



Boulder Municipal Airport Community Conversation: Public Open House

Public Open House 2 Summary July 18, 2023



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Introduction

Meeting Overview

This summary has been prepared to detail the notifications efforts and outcomes of the second public open house meeting. The public open house is one of many engagement touchpoints the city and project team have had with the community throughout the Community Conversation Project.

The meeting was held in an open house format. At the open house, the project staff review the project process, desired action items, and shared details about the four scenarios presented at the open house. Community members were invited to provide feedback about their concerns or interests about each of the scenarios and desired action items.

Additional details about the Community Conversation project can be found on the [project website](#).



Public Open House Details

Meeting information

- Location: Via Mobility Services (2855 63rd St, Boulder, CO 80301)
- Date: Tuesday, July 18, 2023
- Time: 4:00 – 6:00 pm
- Number of Attendees
 - 123 (123 attendees signed in using the paper form)
 - 12 project team members

Project Team Attendees

Natalie Stiffler, COB
John Kinney, COB
Allison Moore-Farrell, COB
Kathleen King, COB
Leticia Abajo, COB
Dylan Swanson, COB
Nick Pollock, COB
Lucy O'Sullivan, COB
Amalia Andrews, Kimley-Horn
Blake Young, Kimley-Horn
Kathleen Wanatowicz, PR Studio
Jeffrey Range, CDR Associates



Meeting Notifications

- Email Invite
- Flyer
- Social Media Post – Facebook
 - July 13, 2023
 - July 5, 2023
- Social Media Post – Facebook, Spanish
 - July 6, 2023
- Social Media Post – Twitter
 - July 13, 2023
 - July 5, 2023
- Press Release
 - July 5, 2023

Media Coverage

- [*Boulder to hold town hall on future of airport*](#), Daily Camera, July 17, 2023
- [*City eyes future possibilities for Boulder airport site*](#), Greeley Tribune, July 30, 2023.
- [*City of Boulder considers what to do with airport: "Tradeoffs in every one of these scenarios"*](#), CBS Colorado, July 19, 2023.
- [*City deciding the future of Boulder Municipal Airport*](#), Left Hand Valley Courier, August 2, 2023.

Presentation Topics

- Input and Feedback Process
- CWG Update
- Study Outcomes
- Desired Action Items
- Scenarios

Summary of Public Meeting

- The project team gave two presentations during the meeting. This presentation provided an overview about the project, the process, desired action items and previewed the scenarios for the attendees. This presentation is included as **Appendix A**. The presentation concluded by inviting participants to review the scenario at each station and think about the following questions:
 - What questions do you have on each scenario?
 - What elements do you like?
 - What elements don't you like?
- Community members had an opportunity to share their feedback to scenarios through sticky notes. The scenarios presented are included in this report as **Appendix B**. These comments are included in this report as **Appendix C**.



- Community members had an opportunity to share their feedback on the Desired Near Term Action Items through sticky notes. The action items presented are included in this report as **Appendix D**. These comments are included in this report as **Appendix E**.
- Scenario 1 - Feedback highlights include:
 - Pros:
 - Improved maintenance
 - Simple
 - Investment
 - Less change
 - Emergency response
 - Investment
 - Maintain current operations
 - Support training
 - Maintains safety
 - Cons:
 - Doesn't advance Boulder goals as much
 - No implementation plans
 - Band-Aid on current issues
 - Does not address need for housing
 - Doesn't address feedback about flight patterns
 - Furthers perception that BDU serves select groups
 - Additional Information Needed:
 - Economic analysis
 - Noise
 - Environmental study
 - Flight pattern review
 - Enhance eco system
- Scenario 2 - Feedback highlights include:
 - Pros:
 - STEM
 - Use of technology
 - Advance use of unleaded fuel
 - Could make the airport more inclusive
 - Cons:
 - Lead fuel is not addressed
 - Equity
 - Aviation traffic is not addressed
 - Sources of funding
 - Growth may increase traffic to airport
 - Vehicle and air traffic increase
 - Additional Information Needed:
 - Understand the sources of funding for BDU



- Scenario 3 - Feedback highlights include:
 - Pros:
 - Good middle ground
 - Inclusive of community
 - Could reduce community hostility (improve community relations)
 - Cons:
 - Expansion may lead to more aviation traffic
 - May be too expensive to implement
 - Land use compatibility concerns
 - Environmental impact
 - Noise
 - Continued glider operations – Noise and safety
 - Inequitable
 - Doesn't provide enough housing
- Scenario 4 - Feedback highlights include:
 - Pros:
 - Serves entire community
 - Supports reduction of leaded fuel impact on community
 - Provides additional housing
 - Cons:
 - FAA may not approve
 - May not provide affordable living
 - Could be a very costly option
 - Airspace would be utilized by others
 - Does not provide open space
 - Airport is vital to the area
- Near-Term Action Items – Many comments received agreed with the near-term action items presented. Feedback highlights include:
 - One comment disagreed with implementing landing fees
 - Desire to analyze noise abatement procedures and consider changes
 - Review the runways in use and evaluate their compliance to FAA regulations
 - Analyze the potential impact of development on open space and surrounding environment





Appendices

Appendix A. Presentation Slides

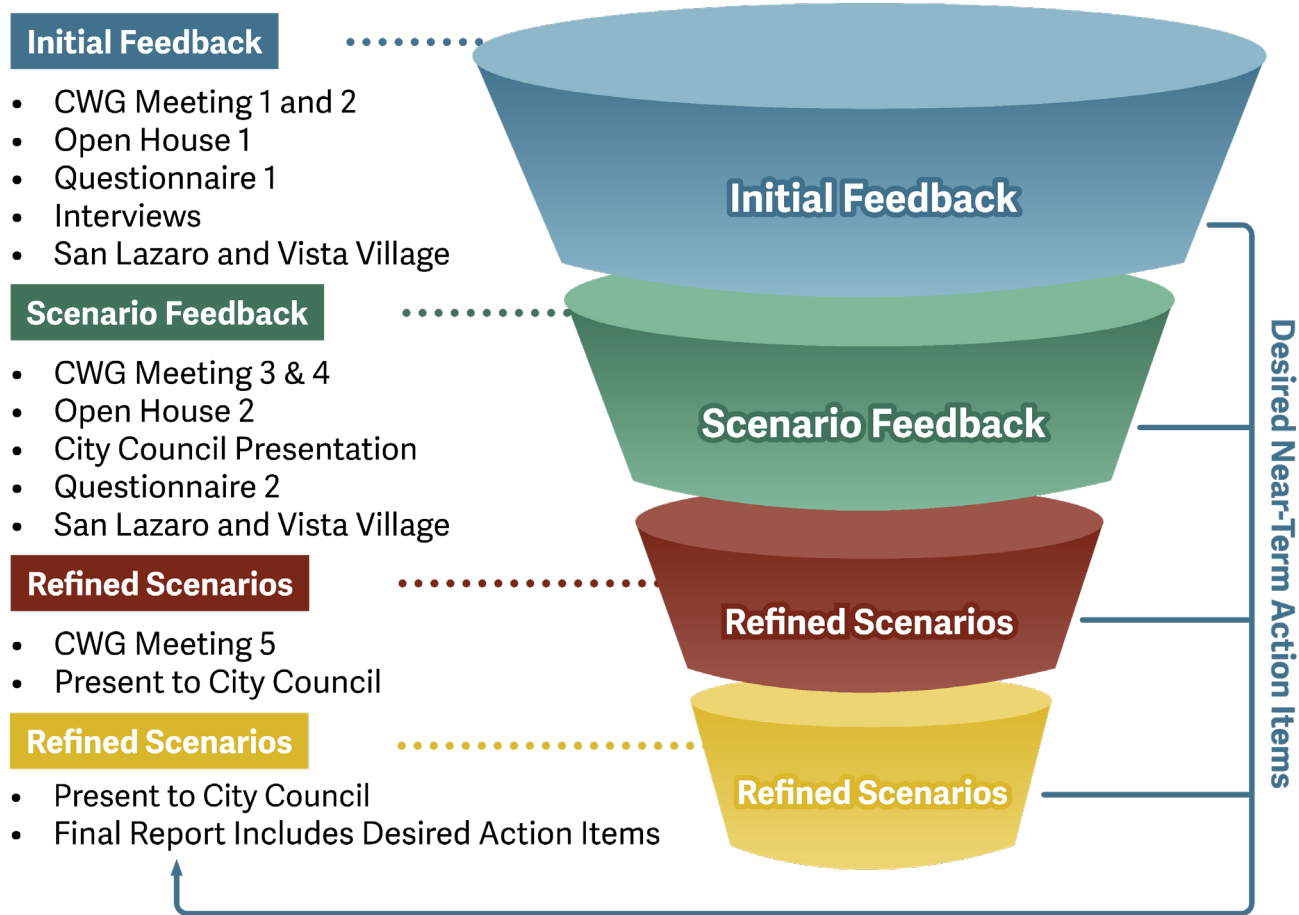
Boulder Airport Community Conversation

Open House #2
July 18, 2023





Input and Feedback



Community Working Group

- Three workshop meetings, five in total
- 30+ members diverse perspectives
- Constructive dialogue
- Additional meetings to connect and learn from each other

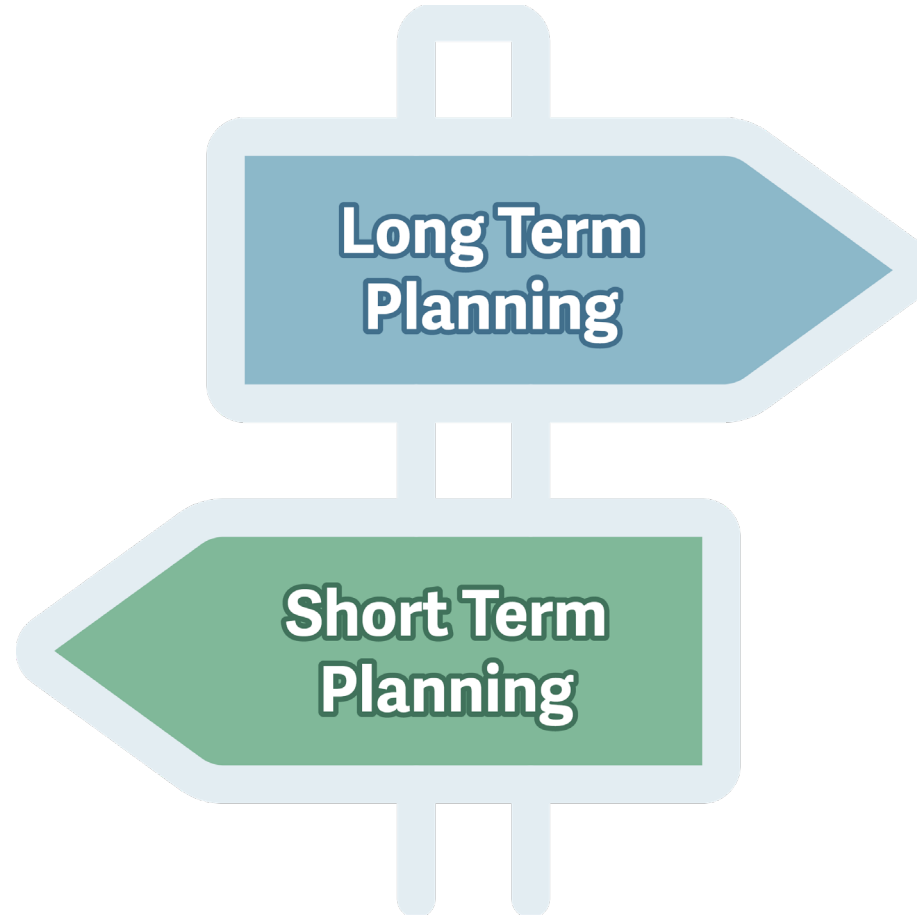




Process Outcomes

Desired Action Items

- Obtain feedback



Scenarios

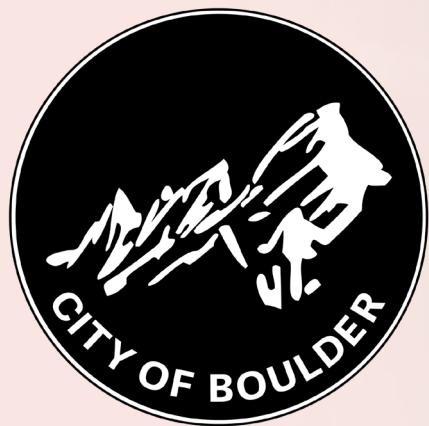
- Present scenarios
- Obtain feedback



Desired Action Items

- Planning horizon to begin implementation within next 0-5 years
- Feedback received to date helped developed this list
- Themes, issues and/or concerns from stakeholders





Scenarios

Scenario Development

- Scenarios are conceptual in nature
- Scenarios are a high-level view for what might be possible at the airport
- Scenarios represent a range of options
- Scenarios have a range of cost, feasibility and affordability
- Scenarios are first draft, together we want to modify and build





Scenario Development

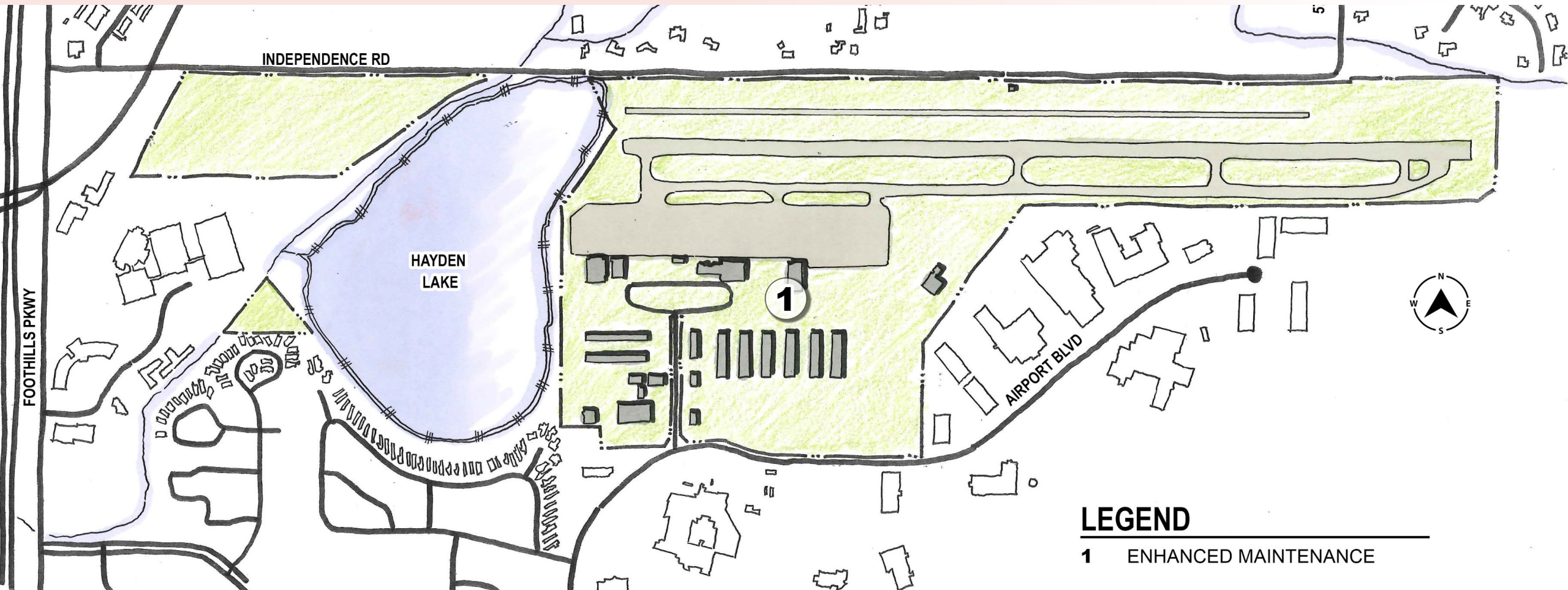
- Draft scenarios – 4 Scenarios
 - Station 1: Existing Airport with Enhanced Maintenance
 - Station 2: Airport with Aviation Improvements
 - Station 3: Airport with Neighborhood Serving Uses and Limited Housing
 - Station 4: Decommission Airport and Create New Neighborhood
- Exercise
 - What elements do you like?
 - What elements don't you like?
 - **Elements:** programming, infrastructure, services, operations and future planning areas





Scenario 1

Existing Airport with Enhanced Maintenance



Scenario 1

Existing Airport with Enhanced Maintenance



Description

This scenario would bring the current facilities up to a state of good repair. No new facilities would be built.



Elements that Remain

- Existing runways and taxiways
- Existing hangar facilities
- Existing support buildings

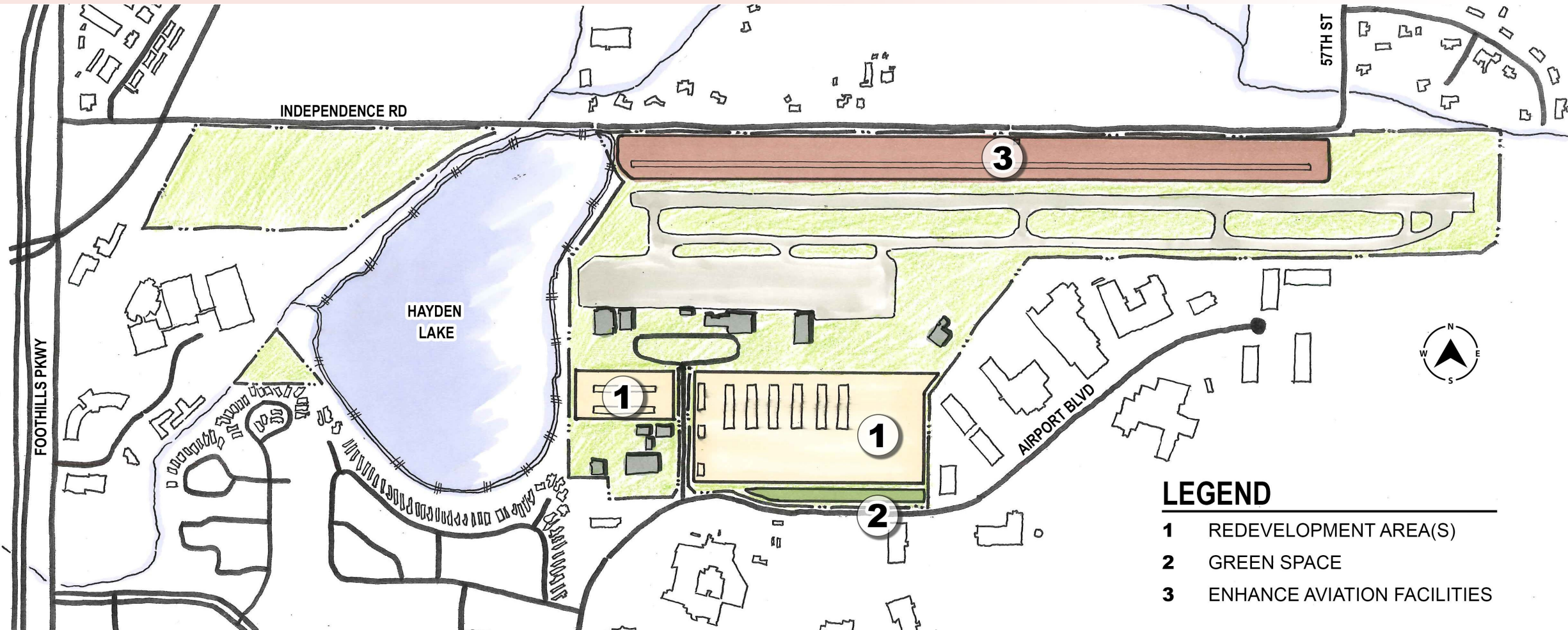


Elements that Change

- No physical changes outside of enhanced maintenance of existing facilities

Scenario 2

Airport with Aviation Improvements



LEGEND

- 1** REDEVELOPMENT AREA(S)
- 2** GREEN SPACE
- 3** ENHANCE AVIATION FACILITIES

Scenario 2

Airport with Aviation Improvements



Description

This scenario would foster aviation development that is responsive to market and community demand. Includes modernization of general aviation, hangar improvements, and implementing the most recent Airport Master Plan, which may increase flight capacity.



Elements that Remain

- Existing runways and taxiways
- Existing hangar facilities
- Existing support buildings



Elements that Change

- Upgrade existing hangars
- Development of additional hangars
- Enhance aviation facilities
- Preserve options to accommodate future modes of travel and good movement
- Upgrade public aviation viewing area

Scenario 3

Airport with Neighborhood Serving Uses and Limited Housing



LEGEND

- 1 AVIATION REDEVELOPMENT AREA(S)
- 2 NEIGHBORHOOD / COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AREA(S)
- 3 ENHANCE AVIATION FACILITIES

Scenario 3

Airport with Neighborhood Serving Uses and Limited Housing



Description

This scenario would foster aviation development and community development that compliment each other. Includes modernization of general aviation and hangar improvements and live/work hangars. Includes a wide range of neighborhood serving uses such as a restaurant or cafe, science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) learning center and vocational opportunities for local youth, and a community center that houses meeting spaces.



Elements that Remain

- Existing runways and taxiways
- Existing hangar facilities
- Existing support buildings



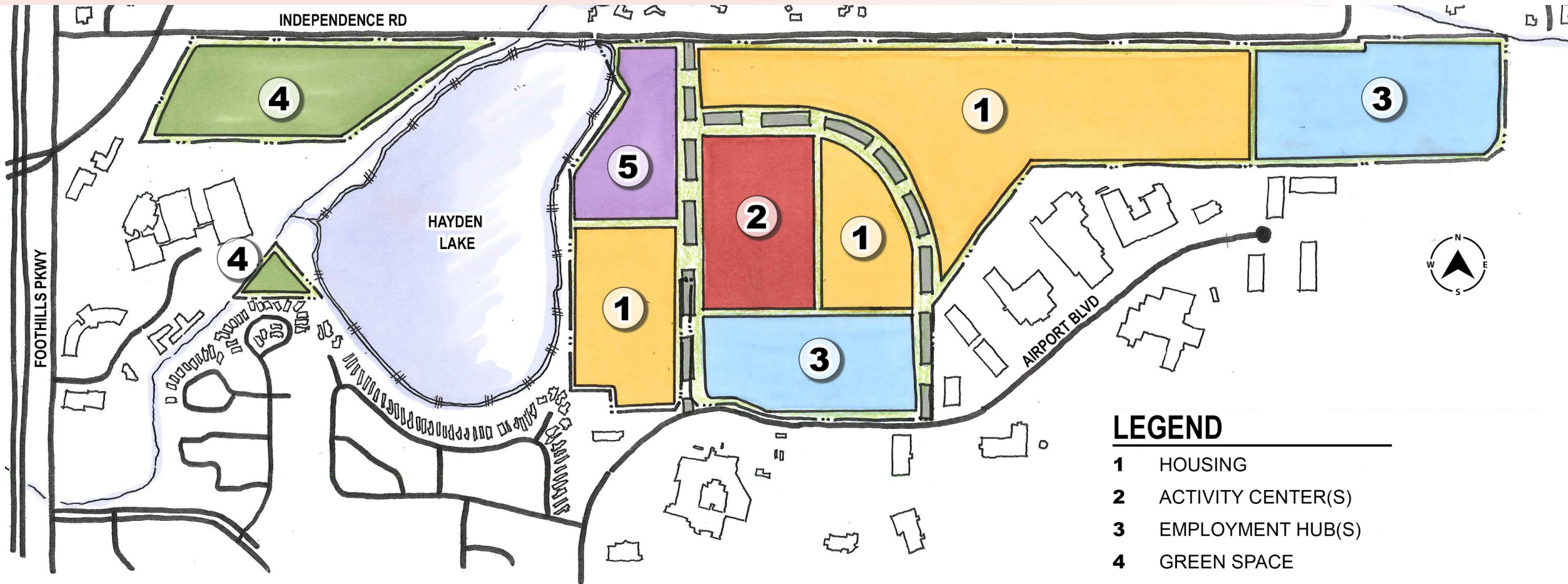
Elements that Change

- Upgrade existing hangars
- Develop live/work hangars
- Build a restaurant or cafe
- Create a STEM learning center and vocational opportunities for local youth
- Enhance aviation facilities
- Build a community center that houses meeting spaces



Scenario 4

Decommission Airport and Create New Neighborhood



LEGEND

- 1** HOUSING
- 2** ACTIVITY CENTER(S)
- 3** EMPLOYMENT HUB(S)
- 4** GREEN SPACE
- 5** HELICOPTER PAD

Scenario 4

Decommission Airport and Create New Neighborhood



Description

This scenario would decommission the airport and create a new, mixed-use neighborhood that may include housing, activity centers, employment hubs, and green space. A portion of land would be set aside for helicopter emergency services that would support resiliency of the region.



Elements that Remain

- Aircraft landing area for emergency support services



Elements that Change

- Build a range of housing types
- Create activity centers
- Create employment hubs
- Allocate green space for the needs of native plants and animals



Exercise



Scenario Feedback

Go to Each Station



1. What questions do you have on each scenario?
2. What elements do you like?
3. What elements don't you like?



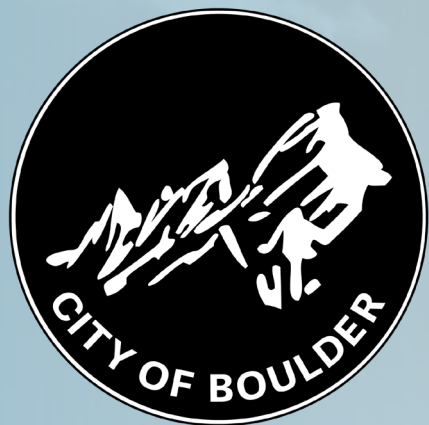
Survey Live – BeheardBoulder.org



Airport Community Conversation/Conversaciones Comunitarias del Aero...

Provide feedback on four community-informed draft scenarios for the future of the airport site.

Share Your Input



Next Steps



Next Steps

- Bilingual Community Meetings – August 22 and 29, 2023
- City Council Presentation – August 24, 2023
- CWG Meeting #5 – September 2023
- City Council Presentation – January 2024

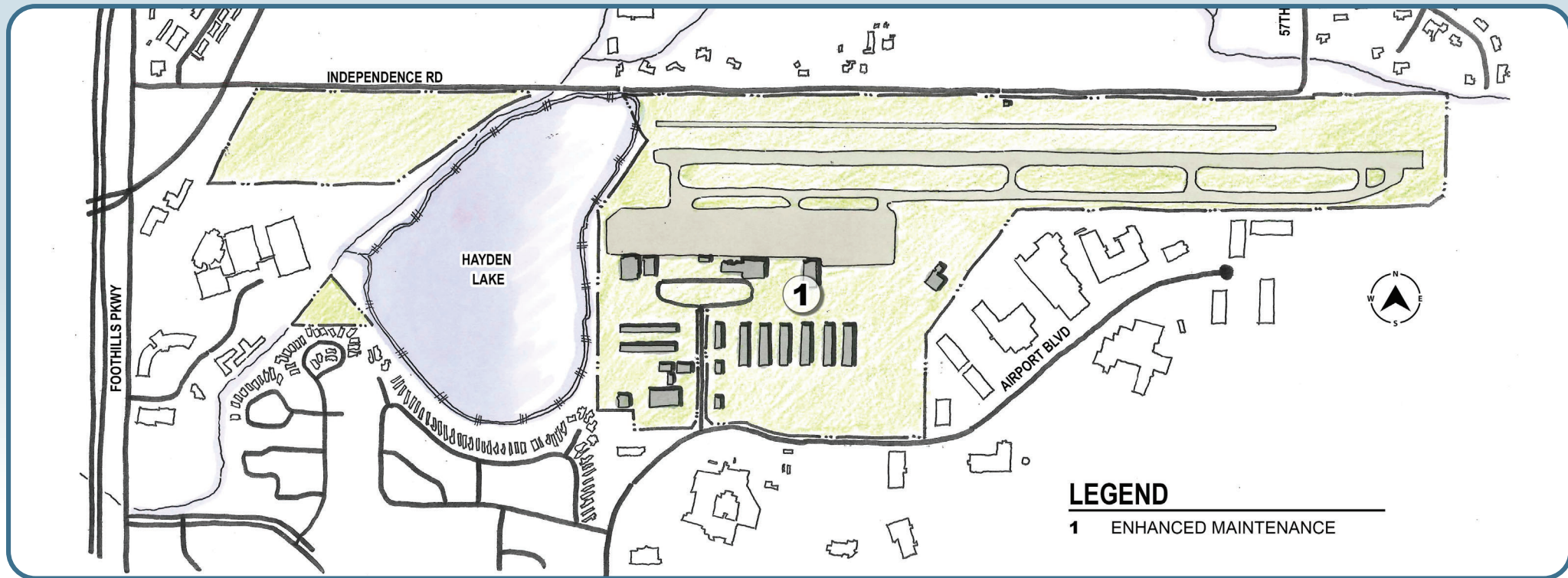


Thank You



Appendix B. Open House Boards

Scenario 1 Existing Airport with Enhanced Maintenance



This scenario would bring the current facilities up to a state of good repair.

No new facilities would be built.

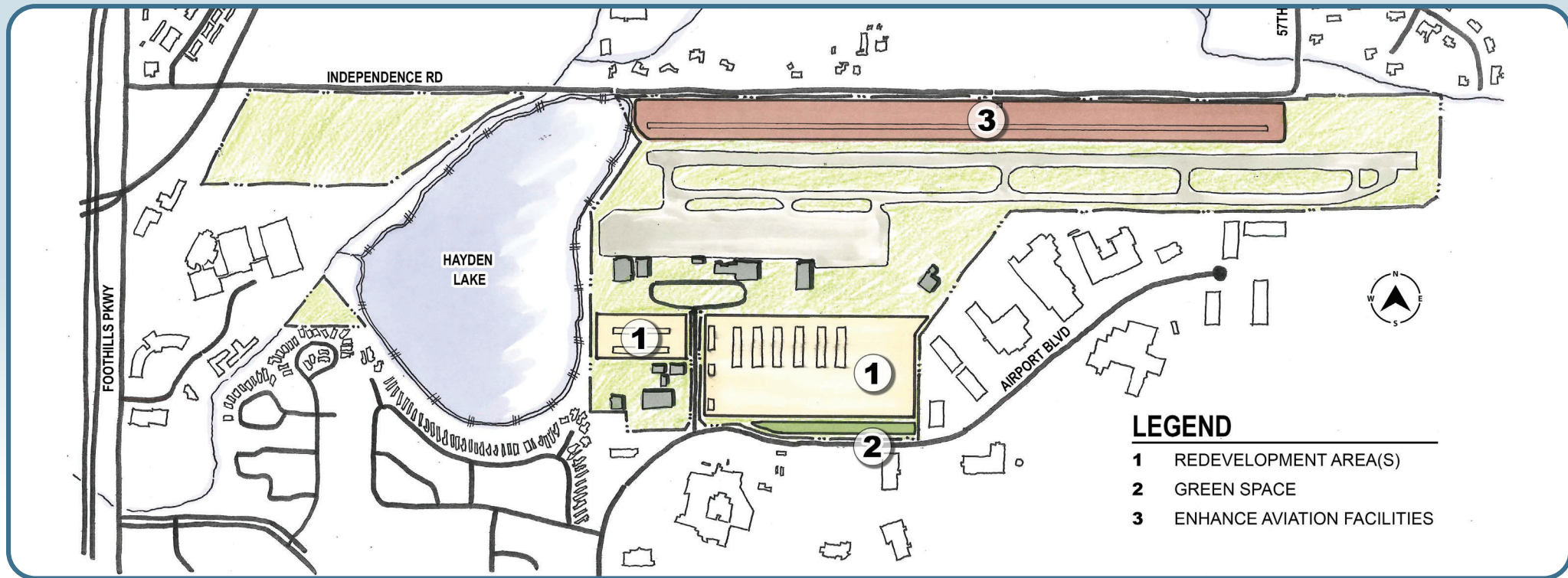
Elements that Remain:

- Existing runways and taxiways
- Existing hangar facilities
- Existing support buildings

Elements that Change

- No physical changes outside of necessary maintenance of existing facilities

Scenario 2 Airport with Aviation Improvements



This scenario would foster aviation development that is responsive to market and community demand.

Includes modernization of general aviation, hangar improvements, and implementing the most recent Airport Master Plan, which may increase flight capacity.

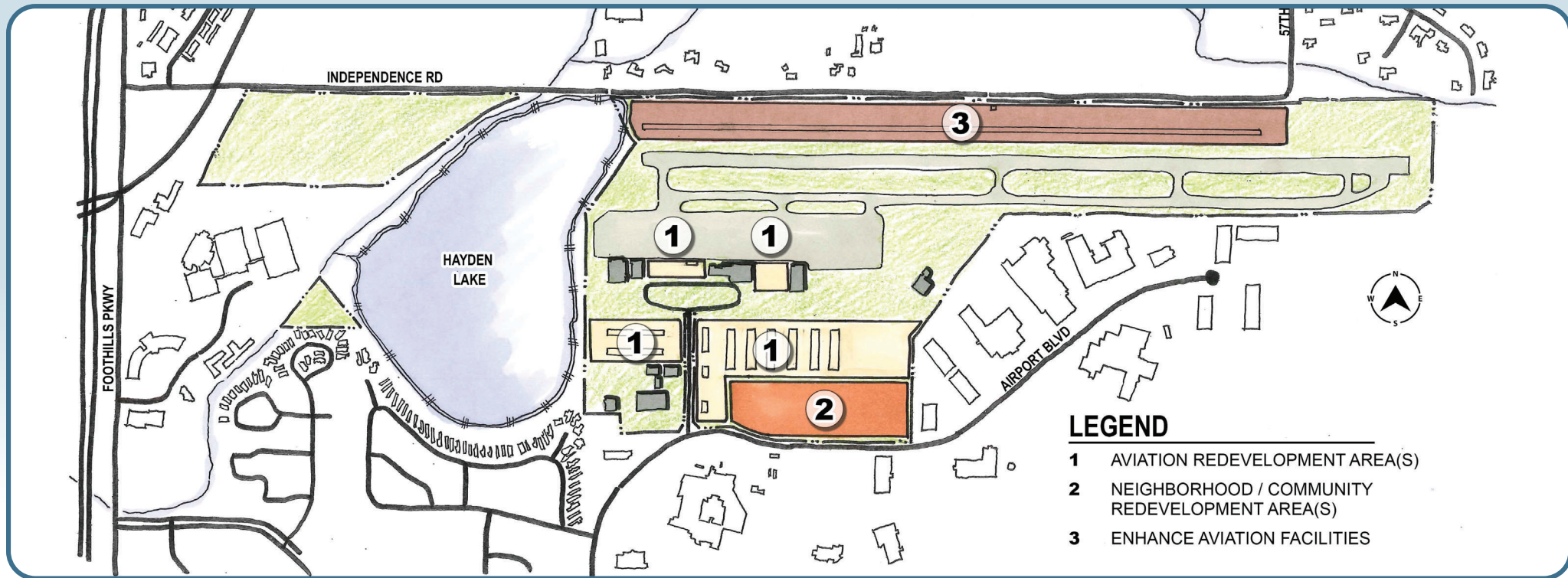
Elements that Remain:

- Existing runways and taxiways
- Existing hangar facilities
- Existing support buildings

Elements that Change

- Upgrade existing hangars
- Development of additional hangars
- Enhance aviation facilities
- Preserve options to accommodate future modes of travel and good movement
- Upgrade public aviation viewing area

Scenario 3 Airport with Neighborhood Serving Uses and Limited Housing



This scenario would foster aviation development and community development that compliment each other. Includes modernization of general aviation and hangar improvements and live/work hangars. Includes a wide range of neighborhood serving uses such as a restaurant or cafe, science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) learning center and vocational opportunities for local youth, and a community center that houses meeting spaces.

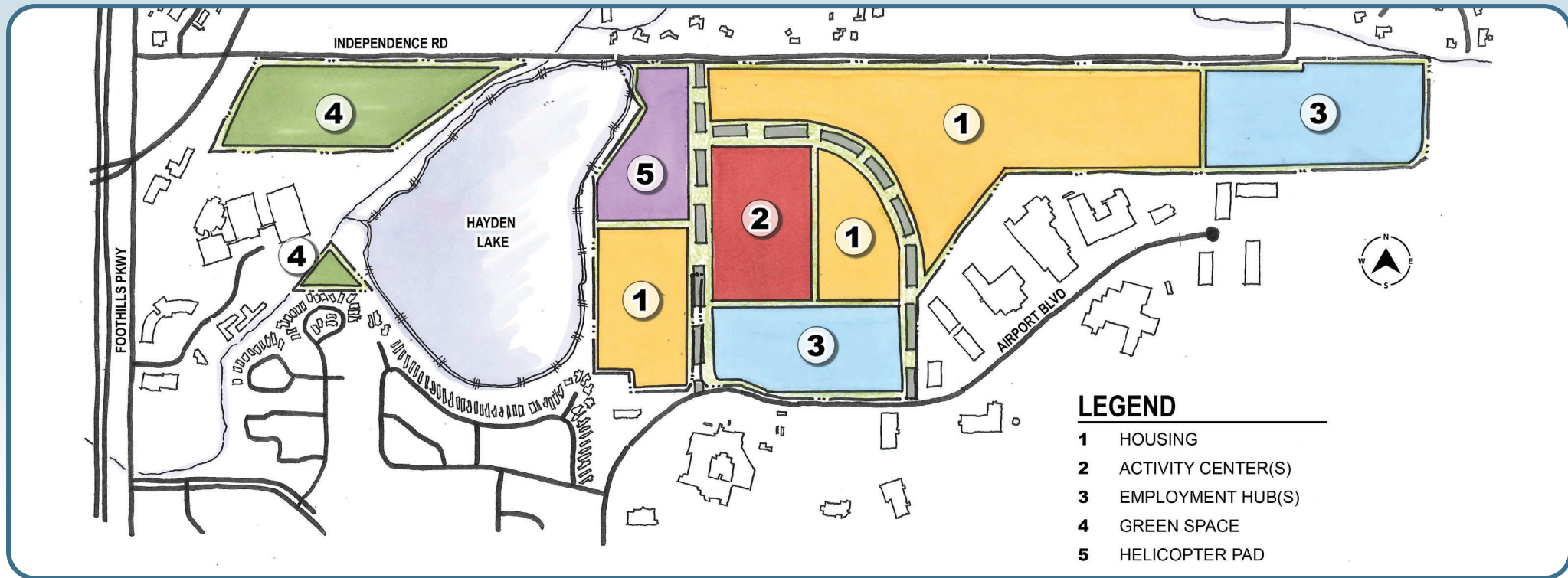
Elements that Remain:

- Existing runways and taxiways
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- Existing support buildings

Elements that Change

- Upgrade existing hangars
- Develop live/work hangars
- Build a restaurant or cafe
- Create a STEM learning center and vocational opportunities for local youth
- Enhance aviation facilities
- Build a community center that houses meeting spaces

Scenario 4 Decommission Airport and Create New Neighborhood



This scenario would decommission the airport and create a new, mixed-use neighborhood that may include housing, activity centers, employment hubs, and green space.

A portion of land would be set aside for helicopter emergency services that would support resiliency of the region.

Elements that Remain:

- Aircraft landing area for emergency support services

Elements that Change

- Build a range of housing types
- Create activity centers
- Create employment hubs
- Allocate green space for the needs of native plants and animals

BOULDER MUNICIPAL AIRPORT DESIRED NEAR-TERM ACTION ITEMS

TOPIC AREA

DESIRED ACTION ITEMS



NOISE

Develop and regulate noise abatement strategies to reduce the impact of noise from aircraft

- ✓ Implement landing fees for both based and non-based aircraft
- ✓ Enforcement/encouragement of noise procedures; explore ways to encourage compliance with noise abatement procedures
- ✓ Include South Boulder and Boulder Reservoir in Voluntary Noise Abatement
- ✓ Update voluntary noise procedures to discourage touch and go, low passes, training and pilot building hours after 5 PM
- ✓ Hours of operations should be updated to 9-5 PM on weekdays and 9-4PM on weekend

- ✓ Limit touch-and-go activity/training flights; explore options with voluntary limits on start and end times
- ✓ Create glider training area modifications
- ✓ Identify ways to limit overflights from adjacent airports
- ✓ Regularly publish noise complaint data
- ✓ Investigate ways to better measure and report noise
- ✓ Rework helicopter flight paths to avoid flying over homes
- ✓ Explore feasibility of mandating quieter muffler/exhaust systems for based aircraft



HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Incorporate carbon reduction strategies into airport policies and future developments/improvements

- ✓ Expedite the delivery of unleaded aviation fuel to BDU – establish timeline for discontinuing use of leaded fuel
- ✓ Evaluate proximity to other natural features/wildlife habitats
- ✓ Incentivize the use of electric airplanes/eVTOL (does not need runway) at BDU

- ✓ Investigate impacts of leaded aviation fuel emissions in Boulder, specifically relating to children's health
- ✓ Publish regular estimates of lead emissions from BDU operations
- ✓ Investigate greenhouse gas impact of operations, based on flight data from flights originating/landing at BDU
- ✓ Report leaded fuel sales and consumption



COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Increase opportunities for community involvement at the airport

- ✓ Land use compatibility – modify and strengthen the influence zone coordination for construction and implement a mandatory disclosure program
- ✓ Coordinate the Airport Land Use Compatibility Planning with FAA regulatory requirements and compatible land uses
- ✓ Update Airport Rules and Regulations and share with the community at large
- ✓ Comply with Airport Minimum Standards and FAA Compliance Standards
- ✓ Develop and invest in a Flight Management system/program to educate pilots and community members about actual performances and program awareness

- ✓ Commit to ongoing coordination between pilots and neighbors
- ✓ Promote community events and programs
- ✓ Deliver quarterly noise complaint summary memo to City Council
- ✓ Deliver quarter summary memo to CC/CDOT/public detailing tenant violations, late fees, improvements, crashes, fuel farm updates
- ✓ Cease offering flying events at BDU
- ✓ Introduce community programs for traditionally underserved communities at the airport
- ✓ Host family-friendly events at the airport with aviation focused activities



AIRPORT ECONOMICS

Develop economic activities for financial sustainability

- ✓ Update contract/leasing structure and fees to cover costs
- ✓ Create a maintenance plan for aging infrastructure
- ✓ Administer an Economic Impact Study for the airport

- ✓ Airport economic and budgetary data easily accessible
- ✓ Investigate the potential for transport aviation
- ✓ Share information about funding sources for BDU – including FAA grants



SAFETY

- ✓ Introduce real time messaging to pilots and geofencing
- ✓ Commit to regular publication of safety data



AIRPORT SITE EVALUATION CONSIDERATIONS

GOAL

EVALUATION CONSIDERATIONS


 SAFE	<p>Enhance personal and community safety</p> <p>Increase resiliency through mitigation, response, and recovery</p> <p>Comply with airport rules and regulations, Federal Aviation Administration Standards, and Boulder Fire Department</p>
 HEALTHY & SOCIALLY THRIVING	<p>Create community programming and gathering spaces</p> <p>Minimize community exposure to site impacts and noise</p> <p>Provide educational opportunities</p>
 LIVABLE	<p>Diversify site uses</p> <p>Balance the needs of airport operations and compatible surrounding land uses</p> <p>Provide amenities for residents</p>
 ACCESSIBLE & CONNECTED	<p>Increase current and future multi-modal transportation options</p> <p>Enhance open space, bicycle, and trail connectivity</p> <p>Accommodate goods movement</p>
 ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE	<p>Encourage the integration of future clean technology</p> <p>Incentivize unleaded fuel for aircraft</p> <p>Minimize impact to wildlife and natural environment and support environmental compatibility</p>
 RESPONSIBLY GOVERNED	<p>Provide excellent customer experience</p> <p>Provide transparency, equity and uniformity with compliance in all leases, regulations, and plans for the airport</p> <p>Integrate community input regularly (e.g. Formation of Community Advisory Committee, Noise Committee)</p> <p>Maintain financial autonomy from city general fund subsidies</p>
 ECONOMICALLY VITAL	<p>Provide a diverse tax base and stable tax stream</p> <p>Foster diverse business options</p>





Appendix C. Meeting Notifications

Facebook

 **City of Boulder Colorado Government** · July 13 at 5:00 PM · 🌐

We invite you to share your vision for the future of the Boulder Municipal Airport site!

Community feedback from earlier this spring has helped lead to four draft scenarios for the future of the airport site. Learn more and share your thoughts at the second open house on July 18.

- When: Tuesday, July 18 from 4 to 6 p.m. Drop in anytime or stop by for presentations at 4:30 p.m. and 5:20 p.m.
- Where: Via Mobility Services, 2855 63rd Street, Boulder, CO 80301
- Who: All are welcome! There will be activities for children. Spanish information is available. We encourage you to invite your friends, family and anyone who might be interested in the future of the airport site.

The community-informed draft scenarios for the future of the airport site include:

- Scenario 1: Existing Airport with Enhanced Maintenance
- Scenario 2: Airport with Aviation Improvements
- Scenario 3: Airport with Neighborhood Serving Uses and Limited Housing
- Scenario 4: Decommission Airport and Create New Neighborhood


This is the second public open house designed to understand the community's vision for the future of the airport site as part of the Airport Community Conversation. The project will provide city leadership with a community-supported scenario(s) for the future of the airport site and help guide next steps.


Learn more and preview the scenarios online: <https://bldr.fyi/ACC>.



Can't attend? Provide input via the online questionnaire by Aug. 2: <https://bldr.fyi/ACCBHB>.


Boulder Municipal Airport

PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE

 When:
Tuesday, July 18, 2023
4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

 Where:
Via Mobility Services
2855 63rd St
Boulder, CO 80301



 **City of Boulder Colorado Government** · July 5 at 1:01 PM · 🌐


We invite you to share your vision for the future of the Boulder Municipal Airport site!


Using feedback from the community, the Boulder Municipal Airport project team developed a range of scenarios for the future of the airport site. Join us at the second Public Open House to preview the scenarios and provide your feedback.



- Want to learn more? Attend the second Public Open House 🍷
- Save the date: July 18 from 4 to 6 p.m. Drop in anytime. There will be a presentation from the project team at 4:30 p.m. and 5:20 p.m. 📅
- 🧒 Children and families are welcome. Spanish information available.
- 📍 Via Mobility Services
2855 63rd St
Boulder, CO 80301
- Community members are also invited to provide feedback on an online questionnaire, available via the city website from July 12 to July 31. <https://bldr.fyi/ACC>

Boulder Municipal Airport

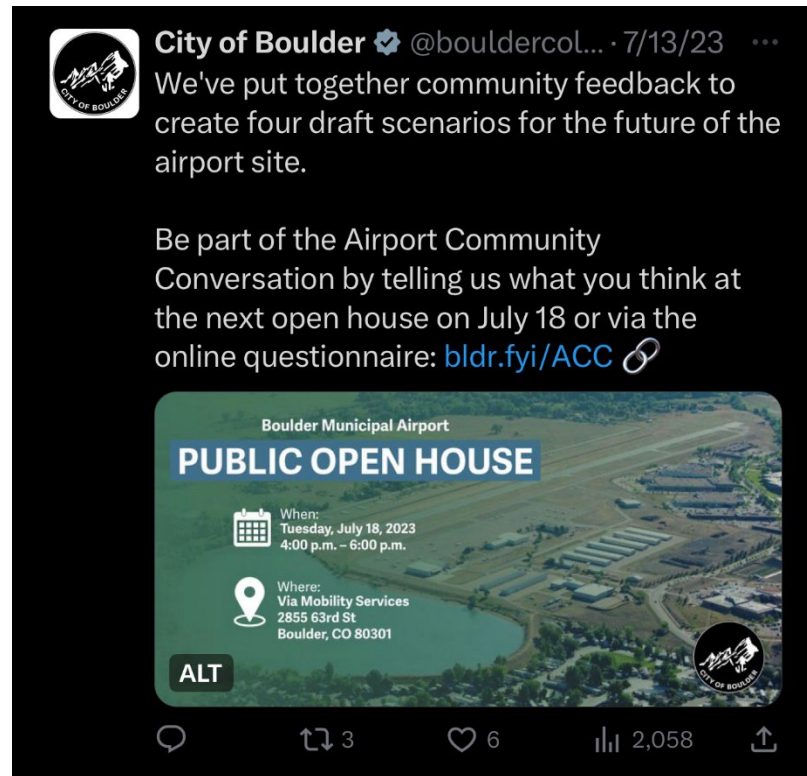
PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE

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4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

 Where:
Via Mobility Services
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Boulder, CO 80301

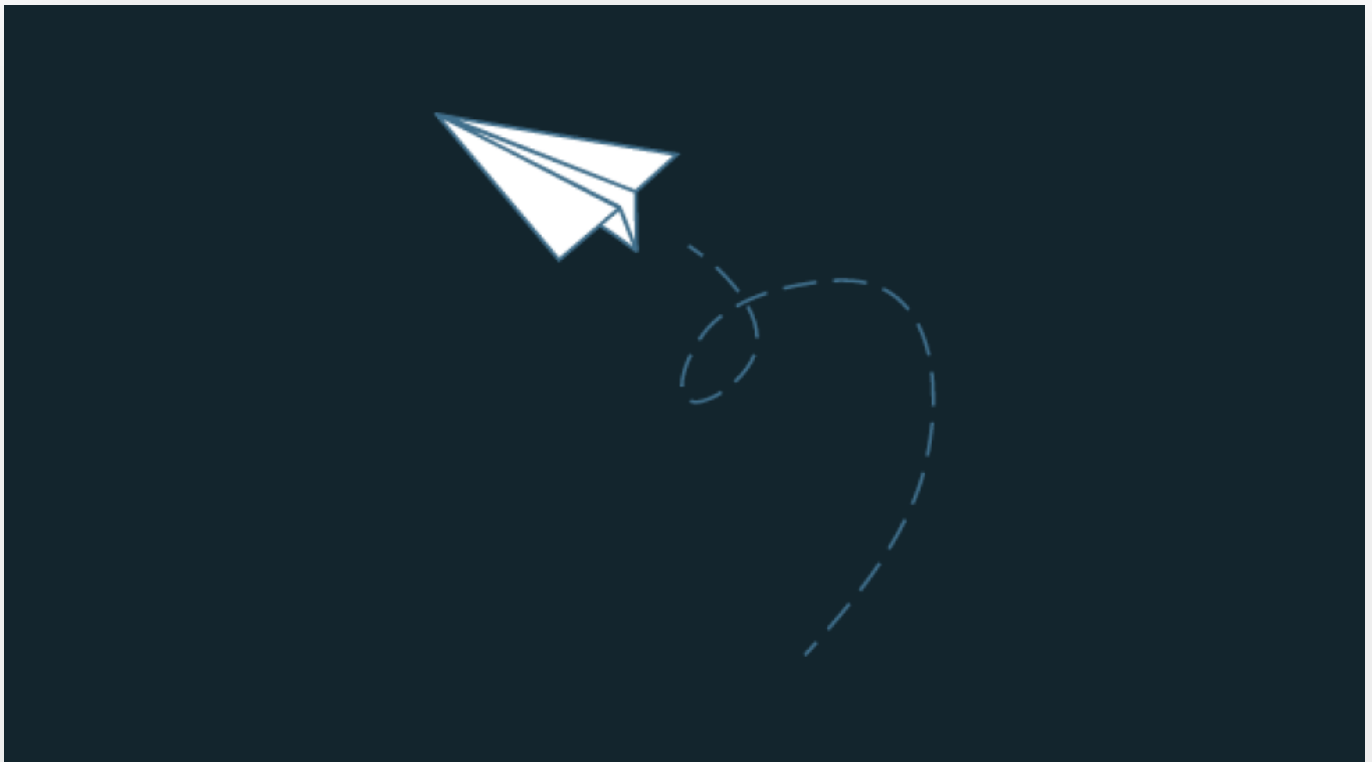


Twitter



Home > News

Boulder Municipal Airport To Hold Second Public Open House for Community Conversation



Details

Aisha Ozaslan, Media Relations, 303-501-2318

Allison Moore-Farrell, Senior Transportation Planner, 720-564-2368

PUBLISHED DATE

Jul 05, 2023

Community invited to learn more and share their vision for the airport's future

Related Events

TUE
JUL 18
2023

Airport Community Conversation Open House 2

TUE
APR 11
2023

Airport Community Conversation Open House 1

The City of Boulder is hosting an in-person public open house about the airport on Tuesday, July 18 from 4 to 6 p.m. at Via Mobility Services, located at 2855 63rd St., Boulder, CO 80301. The open house and corresponding questionnaire, which opens from July 12 through July 31, are designed to understand the community's vision for the future of the Boulder Municipal Airport as part of the [Airport Community Conversation](#) engagement project.

Community members are welcome to come and go at any time during the open house. City staff will share an update on the project, provide general airport information, and invite feedback on four scenarios for the future of the airport site. These high-level, conceptual scenarios are informed by input from several earlier community engagement activities, including a Community Working Group, bilingual community meetings and the first open house.

"We're thankful to our community for being part of productive and positive conversations over the past few months," said Transportation and Mobility Director Natalie Stiffler. "This is the second open house and questionnaire for all interested Boulder community members to make their voices heard on this topic and contribute to the next steps in the visioning process."

Learn more on the [Airport Community Conversation webpage](#). Through the project, the city will develop a deeper understanding of Boulder's desired future for the airport site. It will provide city leadership with a community-supported scenario(s) for the future of the airport to help guide next steps while being mindful of the city's long-term commitments to the Federal Aviation Administration.

[Boulder Municipal Airport](#) is a general aviation airport, providing business, private and recreational aviation services to the City of Boulder and surrounding communities.

PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE



Boulder Municipal Airport Community Conversation

Using feedback gathered at the first open house on April 11, 2023, the Airport Community Conversation project team developed a range of scenarios for the future of the airport. The project team is holding a public open house on July 18, 2023, to gather feedback on the draft scenarios for the future of the airport.

Please join us at a public open house to preview the scenarios and provide your feedback. There will be a presentation from the project team at 4:30 p.m. and 5:20 p.m.

Children welcome | Come and go at any time | Se habla español



Where:
Via Mobility Services
2855 63rd St
Boulder, CO 80301



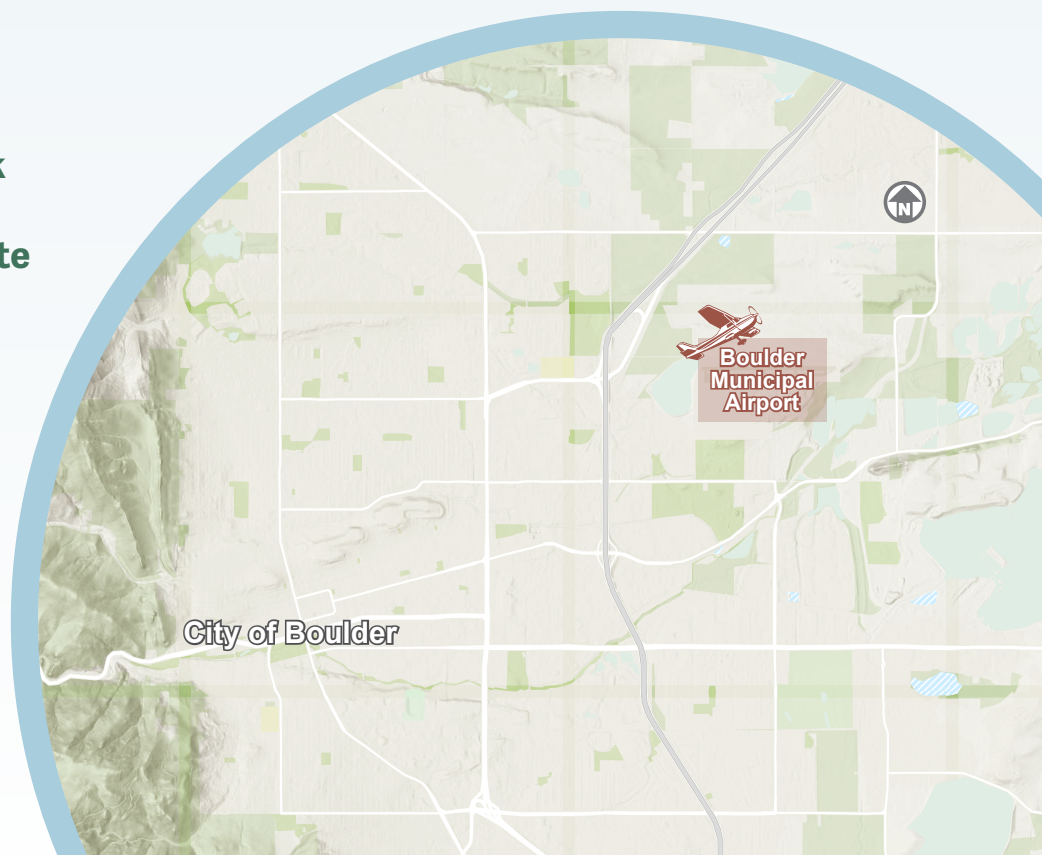
When:
Tuesday, July 18, 2023
4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Community members are invited to provide feedback on an online questionnaire, available via the city website from July 12 to July 31.

SCAN THE QR CODE



<https://blldr.fyi/ACC>



CASA ABIERTA AL PÚBLICO



Conversaciones Comunitarias del Aeropuerto Municipal de Boulder

Utilizando los comentarios coleccionados en la primera casa abierta el 11 de abril, 2023, el equipo del proyecto Conversaciones Comunitarias del Aeropuerto desarrolló una variedad de escenarios por el futuro del aeropuerto. El equipo del proyecto realizará otra casa abierta el 18 de julio, 2023 para obtener comentarios sobre los escenarios preliminares para el futuro del aeropuerto.

Por favor acompáñenos a la casa abierta pública para presentar los escenarios y dar sus comentarios. Habrá una presentación del equipo del proyecto a las 4:30 p.m. y 5:20 p.m.

Los niños son bienvenidos | Puede ir y venir en cualquier momento | Se habla español



Dónde:
Via Mobility Services
2855 63rd St
Boulder, CO 80301



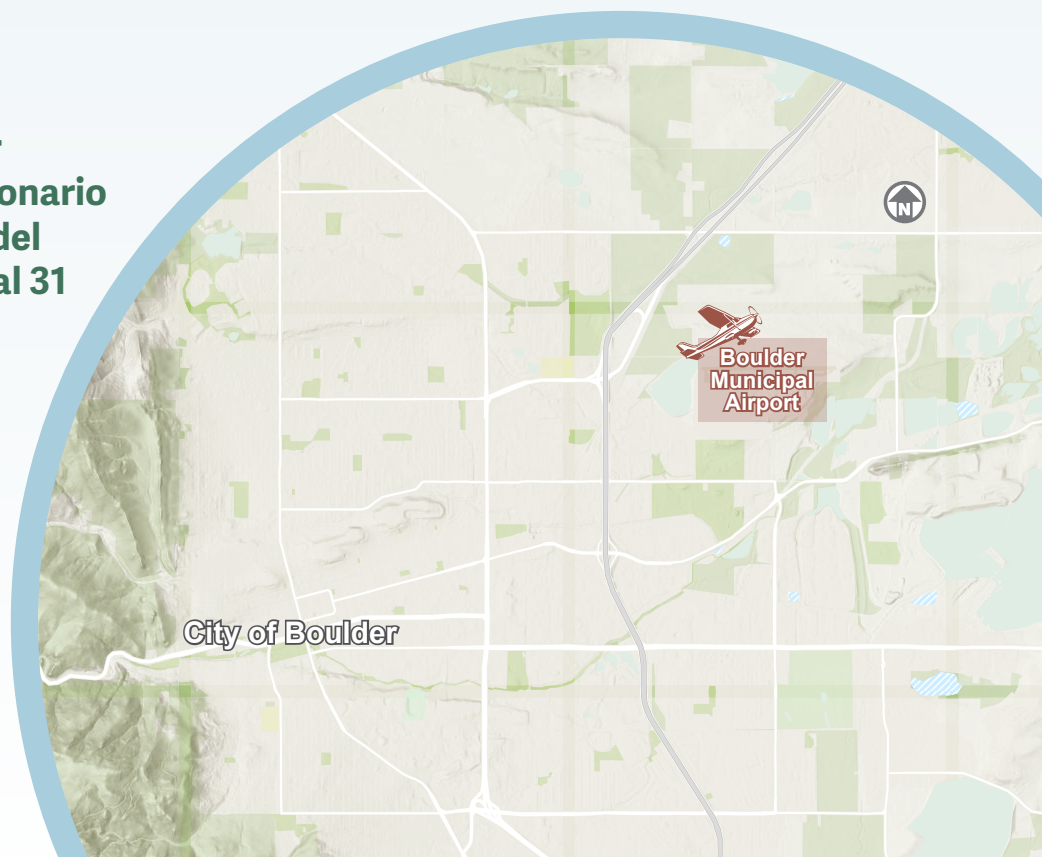
Cuándo:
Martes 18 de julio de 2023
4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Se invita a los miembros de la comunidad a proporcionar comentarios sobre un cuestionario en línea, disponible a través del sitio web de la ciudad del 12 al 31 de julio.

ESCANEA EL CÓDIGO QR



<https://blldr.fyi/ACCESPACC>



Subject: Public Open House | July 18, 2023 – Boulder Municipal Airport Community Conversation

Using feedback gathered at the first open house on April 11, 2023, the Airport Community Conversation project team developed a range of scenarios for the future of the airport. The project team is holding a public open house on July 18, 2023, to gather feedback on the draft scenarios for the future of the airport.

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Children welcome | Come and go at any time | Se habla español

Where:

Via Mobility Services
2855 63rd St
Boulder, CO 80301

When:

Tuesday, July 18, 2023
4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

The Airport Community Conversation seeks to develop a deeper understanding of the community's desired future for the airport. It will provide city leadership with a community-supported scenario for the future of the site to help guide next steps while being mindful of the city's long-term commitments to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

Community members are invited to provide feedback on an online questionnaire, available via the city website from July 12 to July 31: <https://bldr.fyi/ACC>



Appendix D. Media Coverage

Daily Camera

Boulder to hold town hall on future of airport

By [AMBER CARLSON](#) | acarlson@prairiemountainmedia.com |

PUBLISHED: July 17, 2023 at 3:04 p.m. | UPDATED: July 17, 2023 at 3:46 p.m.

Boulder will host a town hall Tuesday afternoon to discuss future possibilities for the Boulder Municipal Airport site.

Tuesday's town hall will go from 4-6 p.m. at Via Mobility Services, 2855 63rd St. The project team will give a presentation at 4:30 p.m. and 5:20 p.m. Members of the public may come and go at any time, and there will also be activities for children and information available in Spanish.

During the open-house style event, city staff will give general information about the airport, share an update on the project and ask for feedback on four potential scenarios for the airport site that were developed using feedback from previous community events and meetings.

The [four scenarios](#), in brief, are keep the existing airport with enhanced maintenance, upgrade and modernize the airport's facilities, improve some aspects of the airport and add new elements such as a restaurant or a STEM learning center, or decommission the airport and turn the area into a new, mixed-use neighborhood. This town hall is the second one the city has hosted on the airport, and is part of an ongoing community engagement process regarding the future of the site.

More information on the airport community conversation is available at bit.ly/3rx9NnE.

GreeleyTribune

City eyes future possibilities for Boulder airport site

By [AMBER CARLSON](#) | acarlson@prairiemountainmedia.com |

July 30, 2023 at 5:45 a.m.

Boulder's [95-year-old municipal airport](#) has been generating buzz as questions continue to swirl about what the future may hold for the site.

Boulder is engaging in talks with community members to determine whether the airport should stay, be renovated or be decommissioned and converted into a new residential neighborhood.

While the future of the Boulder Municipal Airport remains uncertain, there has already been [community conversation around where the airport](#) stands now, what different scenarios for the site's future are being explored and what Boulderites can expect in the coming months.

Why is the future of the airport in doubt?

Boulder's general aviation airport has operated continuously at its current site just northeast of the city since 1928. According to airport manager John Kinney, the airport is required to remain open for the time being because it has accepted grant funding from the Federal Aviation Administration.

Boulder accepted an FAA grant two years ago for a runway overlay, and that grant came with a 20-year contract requiring the airport to continue operating for at least that long.



A busy day at the Boulder airport on July 20, 2023. (Cliff Grassmick/Staff Photographer)

But even with 18 years left on the current contract, the city has begun a big-picture, visionary conversation with the community about the future of the airport.

Kinney said one of the overarching questions behind the ongoing conversation about the airport is the question of what the community wants the airport area to be “when it grows up,” and that the goal is to do a “deeper dive” of engagement and discussion with the community.

He also noted that there has been a significant increase in noise complaints and that discussions about possibly repurposing the airport had begun to arise.

“(We) truly just (want to) talk about how can we make the community more woven into the fabric of the airport on a day to day basis, a weekly basis, a monthly basis,” said Kinney.

Additionally, the [Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan](#), which guides long-term planning in the city and county, includes notes about exploring the potential for the airport site to have neighborhood-serving uses as well as housing.

Public engagement

Since February, the city has held two open house events, a number of bilingual community meetings and individual interviews with community members. There is a community working group of more than 30 people that has met several times, and the city has also offered two online questionnaires, one of which is still open until Wednesday.

Allison Moore-Farrell, a senior transportation planner for Boulder, said a variety of factors, including “tensions” between airport community members and the larger Boulder community, had provided the impetus for the airport community conversation.

Moore-Farrell said the goal of the community engagement project has been to create “visionary scenarios” that will ultimately be shared with Boulder City Council. The project has asked community members to give input on what issues they see with the current airport and what ideas they have for the future.

“We got a lot of ideas. There’s a lot of interest here,” she said.

So far, some of the major themes of community member feedback have included safety, health, environmental and economic impacts, noise mitigation and community relations.

But the community appears to be divided as to what the future of the airport should be.

At the [first open house](#) in April, one common concern that was cited was the [leaded fuel still being used](#) at the airport.

According to notes from the open house, some said that the airport is a “critical piece of transportation infrastructure” and a “vital part of the community” that provides hundreds of jobs, while others said the airport was costing the city money and creating noise and air pollution.

Although feedback about the airport has been mixed, survey results from the first questionnaire reveal that less than 25% of respondents said there were “no changes needed” to the current services and operations at the airport. Nearly half of respondents said at least some improvements should be made, and 16% said there should not be any further operations or services.

Almost half also said they don’t use the airport for recreation or work purposes.

Feedback from the July 18 open house event was still being compiled and was not yet available at the time of publication of this article.

The future of the airport

Based on initial community feedback, a project team has created [four broad scenarios](#) for the future of the airport site: keep the existing airport with enhanced maintenance, upgrade and modernize the airport’s facilities, improve some aspects of the airport and add new elements such as a restaurant or a STEM learning center, or decommission the airport and turn the area into a new mixed-use neighborhood. According to the city’s contract with the FAA, the airport cannot be closed without FAA consent or a formal release of the city from the terms of its obligations. Kinney said the FAA has sent the city a letter reminding it of its grant obligations, but “in no way told us to stop planning.”

“Although we have those grant obligations — we understand and we’re mindful of those with our federal partner — we also want to be responsive to the local citizenry and really glean what is their vision for the airport,” Kinney said.

In addition to the scenarios, the team has also identified shorter-term action items that can be accomplished more quickly and longer-term items that may take 10 to 20 years to implement.

The city hasn't determined yet whether to host a third open house event, Moore-Farrell said, but another event could be scheduled in the coming months.

Updates on the project will be presented to City Council during a study session in late August, and the project team hopes for a decision to be made in early 2024.



A glider towplane lands at the Boulder airport on July 20, 2023. (Cliff Grassmick/Staff Photographer)



City of Boulder considers what to do with airport: "Tradeoffs in every one of these scenarios"

BY ALAN GIONET UPDATED ON: JULY 19, 2023 / 11:28 AM / CBS COLORADO

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The city of Boulder is looking at a range of possibilities for the future of its small airport. The property on the northeast side of town is nearly 180 acres of land in a city where every inch has value.

"It's kind of a place where a lot of people in Boulder don't really know it's here," said Scott Griffith, assistant manager for Journeys Aviation, a flight school at the airport. "It's great. You're sitting next to the foothills."

Its location is close to larger airports, Vance Brand in Longmont and Rocky Mountain Metropolitan in Broomfield. Bringing in commercial air traffic would be very difficult since its proximity to the mountains means there's no instrument approach needed for heavier jets.

The airport has generally been under the radar for a lot of people in its 95-year history. But there have been concerns about noise and the lead fuel used by smaller planes. The airport now has voluntary noise abatement procedures Griffith says the vast majority of pilots observe.



CBS

Lead remains a worry for some.

“And there doesn't seem to be a plan to deal with the leaded gasoline beyond hopefully we get unleaded gasoline in five years and that's a significant number of people who are going to be exposed,” said Bryn Grunwald, who attended an open house on the possibilities for the airport Tuesday evening.

She would like to see the land used for housing instead of planes to help with Boulder's affordable housing crisis.

Others looked over four different possible scenarios: Keeping the existing airport with enhanced maintenance, keeping the airport with aviation improvements, keeping the airport with neighborhood-serving uses and limited housing, and decommissioning the airport and creating a new neighborhood.

The city is asking people to answer a questionnaire with intentions of bringing to the city council early next year the pluses and minuses of various ideas.

“There's tradeoffs in every one of these scenarios certainly,” said Allison Moore-Farrell, a senior transportation planner for the city.

There are issues with closing the airport, including the possibility of having to repay the FAA for grants received over the years.



"That would be further conversations with the FAA and further study there," said Moore-Farrell. The amount has the potential to run well into the millions and some in Boulder have claimed as high as \$100 million. "We do not know that number yet."

Many of the people who showed up for the open house were curious to see the proposals. "I do see it as an asset. I think that it can serve so many different parts of the community," said resident Lisa Chase. "I think that getting rid of it entirely and putting housing there is not going to be the best option for everyone."

She liked the idea of adding an educational element for young people thinking of going into aviation which has many different kinds of jobs.

"There's so much that can be done there and there's also a lot of opportunity to make more things happen there." Griffith, a former teacher also thinks there's opportunity with education or even businesses like restaurants. "There's so much more that this airport can offer the city from education to commercial businesses and not just more flights. Because I know that that's a sticking point for a lot of people."

City deciding the future of Boulder Municipal Airport

By [Leonard Sitongia](#) August 2, 2023



. Courtesy Rubino Surveying via City of Boulder Aerial view of Boulder Municipal Airport, May 2006

The City of Boulder held its second airport open house on July 18 at the Via Mobility offices on 63rd Street as part of the process to decide the future of the Boulder Municipal Airport. The process has been named the "Airport Community Conversation."

In addition to two open house events, there is a community working group which has met four times and will meet one more time before results are presented to the Boulder City Council. City staff and the working group have collaboratively developed four scenarios describing the future of the airport.

Scenario 1 is for minimal change to the current airport. It adds enhanced maintenance to the existing facilities.

Scenario 2 adds some improvements to the airport, including upgrading existing aircraft hangars, adding new hangars, enhancing the public viewing area and enhancing the aviation facilities. The latter was previously described as an upgrade to the glider airstrip and facilities, but the specific enhancement was dropped from the presentation during the second open house.

Scenario 3 includes the upgraded hangars and possible enhancement for gliders, but focuses on services to the neighborhood around the airport and provides some housing. The housing would be in the form of new hangars that could be lived and worked in. This scenario adds a restaurant or cafe. It would also create a Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) learning center for local youth. A community center would also be built.

Scenario 4 decommissions the airport and replaces it with the development of a new neighborhood. The only remaining aviation facility would be a helicopter landing pad for use by the emergency services that are located at the airport.

Community input in the process concludes today, August 2. Input can be provided before midnight at this website: <https://www.beheardboulder.org/airport-community-conversation>.

City staff and the working group will incorporate the input into their decision-making and presentation to the Boulder City Council.

The remainder of the schedule for the process includes:

- Bilingual community meetings on Aug. 22 and 29
- Progress update to the Boulder City Council on Aug. 24
- The final working group meeting in September
- Presentation to the Boulder City Council in January, 2024