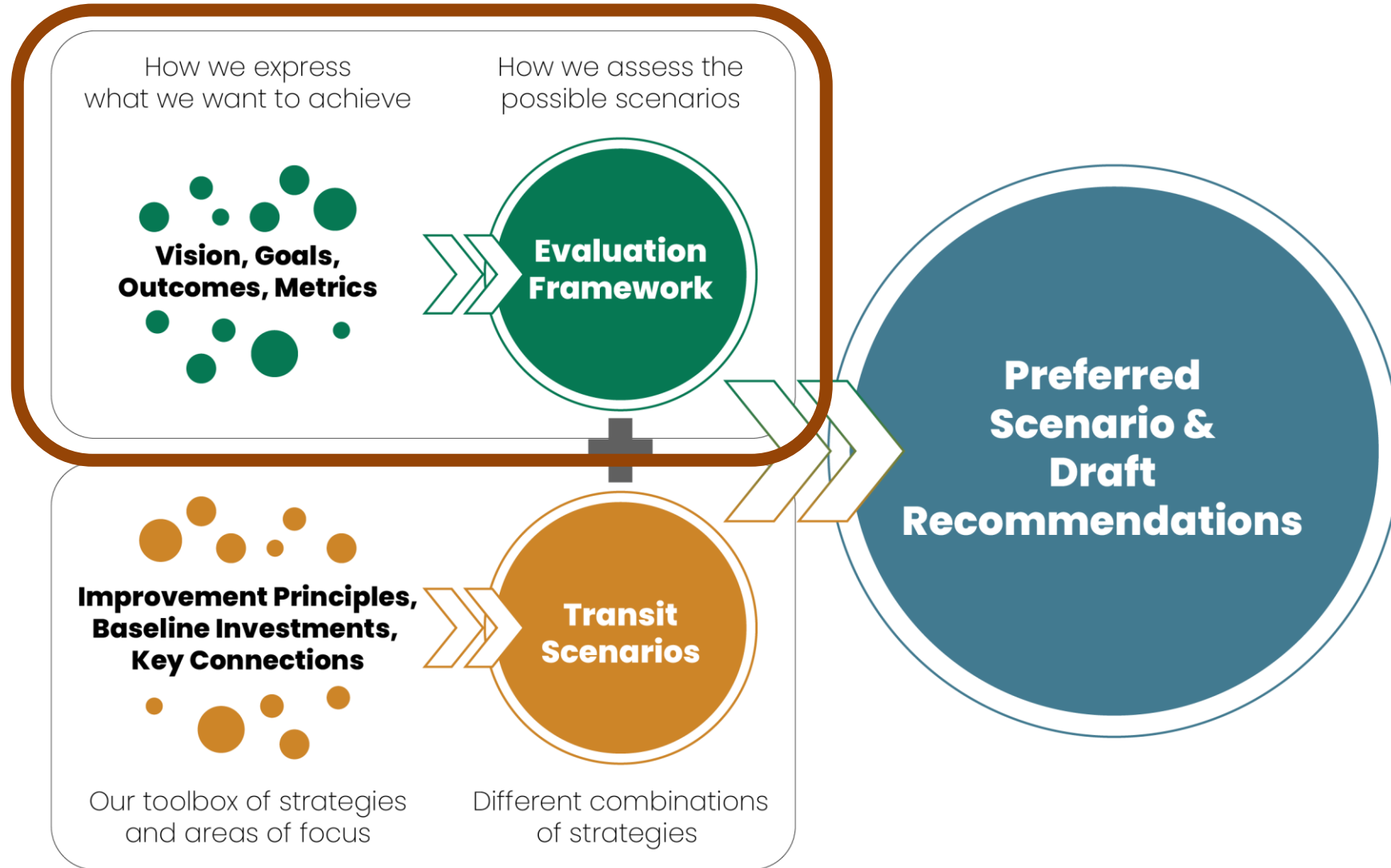


Draft Vision & Goals

How We Use the Vision



How We Use the Vision



Draft Vision Statement

Inspiring and giving direction.

A vision statement is future-based and is meant to inspire and give direction. It describes the anticipated long-term results of Linking Boulder County and conveys the purpose of this planning effort.

In Boulder County, transit is not just transportation: it is a right. By providing high-quality, equitable, and dignified transit services, we expand access to more destinations, support our community's health and wellbeing, and create a more resilient Boulder County.

Draft Transit Goals

Articulating what we want to achieve.



Connected

Connect people to all that Boulder County offers.



Competitive

Make it easier and more desirable to take transit.



Sustainable

Create a resilient transit system for today and tomorrow.



Equitable

Help all Boulder County residents prosper.

Goals are ambitious and are realized over time. Desired outcomes make goals more concrete, describing specific changes we seek. Metrics help to define progress.



Connected

Connect people to all that Boulder County offers.

- Provide **dignified, reliable, and affordable** transit
- Better connect people to their **daily needs**
- Increase access to **affordable housing** and underserved areas
- Improve transit connections with surrounding counties to develop a stronger **regional system**
- Integrate with **land use** and community hubs
- Strengthen **first/final mile connections** and seamlessly integrate networks
- Embrace opportunities to **innovate** and explore new technologies

Example Metrics:

- ✓ Increase in number of people with access to transit
- ✓ Increase in number of jobs near transit
- ✓ Increase in number of regional trips
- ✓ Increase in number of people who can walk, bike, or roll to transit
- ✓ Reduction in access gaps near transit stops



Competitive

Make it easier and more desirable to take transit.

- Provide **convenient service** that appeals to many
- Improve transit service **quality, safety, frequency, and reliability**
- Make transit travel times **competitive with the auto** in key corridors
- Improve the **experience** of taking transit
- Improve the quality of stops and stations
- Integrate **mobility options** across services, operators, and modes
- Provide travel **information that is easy** to find and understand

Example Metrics:

- ✓ Increase in annual ridership
- ✓ Increase in transit service hours
- ✓ Increase in access to frequent transit
- ✓ Decrease in transit travel times
- ✓ Increase in customer satisfaction
- ✓ Increase in stops with enhanced amenities
- ✓ Increase in accessible information



Sustainable

Create a resilient transit system.

- Reduce greenhouse gas **emissions and vehicle miles traveled**
- Improve **climate resilience** and adaptability
- Develop reliable and predictable **revenue** streams
- Expand **partnerships** within the county, with neighboring jurisdictions, and with providers
- Streamline transit **decision-making** and governance
- Increase County **capacity** to deliver transit
- Optimize **regional** transit service investments

Example Metrics:

- ✓ Decrease in GHG emissions, VMT, and SOV mode share
- ✓ Increase in funding for transit
- ✓ Increase in regional transit investments
- ✓ Increase in transit productivity and cost efficiency
- ✓ Decrease in transit project delivery times



Equitable

Help all Boulder County residents prosper.

- Create a transportation system **responsive to the needs** of people who rely on transit
- Improve **accessibility** of transit services and facilities
- Contribute to **equitable opportunities** and outcomes for all people
- Provide a **diversity of services** to link people and geographies
- Make it **safe and easy** to access transit
- Support the **vitality** of Boulder County's centers
- Use transit to enhance **healthy, complete** communities

Example Metrics:

- ✓ Increase in transit access and investments for vulnerable communities
- ✓ Increase in accessible routes and facilities
- ✓ Decrease in fatal and serious injury crashes
- ✓ Increase in service to affordable and workforce housing

What We Heard: Vision & Goals

Draft Vision

- Consider “essential” or “integral” rather than “right”
- Define “high-quality” services
- Focus on “access to opportunity” rather than to destinations
- Add or acknowledge the importance of safety
- Reflect efficiency, connectivity, and/or frequency
- Highlight the fact that improving transit is good for the entire community

Draft Goals

- Consider combining “Connected” and “Equitable” or better differentiating them
- Incorporate electrification into “Sustainable” goal
- Separate financial sustainability from climate-focused desired outcomes
- Define “accessibility” more clearly
- Elevate “reliability” of transit as a way to build public trust
- Ensure that “Competitive” does not signal competition between jurisdictions
- Distinguish desired outcomes by goal

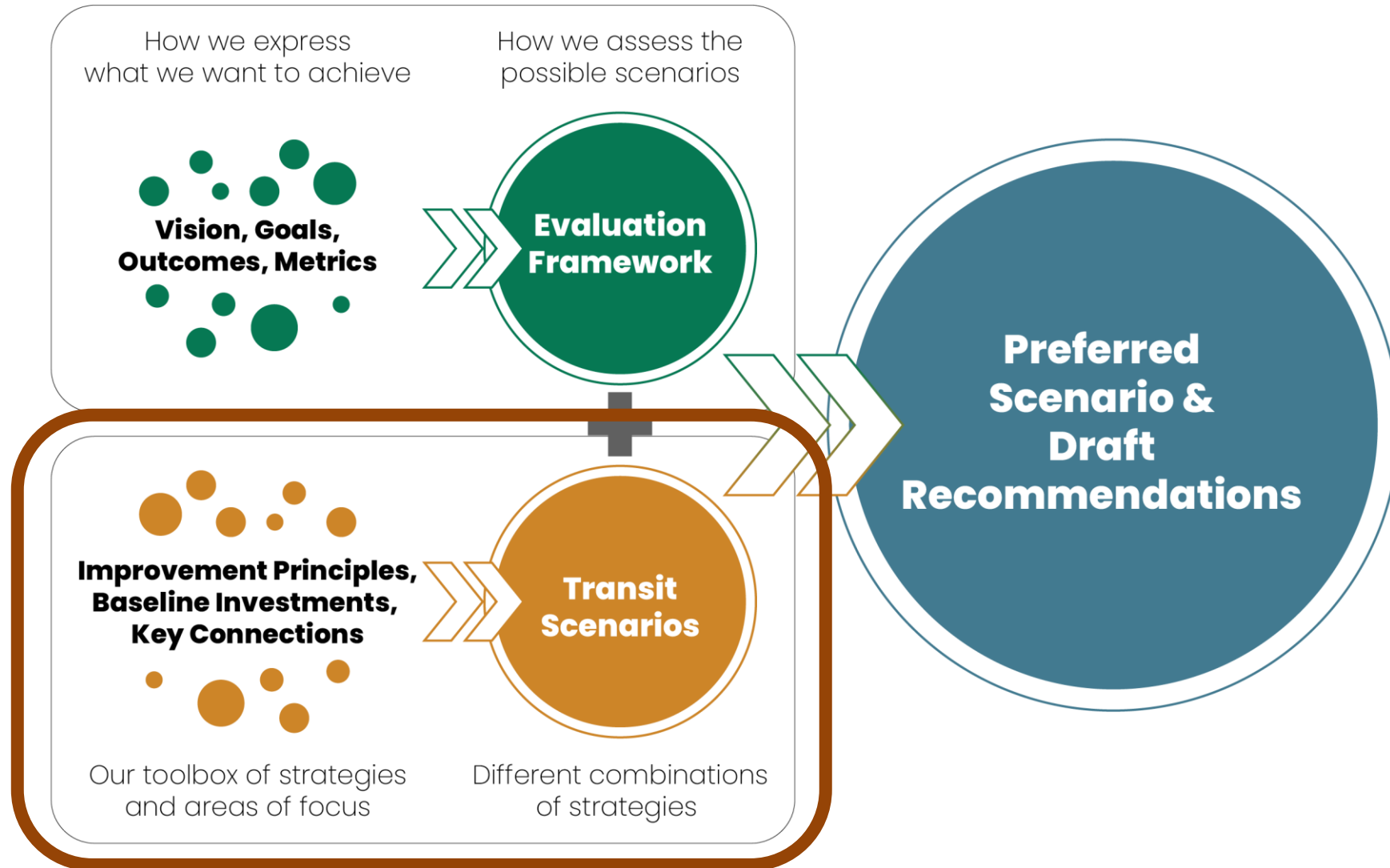
How well do the goals and desired outcomes capture what you hope this plan will achieve?

What value would you place on different goals? Which one is most important for your jurisdiction?



Principles & Key Connections

How We Use the Vision



Draft Principles

Establishing the building blocks.

Transit improvement principles outline what's needed to make transit a competitive option. They point to the types of investments we'll consider, both today and long term. They require tradeoffs as we shape scenarios.

- **Improve existing services**
- **Respond to changing travel patterns**
- **Expand the network**
- **Develop high-capacity transit services**
- **Make transit easier to use**
- **Improve access to transit**

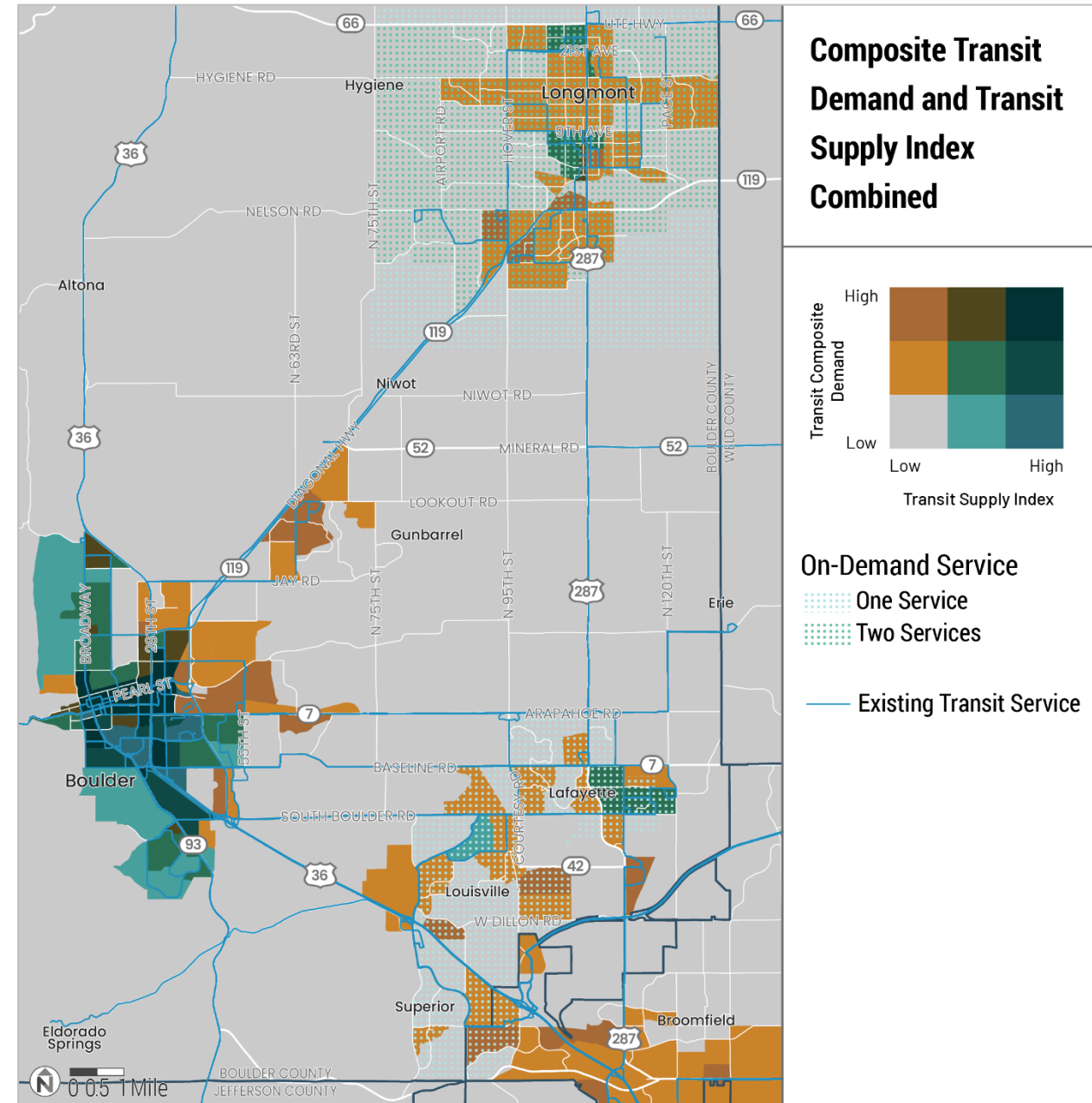


Improve Existing Services

Given the level of funding available, RTD, Boulder County, and partners currently provide service to many areas that need transit. However, there are clear opportunities for improving transit service across the county to make transit more attractive for both current and future riders.

Focus Areas:

- A Frequent Transit Network to the county's major destinations
- More frequent service on many routes
- Transit priority to improve speed and reliability

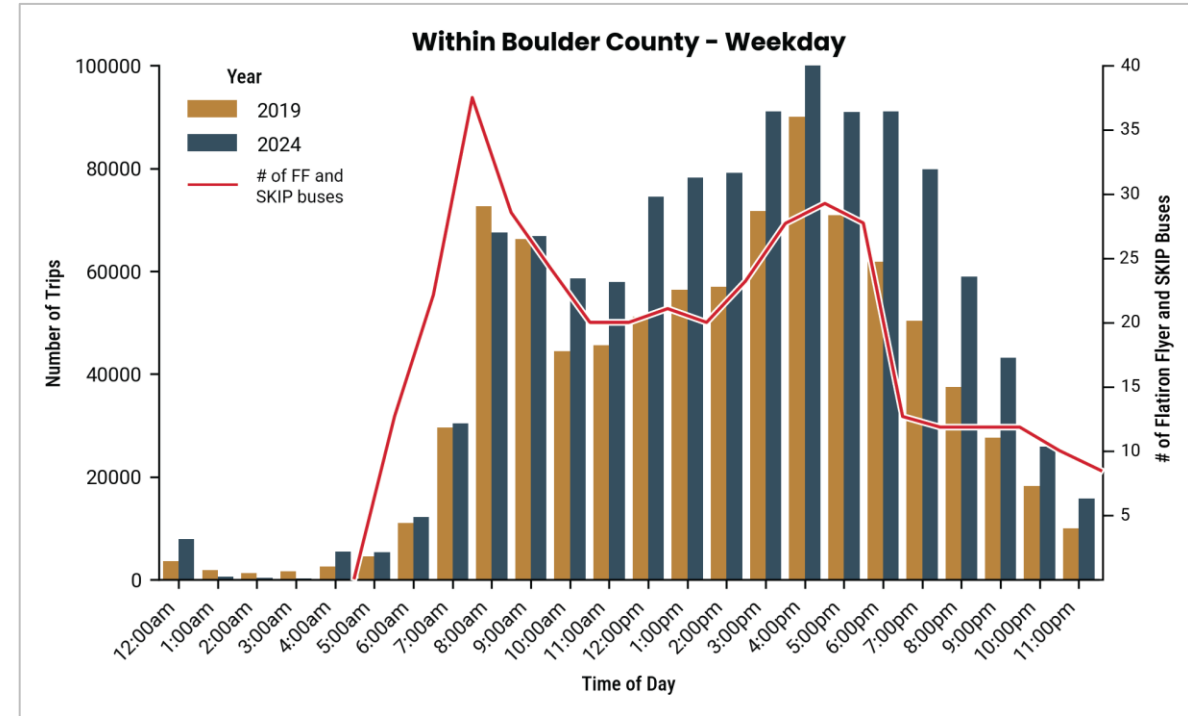


Respond to Changing Travel Patterns

Since the pandemic, travel patterns within Boulder County have changed dramatically. People are making more trips throughout the day, and the pressure on “traditional” commute times has decreased. To make transit a better option for more trips, there must be more hours of service across the network, including on weekends.

Focus Areas:

- Earlier and later service, especially in the early evening
- Midday service to match trip patterns
- More weekend service to support more types of trips

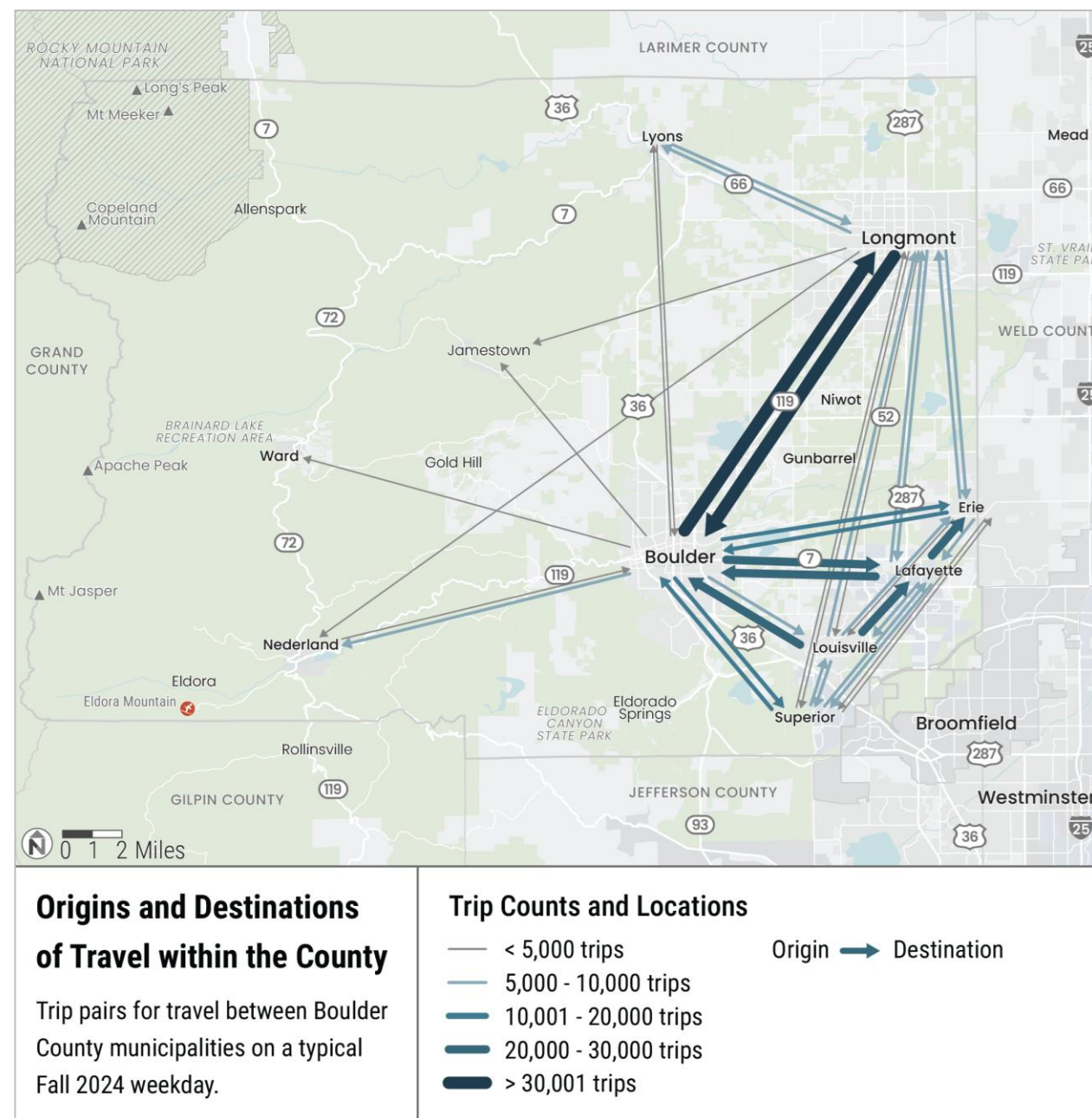


Expand the Network

As Boulder County and the Front Range continue to grow, the demand for transit service will continue to expand. Community members have expressed a need for more service to local destinations like grocery stores, better access to recreation from areas other than Boulder, and new connections to communities like Firestone.

Focus Areas:

- Better connections to everyday destinations within communities
- More access to recreation and trailheads
- Service to new areas, both within and near Boulder County

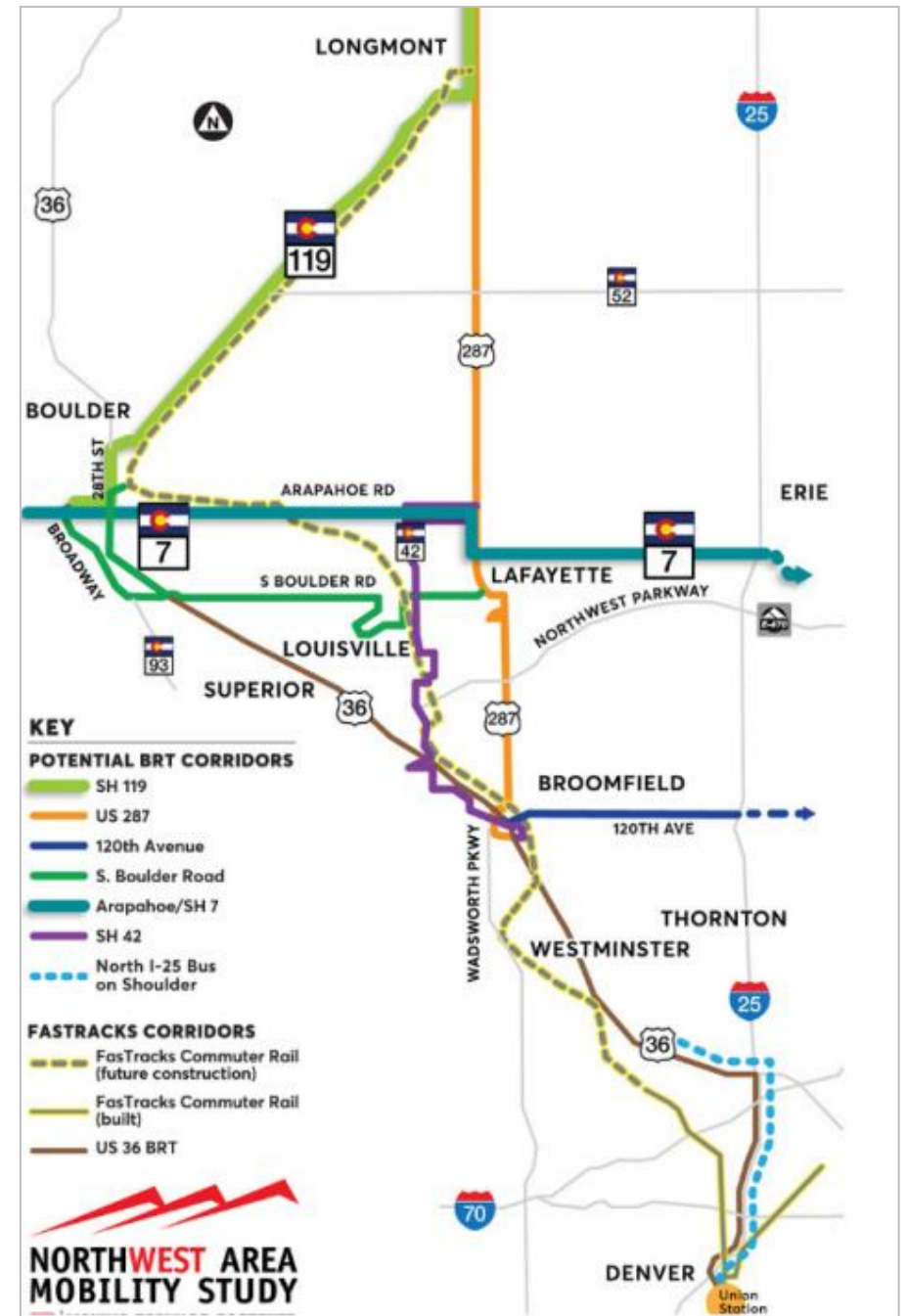


Develop High-Capacity Transit Services

To develop more compelling transit services, Boulder County and its partners will need to develop high-capacity transit and premium services. These services should be focused on the county's most important corridors and advance past and current plans. Development of these services would require more transit-oriented development, better multimodal access, and other transit-supportive improvements.

Focus Areas:

- Advancing the vision for the NAMS Corridors
- A premium services network of BRT and BRT lite
- Regional connections, including Front Range Passenger Rail



Make Transit Easier to Use

With 12 transit providers serving Boulder County today, there are various brands, bus stop designs, mobile apps, and types of information available. While there is good service in many places, it can be hard for people to learn about and navigate the complexity. Providing clear information, seamless connections, and transit-supportive programs can encourage new riders.

Focus Areas:

- More widely available and accessible information, in multiple languages
- Clear branding that better links to services
- Expanded programs that encourage more people to ride transit



Improve Access to Transit

Every transit trip starts and ends with a trip by another mode. Providing safe, convenient, and comfortable access to and at transit stops and stations is fundamental to serving existing transit customers and attracting new riders. Accessible, seamless, and integrated pedestrian, bicycle, drop-off, and parking infrastructure makes transit better for everyone.

Focus Areas:

- Seamless connections to other modes
- Expanded micromobility access
- Better amenities at stops and stations



Key Connections in Boulder County

Identifying where improvements are needed.

The transit vision for Boulder County is illustrated in two maps.

Assumed Transit Enhancements

Highlights areas with currently planned and/or funded transit service or infrastructure improvements, either in the near- or long-term



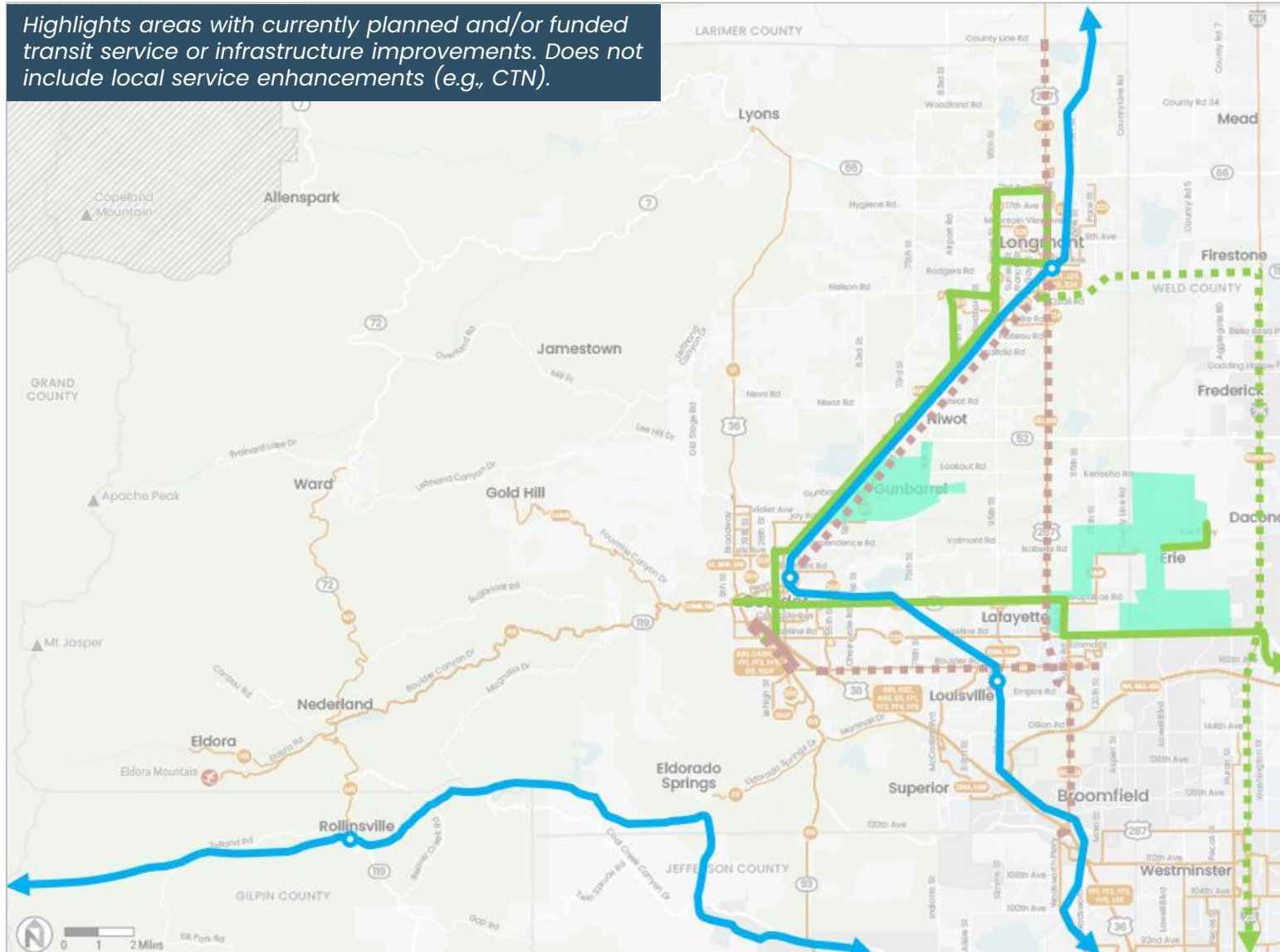
Key Connections

Identifies new and essential network connections that will play an important role in achieving the Linking Boulder County vision and goals

The lines on the Key Connections map represent connectivity rather than mode. The draft map is based on input from the Community Advisory Committees, broad public outreach, and findings from the State of Transit report. While it does not capture every need, especially new and enhanced connections within communities, it points to areas of focus.

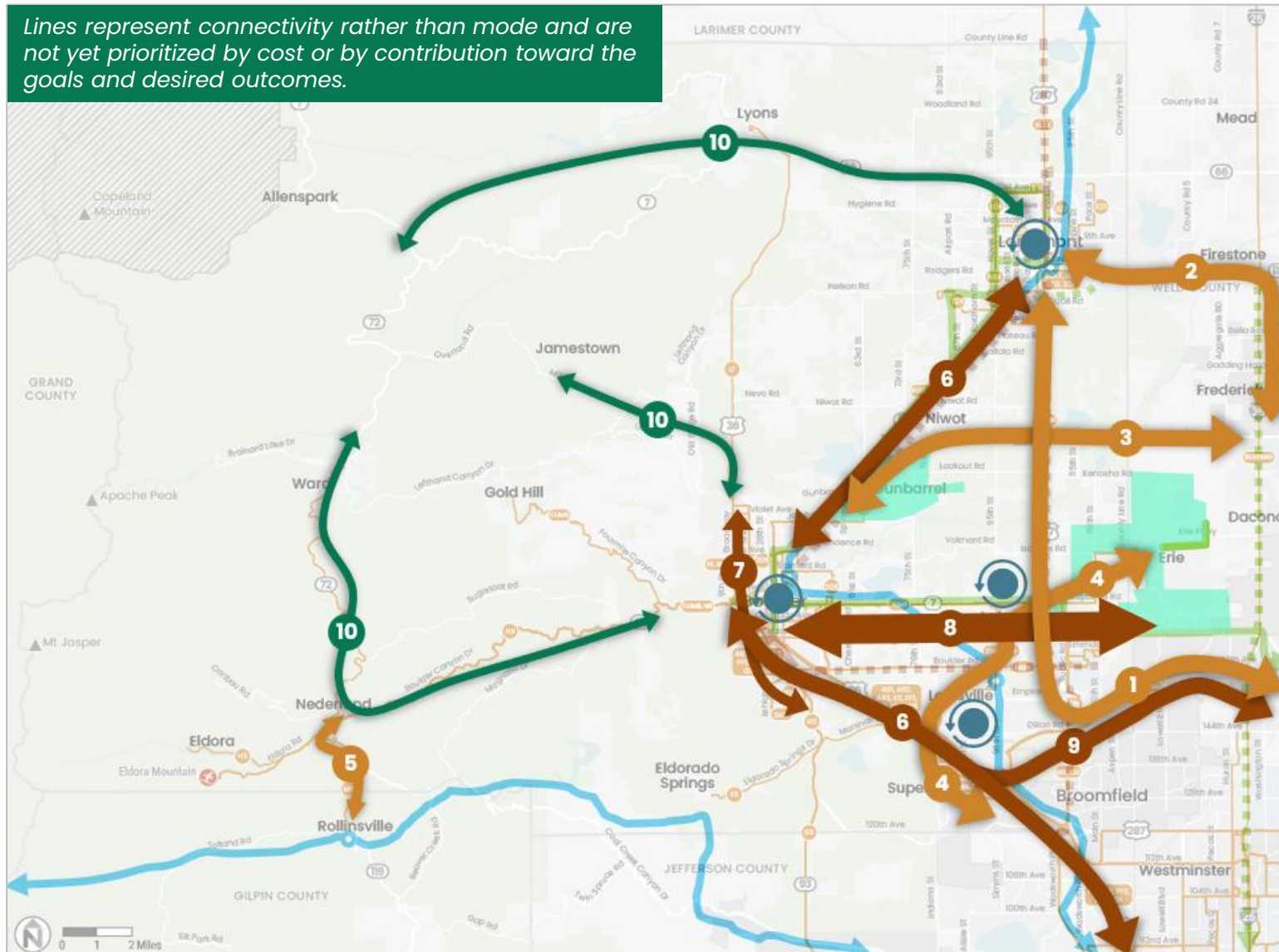
Assumed Regional Transit Enhancements

Highlights areas with currently planned and/or funded transit service or infrastructure improvements. Does not include local service enhancements (e.g., CTN).



Draft Key Connections

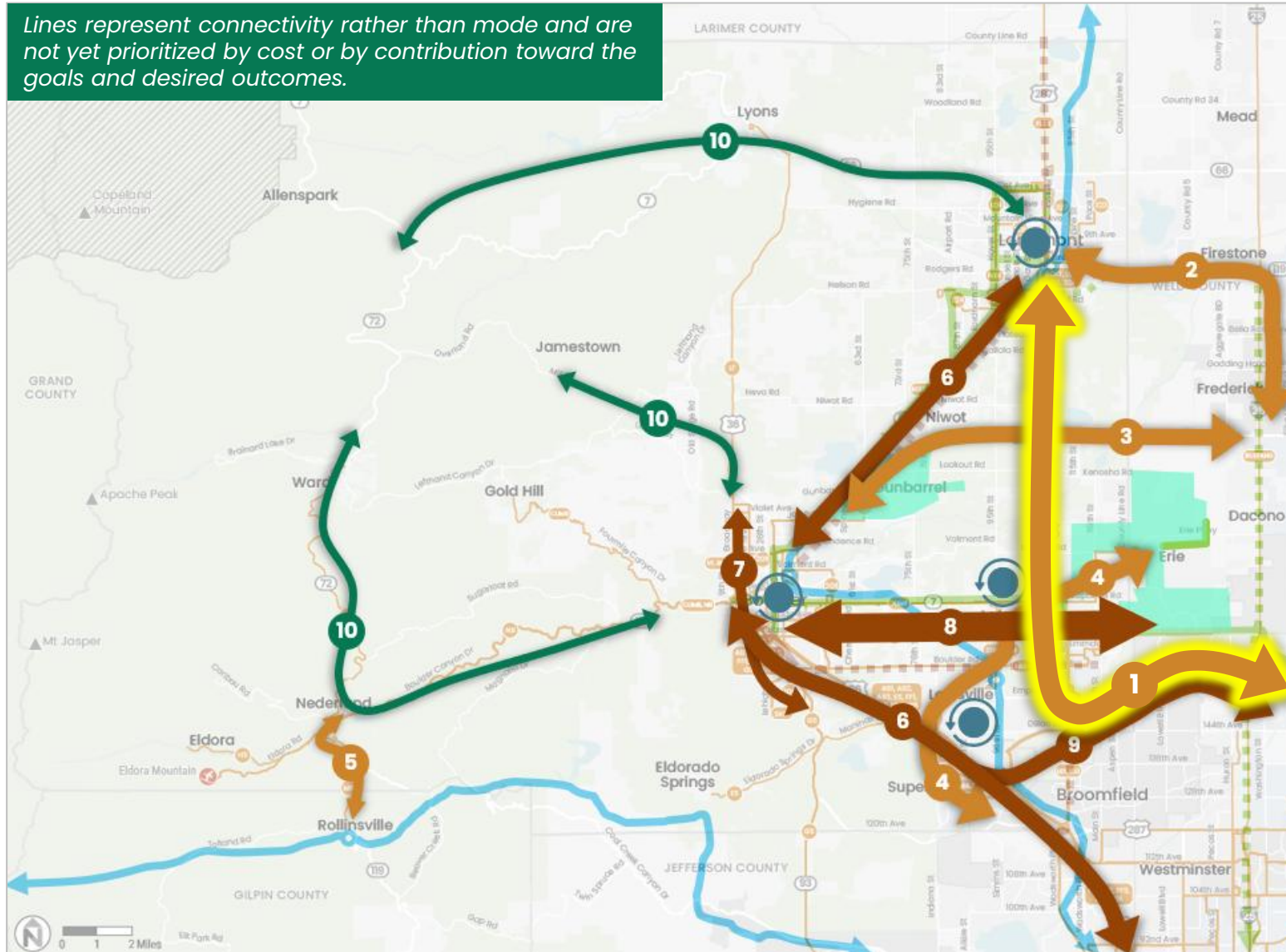
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-  New connection
-  Faster, more frequent, and more reliable connection
-  Limited or seasonal connection
-  Local service improvements
-  1 Longmont-Lafayette-DIA
-  2 Longmont-Weld County
-  3 Boulder-Weld County
-  4 SE Communities-Broomfield
-  5 Nederland-Gilpin County
-  6 US 36 and CO 119
-  7 Broadway (Boulder)
-  8 Boulder-SE Communities
-  9 Boulder/US 36-DIA
-  10 Longmont/Boulder-Mountains

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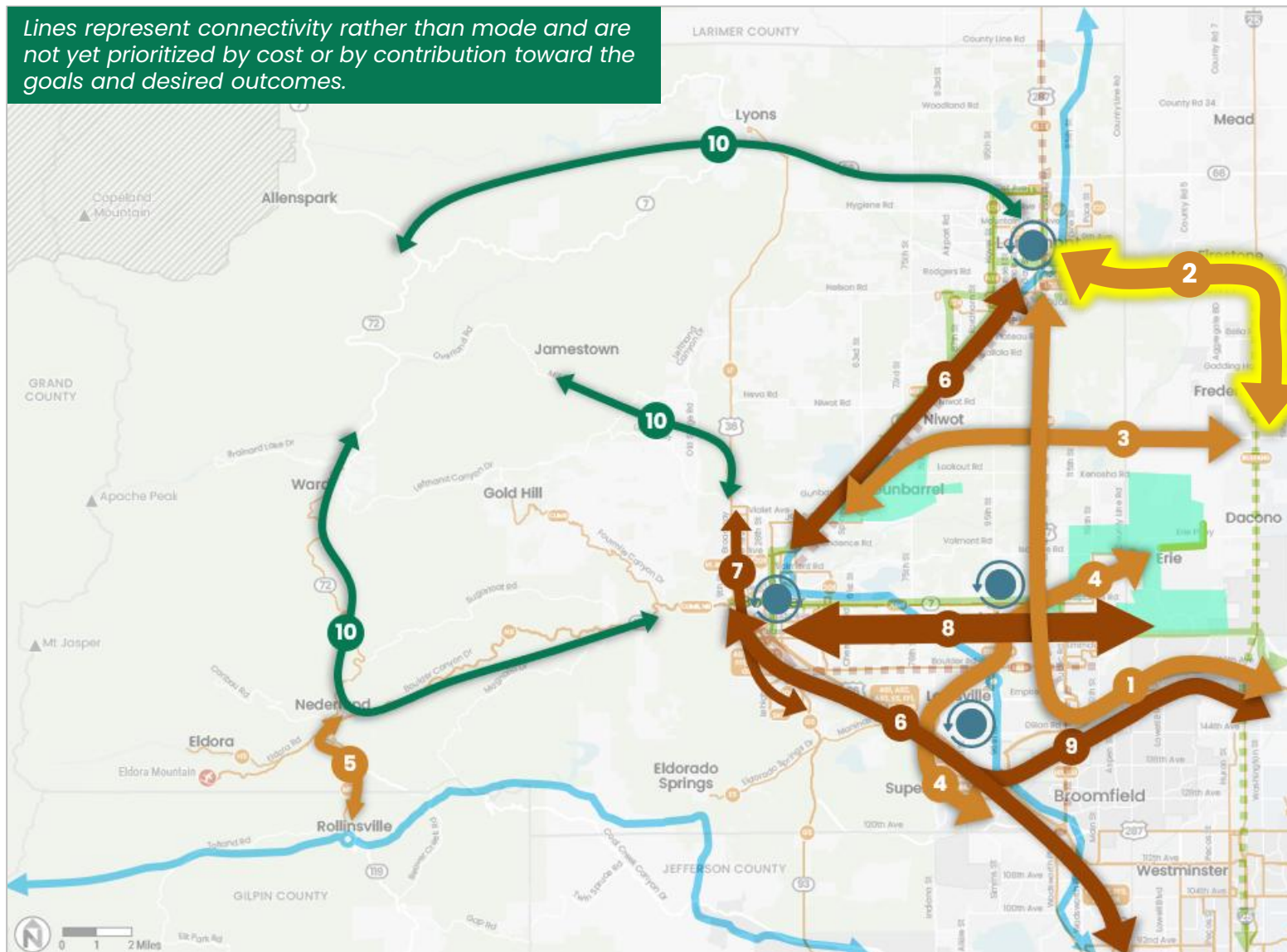
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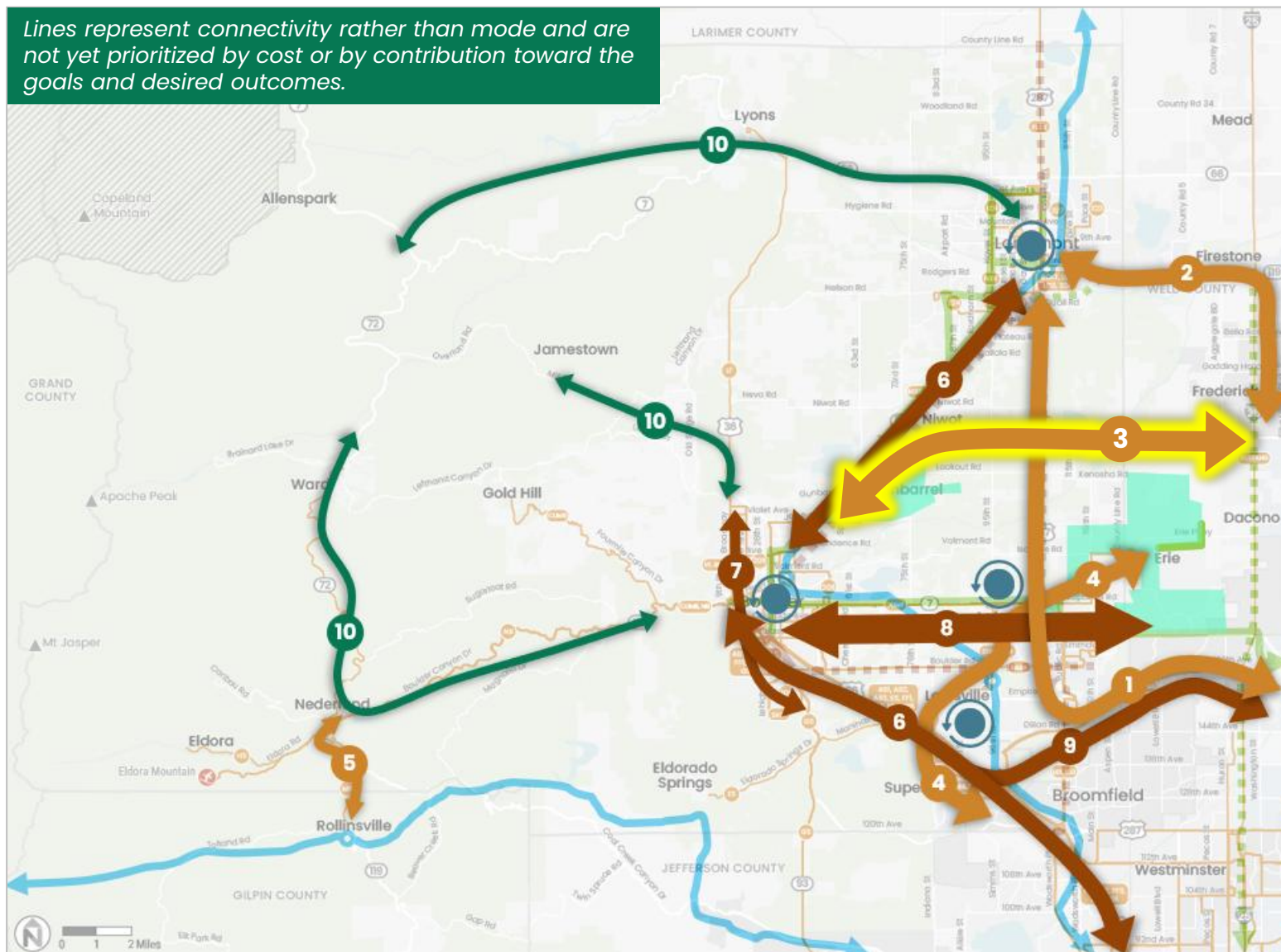
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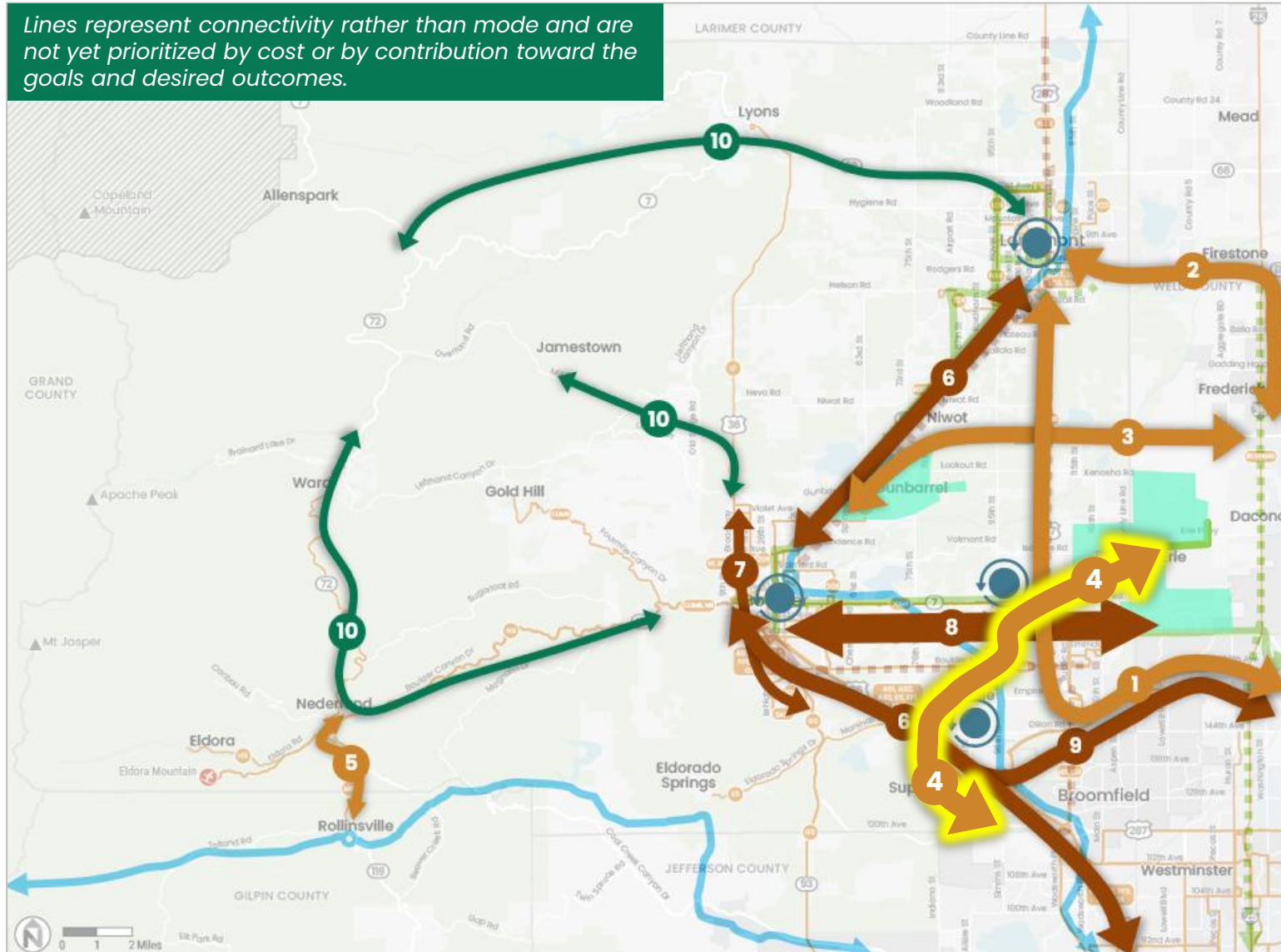
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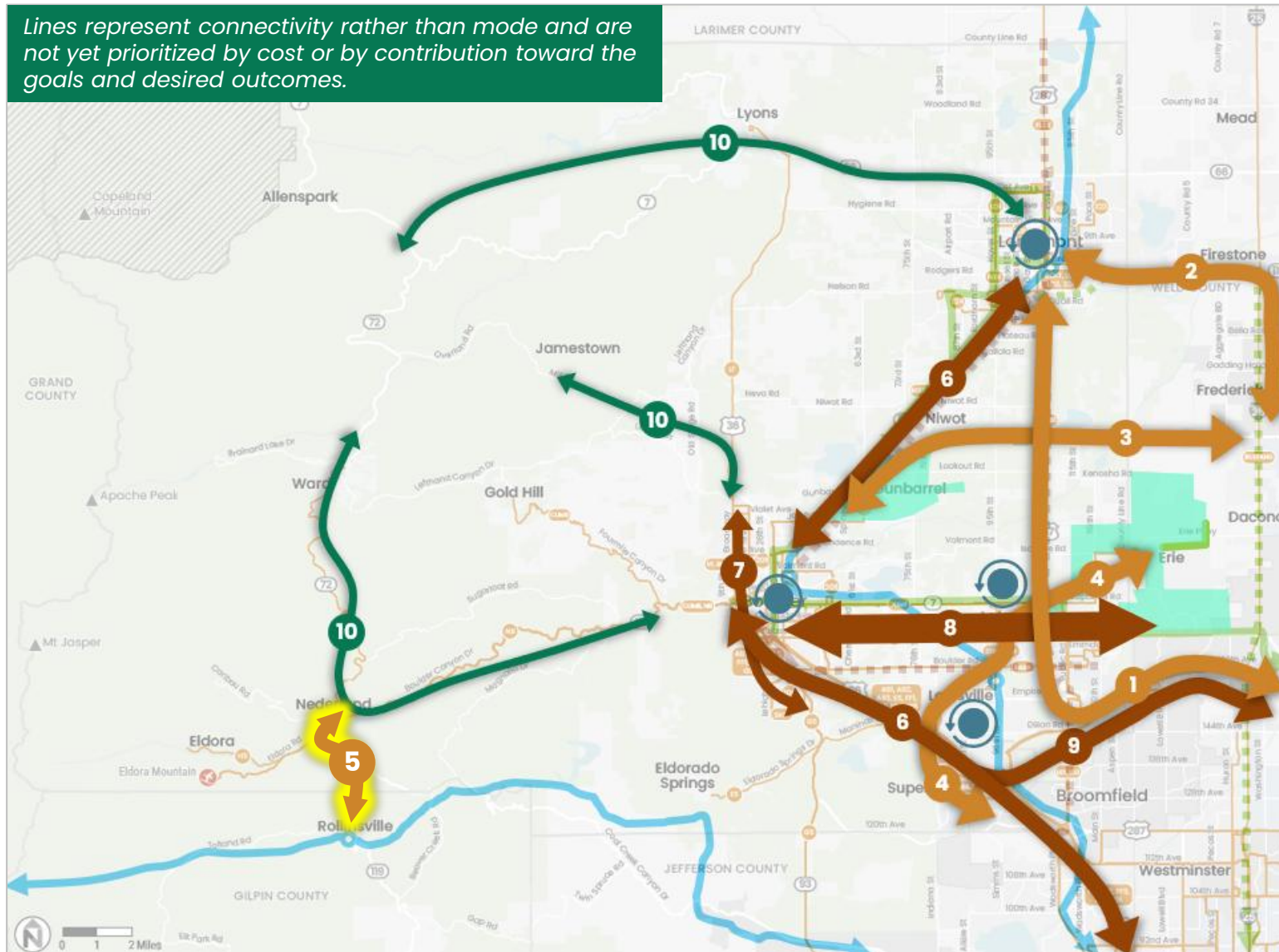
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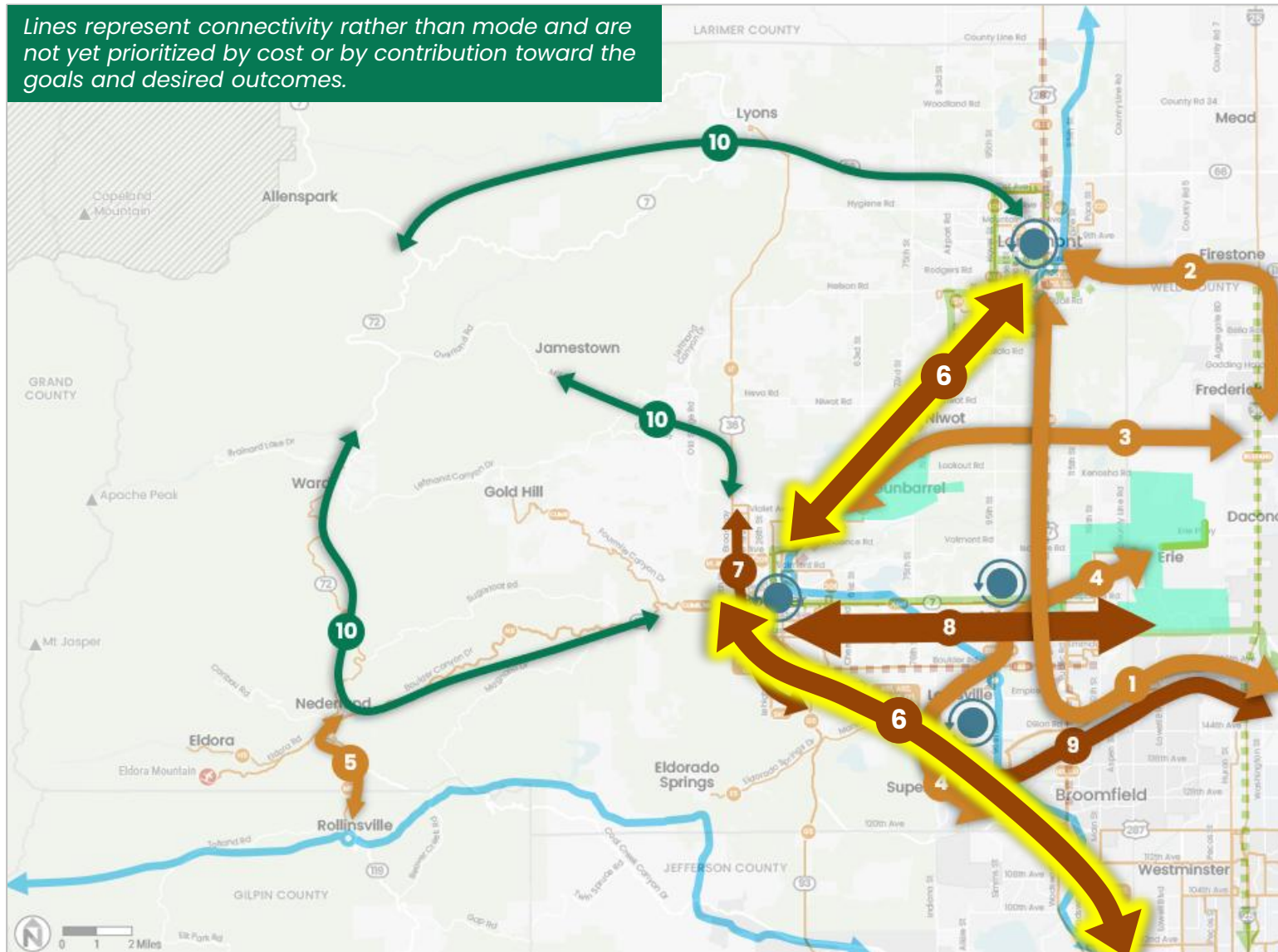
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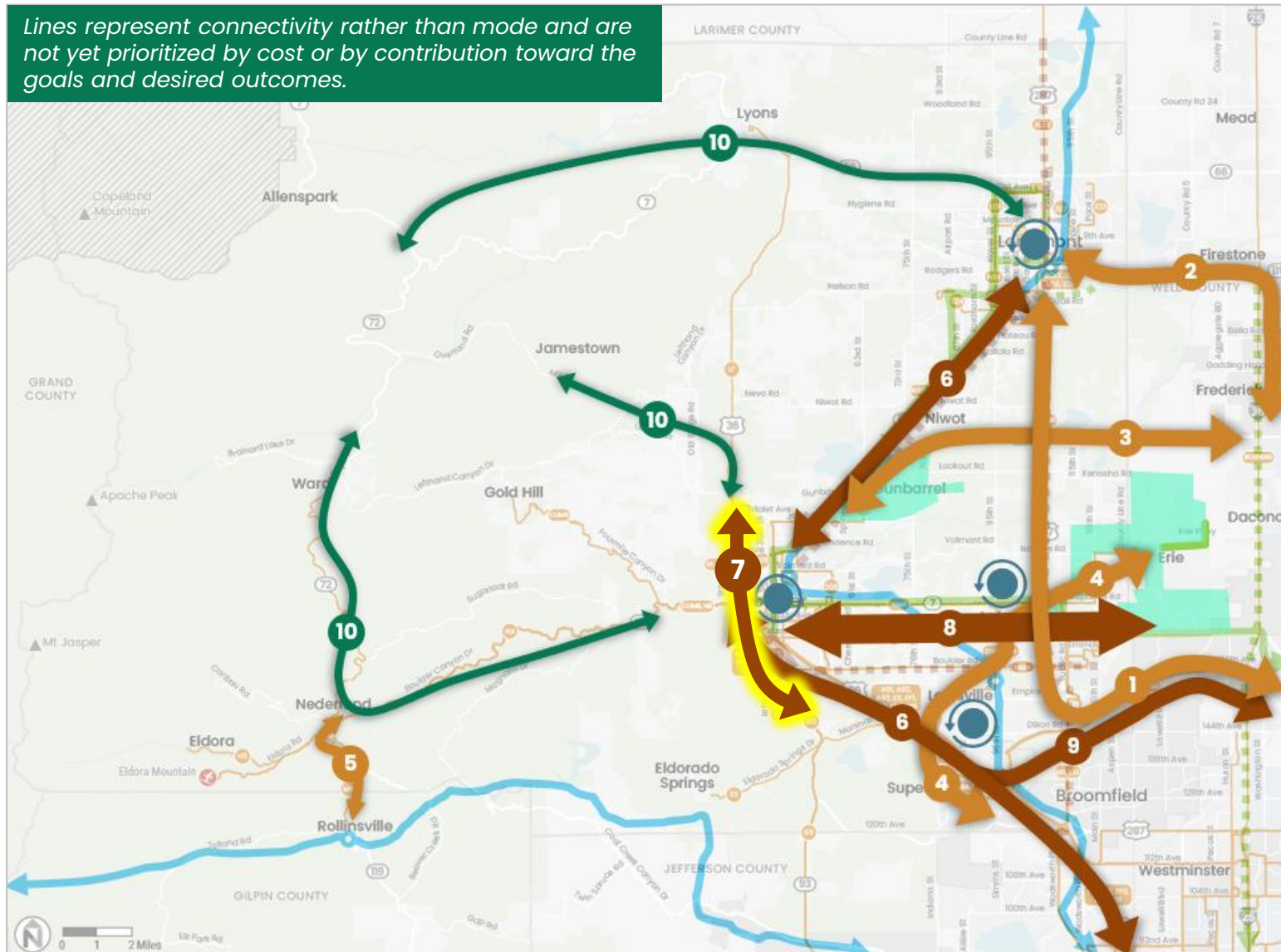
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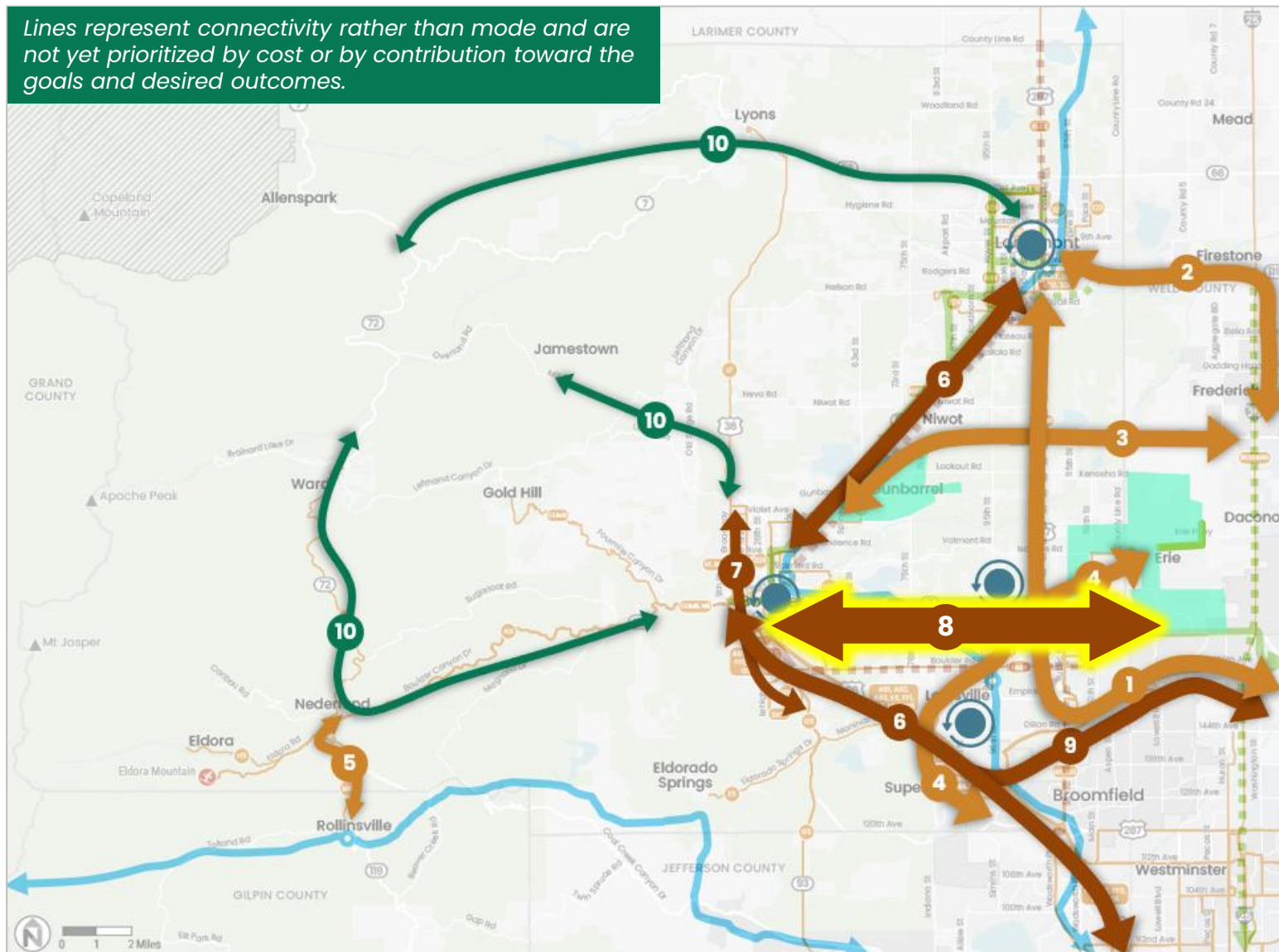
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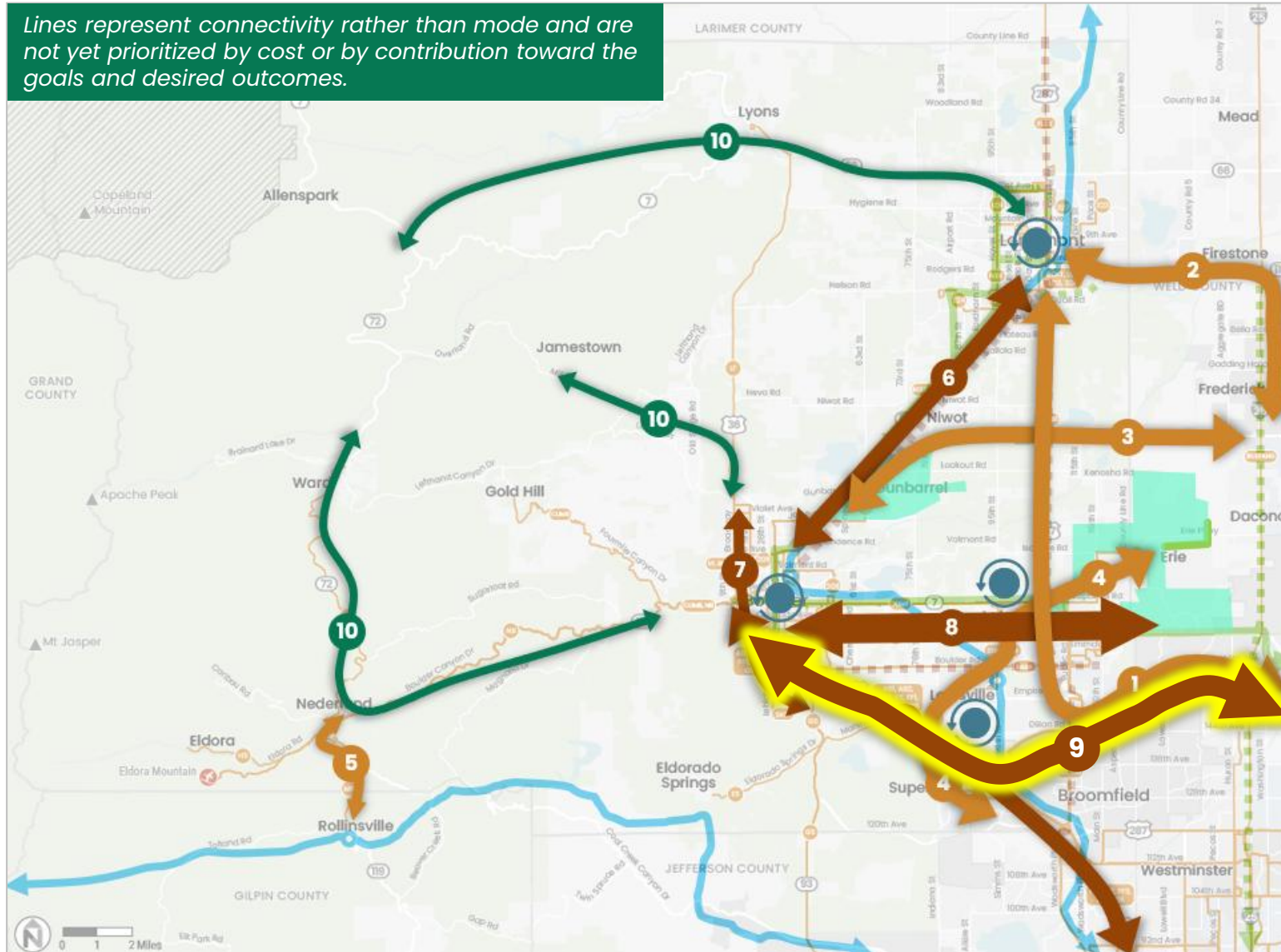
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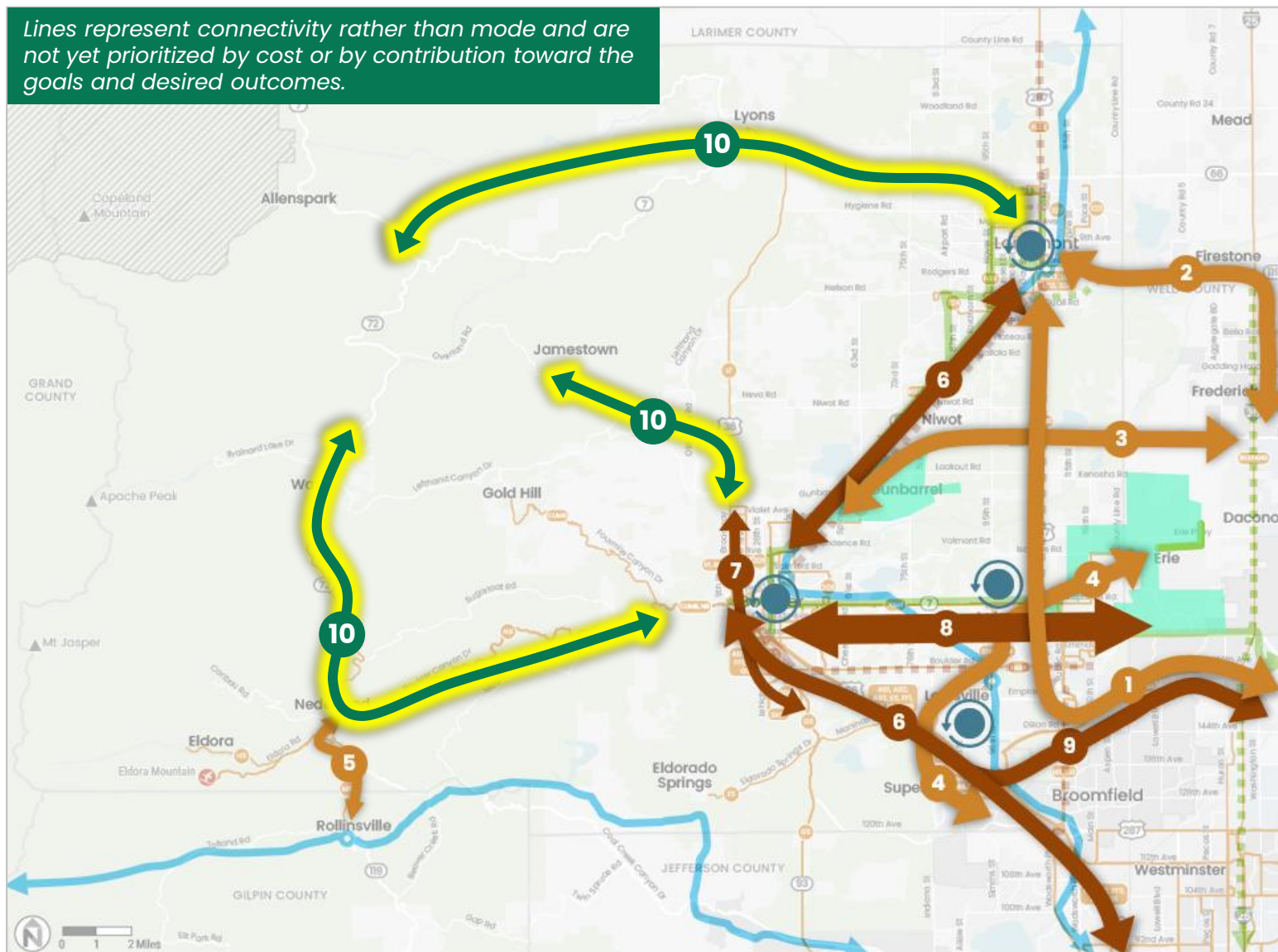
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What We Heard: Key Connections

- Strengthen connections along US 287 to link Boulder County and regional communities to Denver
- Consider an additional connection north from Longmont and additional connections to Erie
- Bring the Longmont-Lafayette-DIA connection (#1) through Erie
- Serve Niwot High School with the Boulder-Weld County connection (#3)
- Stress the importance of reliable and more frequent service for mountain and rural communities
- Continue to focus on creative local connections within communities, recognizing the primary role of the County as connecting between jurisdictions
- Ensure connections to Front Range Passenger Rail



How well do the key regional connections meet the needs you hear from community members? What's missing?

Recognizing that we can't do everything in every location, which populations or geographies need to be prioritized?



Looking Ahead

Exploring Tradeoffs

Recognizing that we can't do everything, everywhere, all at once.



Who?

- People who rely on transit
- New riders
- Existing riders
- Specialty needs
- Commuters
- Students/ youth



Where?

- Within existing service footprint
- Filling gaps without service
- Extending outside the County
- Focus on within cities, towns



When?

- Peak travel times
- Late night
- Weekends
- Seasonal variation or not



What?

- Local fixed route
- Regional fixed route
- Bus Rapid Transit
- On-demand
- Infrastructure
- Supporting mobility

March & April

- Meet with Community Advisory Committees
- Finalize and publish State of Transit Report
- Conduct additional community outreach
- Refine draft vision, goals, and key connections
- Develop transit improvement strategies
- Create future transit scenarios
- Update equity framework

Next Forum TAC Meeting

Review final Transit Vision
Discuss strategies and scenarios



Thank You!



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