



Downtown Plan Tactical Update  
Parks Board Informational Update  
May 12, 2016



# Process Update



July/Aug  
2015

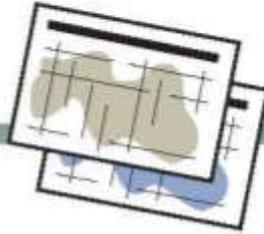
Sept.  
2015

Oct/Nov  
2015

Nov/Dec  
2015

Jan/July  
2016

March/July  
2016



Existing Conditions  
Analysis

Updated  
Vision

Design Concepts  
and Visuals

Investment  
Focus Areas

Draft and Final  
Plan Update

Implementation  
White Paper



Ongoing Stakeholder Engagement

# Community Feedback to Date . . .



# A Range of Ideas and Input

- Area Tour (by bike)
- City Staff
- Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)
- Focus groups
  - Mobility
  - Public space
  - Land use
  - Hospitality and tourism
- Stakeholder interviews
  - Downtown residents
  - Downtown business owners
  - Developers
  - YMCA
  - City staff
  - County officials
- Charrettes

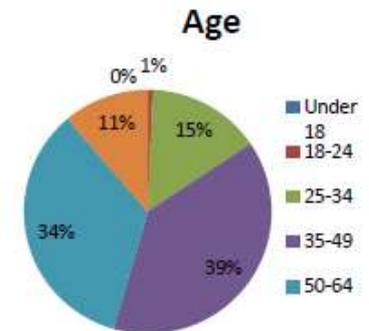


# 2015 Online Survey Results

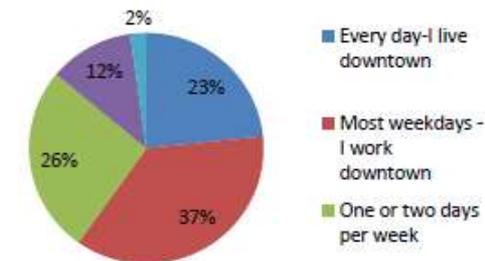
137 respondents – most visit Downtown multiple times per week

A high proportion of respondents indicated the importance of:

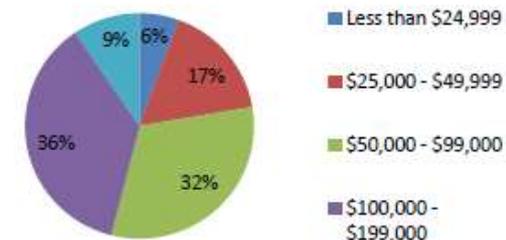
- **Public amenities** that make Downtown feel special (lights, seating, public art, activities)
- Improved **pedestrian infrastructure**
- More high-paying **job opportunities**
- Day center and better **services for the homeless**
- More **residential** options, **Public Market**, completing the **Legacy Loop**
- More **retail and restaurants** in downtown
- Improved **transit frequency** and **bicycle infrastructure** would encourage people to use those modes to visit Downtown for work or play



**How frequently do you visit downtown Colorado Springs?**

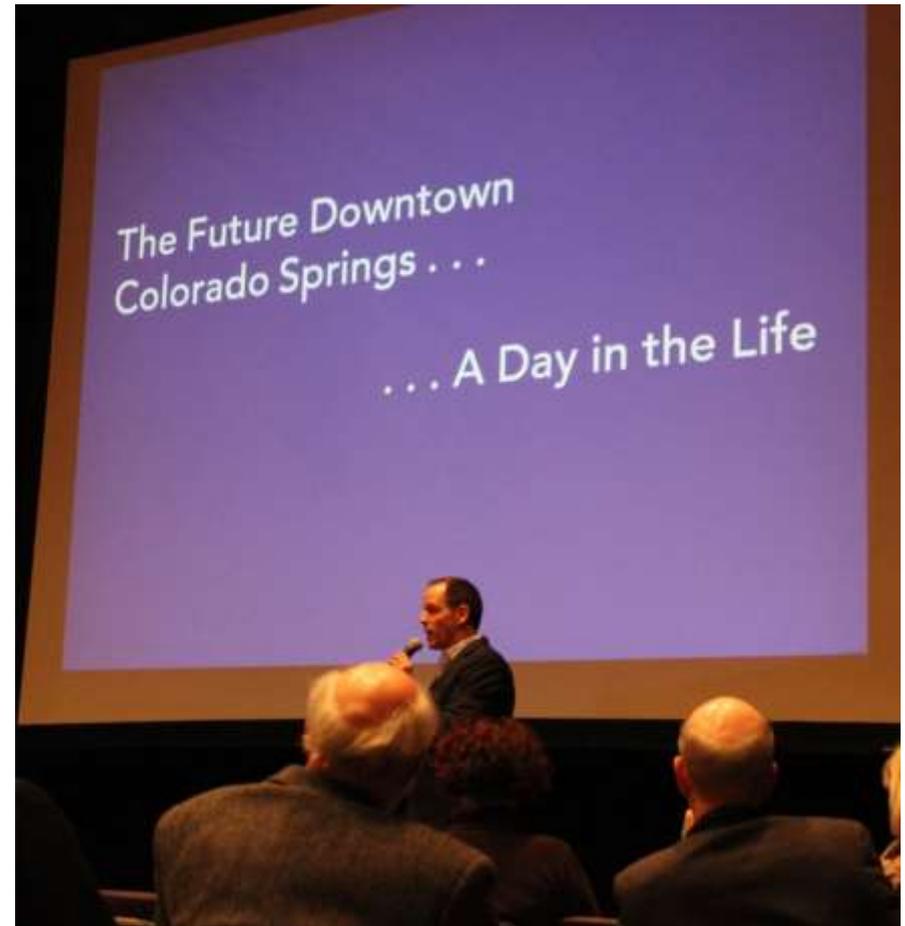


**Household Income**



# Community Workshop Presentation Topics

- Multi-Modal Issues and Solutions
- Placemaking
- Economic/Vitality and Context- and Historically-Sensitive Solutions
- Residential Housing Options
- Arts and Culture
- Architecture and Design
- Parking



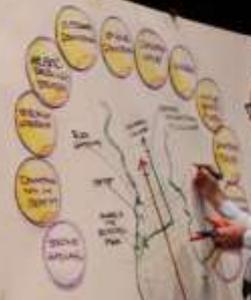




# DOWNTOWN COLORADO SPRINGS

- ▶ MAKE RIVER & CREEK A PART OF DOWNTOWN
- ▶ LENGTHEN HOURS OF DOWNTOWN
- ▶ LARGE MUSIC VENUE DOWNTOWN
- ▶ CONTINUOUS GROUND FLOOR ACTIVITY
- ▶ BETTER UTILIZE PARKING LOTS
- ▶ MORE HOUSING - OPTIONS AT VARIETY OF PRICE POINTS  
- SMALLER UNITS, MIXED USE
- ▶ REINTRODUCE TRAMWAY SYSTEM  
- 200' OF TRACKS, 1000'
- ▶ LEADERSHIP THAT FOCUSES ON DOWNTOWN AND REES IMPORTANCE

- ▶ WITH FEDERAL AID TO REVITALIZE CITY
- ▶ COULD SIDEWALKS BE SHARED W/ BIKE?
- ▶ WHAT IS THE HEART OF OUR CULTURE IN DOWNTOWN?
- ▶ BE RELATIONSHIP-DRIVEN?
- ▶ PUBLIC PLACES, MINGLING?
- ▶ HOW MANY'S STIMULATING? CAN IN CITY BUILDING?
- ▶ REIMAGINATION OF PARKS NEIGHBORHOOD
- ▶ SUSTAINABLE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE REVENUE OPTIONS



- ▶ NOT ACCESSIBLE DOWNTOWN IN CENTER  
- MARKET RESPONSE
- ▶ IMPROVE & SLOW DOWN ("BRIDGE") BRIDGE GATEWAY
- ▶ MUST ADDRESS HOMELESSNESS ISSUE
- ▶ ATTRACT AND RETAIN RESIDENTS
- ▶ BETTER UTILIZE ALLEYS
- ▶ GET TRAMWAY PROGRAM RUNNING, USE HISTORY & CULTURES

## The Future of Downtown Colorado Springs...



## The Future of Downtown Colorado Springs...



## The Future of Downtown Colorado Springs...



## ...A Day in the Life



# Pikes Peak East - potential

Like this -  
provides  
parking, bike  
lanes & slows  
traffic

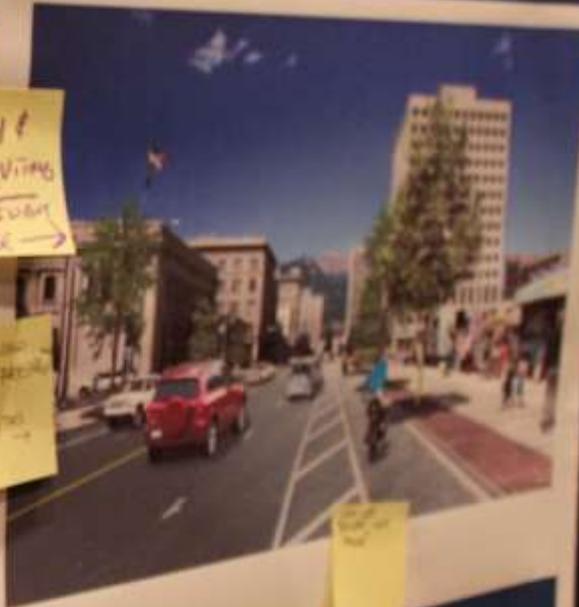


Needs to be  
right  
away

Needs to be  
walking & bike  
friendly

# Pikes Peak East - potential

UGLY &  
UNDESIRABLE  
RACE EVENT  
TO BE



Needs to be  
walking & bike  
friendly

# Pikes Peak East - potential

Needs to be  
walking & bike  
friendly



# Community Workshop Feedback

- Strong support for integration of public transit and **ensuring the transit center becomes an asset to downtown.**
- Numerous comments about **leveraging public improvements** for private investment.
- Concerns about a defined **implementation strategy.**



# Components of the Draft Plan



**Vision:** Derived from previous Plan's vision while incorporating additional community-determined values.

**Goals:** Key principles guiding the Plan and framing the type of place we want Downtown Colorado Springs to be.

**Strategies:** High level ideas for achieving the Goals, including examples of high priority projects that fulfill these strategies.



An aerial photograph of downtown Colorado Springs, showing a dense urban area with various buildings, including several tall skyscrapers. The city is set against a backdrop of rugged, mountainous terrain under a clear blue sky. A green banner is overlaid on the top portion of the image, containing the title and a list of adjectives.

# Downtown Colorado Springs Vision

Welcoming | Vibrant | Connected | Walkable | Anchor | Innovative | Entrepreneurial | Valued

## 2009 IMAGINE DOWNTOWN MASTER PLAN VISION

"Downtown is an image and symbol of the region and has an opportunity to reaffirm its identity as the epicenter and economic engine of the city, a desirable place to live, work, learn and play, and a point of public and private investment."

goals

**GOAL 2**

Diverse and Inclusive Neighborhoods



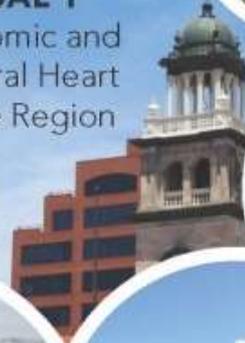
**GOAL 3**

Connection and Celebration of Outdoor Recreation and Natural Setting



**GOAL 1**

Economic and Cultural Heart of the Region



**GOAL 4**

Healthy Downtown Activity



**GOAL 5**

Safe and Accessible Multi-modal Network



**GOAL 6**

Innovative Urban Design and Sustainability



**GOAL 7**

Unforgettable Visitor Experience



**GOAL 8**

Forward Facing Links to Unique and Rich History



Land Use

Parks, Trails, Waterways

Mobility

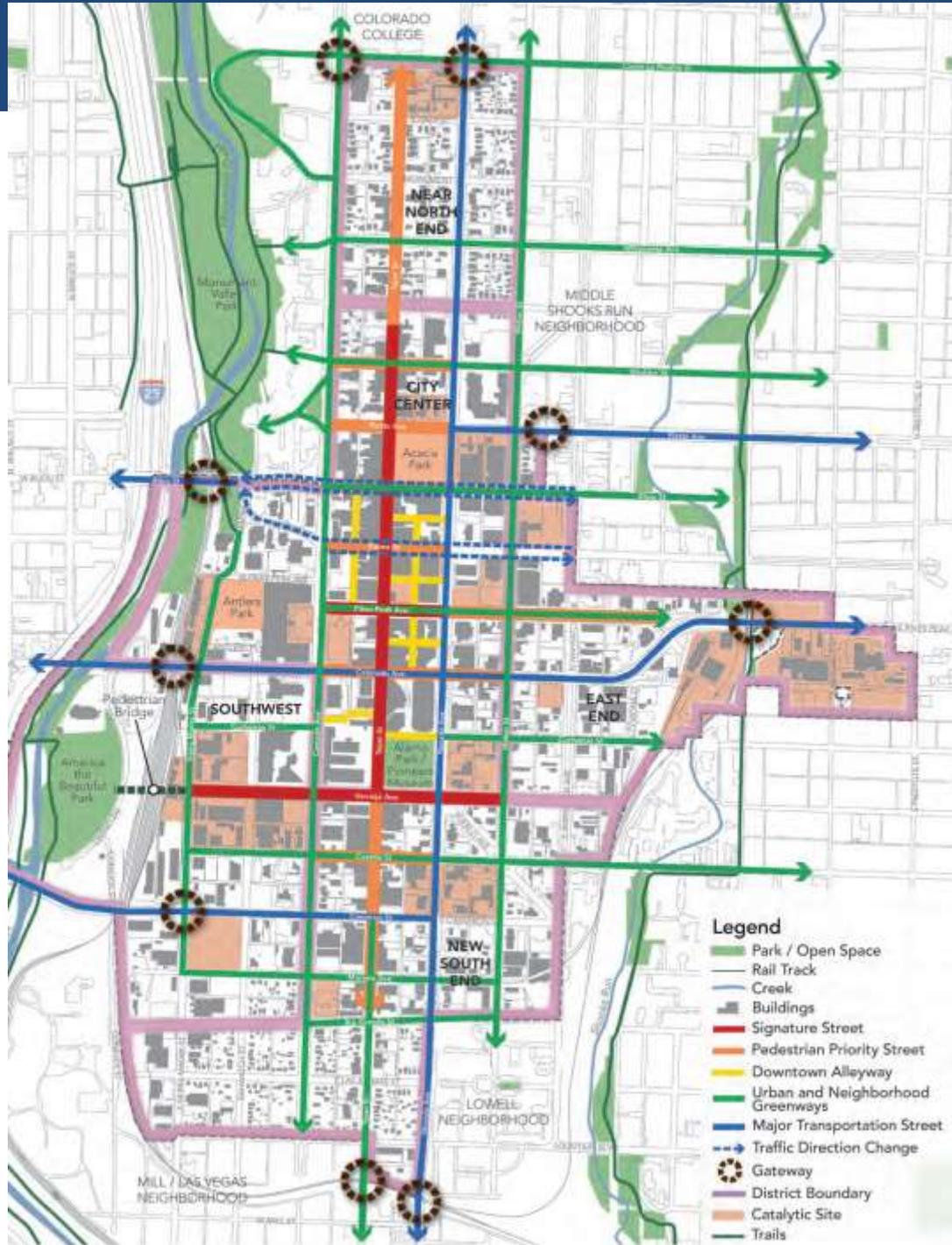
Transit

Parking

Urban Design

Public Space

Land Use



# Plan Framework

## Catalytic Development Sites

- With the potential of strengthening the Downtown, these sites are **key areas with future/potential development and other physical improvements.**



# Plan Framework

## Downtown Districts

- Districts help define **physical and programmatic character** for planning purposes. These districts' boundaries are not hard lines.

## Gateways

- The Plan recognizes current efforts to address gateways into Downtown and suggests innovative new strategies to **bolster infrastructure, enhance placemaking, foster multimodal access, and support of private realm improvements.**

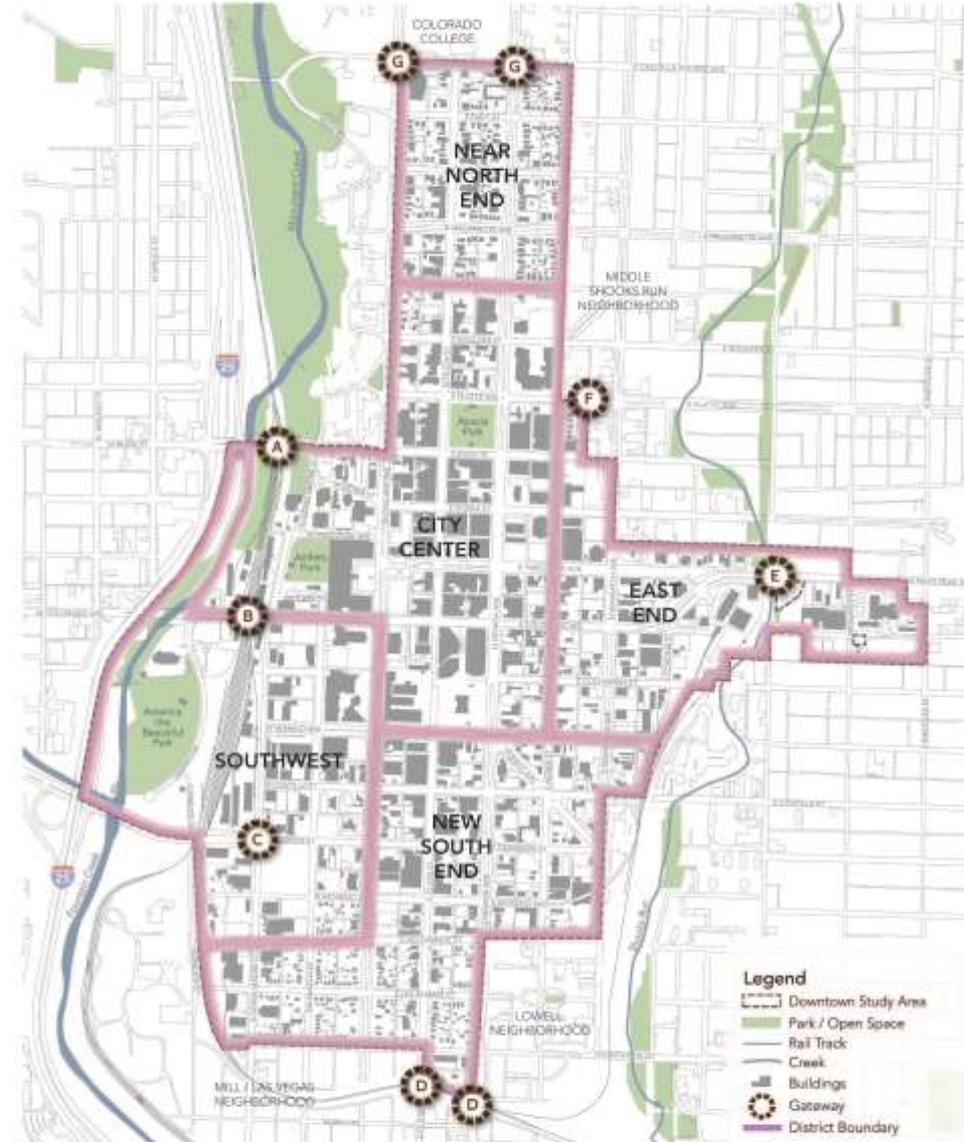


Figure 6.1 | Gateways and Districts

# Tejon Gateway - existing



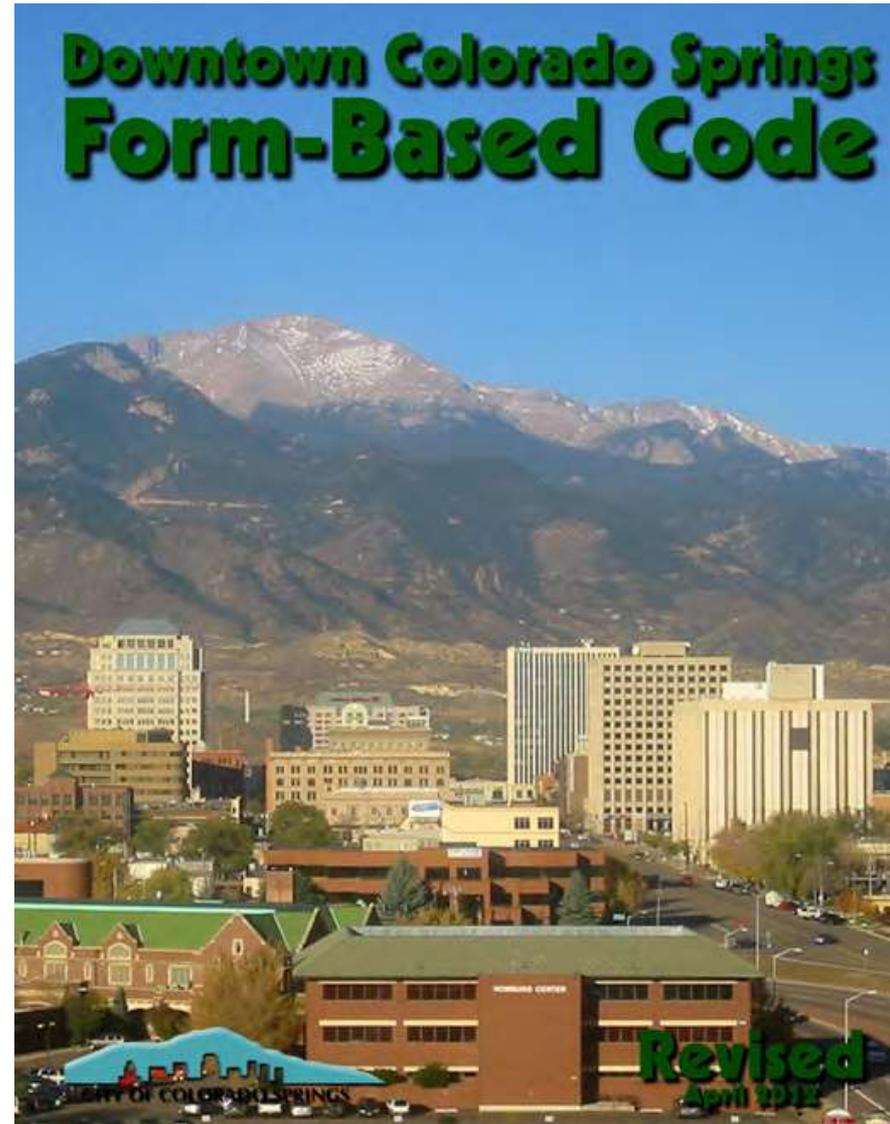
# Tejon Gateway – potential



# Form Based Code Considerations

Code scrub revisions for consideration include:

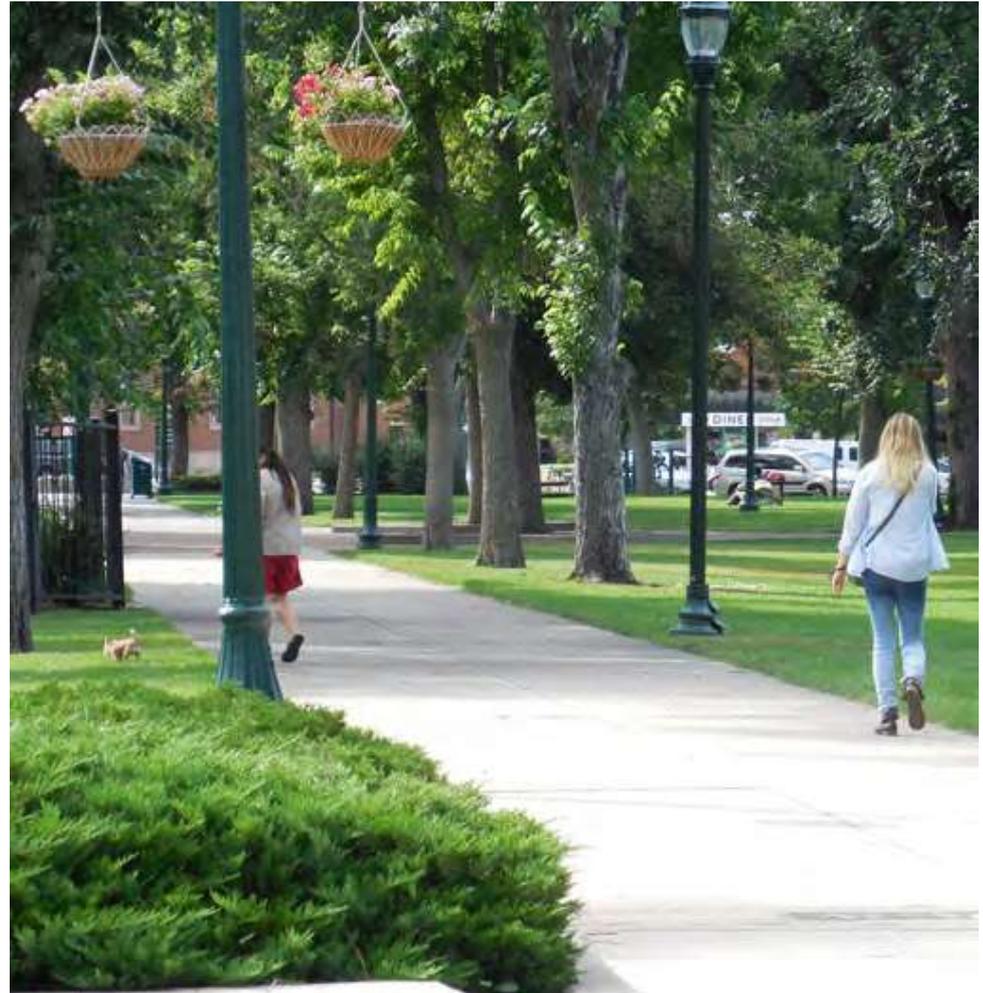
- Height restrictions
- View corridors
- Allow and encourage light industrial
- Urban signage
- Reallocation of certain rights of way
- Ground floor activations



# Parks, Trails and Waterways

# Parks

- Connection to and celebration of the natural environment is **ingrained in the city's origins**. Downtown's most tangible connection to this history and beauty is through its parks and trails.
- Proactively **address design, access, and programming** for growing downtown, and promoting healthy lifestyles.
- Parks are a **resident serving amenity**, as well as a driver of economic development and growth.



# Parks

**Monument Valley Park, Acacia Park and Antlers Park are among the top priorities.**

## **Programing:**

- Strong support for activating uses. Numerous stakeholders mentioned Antlers Park as an ideal location for creating a key missing urban amenity in the city center: an off-leash dog park.

## **Design**

- Several existing design features at Acacia and Antlers Parks remain as challenges that can hide people and diminish park safety and comfort



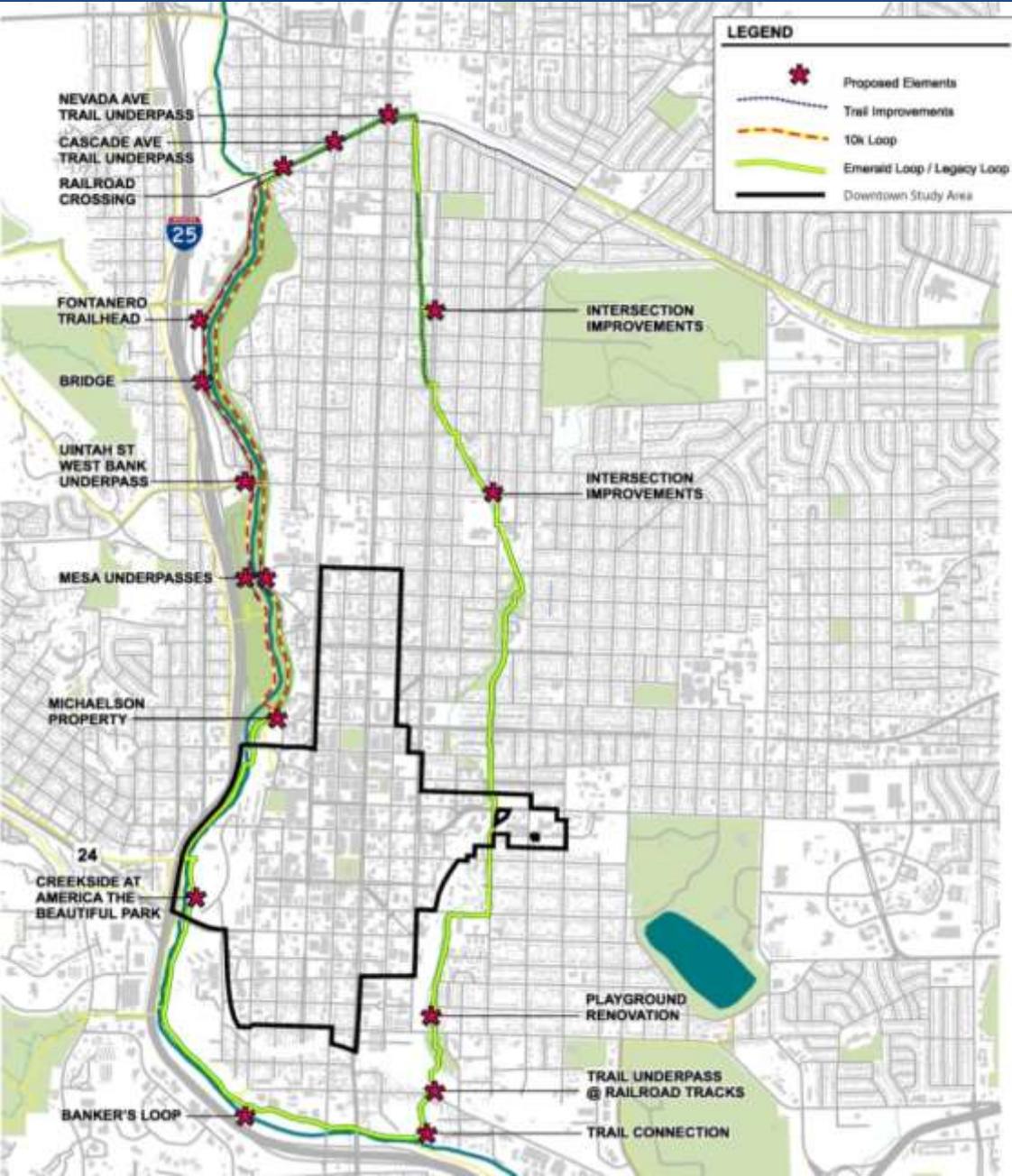


# Waterways

**Colorado Springs should actively identify opportunities to increase access to its waterways, particularly in conjunction with adjacent park and trail projects.**



# Legacy Loop



- A park and trail ring around Downtown and neighborhoods to the north.
- A major asset for Colorado Springs.
- Originally the vision of General Palmer over 100 years ago.
- Several sections remain to complete the 9.75 mile loop, particularly in the north and southeast portions.

**Pedestrian/Bicycle  
Bridge to America  
the Beautiful Park**





# Green Street Framework

## Green Streets

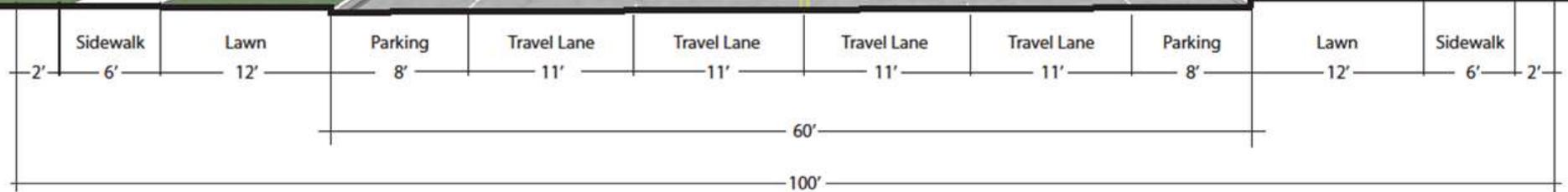
- These streets are designated routes designed to **slow automobile traffic and creating safe street environments** for pedestrian and bicyclist movement, including gathering places.

## Legacy Loop

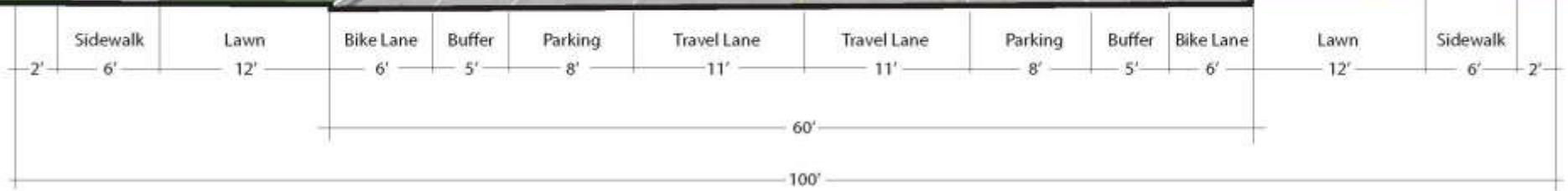
- The greenway system that surrounds the Downtown will be strengthened through **constructing missing trail links, establishing new access points, and adding enhanced amenities.**



# Weber Street - existing



# Weber Street - potential

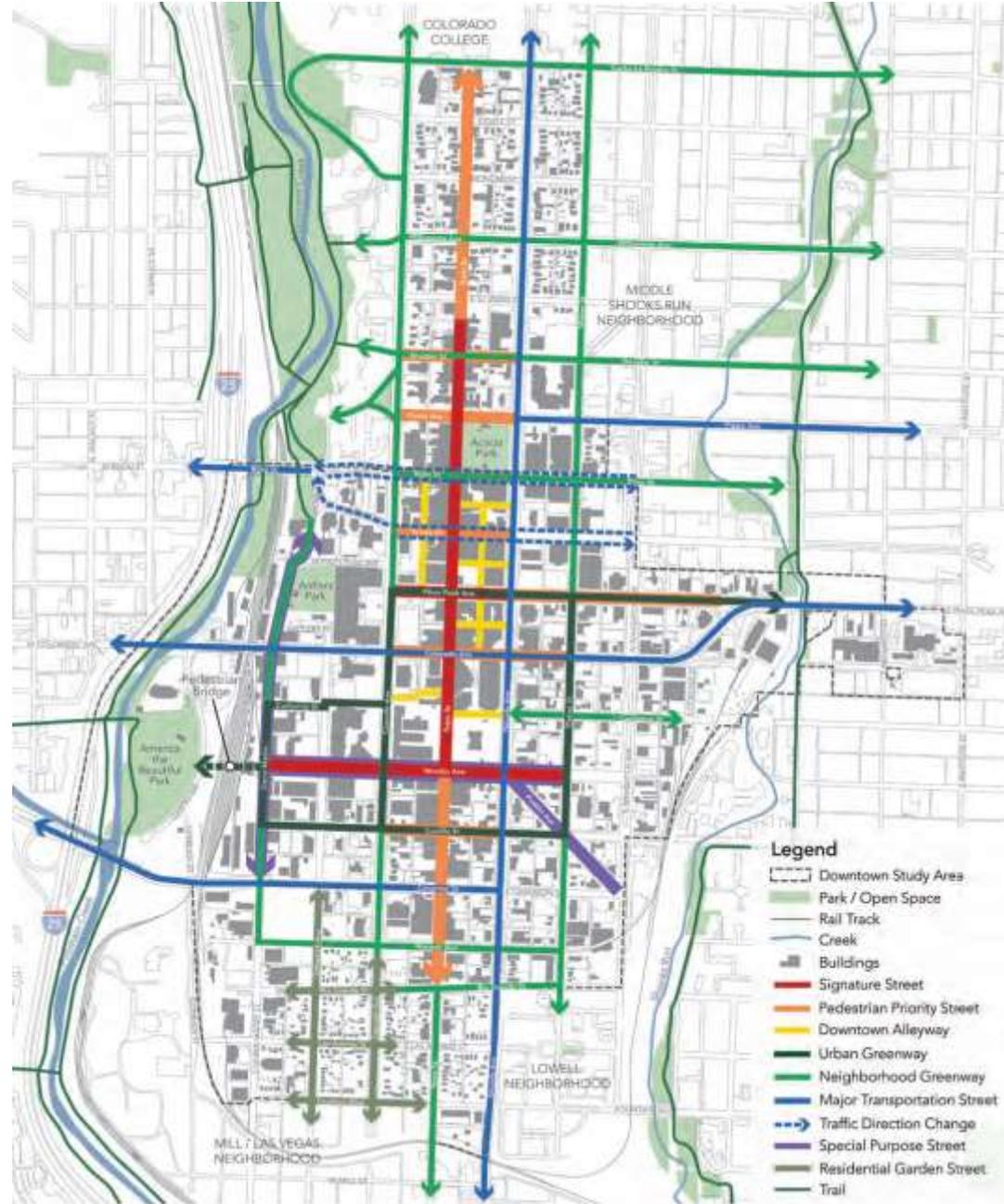


# Transportation and Mobility Framework

# Plan Framework

## Mobility

- A range of mobility enhancements and infrastructure improvements **guide future public and private investments.**



# Plan Framework

## Signature Streets

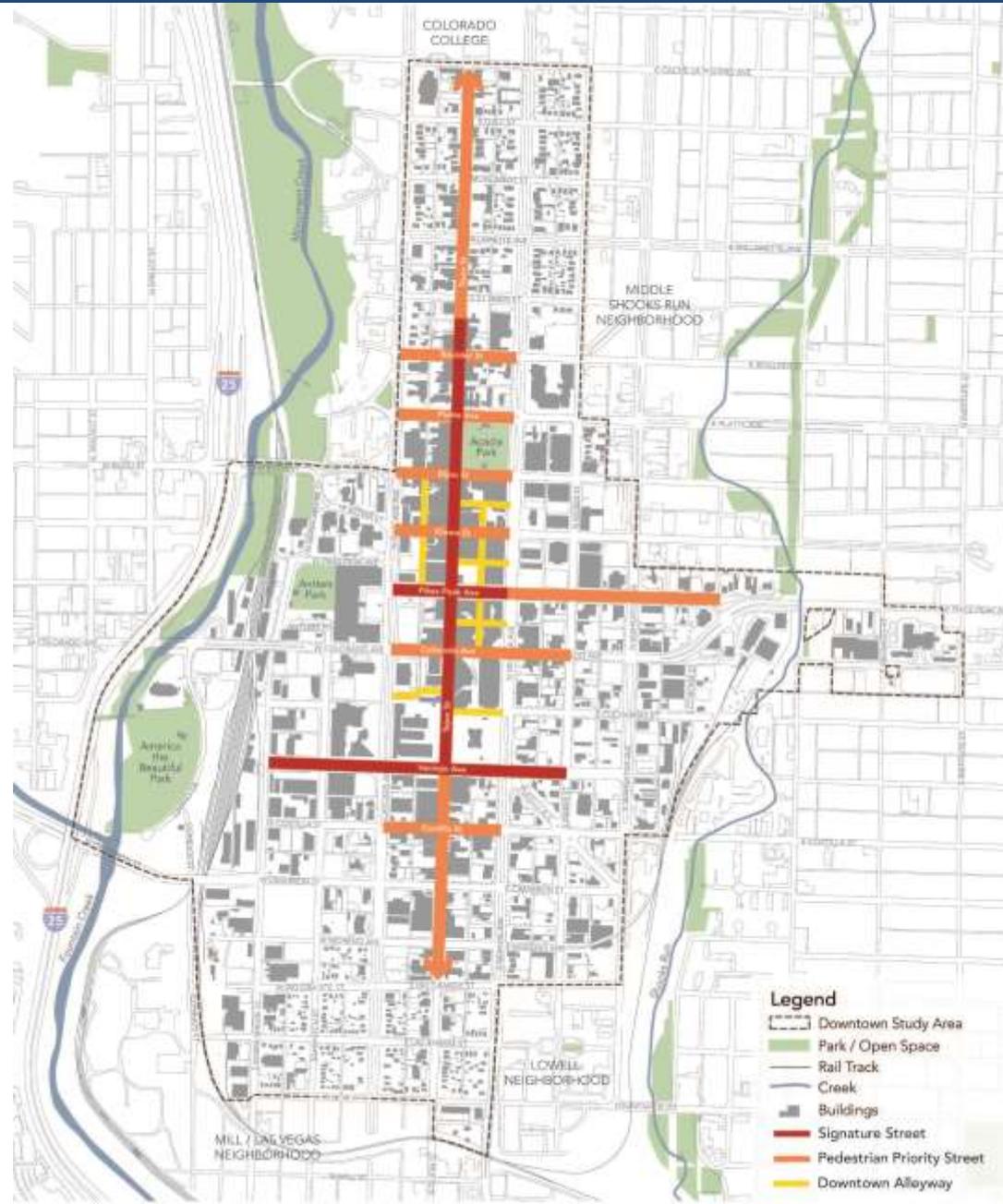
- Segments of Tejon and Pikes Peak currently **work well as pedestrian streets and set precedent for Downtown's character**. The perpendicular streets, Bijou, Kiowa, Pikes Peak and Colorado are identified as supporting streets for retail expansion.

## Pedestrian Extension Streets

- Extensions from the Signature Streets on Tejon, Pikes Peak and Vermijo build on what's working well and recognize **future development opportunities**.

## Downtown Alleyways

- alleys utilized by pedestrians



# Pikes Peak East - existing



# Pikes Peak East – potential





# Plan Framework

## Urban Greenway

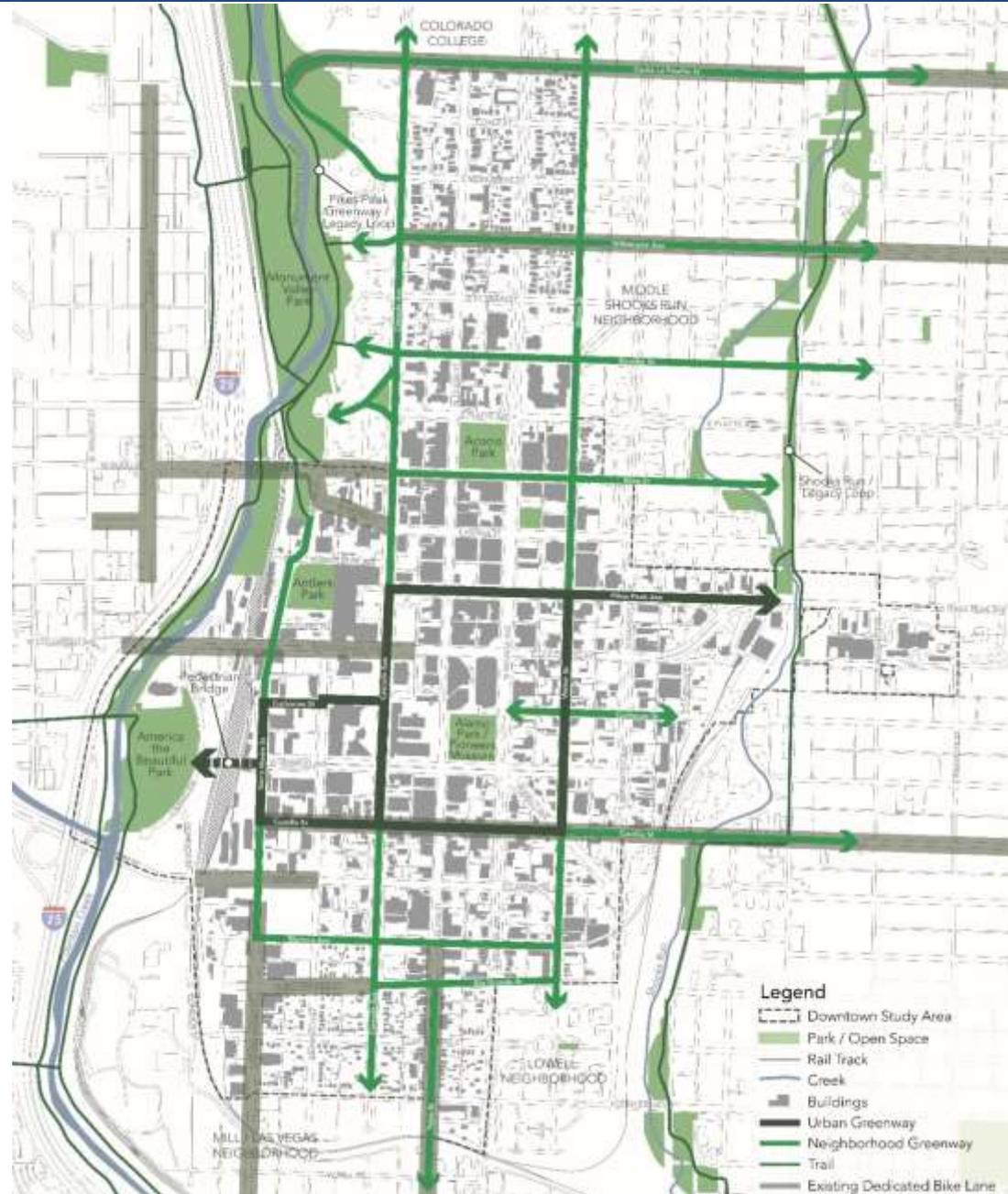
- Designed to **continue the trail experience into the downtown core**. Provides protected and comfortable infrastructure to connect to the core.

## Green Streets

- These streets are designated routes designed to **slow automobile traffic and creating safe street environments** for pedestrian and bicyclist movement, including gathering places.

## Legacy Loop

- The greenway system that surrounds the Downtown will be strengthened through **constructing missing trail links, establishing new access points, and adding enhanced amenities**.



# Sierra Madre Street - potential



Sidewalk	Bioswale	Buffer	Parking	Bike Lane	Travel Lane	Travel Lane	Bike Lane	Parking	Sidewalk
12'	10'	3'	8'	6'	10'	10'	6'	8'	12'
					51'				
85'									



# Plan Framework

## Transportation Streets

- These streets primarily provide for the **movement of automobile traffic and transit routes** to and through the Downtown, or provide direct connection to the Interstate.

## Two Way Conversion

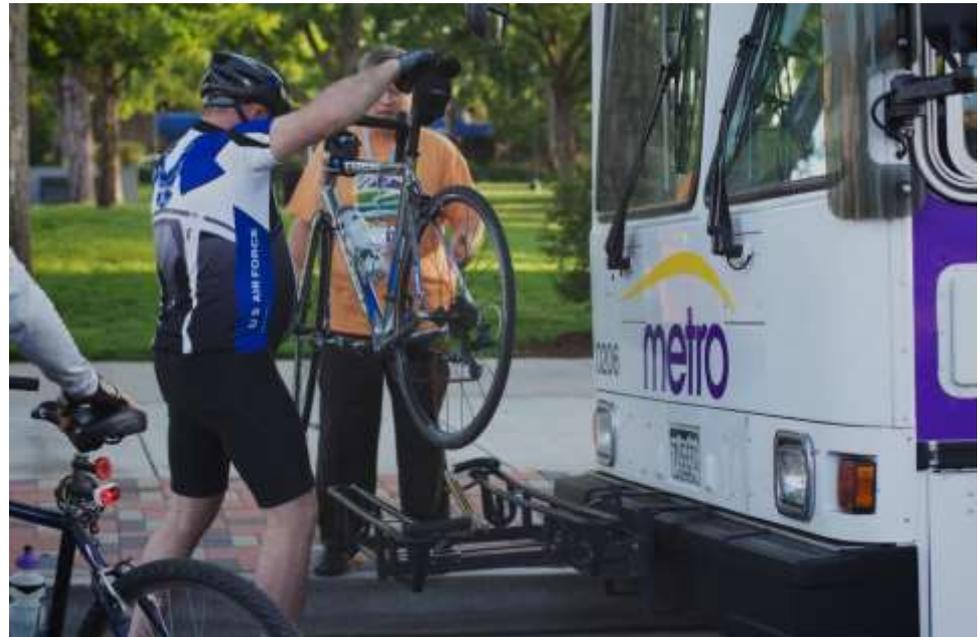
- Plan recommends conversion of Bijou and Kiowa into two way streets from Cascade to the east to **improve pedestrian safety, bicycle access, and retail storefront viability.**



Transit

# Transit

- Improved transit options and **increased transit utilization are crucial aspects of developing a thriving Downtown.**
- Placemaking and transit oriented development(TOD) efforts should be taken to **drive choice ridership.**
- Circulation within downtown is desired, and a **free-fare/frequent stop zone** in Downtown could help serve the role for employees, residents and visitors.



# Transit

- The **new transit center should be designed to drive vitality and growth** downtown. A positive public space that enriches the Downtown urban fabric and operates during all hours of the day is desired.
- Long range, visionary planning is essential for **regional connectivity**.



# Transit Center - existing



# Transit Center — potential



Parking

# Parking

- The balance between business/revenue needs and urban form objectives requires a **strategic and holistic approach to managing the parking system.**
- Greater efficiencies might be possible within the parking system if the City can partner with the County and other private parking owners to **offer excess parking for public use.**
- **Parking is a development tool** in an urban setting and should be treated as a driver of economic development.



# Parking

- **Price on-street metered spaces and structured garage spaces to meet different goals**, and have the tools in place to be able to change pricing structures in a nimble way.
- The near-term emphasis of technology investments and improvements should be **providing consistent payment methods and enhancing ease of customer use**.



# Urban Design and Public Spaces

# Streetscape and Public Space Elements

- Public space elements exist within the public right-of-way and help establish the character pedestrians, bicyclists, and others experience in the public realm.
- As downtown grows, **new elements and district character should be curated** to foster unique identity.



# Streetscape and Public Space Elements

Existing elements of identity include:



# Streetscape and Public Space Elements

New elements of identity could include:

- Low impact design for stormwater management.
- Characteristic pedestrian lighting
- Year round ornamental lighting



# Special Purpose Street Enhancements

- **Sierra Madre Street Transformation-** changes from a strictly industrial serving street to include design features
- **Downtown Alleyways-** alleys utilized by pedestrians
- **Pueblo Avenue Festival Street-** proximity and unique character have the potential to activate the street in the form of an event or festival space
- **Sahwack Avenue Transformation-** improvements such as gardens, small park spaces, green infrastructure and wayfinding features



# Vermijo – Champions Boulevard

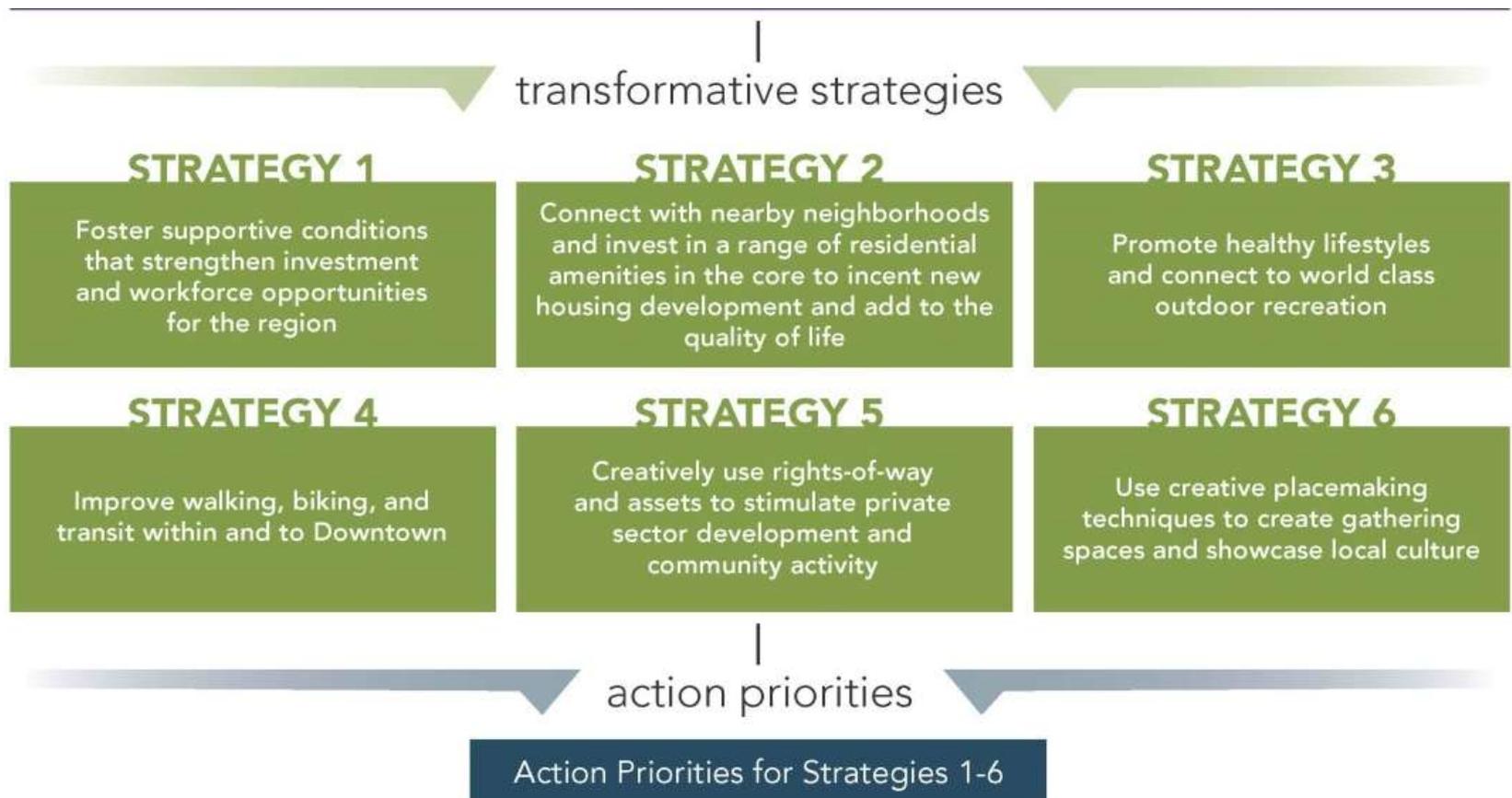
An extension of **the energy and the mission** of the Museum



# Transformative Strategies

# Transformative Strategies

Transformative Strategies highlight key physical, policy and programmatic recommendations to support the Vision and advance the Plan Framework.



# Transformative Strategies

## Strategy 1:

Foster supportive conditions that strengthen investment and workforce opportunities for the region.

### Concepts

- Magnet for young skilled workers
- The Vision / Plan as attractor
- Types of jobs, entertainment, retail
- Recruit and support unique, local businesses as part of brand
- Robust higher education
- Retaining graduates
- Housing options and amenities
- Compact, urban environment
- Creative industries



# Transformative Strategies

## Strategy 2:

Connect with nearby Neighborhoods and invest in a range of residential amenities in the core to incent new housing development and add to the quality of life .

### Concepts

- Integrate amenities in all new development
- Dog parks, gyms, food market, bike parking, etc.
- Affordable, workforce housing (especially to retain young, skilled workers)



# Transformative Strategies

## Strategy 3:

Promote healthy lifestyles and connect to world class outdoor recreation.

### Concepts

- Urban Greenways connecting through Downtown to Legacy Loop
- Recreational wayfinding
- Nature play and outdoor recreation
- Pedestrian bridge to America the Beautiful Park
- Maintaining west facing views – rooftops, street views
- Outdoor culture



# Transformative Strategies

## Strategy 4:

Improve walking, biking and transit within and to downtown.

### Concepts

- Enhanced facilities + bike share
- Emphasize wayfinding
- Traffic calming strategies, reducing required lane widths
- Two-way traffic
- Reclassification of major arterials to minor arterials



# Transformative Strategies

## Strategy 5:

Creatively use rights-of-way and public assets to stimulate private sector development and community activity.

### Concepts

- Use public realm for amenities
- R.O.W. as a development incentive
- Revisit streetscape standards
- Two-way traffic
- Re-invest in and re-develop publicly owned assets



# Transformative Strategies

## Strategy 6:

Use creative placemaking techniques to create gathering spaces and showcase local culture.

### Concepts:

- Ground floor activation
- Public art integration and policies
- Gateways provide opportunity for placemaking
- Parks are refreshed and programed



# Summary and Next Steps and Implementation



# Next Steps / Schedule

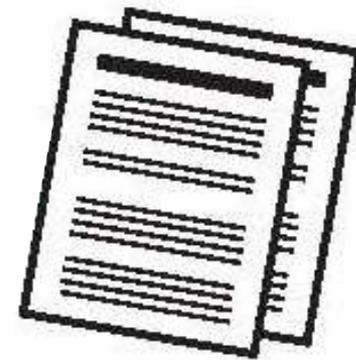
## Master Plan

- Draft Plan: Available to Public March 30 2016
  - [www.downtowncs.com/masterplan](http://www.downtowncs.com/masterplan)
- Draft Submitted for Public Process: June 2016
- Plan Approval: August 2016

## Implementation White Paper

- March – July
- Internal process with DDA, City Staff and Consultant Team
- Deliverables Include:
  - Overview of purpose, partnerships, and strategies
  - Action plan identifying projects, policies, and programs
  - Implementation plan identifying new and existing tools

**Implementation:** The “How” to implement the strategies: High priority tools, funding mechanisms, partnerships, etc.



Implementation  
White Paper

# Action Plan Development

This initial process is currently underway and will be completed in 2016 in a partnership between the Downtown Partnership and the City

partnership

Downtown Partnership  
Family of Organizations



City of Colorado Springs –  
Urban Planning Division



plan development

## STRATEGIES

Near-, mid- and long-term strategies for implementation  
*projects, policies, new tools and incentives*

## FUNDING

Funding mechanisms and other tools for implementation

## PROCESS

Initial 10 year schedule of projects  
*Annual process will define work plans, projects for the coming year, advocacy issues, define budgets for the next year, etc.*



**DOWNTOWN**  
COLORADO SPRINGS

