OSMP Multimodal Assessment

Comments Received During Engagement Window 1

Please support the proposed bicycle connection between South Boulder and Doudy Draw. This connection would provide safer access to South Boulder trails, reduce parking lot congestion at Doudy Draw, and create genuine multimodal access from South Boulder. Please include bike access in the upcoming Lower Big Bluestem reroute design.

I recently learned that some folks, especially concerned parents of middle school children and high school youths, are asking OSMP Board and staff to modify significantly OSMP trail management in order to increase safer access to the south part of the West-TSA system for bikers. While I'm a cyclist myself, I'm also a grandparent and very sensitive to this expressed need. Still, I hope you (the OSBT) will not pressure staff into moving rapidly on this city-wide issue that concerns many folks, not just parents of young bikers. I've been a recreational and commuter biker for over 60 years, so I'm very conscious of the complexity of this community challenge.The Boulder Strategic Plan (and particularly item 7.C on trailhead access modalities) is already under way and no doubt will be articulated in greater detail--where OSMP is concerned--in December. If you have not experienced multi-department master plans in the past, know that this process will explore a range of alternatives generated by the OSMP staff, the Transportation staff, and the community. I am confident that it will address environmental concerns, the safety of bike riders, and also—where OSMP is concerned--the safety of pedestrians on the trails, including older adults like myself as well as young children hiking the trails with their parents. All parties, not just one recreational group, must be consulted. Let's thoughtfully permit the process to unfold.

I hope this comment method will work, since my computer is not playing nicely with the OSMP website. I plan to attend the Wed. meeting, just in case, but this is a more complete explanation of my thoughts:
I'd like to comment on the Strategic 7.c. issue that has suddenly ballooned into a push by the Mountain Bike Association and parents who are members of the biking community as they endeavor to revive an old wishlist of biking constituents. These folks are hoping to find a warm reception from this board.
A bit of history:
If any of you were in Boulder during the 2010-2011 WTSA Management Plan era, you may remember the quasi-Civil War that occurred at that time over the use of bikes on the trails in the south end of the system. The community-wide Community Working Group that was established at the time (which contained an equal number of constituents from conservation groups, biking groups, and local communities, with a professional facilitator to keep things civil) came to the conclusion that bikes should be allowed on certain trails, but not all. The City Council blessed this arrangement with a unanimous vote, and it has functioned fairly well until the present day.
Since a valid visitor survey was performed in 2019, which demonstrated that 85% of Open Space users are hikers or walkers, and only 26% are bikers, the above arrangement still seems to be more than fair to the biking community.
City goals in 2026:
At this point in the renewed discussion, I'd like to focus on the immediate suggestion, brought up by the MBA and various parents of young bikers: This notion is that to get folks out of their polluting and pedestrian-dangerous cars, all we have to do is convert Open Space trails to make them multi-modal, beginning first with "only" two long and currently rather pristine trails. I feel that this is a false trade-off, and a slippery slope. I suspect that this will become apparent to you over the coming months of community-wide discussion.

Most importantly at this moment, pressing this idea is premature.
Ground-truthing:
Speaking specifically about article 7.c., I've taken three field trips to the south Boulder area to scope out the traffic and highway situation there. On the first of those trips, I explored (on my faithful Yeti bike) the current roads connection between Fairview High School, Marshall Road and the Marshall Mesa area. Even in mid-afternoon on a school day, I found that the upper part of that 12-minute bike ride is easy and peaceful, with many pedestrians and only an occasional car on the road. It is a no-brainer safe ride.
On the south end, at Hwy 170, there are admittedly safety challenges. At the worst point of these—crossing Hwy 170 to access the trails—steps are already being taken to diminish the risk to bike riders. OSMP, with the encouragement of CDOT, has a plan under way to install an on-demand lighted crosswalk across the road to a new trail connector for accessing the complex of trails on the Mesa. From there, all the bike trails in the south part of the system can be reached off-road.
Future developments
The Marshall/170/trail connection route will soon be a safe alternative, and one that certainly cannot be compared to the safety of bike riders along the shoulder of the main regional axis that is the Diagonal Hwy in north Boulder. Furthermore, the road route avoids transferring of risks: a safe road route for bike users as opposed to the increased risk to the many other trail users who desire to have peaceful hikes on Open Space trails: The latter includes the elderly, small children hiking with parents, distracted nature-lovers and birdwatchers, etc.
Current observations on bike-friendly trails
A final note on the so-called multi-modal trail model is this: If any of you have tried to hike—on foot—the lovely bike trails that we now have, such as the Picture Rock trail on Heil Ranch, or the N. Sky trail on OSMP, you will observe that there are almost no pedestrians using these any more, only an occasional long-distance runner. I do bird surveys on Picture Rock and now have a decade of data on bike and pedestrian use. Anyone on foot who can access a no-bike trail will prefer to do so: it is called the "self-select" factor. The bike trails become defacto NO pedestrian trails because stepping constantly off the trail (thus widening it and introducing weed seeds) is annoying, as is looking over your shoulder for oncoming wheeled vehicles. I hope that you all will set aside your "favorite sport" hat and put on your "Open Space protector" hat for this ongoing discussion. thanks for your time and serious consideration of this ongoing discussion.

PLAN-Boulder County has been involved in the creation of the OSMP system and its management since its inception in 1967; We have participated in passing every Open Space tax measure to fund the system; We have participated in every major planning process, including each of the Trail Study Areas, Master Plans, and management plans; We have played a significant role in developing the system; and we know its resources. This 7.c. planning process is intended to Assess Multimodal Improvements. The City-wide Strategic Plan says it is to: "Invest in and maintain a transportation system with an array of multi-modal choices to reduce vehicle miles traveled and greenhouse gas emissions." We ask you to keep two important/basic concepts at top-of-mind as you pursue this planning effort: 1. PLAN-Boulder knows the natural resources in this system. We are amazed that they are not called out in the initial Staff Memo. The unique natural resources in OSMP's designated State Natural Areas and Habitat Conservation Areas must NOT be included in this assessment. Their exclusion from the outset will ensure (A) the continued carbon sequestration that occurs naturally in our native grasslands -- an important element of the city's climate action plan, and (B) the preservation of the incredible biodiversity that still sustains itself in our especially unique designated areas. See footnote). 2. With 85% of OSMP visitors frequently participating in "hiking/walking" (according to the most recent statistically valid survey), maintaining trails designated for walking/hiking WITHOUT bike use must be a high priority for this assessment. Already our system has more miles of trails on which bikes are allowed than trails where bikes are not allowed. We must sustain trails that allow for quiet, enjoyable pedestrian use that are free from conflicts with bikes. Footnote In Phase 1 -- as part of "Review existing conditions" all State Natural Areas and Habitat Conservation Areas should be included in a comprehensive map that shows all OSMP trails (coded by type of use allowed), all City Bike Paths and "multi-use" trails not on OSMP lands, and all RTD routes. In addition to this mapping, priority must be given to protecting native plant communities that are

sequestering carbon and diverse native species populations that contribute to the preservation of biodiversity. Introduction of invasive species and degradation of these natural areas must be avoided (i.e., the plan must not fragment or degrade these areas with new trails). "Priority areas" must avoid these especially high-quality natural areas. Thank you for this opportunity to comment on staff's initial plans.

Boulder County Audubon Society (BCAS) is aware of recent discussions about the possibility of adding bike access to some existing trails in the southern portion of the West Trail Study Area (TSA).
Moving forward with the Strategic Plan 7.c. project, we support a robust process that explores a range of alternatives from OSMP and the community, which address environmental concerns, the safety of bike riders, and the safety of pedestrians, from young children to older adults, using OSMP trails.
BCAS members were involved in the lengthy and contentious West TSA planning process, and recall the importance of considering the viewpoints and needs of everyone who uses OSMP lands. We look forward to participating in upcoming discussions.

BCAS's mission is to be "a voice for birds and wildlife conservation through habitat protection, advocacy, and nature education." We consider it of the utmost importance to prioritize protection, restoration, and enhancement of wildlife and ecosystems in management of OSMP lands. These priorities are consistent with the results of the 2019 OSMP Master Plan Survey of Boulder Valley residents, where 74 percent of respondents rated Ecosystem Stewardship and Health as absolutely essential, an additional 20 percent rated it as very important, and 79 percent of respondents felt that Ecosystem Health and Resilience should be one of the most important themes for guiding OSMP management in the future (2019 Master Plan Survey, updated January 2020, p. 14 https://bouldercolorado.gov/media/9920/download?inline.) As long as the full range of ecological impacts are carefully considered and addressed, BCAS supports the City Strategic Plan goals of reducing vehicle miles and greenhouse gas emissions. We do not believe it is appropriate or necessary to move forward with smaller, specific proposals ahead of OSMP's planned project and timeline. Globally imperiled plant communities and native species with declining or threatened populations occur on State Natural Areas on OSMP lands and in OSMP-designated Habitat Conservation Areas. Fragmenting these important areas with additional trails and visitors will decrease the biodiversity preserved in our open space system and reduce the ability of our native grasses and forests to continue sequestering large amounts of carbon. It is imperative that this multimodal planning effort prioritizes protection of these high-value natural areas and their biodiversity. Regarding reducing vehicle miles and greenhouse gas emissions, only nine percent of the 2019 survey respondents reported that bus, bike, or walking access was a barrier to visiting OSMP. Also, transition to electric cars is underway. From a climate perspective, we would like to see an analysis showing the relative climate value of preserving functioning ecosystems vs. how much fossil fuel vehicle use can actually be reduced by any actions proposed. According to the 2019 Master Plan Survey (p. 10), the majority of OSMP visitors are on foot - 85% hike or walk. This includes many of our members, many of whom are older adults who visit open space for quiet activities such as hiking and observing nature, including birdwatching. In areas with heavy bike use including the North Sky trail, Spring Brook trail, and the Marshall Mesa area, pedestrian visitors have already been displaced from OSMP trails due to degraded, unpleasant experiences and fear for their safety. Adding bikes to more trails will cause additional safety concerns for older adults and other pedestrians, and more displacement of pedestrians. In summary, we urge you to prioritize wildlife and ecosystems and to include safety of pedestrian OSMP visitors as an important component of safety concerns, as this multimodal project proceeds. Any new trail projects should include full review of their impacts to wildlife

---

I oppose the proposed expansion of the southern trail system proposed by the Boulder Mountainbike Alliance due to its environmental impacts and the impacts upon the user experience of hikers.
With regard to the road map for the Multimodal Improvements Assessment and the Mountainbikers request, I offer the following comments.

First, please ensure that the road map for this project is framed by the values articulated in the City Charter. And, that particular attention is paid to the requirements to preserve natural areas and water resources. For these environmental elements, the preservation requirements of the City Charter are:
(a) Preservation or restoration of natural areas characterized by or including terrain, geologic formations, flora, or fauna that are unusual, spectacular, historically important, scientifically valuable, or unique, or that represent outstanding or rare examples of native species;
(b) Preservation of water resources in their natural or traditional state, scenic areas or vistas, wildlife habitats, or fragile ecosystems.
See Article XII § 176 of the City Charter available at
https://library.municode.com/co/boulder/codes/municipal_code?nodeId=THCHBOCO
While the City is already knocking it out of the park when it comes to passive recreational opportunities, it is falling short on preservation.
Secondly, to further compliance with the environmental mandates of the City Charter, please direct Staff to develop a robust scoring matrix that expressly takes into account the environmental impacts on natural areas and water resources, including impacts on habitat, wildlife, pollinators, and native plant communities. For example, will there be increased weed dispersal in high quality natural areas? How much would it cost to manage areas which may become infested with weeds? What impacts upon wildlife and biodiversity will further habitat fragmentation have?
Thirdly, protect the experience of hikers. Afterall, the vast majority of people using Open Space are on foot. In fact, 85% of trail users are hiking or walking. See Figure 2: Question #2 "Activities in Which OSMP Area Visitors Engaged" in the statistically valid survey found in OSMP's 2019 Master Plan Survey (updated January 2020). A copy is available on page 14 of 592 of the PDF available here,
https://bouldercolorado.gov/media/9920/download?inline
I avoid certain trails because I have been verbally harassed by bikers when using them or have been placed in unsafe situations by speeding bikes. When I hike, I like to smell the earth, experience the texture and colors of plants, the quality of the light, or watch the way a bird feeds its young. I do not have the same experience when bikes are whizzing by and the riders tell me that I don't belong on the trail.
As Trustees, you are called upon to take into account the needs of all human users, including the dominant recreational user group - the hikers.[1]
Fourth and finally, when deciding what weight to give to greenhouse gas reductions, please ensure that you receive sufficient information to be sure that the climate benefits are truly there. Because both our forests and grasslands are very good at sequestering carbon, determining the net effect of new trails is not as simple as calculating the reduction in fossil-fuel vehicle miles travelled. A disciplined analysis would take into account the direct carbon cost of the materials and machines used to construct the trail, the rate of conversion to electric vehicles, and would also compare the reduction in carbon sequestration to the reduced emissions. With this information you could determine whether the best strategy is to: (1) preserve our functioning ecosystems, or (2) reduce miles driven in vehicles consuming fossil fuels.
Thank you for reviewing my comment letter and all that you do to steward, preserve, and restore Boulder's Open Spaces. They are one of the crown jewels of our community.

Thank you for your ongoing stewardship of Boulder's Open Space and Mountain Parks. Your dedication to balancing the protection of our natural resources with community access is vital, and I am grateful for the thoughtful work you do on behalf of our environment, residents and future generations.
I support the City's 7C multimodal vision, especially expanding bus service and strengthening roadway bike lanes to reach OSMP trailheads. These investments reduce car trips, improve safety, and connect communities without fragmenting wildlife habitats or adding bikes to pedestrian only trails. Protecting open space must remain the priority.
As a CU student in the late 1980s, I began cycling Boulder's roads and hiking its trails. Each decade the roads have grown more crowded and more dangerous, underscoring the need to fix our transportation infrastructure. Safer bike lanes and better bus service are the solutions, not pushing the problem into Open Space where new trails would harm habitats and diminish the pedestrian experience.

- Safety First: Solve access with roads and buses, not by fragmenting open space. Multi-modal solutions lie in expanded and strengthened roadway bike lanes and RTD circulator buses creating more bike trails through OSMP properties fragments wildlife habitats and impacts biodiversity. Automobile and bicycle conflicts and tragic accidents on high speed roads highlight the need for improving and building safer road routes.
- True Multimodal Access: Building new and improving existing bike lanes in our roadway infrastructure, along with increased bus service, will reduce car trips to trailheads without harming open space.
- Protect Grasslands: Don't fragment habitat and undermine conservation goals by creating new bike trails through OSMP grasslands, partner with the county and state to create bike safe/road-based infrastructure.
- Pedestrian Only Trails: Avoid adding bicycle traffic to heavily used pedestrian trails, create a safe road-based alternative for bicycle vehicles. Adding bikes would increase conflict and diminish the experience for horseback riders, hikers, walkers, families, and wildlife watchers.
- Alignment with Values: Multimodal access should mean safe, sustainable connection; not sacrificing ecological integrity.

I urge the Board to recommend that the City partner with Boulder County and the State of Colorado to build and strengthen bike lanes on roadways. Access to Open Space properties, regional trails, and neighboring communities should be addressed through regional transportation infrastructure, not by creating new trails that fragment habitats.
Thank you for your leadership in ensuring we can continue to protect wildlife, ride the roads safely, and reach our trailheads in ways that honor both conservation and community. Together we can expand sustainable connections while safeguarding the wildlife habitats and natural landscapes that define our region for generations to come.

I strongly support exploring a safe, off-street bike connection from South Boulder to the Doudy Draw trail system. Riders — especially youth — currently have no safe way to reach Doudy Draw from town without riding on busy streets and highways. I go to school at Southern Hills middle school and this would allow me safe access to the trails, which would be super cool!! This connection has strong community backing, and work to make this happen can begin now. LETS DO THIS!!!!!
Please keep this process moving

I have been a high school mountain bike coach for 7 years. We have had multiple safty issues getting kids from school to the Marshall trail area. Crossing and riding along Broadway is dangerous. The bike path crosses many blind street and driveway intersections where cars can not see riders until they are pulled out onto the bike path. I strongly support exploring a safe, off-street bike connection from South Boulder to the Doudy Draw trail system. Riders — especially youth — currently have no safe way to reach Doudy Draw from town without riding on busy streets and highways. This connection has strong community backing, and work to make this happen can begin now.

I strongly support exploring a safe, off-street bike connection from South Boulder to the Doudy Draw trail system. Riders — especially youth — currently have no safe way to reach Doudy Draw from town without riding on busy streets and highways. I have two daughters who both mountainbike; an off-street bike connection from South Boulder to the Doudy Draw trail system would make riding any of the south Boulder trails a lot saver. This connection has strong community backing, and work to make this happen can begin now. Please keep this process moving.

I'm writing in strong support of pursuing a safe, off-street cycling route from South Boulder to the Doudy Draw trail system. Right now, riders—especially youth—have no protected way to reach the trails without navigating high-traffic roads. Hundreds of high school mountain bikers commute from Boulder to Dowdy Draw during their fall season and this route would create a safe option for them. This project has broad community support, and the groundwork to advance it can begin now. I encourage you to keep this effort moving forward

---

I strongly support exploring a safe, off-street bike connection from South Boulder to the Doudy Draw trail system. Riders — especially youth — currently have no safe way to reach Doudy Draw from town without riding on busy streets and highways. This connection has strong community backing, and work to make this happen can begin now. Please keep this process moving. As a long time South Boulder resident, I know this would be a huge improvement and used by many, including my 10 year old son who loves mountain biking as much as the rest of Boulder :)

This is a safety issue that needs addressing. Mountain bikers, especially kids need safe access to trails. Please make this [south sky] connection!

I strongly support exploring a safe, off-street bike connection from South Boulder to the Doudy Draw trail system. Riders — especially youth — currently have no safe way to reach Doudy Draw from town without riding on busy streets and highways. This connection has strong community backing, and work to make this happen can begin now. Please keep this process moving.

My name is Heather Williams… I am also the Program Director at Singletrack Mountain Bike Adventures (SMBA) which is a youth non-profit mountain bike program for kids ages 5-18 headquartered in Boulder. In addition to my Program Director duties, I ride with all our after school and summer camp groups which is about 145 days on trails with various groups of athletes between March and October each season. Some of these days include rides at Doudy Draw / Springbrook and Flatirons Vista; especially during the fall and spring with our after-school programs. Currently there is not a safe route for our groups to ride to and from the south Boulder trailheads without requiring riding on a large section of roadway with cars, limited shoulder, and a crossing where cross traffic does not stop. While Marshall Road has low traffic volume, there is very little shoulder and a group riding to the Marshall Mesa trailhead is still required to cross CO-170 which does have a higher volume of traffic and that traffic does not have a stop sign. If a group of our athletes wanted to ride to Doudy Draw without having to ride through Marshall Mesa and Community Ditch first, then they would have to cross HWY 93 at the light and ride down Eldorado Rd. to the trailhead, again a roadway with cars and increased risk of a potential collision between one of our young athletes and a vehicle. Rider safety and risk management is a priority in our program and is considered when we make our ride plan each day, which means that we are often forced to use van transportation to and from the Doudy Draw trailhead for most of our group rides there. Although this allows us to use the trails, it adds to vehicle congestion in an already crowded parking lot. A trail connection between South Boulder and Doudy Draw trailhead would create a safe route to the trails, potentially reduce traffic congestion in the parking lots, and encourage healthy and environmentally friendly transportation among our youth. The Lower Big Bluesteam trail reroute presents a great opportunity to reroute an eroded trail out of a wetland to a more sustainable alignment that can serve as a bike connector. The connection has already been identified as a priority by the community and OSBT staff. Let's continue to keep this connection a priority, especially for the health and safety of our youth.

Please support the next steps in making the Doudy draw trail system connect with Shanahan Ridge. As a resident born and raised in Boulder I have been a part of the cycling community for decades. I have also raised a family active in cycling. This connector trail is paramount to both keeping our community safe, away

from busy roads to connect to the trail system(s) and an essential part of continuing to recognize and support the outdoor lifestyle that makes Boulder a very special place. I hope you will support this process moving forward.

I strongly support exploring a safe, off-street bike connection from South Boulder to the Doudy Draw trail system. Riders — especially youth — currently have no safe way to reach Doudy Draw from town without riding on busy streets and highways. This connection has strong community backing, and work to make this happen can begin now. As a parent with two girls on the high school mountain bike team, I know they need safe options for local riding from their high school for weekday after-school practices. This would help open a lot of options. Please keep this process moving

---

I strongly support exploring a safe, off-street bike connection from South Boulder to the Doudy Draw trail system. Riders — especially youth — currently have no safe way to reach Doudy Draw from town without riding on busy streets and highways. This connection has strong community backing, and work to make this happen can begin now. Please keep this process moving.

As a parent coach for the Fairview HS Mountain Bike Team, I strongly support exploring a safe, off-street bike connection from South Boulder to the Doudy Draw trail system. The vast majority of our practices are conducted on South Boulder Trails, and the access route we must use along Broadway, down Marshall Road, and crossing Highway 93 makes me very nervous over fear that we have a serious accident involving numerous cars commuting home and one of our young riders. Fairview riders contribute 500 hours of volunteer trail building each year and would be more than happy to make this new corridor happen and maintain it as a safe resource for the community. Please keep this process moving.

I strongly support exploring a safe, off-street bike connection from South Boulder to the Doudy Draw trail system. Mountain biking is one of the most popular clubs in the Boulder schools, and the kids really do not have a safe way to access the trails. This connection has strong community backing, and I hope that the work to make this happen can begin now. Please keep this process moving.

I live in Boulder because of the access to the outdoors, as does my family. I strongly support exploring a safe, off-street bike connection from South Boulder to the Doudy Draw trail system. Riders — especially kids — currently have no safe way to reach Doudy Draw from town without riding on busy streets and highways. This connection has strong community backing, and work to make this happen can begin now. Please keep this process moving.

I strongly support exploring a safe, off-street bike connection from South Boulder to the Doudy Draw trail system. Riders — especially youth — currently have no safe way to reach Doudy Draw from town without riding on busy streets and highways. This connection has strong community backing, and work to make this happen can begin now. Please keep this process moving.

I am emailing to support the proposal to build a trail to connect Dowdy Draw to Shanahan Ridge in Boulder. Please let me know if there's anything else I can do to support this project

---

Please vote for it :) This connector would go from Shanahan Ridge to Doudy Draw on the West side of 93 and would give riders a safe, all-dirt MTB route instead of using busy roads and highways

---

Writing with massive support for the South Sky connector. As a frequent North Sky user, I can't state enough how this will dramatically improve safety of cyclists recreating in this corridor. Let's do everything we can to keep cars and cyclists safe - what a great solution we have with South Sky

---

Writing to express my support for a mountain bike connector between Shanahan Ridge and Doudy Draw. Help keep me and my friends safe as we ride out from South Boulder

---

The grasslands extending from the Greenbriar Connector trail southward to the South Boulder Creek West trail are highly rare relicts of biological and geological circumstance. Erosion has spared many areas that now include very old soils and grassland plant communities. These areas may look like just more grass to many. They have been studied by geologists, and also by botanists and ecologists. The result has been the discovery that they are part of a highly unusual and likely unique time sequence of soil and plant community development. These areas represent an element of biodiversity little known or understood yet by science. It is important to protect these natural oddities for future scientific research into how they have survived up to 2 million years of dramatic climate change. Management of the area as a Hiking Only part of Open Space has protected them. Recognition of their value has been demonstrated by designation of much of this area as a Colorado Natural Area. Allowing mechanized recreation in the area would threaten these special natural features. It would almost surely lead to their degradation. Mechanized forms of recreational access, including bicycles, ebikes or other electric motorcycles, invite adventuresome exploration of what seems to be "just grass." It is too much to expect mechanized users focused on fun and exercise to practice forbearance fostered by disciplined respect for unique natural features. Please maintain the Hiking Only management of these areas.

I'm Karen Hollweg, and I come before you as one of the very few (perhaps the only?) member of the West TSA Community Collaborative Group here tonight. I'm here to comment on and make some suggestions for improving staff's "Scope, Methodology and Schedule" for the Multimodal Improvement Assessment. As staff has pointed out, "understanding current conditions" is an essential first step in this, and in any planning process. My biggest concern is that some of the counts required to assess levels of use need to be done in warm months – NOT Quarter 1. Afterall, January, February and March are the coldest and historically snowiest months we have.The reason these counts are important is that before adding a new user group to a trail or street, it's important to understand current levels of use (as we learned in the West TSA planning process). As several have already pointed out, it's not safe to add bike use to a road with ...say 50 vehicles /min. zipping by – never mind a state highway with vehicles traveling at 50 to 60 mph. Similarly, it's not safe to add bikes traveling 15 or more mph to a trail with 30 or so hikers, runners, dog walkers/min. who are already using the trail.

Just as it's important to do in-person intercept surveys on a trail to find out what trail users say, it's important to do on the ground assessments of proposed multi-modal routes to assess current conditions. For example,

• during the West TSA Planning Process, we counted so many people hiking, running, walking dogs on the Mesa Trail that that was one of the factors that led to its NO bike designation; and recently, on Marshall Rd. on a sunny October day, I counted 37 vehicles and 64 bikers per hour.

These are important counts that should guide decision-making.

So, Once potential "focus areas" have been selected for multi-modal access, it's essential to count users on trails being considered for multi-modal use during peak use/on sunny warm days – i.e. in Q2 and 3. I realize

this will require a significant revision in the proposed timeline, but for staff's recommendations to be functional, such data is necessary

---

I'm writing as a South Boulder resident and frequent user of Shanahan Ridge, South Mesa, and Doudy Draw as a runner and mountain biker to express strong support for the proposed "South Sky" connection between Shanahan Ridge and Doudy Draw. The North Sky trail has shown how powerful a safe, car-free connection from town to open space can be. A similar South Sky connection would provide that same opportunity for South Boulder: allowing people to ride or walk from their neighborhood directly to Doudy Draw and the broader Marshall Mesa / Flatirons Vista network without relying on a car. This would: Improve safety by giving riders and families an alternative to mixing with high-speed traffic on Eldorado Springs Drive and Highway 93. Reduce parking pressure and congestion at the Doudy Draw and South Mesa trailheads. Directly advance the goals of OSMP's Strategic Plan Action 7C to improve multimodal access to open space. Make access to our open space more equitable for people who don't want to or can't drive. The upcoming Lower Big Bluestem reroute and the 7C multimodal effort create a unique, time-sensitive opportunity to thoughtfully plan this connection rather than trying to retrofit it later at greater cost and with more impact. I encourage you to: Direct staff to fully evaluate a safe, off-road, bike-accessible connection from Shanahan Ridge to Doudy Draw as part of the early 7C work; and Consider options such as opening the existing Greenbriar Connector to bikes and assessing whether South Boulder Creek West, Lower Big Bluestem, or a new alignment provides the best multimodal route. Boulder Mountain bike Alliance has outlined this concept in more detail here: https://www.bouldermountainbike.org/south-sky-imagine-a-shanahan-ridge-to-doudy-drawconnection/ Please use tomorrow's discussion to keep the South Sky connection clearly on the table and to signal that you want staff to bring back concrete options for a safe, continuous neighborhoodto-trailhead route in South Boulder. Thank you for your time and for your work on OSMP

I strongly support exploring a safe, off-street bike connection from South Boulder to the Doudy Draw trail system. Riders — especially youth — currently have no safe way to reach Doudy Draw from town without riding on busy streets and highways. This connection has strong community backing, and work to make this happen can begin now. Please keep this process moving.

Do not put a bike trail from shanahan to dowdy draw. That would be devastating.

I'm writing to voice my support for a safe, off-street bike connection from South Boulder to the Doudy Draw trail system. I ride the current route multiple times a week and now ride it with my 10yr old son as well. Riders like myself and my son currently have no safe way to reach Doudy Draw from town without riding on busy streets and highways. Please keep this process moving.

I'm a South Boulder resident and strongly support a possible bike connection from South Boulder to the Doudy Draw trail system. There is no safe way to reach Doudy Draw from town without riding on busy streets and highways (crossing 93 at Greenbriar or elsewhere, also at Marshall road). The open space with the cattle on it would hardly be changed by one trail and this would make a great addition to the limited trails available to off-road cyclists in Boulder. Please keep this process moving!!

I am writing this email to state my strong support for establishing a bike connection from South Boulder to the Doudy Draw trail system. My daughter is a high school student at Fairview and she rides her mountain bike on the Doudy Draw system multiple times per week during the summer/fall (she is a member of the Fairview

Mountain bike team). Unfortunately there is no safe way to reach Doudy Draw from south Boulder without going on roads that are often busy, so this connector would serve to greatly improve bicycle safety. Please keep this process moving.

I strongly support a safe, off-street bike connection from South Boulder to the Doudy Draw trail system. Riders — especially youth — currently have no safe way to reach Doudy Draw from town without riding on busy streets and highways. This connection has strong community backing, and is a wonderful way to ensure bikers like my 2 kids (one currently at Fairview on the mountain bike team and another in a local mountain bike club) have safe access to these areas. Thank you so much for getting this process moving!

As a resident of Boulder for nearly 40 years (and an avid outdoorsman), I strongly support the bike connection from South Boulder to the Doudy Draw trail system. A couple of years ago I sat in on an OSMP call to discuss options for our High school athletes to safely ride Marshall Mesa and Doudy draw. The idea of opening this trail got me excited and relieved. Safety is the biggest driver, but the enjoyment of the outdoors is important to me and my family as well. We live in North Boulder and rarely ride or hike Doudy draw due to the amount of time on the roadways. Like many Boulder residents, we try to cut down on the use of cars. Taking the bike path to Shanahan ridge would open our options, keep us off the roads and expand Boulder's culture of cycling. Please keep this process moving. Open the trail and let's enjoy more of Boulder's trails.

I strongly support exploring a safe, off-street bike connection from South Boulder to the Doudy Draw trail system. Riders — especially youth — currently have no safe way to reach Doudy Draw from town without riding on busy streets and highways. This connection has strong community backing, and work to make this happen can begin now

---

Thank you for considering a proposed off-road bike connection from Shanahan Ridge in South Boulder to the Doudy Draw trail system. Cyclists of all types can currently only access Doudy Draw by riding on Marshall and Eldorado roads or driving to the trailhead. Having an off-road route from South Boulder to Doudy Draw would offer a safe alternative that would benefit everyone, especially youth. It will also help reduce car trips to the trailhead, partially addressing the issue of parking congestion. An off-road, bikeable route is something that everyone I know in South Boulder, especially those with younger riders, have wanted for years. Based on the tremendous success of the North Sky trail, a "South Sky" route seems poised for success. Now is the time to make this happen.

I've lived and played in Boulder for the past 12 years, and love all the amazing opportunities Boulder open space has to offer. I recently learned about a proposal to build a MTB connection from South Boulder'e Shanahan ridge to Doudy draw. This would be an amazing development and add quality MTB experience for the local community, free up the parking space at doudy draw, and invite more people to bike from Sobo, to the MTB trail systems and Eldo on trails Please consider my strong support for such development. More MTB friendly trails would be a welcome addition to our cherished open space.

I strongly support exploring a safe, off-street bike connection from South Boulder to the Doudy Draw trail system. Riders — especially youth — currently have no safe way to reach Doudy Draw from town without riding on busy streets and highways. This connection has strong community backing, and work to make this happen can begin now. I am a high school mountain bike coach and these types of connectors keep our kids safe!

I strongly support exploring a safe, off-street bike connection from South Boulder to the Doudy Draw trail system. Riders — especially youth — currently have no safe way to reach Doudy Draw from town without riding on busy streets and highways. This connection has strong community backing, and work to make this happen can begin now. Please keep this process moving.

I wanted to express my support for a safe, off-street bike connection from South Boulder to the Doudy Draw trail system. This connection would provide a safe, off road option to access the amazing trails down by doudy draw. The North sky trail is amazing and I'd love to see something similar in South Boulder

---

I am the owner of Sports Garage Cycling, as well as an avid cyclist and a Coach for the Boulder High Mountain Bike team. I have lived in Boulder for over 30 years, and it has been great to see the increase in trails such as Benjamin many years ago and, more recently, the North Sky Trail. Personally, I know it makes Boulder a better place to live with added recreational opportunities and safer routes to the other trail systems. Tying the network together is important, both for the recreational aspect and for the safety of both riders and drivers. As a coach for the Boulder high school team, we work really hard to find safe ways of getting to the trails so the kids can enjoy our great open space, train, and most importantly, have fun without fearing an accident with a car. Having access to Dowdy from Shanahan Ridge would open many possibilities for routes, and it would be a big improvement to the network that is already in place. Boulder will be a safer, better place to live with this trail. Thank you for considering this addition, and I hope you vote to allow the construction of this trail!

I strongly support exploring a safe, off-street bike connection from South Boulder to the Doudy Draw trail system. Riders — especially youth — currently have no safe way to reach Doudy Draw from town without riding on busy streets and highways. This connection has strong community backing, and work to make this happen can begin now. I have 2 children who bike and apart of the biking community. I would love for them to have a safeway to get to Dowdy draw without riding on 93. Please keep this process moving and support this,

---

It would be so impactful for the mtb biking community to have the South sky Connector be put in the plans and come to life. Projects like this make boulder so special - and safer for bikers.

I would like to express my deep interest in a connector trail from south boulder to doudy draw that permits cyclists. As a resident of South Boulder and mountain biker, this would greatly increase my access to the Marshall Mesa trail network and prevent me from having to ride on roads to access the trail networks. This would be especially impactful for families in South Boulder who are looking to get their children out on trails without riding on roads.

It would be so impactful for the mtb biking community to have the South sky Connector be put in the plans and come to life. Projects like this make boulder so special - and safer for bikers

---

I'm 100 percent in favor of a South Sky MTB connection in South Boulder.

A mountain bike trail connecting to Dowdy Draw would be a tremendous addition. Currently, parking at Dowdy Draw sucks during busy times, and driving to ride your bike is even worse! Please help add a pleasant way to access Dowdy Draw without driving.

On behalf of our outdoor hiking and cycling family of 3 - including a sophomore on the mountain bike team at Fairview High School - we strongly support exploring a safe, off-street bike connection from South Boulder to the Doudy Draw trail system. Riders — especially youth — currently have no safe way to reach Doudy Draw from town without riding on busy streets and highways. This connection has strong community backing, and work to make this happen can begin now. Please keep this process moving to make a positive and lasting impact for our community! Thanks for your consideration

---

I've been in Boulder for over 20 years. We need more mountain bike trails in the West TSA. Boulderites waste too much time pollution loading mountain bikes into their vehicles to drive to distant trailheads because there is insufficient mountain bike access provided from within city limits. I support the proposed South Sky Trail as well as a renewed mindset to support adding additional future mountain bike trails on city open space land. In support of this trail, please consider the following points:
- No Unnecessary Bridges: build the trail in a frugal way and don't waste money using helicopters to install unnecessary over-built bridges like we saw at the North Sky trail and at Chapman.
- Minimize Trail Closures: minimize trail closures while allowing bikes on these trails. Consider simple solutions like updating the signage and using existing trails, then upgrading them in-place and over time. Don't close trails for months-to-years as was done on the Beech Trail when North Sky was built.
- Prioritize Recreation Access: encourage the open space department to prioritize access to recreation on our open space lands more generally, minimizing extended trail closures and looking for new ways to expand access to under supported user groups.

I am writing in advance of your December 10th meeting, to express strong support for the potential bike connection between South Boulder and the Doudy Draw trail and highlight the meaningful benefits it would bring to the community. The proposed route—from Shanahan Ridge to Doudy Draw on the west side of Highway 93— would provide mountain bikers with a safe, sustainable, all-dirt alternative to traveling along busy roads and highways. Currently, riders must navigate high-traffic corridors to reach these trail systems, creating unnecessary safety risks and discouraging use of the open space network. An off-road connection would significantly improve rider safety while supporting the city's broader goals around multimodal access, recreation equity, and responsible outdoor stewardship. Beyond safety, this connector would seamlessly link two highly traveled areas, reduce vehicle dependence, and enhance the overall trail experience for residents and visitorsalike. It aligns with Boulder's longstanding commitment to thoughtful trail planning that respects natural resources while enabling sustainable recreation. I encourage the Board to continue advancing this connection and to recognize the substantial positive impact it could have on our community and our open space system. Thank you for your time and for your continued dedication to managing Boulder's public lands

---

I strongly support exploring a safe, off-street bike connection from South Boulder to the Doudy Draw trail system. Riders — especially youth — currently have no safe way to reach Doudy Draw from town without riding on busy streets and highways. My family and I have lived in South Boulder for over 17 years and routinely use the trails in the Doudy Draw trail system. Having a safe route to access these trails from town, without having to drive and park, would be a benefit for the entire community in multiple ways. We believe in your mission and our votes have always supported Open Space funding. I trust the Open Space Board will make the right decision to allow the development process to move forward on this initiative.

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed off-street bike connection from South Boulder to the Doudy Draw trail area. As a resident of Boulder County since 1982 and avid cyclist since 1986, I am very much in favor of adding safe ways to connect between the various trail systems in the county. My wife is also a frequent cyclist who refuses to ride on roads with motor vehicles, so this would also be of great benefit to her. And my 17 year old son is a competitive cyclist (enduro mountain biking, cyclocross, etc) and I would like to see additional ways for him to be able to utilize the local trails without placing hm in danger by having to ride on streets with cars and other vehicles. All three of us in my family ride the Doudy Draw trail system frequently, and adding this connection would allow us to get into the city without needing to switch into a car to do so safely. Please continue to keep this project moving for the benefit and safety of our community.

I strongly support a safe, off-street bike connection from South Boulder to the Doudy Draw trail system. This project would improve rider safety, alleviate congestion, and solidify Boulder's reputation as a bike friendly city. Riders — especially youth — currently have no safe way to reach Doudy Draw from town without riding on busy streets and highways. As a MTB coach for Fairview HS, I experience first hand the safety risks of the team's current route to south Boulder trails - Marshall road, often crossing a busy 93 at the Eldorado Canyon intersection. It is unfortunately just a matter of when, not if, an accident will happen unless off-road access is improved. In addition to the safety concern, access to the Marshall Mesa trail system is highly congested due to popularity of the trails, lack of sufficient MTB trails throughout the city, and construction of the new trailhead. A Shanahan Ridge to Doudy Draw MTB Connection would divert substantial bike traffic and reduce the number of cars accessing the south Boulder trail networks. Finally, let's restore Boulder to its rightful place as a bike friendly destination. A "South Sky" trail to complement the recently completed "North Sky" section would signal that Boulder is still willing and able to build great outdoor access for all recreation activities. This connection has strong community backing, and is teed up to go. Please take action to approve and construct the Shanahan Ridge to Doudy Draw Bike Connection trail. It's clearly the right thing to do. I'll even offer to help build the trail, and I know dozens of FHS MTB volunteers who will do the same. Just give us the chance!

My name is Martha and I've lived in Boulder for almost 10 years and I love our trail system so much. I love biking and running and I think a bike accessible trail from Shanahan Ridge to Doudy Draw would be an incredible opportunity for the city of Boulder and its residents! A safe off-road connection between Shanahan Ridge and Doudy Draw would have such a positive impact! I'm soon moving to South Boulder and would personally use this biking trail multiple times per week to get over to Doudy Draw. The parking lots (Marshall Mesa, Doudy Draw ect) are frequently full, and riding a mountain bike on the roads is less fun and more unsafe, having a connector trail would help mitigate both of these issues.
Thank you for your consideration and all of the work that you do for Boulder.

I am writing to express strong support for the development of a mountain bike connector between South Boulder and the Dowdy Draw trail system. This connection presents an important opportunity to improve safe, sustainable access for riders while advancing Boulder County's commitments to equitable recreational use. At present, riders traveling between these areas must rely on busy roads and highways, which creates unnecessary safety risks. An all-dirt, designated mountain bike route would provide a safe, environmentally responsible alternative. While the region offers numerous hiker-focused trails, there remain no comparable options for mountain bikers. This imbalance limits access for a significant and growing user group that relies on soft-surface, bike legal connections to recreate responsibly. A connector trail would meaningfully address this gap, distribute use more effectively across the landscape, and support the County's broader objectives of providing diverse, low-impact outdoor recreation opportunities. The connector would also be incredibly beneficial to the the various mountain bike teams that regularly utilize the south boulder trail network, especially those in South Boulder. Fairview, Summit and Southern Hills Middle Schools, BJC and SMBA to name a few. These teams regularly drive to the trailheads further south and the more they can connect from

town the lower their carbon footprint will be. I respectfully encourage the Board to prioritize planning, public engagement, and environmental review for a South Boulder–Dowdy Draw connector and to consider the substantial public benefits associated with enhanced bicycle access. This community needs and would greatly value this addition to the trail network. Thank you for your time and for your ongoing stewardship of our public lands. I appreciate your consideration of this important matter

---

I am writing to express strong support for the development of a mountain bike connector between South Boulder and the Dowdy Draw trail system. This connection presents an important opportunity to improve safe, sustainable access for riders while advancing Boulder County's commitments to equitable recreational use. At present, riders traveling between these areas must rely on busy roads and highways, which creates unnecessary safety risks. An all-dirt, designated mountain bike route would provide a safe, environmentally responsible alternative. While the region offers numerous hiker-focused trails, there remain no comparable options for mountain bikers. This imbalance limits access for a significant and growing user group that relies on soft-surface, bike legal connections to recreate responsibly. A connector trail would meaningfully address this gap, distribute use more effectively across the landscape, and support the County's broader objectives of providing diverse, low-impact outdoor recreation opportunities. I respectfully encourage the Board to prioritize planning, public engagement, and environmental review for a South Boulder–Dowdy Draw connector and to consider the substantial public benefits associated with enhanced bicycle access. This community needs and would greatly value this addition to the trail network. Thank you for your time and for your ongoing stewardship of our public lands. I appreciate your consideration of this important matter

---

I strongly support exploring a safe, off-street bike connection from South Boulder to the Doudy Draw trail system. Riders — especially youth — currently have no safe way to reach Doudy Draw from town without riding on busy streets and highways. This connection has strong community backing, and work to make this happen can begin now. Please keep this process moving.

It's really quite simple, riding a bike on a road with cars is scary and I always feel the potential danger of getting hit by a distracted or unaware driver. On the other hand, riding a bike on a bike path or trail is amazing. We live in Boulder because we love the outdoors. Let's make this trail a reality.

I am writing in support of the bike connection between South Boulder and Doudy Draw trail systems. An all-dirt, off-road trail to connect riders to the popular Doudy Draw area would open bike connectivity and contribute greatly to rider and traffic safety. Please support this proposal.

My family and I strongly support exploring a safe, off-street bike connection from South Boulder to the Doudy Draw trail system. Riders — especially youth — currently have no safe way to reach Doudy Draw from town without riding on busy streets and highways. This connection has strong community backing, and work to make this happen can begin now. Please keep this process moving and support and protect our kids.

I strongly support exploring a safe, off-street bike connection from South Boulder to the Doudy Draw trail system. Riders — especially youth — currently have no safe way to reach Doudy Draw from town without riding on busy streets and highways. As someone who likes to connect my rides from Boulder to Arvada, this trail would help to keep me off the road and safer when riding. This connection has strong community backing, and work to make this happen can begin now. Please keep this process moving.

I strongly support exploring a safe, off-street bike connection from South Boulder to the Doudy Draw trail system. Riders — especially youth — currently have no safe way to reach Doudy Draw from town without riding on busy streets and highways. This connection has strong community backing, and work to make this happen can begin now. Please keep this process moving.

Open Space Board of Trustees:

Even as a mountain biker since 1981, I strongly favor hikers only on the trails between Shanahan Ridge and South Mesa Trailhead. With increased Boulder area population, our local trails are becoming congested with hikers. Adding the mountain bikes to the trail system crowds the pathways, widens trails, increases erosion, and lessens the value of a restorative walk in the Open Space.

Although Forest Service roads are less accessible, they offer miles of scenic and challenging riding. Additionally, on-street bicycle lanes are useful for in town transportation.

We walk or ride our bikes to trails whenever possible as parking can often be problematic. I would like to comment on the Lehigh Connector trailhead on Lehigh. Our home is diagonally across the street from the trail. As everywhere trail usage has significantly increased in the past six years. Once the city of boulder started charging for parking on Baseline road (not a neighborhood and a main road) the congestion and parking problems on or street got exponentially worse . People park right up to the edge of our driveway in their large vehicles making it dangerous to back out. They trample the plants on the apron by the curb. Their dogs poop in the rocks there (and they dont clean it up). It is impossible to park in front or our home. I dont understand the thinking in creating a situation where a trailhead in a neighborhood gets so many people funneled from the main trailheads at Chautauqua . We would certainly appreciate any help that could be provided, especially in the near impossibility of backing out of our driveway safely and having our plants trampeled.

I'm submitting a comment with regards to the project goal of identifying gaps or barriers to accessing and using trails. I frequently mountain bike at Dowdy Draw and experience barriers accessing the trailhead because there is not a safe way to access the trail from my house in Shanahan Ridge. I frequently drive to the trailhead, even though it is so close to my house. I am in favor of improving access to Dowdy Draw through the development of a Shanahan Ridge to Dowdy Draw trail connector. This would greatly improve my ability to ride from my house in Shanahan Ridge and improve access for everyone -- including hikers, runners, and fellow bikers -- who want to enjoy Dowdy Draw without getting in the car.

Hello! I am an avid hiker and mountain biker living in table mesa. Im grateful for the hiking trail access in So Bo, I wish there was a safe way to access mountain bike trails without the need of a car. While I can take a bike path part of the way to Marshall Mesa, you must bike on Marshall Road and 190 to access this network which I am not comfortable doing, even as an adult. Knowing how often Marshall Mesa is ridden by Fairview and BJC kids, a path connecting SoBo to Dowdy Draw/Marshall Mesa would be heavily utilized by this population as well. In addition, there isn't easy trail access for adaptive wheelchairs or user anywhere in South Boulder or the Flatirons, so I would also urge making a trail disability friendly. While bike commuting around the town of Boulder is easy, trail access without a car is not in SoBo. Just one trail opened to bike in SoBo would go a long way to helping our community have better trail access.

Do you have any plans to increase rangers patrolling the OSMP trails to prevent users from smoking on them?

I continue to live here (52 years) in no small part because the local trails are invaluable to me, both for the exercise, sense of community and mental well being. I use them daily, rain, snow, ice, scorching sun, regardless, it's that important to me. But at 75 with knee (and other) issues some have become less user friendly either due to "improvements" (steps) or lack of maintenance.

Coot/Rez were my winter favorite till 29 steps were put in connecting the upper and lower trails on the Rez side. Dakota Ridge (Sanitas) was a summer time favorite till massive steps were added there. As for lack of maintenance, still waiting on the de facto entrance to the Valley Trail (from Mapleton) which has become ankle turning treacherous rock.

I also take issue with charging local tax paying residents to park at Chautauqua on summer weekends. In the same way an exception is make for Flagstaff parking for locals, so it should be for those of us who continue to pay taxes for use of these trails, especially given that 80% of Chautauqua visitation is out of area.

Yes, I will continue to vote for Open Space taxation but would be grateful for consideration given to Boulder's aging population that has supported the program for decades.

We spend too much time and money catering to the cycling community. At my age (75), I can no longer bicycle. One fall could cripple me for the rest of my life. But I'm also wary of the minority of bicyclists who speed down trails (especially on paved paths, like along the creek near busy Eben Fine park. I don't want to get run over). From my house, bus service is many blocks away, so I don't take the bus. I walk to nearby trails, but we have to drive if we want a change of scenery. Stop the crusade against cars--it discriminates against older Boulder residents. You'll be one of them someday.

You need to add more parking in the Chatauqua. It could easily be done by cutting in spaces along baseline. Or by adding a whole parking lot in lower Chatauqua. I know you won't do that because it's way too practical, but the fact is that people drive to go hike, climb, picnic, listen to music or eat at the restaurant. They don't ride bikes or take the shuttle. Lower Chatauqua has no historic or untouched nature value, why not add spaces so the poor, the tourists, the handicapped and the elderly can enjoy the glory of the park?

I would love to get to more trailheads by bike, specifically my gravel bike. Connecting the south end of the Mesa Trail with a bikeable trail/fire road that starts at the Boulder city limits (off Greenbriar) would accomplish that.

Using existing trail/fire road would be all it takes, so not a fancy MTB trail, more of an access trail. This would also allow mountain bikers to access the Dowdy Draw complex of trails on their bikes. While the frontage road/Marshall Road provides a low traffic route, an off-road option would be great. The older I get, the more I seek roads w/o cars, such as Chapman, which is great.

Thank you,

David

Keep up the efforts to make the city even more walkable. I try to walk rather than drive to errands.

I really like the newish pedestrian cut-through between 31st and 30th (Target), Pearl and Walnut. It follows a

ditch. I use that pleasant path often to walk toTarget and Whole Foods.

I also appreciate the mid-block pedestrian crossings with the flashing lights. Again, it makes walking more appealing.

I would ride my bike more often but I hear so much about stolen bikes that I'm afraid to leave it outside a store even if locked. I only ride my bike for pleasure, not errands.

I have a few questions for you about your budgeting plans for OSMP. I have lived in my home near OSMP since 1977.
Do you have plans for rangers to patrol and enforce no fire ie no smoking and no campfire bans on and near OSMP trails given the increased fire danger this year?
Do you have plans, given the increased fire danger, for OSMP staff and crews to remove dead trees, tall grasses and dead bushes on OSMP property in urban interface neighborhoods like Wonderland Hills?
Is there clear communication between the City of Boulder and Boulder County about OSMP urban interface maintenance?
Thank you

Hi there,

I wanted to add a comment in support of the Boulder Mountainbike Alliance's push for a bike access trail from south Boulder to the Dowdy Draw/Marshall Mesa area. As a resident of the Shanahan ridge area, when I want to bike in the Dowdy Draw/Marshall Mesa area I either have to drive to the trailhead or ride along Marshall road. Opening up bike access to go between the areas would help mountainbikers stay off the busier roads, and make access to the wonderful trails in that area significantly more convenient, pleasant, and safer as would reduce cyclists on the road. Please consider opening up a bike-friendly trail to connect south Boulder to the Dowdy Draw/Marshall Mesa area!

Thank you,
Andy Walowitz

As a frequent hiker on City Open Space, I frequently meet people who live outside Boulder or even outside Boulder County on our trails. For example, one friend’s Mom from Louisville hikes or runs Boulder Open Space trails 3 times a week year round. I would like to see all open space lots charge out-of-City users. The Open Space Fund has many needs and this would be a simple way to increase capacity without construction and minimal cost while charging users that do not pay into the Open Space Fund. This method seems to work well at the South Mesa Trailhead and Flatirons Vista and I would like to see it implemented system-wide.

I also would like to see trail renovation follow the model of Lion’s Lair which is highly accessible to older users because of its design. This design uses natural boulders to form steps which have options for a large step up or a step that’s half the height. There are no long runs of multiple steps but rather the grade is continuously up with limited small groups of natural rock steps. I hike this trail frequently.

I was very excited about the upgrade to Anemone trail. However, I’m unable to hike this trail because of the numerous steps using pre-cut stone where there’s only the one large step up choice. Plus the trail is flat or even reverses the incline in many places which requires long runs of these precut steps. This makes it inaccessible to me and my many fellow older hikers in the Flatirons Club, Colorado Mountain Club and University Women's Club, combined membership totalling 2,000+. These members are dedicated hikers and are on open space trails multiple times a week but avoid the trails with many precut steps. With the

increasingly older but still active population of Boulder, it’s forward thinking to use a more accessible trail design like Lion’s Lair. Please go back to the much more accessible design of the Lion’s Lair Trail for future upgrades.

Hi,

I'd love to see safer bike access to biking trails, and in particular, the Dowdy Trail trailhead in South Boulder. The trailhead is often overcrowded and parking shortages force cars to park along (and often in) the bike lanes/shoulder along highway 170. This makes biking to this trailhead especially dangerous.

It'd be great to see a connector trail from South Boulder to Dowdy Draw, which would allow access to those trails as well as the connecting trails further east and south.

Thanks,
Sara

I just finished hiking all of the trails in the system. I rode my bike to many. Some were not convenient....I had to connect to a sign or walk a block. Seriously, this is not our highest priority!! We should be protecting our land from wildfires first and THEN looking at multi-modal transport. PLEASE, re-evaluate this project.

Before hiking on Friday, my friend and I talked about carpooling to the South Mesa Trail trailhead. I live near Baseline and Foothills. She lives near Broadway and Table Mesa. We considered the parking lot by Neptune Sports and decided the lot is for the shops. We both ended up driving separately.
It would be nice if Boulder had parking lots for carpooling around town. Free lots.

If there was a shuttle bus that allowed dogs that could be great. Maybe there could be an additional tag (I already have Voice & Sight for my dog) for $20 that would allow me to ride the shuttle with my dog (human rides free if you have the extra tag that allows your dog in the bus) and I would assume there would be the kind of “test” like V& S requires to make sure your dog is able to ride the bus safely with other dogs on board.

Thank you for all the work you do for trail access and other improvements. I would like OSMP to consider placing a natural rock at trailheads, and where gates are placed for equestrians. Not all your gates are safe for equestrians to pass through without dismounting, so a block or rock of some sort would be of use for mounting back on your horse. You take the time to accommodate cyclist with bike racks and ramps. Larimer County adds natural landscape objects, like rocks, to be "inclusive" in trail designs. They also place any chains higher on the gates so you can easily open them and close them from the top of the gate without dismounting if the gate is designed wide enough for safe passage. Recently OSMP place a sign where the new trail into hidden valley, near the Silver Canyon coffee roasters alerting users of NO BIKE use. The person placed the sign so close to the gate, which makes it difficult for equestrians to pass through without dismounting. Then there is no rock placed to remount. Please consider these natural objects for equestrian users when designing your access gates.
Best Linda Parks

Hello. I live in South Boulder near the Shanahan RIdge access point at the top of Lehigh. It is no mystery that this has become a very active access point as is obvious from the number of cars parking along Lehigh and

Lafayette. I am concerned about the initiatives in Devils Thumb to restrict parking near the trail access points. This is not fair and will only further exacerbate the parking along Lehigh and Lafayette, and spread the parking into other residential neighborhoods in the area. My understanding is that Devils Thumb agreed to the current access points in an agreement to limit the number in their community some years back. It is not acceptable to prevent parking around the trailheads at the expense of other neighborhoods.

Perhaps a shuttle from somewhere along broadway like the Chautauqua shuttle?

I am an OSMP volunteer. I am also in my 70s. I go to any of my commitments and also Trails in a car. One time I tried walking a good distance and was hit from behind by a bicycle so I don't walk on the streets anymore.

This is wrong on so many levels. I'm speaking about the Lehigh connector project you have going on. The only people who walk or biked to that trail are the ones the wealthy people who live in the immediate neighborhood. This is not Eldo Canyon where you're gonna have a shuttle that goes in. This is a place where a lot of people in South Boulder run up to do a 45 minute, hour hour and a half hike. I know that the people who bought their houses right next to that hiking trail fully knowing it was popular and people park. There are now trying to get people to stop parking there. This is one of the best parts of South Boulder. If you stop people from parking there, it will mean only the wealthy homeowners are going to be able to access it. No, we cannot all ride bikes or take a shuttle in the middle of our workday. This happens all over Boulder. People buy homes near Southern Hills or right next to the Lehigh connector and then get mad because the traffic that is anticipated shows up. Do not become LA. In LA some of the best hiking was in the canyons. But those were expensive homes. So they made all of the adjoining roads no parking. So no one except those very wealthy folks and those big houses are able to use those hiking trails. And don't hide it in some we want to get people to walk rather than driving thing. This is 100% driven by this neighborhood. Do better Boulder.

You are taking away CU south which a lot of people use to connect to south boulder and beyond

---

Continuous sections of mtn bike access that avoids riding on roads is great, I like the expansion of trail options
at Eagle Cobalt North Sky at north end of town, which you can get to by starting on your bike from Wonderland lake without having to ride on the road.

Staying off the road to get from one trail to another would be amazing!!

I'm always in favor of finding routes that bikes can take and stay off the roads with cars. Is what makes boulder special so need to keep the tradition of being a bike friendly city.

I HATE the idea of opening up the Shanahan Ridge- Doudy Draw trails to MTBs!!! Those trails are used a LOT by hikers looking for a peaceful non-strenuous hike with great views. And to have to put up with a constant stream of teenagers on MTBs trying to break the speed of sound would DESTROY the experience!!!

Please consider the needs of pedestrians in your new plan. They usually walk a trail out and back and do not need connectors. They move slowly and appreciate wildflowers, animal signs and birds which are often

overlooked by speedy bicycles . In addition pedestrians do not impact the trails as bikes do. Many bikes pass pedestrians quickly so that the hikers have to jump out of the way. And yes, I am a long time hikers on Open Space and wish to see hikers have a say in this matter.

Martha Dick

It'd be wonderful to connect up the Shanahan Ridge Trail with dowdy draw or community ditch.
That way cyclist in South Boulder would be able to easily connect up with the Marshall Mesa Trail system.
A wide gravel path would accommodate hikers, mountain bikers, gravel, riders, and people with strollers.

For me the highest priority of open space lands is the protection of ``natural features,'' e.g., animal and plant communities first, then geological
and ecological elements, for example. (Humans have already appropriated most of the landscape for their use, we must remember.) Of course, managed, low impact human use has to be integrated into any plans for open space management in order to sustain public support for the continued preservation of open space from more intensive human development. This is a delicate and ongoing
situation. As far as the human users go, there seems to be three major categories: bikes, horses and foot travel. I have managed to coexist
(mainly as a hiker) with other non motorized users. I have avoided heavy bike and horse use ``days'' , but I realize that there may come a time when, say bike use, is continuous, and time for hikers needs to be ``carved out.'' I hope we never get to the point where hikers have to register for a time slot in the way the autos have to sign up (in season) to enter Rocky Mountain National Park. The situation requires monitoring periodically and assessment from time to time. But then that is what you are doing! In any event, I will repeat that the well being of the native animal and plants should always be the top priority. Realistically this requires ``co-management strategies'' with other public lands, e.g., national forests, wildlife corridors. I wish us and the planet good luck and will do my part.

Multi-use trails are much too hazardous for pedestrians and trail runners. Just ask my PT, who was concussed in a collision with a hit and run cyclist. Just ask my hair stylist, who stopped walking to work along a multi-use trail after a near collision. There is a culture of carelessness among many in the Boulder cycling community. As someone who loves walking, hiking, and trail running, I fear cyclists more than dogs, careless runners, and cars. I will take a car to my destination rather than walk with cyclists around.

Any increase of bike travel on Open Space is contrary to the protection of hikers and pet walkers. While I appreciate mountain biking ad the use of bikes for commuting, in the past, I was forced off trail by careening mountain bikers, whose use emphasized speed, strength and agility, while mine was appreciation and protection of the natural environment. The two usages are not compatible.

I'm a regular e-biker ranging as far as N Boulder, Erie and Westminster.

Most trails are in good or great shape other than the Coal Creek and Rock Creek trail underpasses at 120th St Lafayette?

One is closed causing a risky crossing of the street, the other is often degraded by mud.

I am an avid birder and many times go in groups of 15+. There have been several instances over the past year where bikers have been verbally and physically abusive to our group. It can get ugly.

I thought hikers had the right of way, but I have had bikers push us out of the way (physically). Some in my group are well over 70 so it is dangerous.

I understand birders tend to sprawl n the trail but we keep an eye out and try to be courteous and make way for oncoming bikers.

Not sure what to suggest but thought I would comment.

Please! No more bikes on our trails. There are currently miles of trails for bikers to use. I am very much opposed to any additional trails being opened to anything with wheels.
Sincerely,
Linda Pounds

The key issue with allowing bikes on trails is the conflict it creates. While signage says bikes yield to pedestrians, it is not taken literally. FAST riders that pass you so fast without indicating their approach and almost clip you as they go by are a serious issue.....the reason I object to adding any trails to bike accessibility.
I have been clipped by a rider and though I've not fallen, riders are not considerate at all and don't care one bit, even when they have clipped me going by. So now I carry a hiking pole horizontally in front of me with a flashing light and it's the ONLY reason that I've continued to be on trails with bikes.....it still annoys me tremendously.

Please press forward with the Dowdy Draw to Shanahan Ridge connection. It will help encourage more people to bike rather than drive to those trailheads.

OSMP is too quick to close trails and "open space". We paid for that land and it should never closed short of real emergencies.

To the Council and OSBT,
I got an email from the City yesterday asking me to take this survey (link on this web page) regarding how I access OS trails, etc.:I have to say it was completely unclear what the survey was really looking for, and pretty much impossible to answer the questions because they were so general, but the actual facts are so site-specific.
To the point, this is really about the desire of some MTB riders to use the OS trails south of Shanahan Ridge and west of Broadway to access the bike trails around Doudy Draw, etc.
Having ridden that area for a long time, and also hiked the trails in the area many times, the issue is clear:
A lot of people like to hike that area to the west of 93 and north of South Boulder Creek. It’s VERY peaceful, not steep, and has great views. It would be a disaster to allow MTBs to also use the area, as it would destroy that serenity of experience.
And that would be especially true if lots of the MTB riders were high school students looking to break the sound barrier by riding as fast as possible.
Plus, much of this is an area designated of ecological importance. So it’s not just dirt to be torn up.
And a lot of people take dogs — not a good mix, MTBs and dogs.
And it’s not as if there is no other good access for bike riders. It’s easy to ride down from e.g. Fairview HS to

the underpass on South Broadway, then south on Marshall Road, cross the road to Superior (which doesn't have much traffic), ride the dirt up the hill, and then use the underpass on 93 to get to the dirt road/trail along the ditch that goes back west. (Or, of course, just ride along South Broadway and 93.)
Plus, if you want a quick dirt ride, you can turn off the north end of Marshall Road and ride the South Boulder Creek trail.
Or you can go a bit further and ride the trails to the south of the road to Superior and east of 93, which are great, and also then cross 93 at the designated light next to the trail access parking area, and get to the trails west of 93.
I know, because I've ridden all of this many times.
None of these require converting trails to allow MTBs on them.
Please leave the limited access as it is, and do not allow MTBs in that restricted area.
Steve Pomerance

I mostly walk the trails and I'm often scared by bicyclists zooming down in front of me or coming up silently behind me.

NO to opening more trails to bikes. Hikers are solo, twos, small groups, older citizens who used to bike—because our voices are singular, we do not have the voice of the organized groups, like FHS mountain biking or MBWA. As it is hikers use bike less trails more often because, though courtesy is promised, bikers do NOT always yield to hikers, slow down or even give appropriate signals. Hikers can easily be in danger from bikers. LET BIKERS USE THE ROADS - I urge you to maintain the quiet, birder friendly, wildlife friendly, hiker only trails.
Thank you for your work to equalize voices and not give in to the loudest voices.

I am adamantly opposed to combining bicycles with hikers on the South Mesa Trail or Big or Little Bluestem. I avoid other jurisdiction's trails because of the joint use. I am a hiker and love the quiet and peaceful experience I get on these trails

---

Permitting bicycles on these trails poses a serious safety concern for the many hikers who rely on them daily — families with young children, elderly walkers, and runners among them. The trails were designed for foot traffic, and in many sections the paths are simply too narrow to safely accommodate both hikers and bikes. When a cyclist approaches, hikers are often forced to step off the trail onto uneven or sloped terrain, creating a real risk of injury.

Beyond safety, there is the matter of the experience itself. People come to these trails for the peace and quiet of being in nature. Bicycle traffic fundamentally changes that — introducing noise, speed, and an atmosphere of vigilance that is at odds with why most people are there in the first place.

These trails can continue to serve a broad, multigenerational community well — but only if they remain spaces where people can walk without fear. Bikes belong on trails designed with them in mind, not on paths already well-used by those on foot.

I have enjoyed hiking and climbing on the OSMP trails for many years. I strongly support the preservation of the few trails in the OSMP system that are for people who walk, hike or run only, and are without dogs or bicycles. These pedestrian only trails allow for the appreciation of our superlative native plants and wildlife. They also are more quiet than the multimodal trails. Thank you for considering how important it is to have places that are peaceful and slow paced in our world.

This survey is missing a big population--like me. The survey seems to assume that everyone has a pedestrian-friendly or bike-possible way to get to trailheads. I don't. I have to drive any time I want to get to an Open Space trailhead. I can't ride a bike--I'm too unsteady. And all of the open space trailheads are too far away from me to walk. Or take the bus. I live in Frasier Meadows subdivision. The 209 bus, that once ran nicely through my 'hood, was removed in about 2008. It's now over a 3/4 mile for me to walk to any bus line. That is too far to walk to have to take a bus to get to a walk!!!

And so, How does that figure into the survey? I am dead set against putting more bikes on open Space trails--having nearly been run over far too many times on the Bobolink Trail--to say nothing of the Mt. Sanitas Valley Trail. The connector trails to the trailheads also aren't anywhere near enough to me to walk to them---in order to get to a trail to take a walk!!!

Why on earth don't you include cars and parking as one of the MODES of travel in your supposedly "multi-modal" transportation survey? And what about people with disabilities? small kids who can't walk to a distant trailhead? Are they supposed to wait until they become longer-legged adults to visit the trails?

Once again, the single minded focus on bikes, walking, and maybe hoverboards as the single acceptable Modes of transport shows just how really exclusionary the thinking in Boulder is--on most public issues.

Please don’t put any more bikes on more trails, especially in places between Doudy Draw and Chautauqua. Bikes completely change the experience. Regardless of the laws, pedestrians will always be stepping out of the way for bikes, bikes negatively impact the trails, and they negatively impact the hiking experience. I used to love hiking at Doudy Draw, Flatirons Vista, Marshall Mesa... but I never go to these places to hike. As a matter of fact I tend to avoid most trails that allow bikes because the bikers do not know and follow the laws. Bike patrollers have helped, but there just aren’t enough rangers out there patrolling to keep things under control. The county’s Hall ranch is the same.. it is like hiking on a crowded bike highway.
We have too many people and dogs already hiking to add bikes to the mix in these areas. I am a mountain biker too but you have to leave some of our beautiful OSMP lands for simply hiking. I hope you will see that this would be a huge mistake for the land and the folks who hike there.

I'm afraid I'm late to be giving my input on this. I just found out about it and wanted to put in my two cents worth. I've lived in Boulder since 1971 and have hiked extensively on open space trails over the years. As the population has exploded, there are more difficulties with accessibility.

I'm a senior citizen (79) but I still like to hike occasionally. I have to drive to trailheads and park in the available spaces. The congestion in the parking areas has sometimes been a problem and there've been occasions when I had to turn around and go home. It sounds like you're aware of this issue. I'm unable to ride a bike due to age and a neck problem which is exacerbated by bike riding. Sadly, I wish I was still able to ride my bike. But also, you have to be in really great shape to ride up to a trailhead, hike, and then ride home again. This is beyond the ability of most of us.

I've hiked on a number of occasions on trails which were also used by mountain bikers. (Betasso and Heil Valley Ranch) They've always been very polite, but inevitably it's the hiker who has to step out of the way of the biker in these situations. That can get tiresome after a while. I like that Betasso has days when it's only open to hikers and I try to always go on those days of the week. That seems like a good system. I do worry though that constant use by mountain bikes is hard on the trail itself.

My pet peeve is that I feel like a lot of the users of our open space trails are people from outside of Boulder.

This annoys me, because I feel like we in Boulder are paying for these trails, but they're getting clogged up with people from the entire Denver metro area. I don't know what can be done about this. I wish there was some way of checking for residency but it's hard to think what that would be . I'm originally from the East coast, where it's beaches that are the big issue. Each town has their own beach and these town beaches are for residents only. You get a sticker for your car that says you're a resident. There's usually someone stationed in a little hut at the entrance to the parking lot checking cars as they come in. I'd suggest something like that, but there are so many trailheads that I'm sure it would be cost prohibitive. Perhaps a system of windshield stickers that were required and it would be up to Boulder residents using the trails to check cars in the lot and report license plate numbers of cars without a sticker???

Thanks for reading this. I appreciate the chance to give my feedback.

Greetings,

I hope email this will find its way to appropriate folks, could not figure out from the OSMP website where to write my opinion about allowing bikes on, near close to the Shanahan Trail system. Please let me know if I should send this to someone in particular and huge THANKS!

I do not know if anyone from Open Space remembers when mountain bikes were allowed on open space, the mesa trail, in particular, I do. I was a runner then and am still a runner on our open space trails! (well closer to fast walker, 😄) I recall full well and remember quite vividly how dangerous the trails were with all of the mountain bikers. Not only did many of them not slow down on a fun-filled steep gnarly downhill trail, but they would run you off the trail, yell, scream and were so very rude to hikes, runners other slower cyclists. Never mind, how they destroy trails, make them wider, find rocks to jump over (which are off trail) and did not really care about the status of the trails. I have seen them ride in mud and tear the trail to bits, leaving huge divets on the trail and off. This is why there were banned from the trails. This attitude of cyclists has not changed, there are many who believe they own the trails and will not follow trail rules. I have had to jump off the trails at Betasso, Hall, Doudy Draw, Heil, Marshall Mesa etc. Not all of the cyclists are like this, but enough of them are that it really leaves a very sour taste in ones mouth when out on shared trails. Shanahan Ridge, is a huge family trail, lots of children and folks with dogs utilize this trail system.I know, I am a volunteer hiker for OSMP and this trail, esp on weekends has many many different people enjoying the many trails here. The trails cannot handle more on them and the cyclists will be just too dangerous for the variety of folks using the trails. Please do not open this area to cyclists, I am not against cyclists, I totally understand the exhilarating experience of riding full speed down a trail (I used to be a gang-ho mountain biker)...nothing better than getting air and landing and gaining speed on a corner. And this is why they cannot be on any part of the major trail system from Baseline or even Mapleton to Eldorado Springs. Too many folks use those trails and the cyclists will add a stress factor that does not need to be. I have not even gotten into the animal populations and how this will effect them...but you know this, bears and bikes, not a good meet and greet, the bears will become so stressed in an already uneasy world for them (climate change is a true factor in their survival). All of the animals, birds, etc will be negatively affected by the addition of cyclists.

Thanks for taking the time to read this, let me know if you want articles, research as to how cyclists affect trails, wildlife etc.

We have an aging population and many people going on shorter out and back hikes with a goal of experiencing natural areas and wildlife. For example, bird watching and plant identification are growing activities. A project emphasizing more biking "connections" on the south side of Open Space will conflict with this. Making connections seems like a go around for our big bike lobby to access more and more. This sounds to me like bikes making long, fast rides that might be disrespectful of others and disturb wildlife.

Please keep wildlife and quiet uses foremost in your decisions. Many of us, people and animals, will simply stop going to these wonderfully wildlife rich, biodiverse places if they are full of Boulder's ever increasing biking traffic.

Thanks.

Good Morning:

I am writing as a a citizen of the City of Boulder regarding the Multimodal Assessment Project and its possibility of adding bikes to pedestrian trails between Shanahan Ridge and the South Mesa Trailhead. As a resident of the City and a user of these trails, I urge you to not allow bikes on these pedestrial trails for obvious safety issues. Me and my family already avoid so many trails in our City that allow bikes and that our tax dollars fund because we have had very dangerous encounters and simply do not feel safe. Seeing the injuries a close friend of our family sustained after being hit by a bike as a pedestrian has only reinforced these concerns for safety. The the number of pedestrian only trails in our network continues to diminish and the very vocal and well-funded bike advocacy lobby in our community for years has chipped more and more away at pedestrian only trails. For once, please stand up to them and protect these trails for pedestrian use.

John Malenich

OSMP Multimodal Assessment

Comments Received After Engagement Window 1

(July 2nd, 2026 – September 25th, 2026)

Terrible idea to add bicycles to the mix on any part of the Mesa Trail. All I can envision is chaos.

I hope you will notice and pay attention to the hundreds of comments on NextDoor about pedestrian and Mtn bike trail use. These may represent an additional/new bunch of trail users (who are not captured by the city's website).

Received via email to Open Space Board of Trustees

City of Boulder Open Space Board of Trustees,

I have lived in Boulder since 1982 and am a frequent user of the mixed-use trails throughout the city. I'm writing in order to register my concerns about the way bike traffic has evolved on these trails and on sidewalks since the advent and rapid growth of e-bikes. In general I'm in favor of e-bikes (and e-scooters) but we can't continue to let their growth proceed without changes to our rules & regulations and investment in infrastructure safety. The issues which I think need to be addressed are:

Speed - e-bikes often go very fast and they don't signal audibly when passing other cyclists or walkers. There should be a posted speed limit on the trails and it should be enforced. Something like 10-12 mph max; much slower on the neighborhood trails used by pedestrians.

Intersections - we need more of the mirrors at blind corners and stop-signs at busy intersections. My near-misses have often been at intersections when other cyclists don't stop or yield.

Sidewalks - pedestrians should be prioritized and any kind of bike should not be allowed on sidewalks. We need to re-build a pedestrian-friendly city.

Trails in neighborhoods with heavy mixed use (walkers, people pushing strollers/walkers, people walking dogs or walking with young children, etc.) - pedestrians should be prioritized and bike or scooter traffic should be restricted to very slow speeds. They also should be required to yield to all other types of users.

E-motos and Class 3 e-bikes - should not be allowed on the trails and sidewalks (I think that's true now?) and this should be enforced.

Children on e-bikes - this gets a bit beyond the purpose of my email but, obviously, this is a very big issue with many more serious accidents ahead if changes are not made— mostly there are safety issues for the children but also for pedestrians and adult cyclists. I'm not sure of the solutions here but it may we worth limiting e-bike use to 16 and older. Maybe even 18. Or require education (classes) and quasi-licensing via the bike shops.

There has been a significant change in bike traffic and a decline in safety on the mixed-use trails and sidewalks in very recent years. This is clearly driven by the growth in e-bike use by both adults and children. Aside from the recent signage on certain neighborhood paths that encourage people to be mindful of other users, etc., I have not seen any improvements to our path infrastructure or changes in the rules as this significant transition has been happening. I have many friends who have the same concerns as me and I would like to see some meaningful action as we continue to transition into the e-bike era.

Thanks much,

My friends and I consistently hike the Shanahan-Dowdy Draw trails. I love mountain biking, but adding bikers to these trails would be dangerous!!! For starters, the trails are not always wide enough to include bikers and walkers. Also, hikers are often walking dogs off-leash. Mixing off-leash dogs and bikers is asking for trouble . Please keep the trails as they were intended to be used: HIKERS ONLY!

Absolutely no bikes. I am elderly and hiking there is the highlight of my week - would be terrified of bikes crashing through that I can't move fast enough to avoid.

No bikes please. Cyclists seem more than gifted with riding options. I'm already run off every sidewalk in North Boulder, despite there being bike lanes everywhere. Give hikers a break.

There's already plenty of trails around for the mountain bikers.
Not to mention that several paved bike trails exist and converge allowing all the bikers to
make there way to the "mountain bike trails" on the either end of Boulder.
There is no reason they need to be on the foot trails to get there.

Absolutely not. Although cyclists are supposed to be bottom of the hierarchy, they definitely don't act like it. They bike wherever they want without consideration of others already. Leave the trail alone so people can hike in peace for once.

Please do NOT allow bicyclists on Mesa Trail; it would be much too dangerous for this gem of a pedestrian trail and would also change the nature of the actual path with ruts, increased rocks etc

---

I am a hiker and a cyclist and I live in the Table Mesa neighborhood near where the proposed connector trial would be located. I hike the trails nearby regularly, and I also bike in South Boulder/Doudy Draw, Springbrook Marshall Mesa, etc. I am 100% in support of the proposed connector trail. Bikers have very few options in the Boulder area, and hikers have thousands of trails available to them. One connector trail is a small ask. More importantly, the connector trail would allow the whole South Boulder area to access the southern bike trails without driving or riding mountain bikes on concrete, crossing streets, etc. I regularly drive to the various trailheads, to avoid riding on concrete and streets, and I would ride directly from the house if this trail were opened up. Moreover, my son is a biker and on the mtb team at Fairview high school. The students could access the trails directly from the neighborhood and avoid streets and concrete. I think the connector trail is a safer option for mountain bikers, a much more enjoyable option for mountain bikers, and for these reasons would remove cars from the road, which is a good thing for so many reasons, climate, health, congestion, etc.
Full support!

Please allow bikes on or build a bike only Shanahan-Doudy Draw trail.
I imagine you are getting lots of comments about not allowing bikers on this portion of trails as I see in comments on NextDoor on on a 9news story but from what I can tell most people are not understanding what section of trails we're talking about. Trails around Doudy Drawl are some of the only trails where bikes are allowed in Boulder that are accessible by bike and yet we're are denying bikers a safe way to get to the trails.
Please give bikers a safe way to access Doudy drawl.
Thanks,
Roy
Biker, hiker and trail runner

I am not in favor of allowing bikes on the Shanahan-Doudy Draw trails. I hike these trails frequently because bikes aren't allowed. I live near the Marshall Mesa trail and I avoid this trail because I find the bikes constantly passing me a major annoyance.

I have hiked Mesa trail for over 25 years and love it! One of the reasons is how peaceful it is and I don't have to worry about being run over by a bike, as that is stressful and the main reason I do NOT hike on trails that are shared with bicyclists. There is a bike trial right across the street. Please leave this alone for "pedestrians only" this trail is for nature and peace and would only be ruined by sport. This is a ridiculous idea and I ride mountain bikes myself and there is no shortage of trials including the ones right off broadway and across the street from Mesa Trail, please STOP!

Please no bicycles on the hiking trails. If I'm hiking with my dog (my dog stays on a leash) it's very hard to do this with bicycles on the same trail. Bicycles don't like to slow down for me or anything else. There are always close calls at Marshall Mesa especially around blind curves and corners. There are sections of Marshall Mesa that really scare me as a hiker (with or without my dog). Now, if you have the staff to monitor these trails constantly and especially for speed, then that's another story. But I think that's highly unlikely!

I hike Mesa trail and Shanahan ridge a lot. I was hiking a couple of years ago on a different trail with bikes and had to jump off the trail to avoid a fast biker. I hurt myself by jumping into a rocky area with trees and was scratched and bruised pretty badly. The biker never even stopped to see if I was ok.
I am a hard NO with sharing these trails with bikers. I hike these trails to find peace and connect with nature and that's really hard to do when you constantly have to worry about a bike hitting you from behind. I avoid hiking on trails where mountain bikes are allowed because it is never relaxing, and turns what should be a peaceful hike into a stressful event. Also mountain bikes are really hard on trail surfaces. Why on earth would Boulder want to make hiking stressful and dangerous?

Hello-
I understand you are taking comment regarding the Shanahan Ridge hiking trails. PLease no bikes-hikers/walker should be able to enjoy some trails without needing to be on alert for cyclists. This will prevent multiple accidents, especially for older hikers.

Been a hiker for 50 years in Boulder. My experience is that the vast majority of bikers never warn of their approach increasing danger for hiker and biker alike. Further more Bikers are more interested in the challenge rather than the peace and beauty mountain trails provide. I vote for no bikes on trails currently devoted to hikers

---

Hello, I am commenting about the Dowdy Draw - Shanahan expansion to bikes. I am a cyclist as well as a hiker. Unfortunately, I have experienced a majority of bikers that are not following bike etiquette on the trails. I have been hiking and biking in Boulder for 40 + years and unfortunately with the influx of trail and bike path users, the lack of respect toward pedestrians and horse riders has only worsened. I have appreciated the addition of signage on the bike paths regarding slowing down.
I would like to propose that these trails not be opened and instead, use the human power and financial resources proposed for the opening, towards a county effort to educate ALL trip users of the etiquette required on the trails, bike path and roads. I believe this means many more signs, so people begin to see repeated messages/images of etiquette and a speed limit in some areas. In addition, the increase of electric bikes on trails, makes etiquette and safety

education EVEN MORE IMPORTANT. The county did a lot to educate the community about dogs on trails. Maybe we learn from the dog tag program about how to educate the large numbers of community that use all the trails, bike path and bike lanes in Boulder County.
Respectfully,

I think opening the Shanahan-Doudy Draw Trail to cyclists would be to the detriment of hikers and other trail users. Living near and hiking on trails that are shared with cyclists has shown me repeatedly that many cyclists do not slow down or yield to people on foot. In the majority of my experiences with cyclists, they also lack the wherewithal to warn hikers or people out for a stroll that they are approaching.
I have also seen cyclists go off trail to pass hikers and walkers, damaging the surrounding fragile flora in the process and creating wider, rutted tracks. Aside from the unpleasant encounters, I have seen firsthand the damage that bikes can do to walking trails. Trails become deeper and more rutted, making them more difficult for hikers to navigate, and they create significantly more erosion than I have observed from hikers.
There are already plenty of trails that have been opened to cyclists. Please refrain from opening more hiker-only trails to bike traffic.

No bikers on Mesa trail.
It is the main trail for all of the Chautauqua area trails and I know bikers will access all the other trails knowingly or unknowingly.
Even going to Betasso on days that are no bikes allowed, I tell plenty of bikers that it's not a bike day and they ignore me and pedal on.
Currently the area feels safe to runners, hikers, and families.
No bikes on Mesa trail!

I'm a cyclist and hiker. Please do not expand bike access to this area. There are plenty of places where bikes are permitted. As the population of Boulder ages, bikes and hearing- or mobility-impaired folks are in danger when cyclists are introduced to peaceful areas. The solitude enjoyed in non-bike areas would be disrupted by introducing bikes. Presently, there is no way to police or monitor the speed limit of bikes on trails. The "honor system" just doesn't work. The further introduction of e-bikes is making trails and even bike paths more treacherous for both cyclists and pedestrians.

Received via email to Open Space Board of Trustees
My name is Stephen Lekson. I am retired from CU, and I've lived in south Boulder for over 30 years (at 92 Benthaven Place).
I'm on Open Space trails almost every day, weather permitting. We particularly favor trails from Bear Creek south, including of course the area under consideration for bike use.
The western Open Space/Mountain Park trails, hiker-only, are a haven for walkers like me, and for families with kids, and for people with dogs, and for runners/joggers, and for birders, and groups of a half-dozen friends, and a wide variety of people who enjoy the outdoors without competing with bikes. People riding bikes sure seem to be having a good time – more power to them! – and the city and county of Boulder has provided an extensive network of bike trails both in and beyond the city. The whole area south of south Boulder Creek has many miles of bike trails, with a major trail head at Doudy Draw.
The question seems to be how to get bikers there. One alternative is to cut through the currently bike-free trails that so many of us enjoy. That's not an alternative that appeals to people who live in south Boulder. There is already existing bike access to Doudy Draw on bike trails through Marshall, then across on old ditch trails. I see people riding bikes on that route all the time.
15 years ago, a study suggested bike access to the western Open Space, in much the same way as is being currently considered. At that time, I had several conversations with representatives of the Boulder Mountain Bike association,

who assured me that their membership were careful, conscientious, mature citizens who would never disturb or endanger pedestrian hikers. Fine, I said, I'm sure that's true; but can you vouch for the thousands of CU students who came here, at least in part, to shred down hills on bikes and boards. 15 years ago, we kept the long-standing preservation of western Open Space for hikers and horses only; no bikes. I hope we can continue to do that. Thank you for listening. And thank you for your service on the Open Space Board.

I live in Eldorado Springs with my family and I would love to see a direct link between Eldo and South Boulder. Our son currently rides his scooter or bike on Eldorado Springs Drive and I don't think it's safe. A biking connection to South Boulder just makes sense.

I agree with opening a bike path to Doudy Draw bike trails area from South Boulder. I live in Eldorado Springs and the parking lots for the Doudy Draw and Mesa trailheads are always full with people parking in long stretches along the Eldorado Springs road, with cars and bikes trying to ride alongside all these parked cars with people opening their doors. I think a bike passage to South Boulder would help mitigate this problem.

Hello,
I'm in support of the development of a trail from Dowdy Draw/South Mesa to the Table Mesa neighborhood. It is really the safe thing to do and is long over due. I've biked in the area for 20 years plus and have had many close encounters with cars on Eldorado road. Seems pretty unfair and short sighted that hikers and runners can make this connection and fell safe but bikers can't. I don't really get it? If the hikers/runners (I'm one too but feel safe with bikes or hikers/runners sharing the trails) don't fell safe on a trail with bikes please make the trail bikes only. The rest off the open space in this area is pedestrian only....you've already set the precent to exclude a user type. Thank you for considering.

Please no bikes. Bikes have many other trails to be active on. Let passive open space users such as equestrian's and hiker enjoy these trails. Bikers ruined Dowdy Draw and Flatirons Vista. Let us and nature have some peace from the hoards of cyclist

---

Cyclists have few options in Boulder County and essentially none in the city. Betasso is a gem, but isn't rideable a few months a year. Shanahan Ridge would connect South Boulder to Dowdy much more safely and provide a year round option much the way North Sky does for Joder. Well, I guess I've managed to name all the county maintained single track in 60 words...

Please do not allow bicycles on this trail. The cyclists have many trails to use. I don't use those trails because I am tired of having to get out of the way every few minutes for a speeding bicycle. Please give us hikers a break. I already can't walk on my street (4th Street in North Boulder) for fear of being hit by a speeding cyclist or motorized bike.

I have been biking and hiking in Boulder County for over 46 years. It is the reason I live here. There is no need to open any part of the Mesa trail to bikes.
This is a heavily used pedestrian trail. The speed with which they could cycle would not match that of the other users. There is the Broadway bike path which then leads to Marshal Road, a very quiet road for cycling. There is a red light for safe crossing of highway 93 and the Eldorado springs road has low traffic except on weekends. I have ridden my bike out there for decades to hike. It is one of the least dangerous cycling routes in the county. You can also bike the south boulder trail to Marshal Road. There are many road cyclists biking this every day with no issues. This would degrade the

trail and make it difficult for people with dogs and small children. THIS IS A FAMILY TRAIL. Mountain bikers have the high potential to endanger other users. Please keep the Mesa trail safe for all.

I wasn't aware of the questionnaire on opening the Greenbriar connector to bikes. As an elderly bicyclist and hiker I oppose that move. The Greenbriar connector is already subject to heavy hiker traffic, dog walkers, etc. Adding bikes to that segment will significantly diminish the quality of the quiet and casual easy access hiker experience. If you must add bikes, you need to at least separate the bike trail from the hiking trail in segments where the trail is narrow (and absolutely ban E-bikes of any kind. These have already ruined a few of once-great multiuse trails in town). One of the joys of living in Boulder ase the few remaining easy access hiking trails immersed in nature that do not require miles of hiking to get beyond bikes, horses, endless sw3itchbacks, and fire roads. Greenbriar is one of few remaining trails fitting that need (especially for your elderly residents. Also, have you considered the impact on street parking and the local residents there? Thanks for your consideration.

I think it is a good idea to have a biking connector trail that is adjacent or on the Shanahan ridge trail to get from Boulder to Eldo area .It would allow our citizens more recreation. This would take cars off the road and keep kids, adults, and families safer. Thank you.

Please allow a single bicycle-accessible trail from Eldorado Springs to Boulder, in any form. Change access rules on an existing trail, or build a new trail, or come up with some other solution to give bikes a safe travel route. We are building a multi-million dollar bike path from Boulder to Longmont to keep bikes off the roads and hopefully save lives. Let's do the same on the south side of Boulder. The lives of south Boulder cyclists are just as important as those in North Boulder.

It is my observation that about 1/4 of the bikes that go by me on the Dowdy Draw trail follow any rules that are clearly laid out on a sign at the trailhead, with regards how to behave with hikers on the trail. I don't think that's going to change any time soon. It's nerve racking to hike there a peak bike hours.
I live on Shannahan Ridge and there is a Blue Stem connecter trail that starts across from my house. The rationale is that bikers will go from there and likely ride their bikes there? That's dreaming on the part of planners. Maybe a big parking lot right at that trailhead? Ugly thought to say the least.
I think the city should think about a bike only trails that aren't too ugly and destroy too much of the pristine environment that the early city planners were so keen on protecting.

Speaking as someone who uses Boulder trails on almost a daily basis as a trail runner, hiker and mountain biker I can say that’s there’s a clear lacking of available mountain bike trails west of Broadway. Of all the trails west of Broadway, only 5% are available to bikes. It is impossible to get from north to south Boulder on trails and it’s very surprising for a community that I always thought of as bike-forward. Im a Boulder resident and I strongly support additional trails to connect the flatirons through Boulder, especially to Doudy draw area. Additionally, I think there’s a huge opportunity to add bike-only trails in a specific parts of the flatirons that could be destination worthy trails, bringing in additional visitors and revenue for the city (my friends and I fly to Utah for bike trips which seems crazy given the potential in our backyard)

No bikes on pedestrian trails. PubMed has studies on disappearance of wildlife from areas made public, in part due to smells, and noise studies show conversational human voices carry as much as 10 miles, driving nesting creatures from their offspring and residents to leave the area altogether. Cyclists sre not there to enjoy wild spaces, they want challenge.

Get them parks with challenge and decorative distraction to vary their efforts. Let the wild have at least minimal impact contrasted to cycling assaults.

I think it’s a wonderful idea to change some of the South Boulder Trails to multi use. I would create a safe way to get to Marshall Mesa. I have a home in Vail and Boulder and have traveled to many places were multi use trails with bikes work well and there is no problems.
The Meadow Mountain Open Space Trail System in Vail has always been multi use. There are signs for bikers to yield to hikers and horses. Steamboat and Aspen both have multi use trails and there aren’t issues. Marin County in the Bay Area also had many multi use trails without problems. The key is to educate the bikers to yield to other users with signage. It would be amazing to be able to ride from town without going on a road. I remember when Anemene was considering a link to Bettasso and that was approved then shot down. Sounds like there will be a link from the Sandrock property at 4mile and Boulder Canyon to access Bettasso from canyon bike path. I highly support new bike access in South Boulder to Eldorado Canyon and Marshall Meda,

---

Please, can we keep it to just pedestrians and runners? It's such a very different way of being in nature and the trails already have so much wear and tear that we aren't keeping up with. Please, no bikes on this trail.

No absolutely not. Bicycles should not be on the Mesa trail. It's bad enough on the mixed trail usage.
They do not announce when they're passing you. I've been hit, fell and they laughed and kept going.
Many elderly walk these trails, can you imagine them falling and breaking a hip?
Cycler's have plenty of trails to ride on..
They're rude and expect pedestrians to move out of their way. I've yet to have a curteous cycler on the trails so avoid the trails because if that.
And Baseline road is ridiculous. I drive it, 8 out of 10 people still ride on the sidewalk.

NO BIKES ON THE TRAILS!

Thank you for upgrading the mountain bike access in our lovely city. It's not only a great addition to provide access to the trail system outside of town. This trail will provide safe access for the Fairview Mountain Bike team of over 100 adolescent riders. As a coach and teacher, we care deeply about the safety and health of our athletes. Riding along broadway and marshal road is a very scary prospect when you're trying to wrangle 14-18 year olds with a combination of incredible fitness and underdeveloped senses of surroundings and decision making. I can't tell you how supportive of this proposal I am. Please strongly consider opening access to bikers. The ratio of bike friendly trails to non bike accessible trails will not be affected but a tiny amount by this inclusion.

Leave some trails for hikers and walkers. Not fun to constantly be o the lookout for bikes that ste fast and frequently out of control or just not paying attention

---

Bicyclists should not be allowed on trails designed for pedestrians unless they are walking their bicycle.

Allowing cyclists to use the Shanahan trails would be a terrible idea. It would increase the risk of pedestrians and dogs being struck and could also lead to unnecessary damage to the trails. I would personally stop using the trails in that

area, which would be very unfortunate. There are other bike-friendly trails available that would be better suited for cyclists and could help avoid these safety and preservation concerns.

I am writing as a Boulder resident and a board member of the Shanahan Ridge II HOA to express my opposition to the proposal to allow mountain bikes on trails in South Boulder that are currently designated for hiking only.
Changing the use of these trails would have impacts beyond the public trail system itself. Our Shanahan Ridge II HOA neighborhood includes private-property walkways and access areas that connect to the trail network. These areas are intended for the use of residents for walking ONLY and are not designed or maintained to accommodate bicycle traffic or use by non-residents. Allowing mountain bikes on currently hiking-only trails would likely increase the number of cyclists passing through and using these private walkways, creating additional concerns regarding privacy, safety, maintenance (by the HOA), and property rights for our residents.
I respectfully ask that the City maintain the existing hiking-only designation and consider the impact that a change in trail use could have on adjacent neighborhoods and privately owned property.
Thank you for considering the concerns of nearby residents and property owners.

I am a long-time resident of Table Mesa/Shanhan Ridge, and am a frequent hiker on OSMP trails. I would like to see a bicycle trail from this area to Eldorado Springs that avoids roads, but would not like to share the trail between hikers and cyclists. I would prefer a separate bike trail, not a shared trail. Especially troublesome would be the descent from Greenbrier into the Shanahan Ranch. A connection between the bike path along Hwy 93 that turns into Marshall Road and a crossing to Thomas Lane would avoid that steep descent and the Shanahan cattle herd. Also consider a bike path parallel to the South Boulder Creek West Trail, continuing to the broad road that is the Mesa Trail, dropping down to connect at Doudy Draw. Thank you for considering a safe way to cycle from Table Mesa to Eldorado Canyon State Park.

I am opposed to allowing bike access to any part of the Mesa-Shanahan trail complex for the following reasons.
1. The much ado about connectivity ignores many places that lack commuting connections that are more critical to transportation.
2. A route exists that eliminates riding the 128 via community ditch.
3. No study has been done to determine whether the increase in pedestrian-bike accidents will be less than any reduction in accidents on highway 128 (see also #2). Same question for accident reduction on 128 by removing the faster speed limit. It really should be 30 mph.
4. We can no longer assume ped-bike accidents will be minor. The speed and weight of e-bikes changes the calculus a lot. I'm certain we'll see ped avoidance of this trail and the cyclists will talk about how there is no conflict.
5. Mesa trail is fast and wide. It will not be shareable at speeds bikes will descend it. It will become a roadway. A separate ped only single track will need to be created for safety. And then cyclists will whine about using that too.
6. Cyclists already share areas with cattle and pedestrians poorly. I routinely have higher speed low clearance encounters with cyclists when cattle narrow the trail from south Boulder road to "old marshall" (I believe this is called south Boulder creek road but I'm referring to the northern portion). And this trail lacks curves and grade.
7. South Boulder creek trail west of 93 includes some rocky narrow sections that even pedestrians can't pass easily on. It would have been to be enhanced and would become just another fire road through bird habitat. If you are going to do that anyways why not make a truly protected bike lane on 128?
Cyclists keep trying to claim they bring in some magical amount of revenue. But wait? I thought this was a need connector for transport. Which is it?

I don't think cyclists should be allowed on the current pedestrian-only trails. Cyclists have other options available, for one. And also, too many cyclists don't announce that they're coming by pedestrians ("on your left!!" for example). Additionally, one pedestrians may have earbuds in, and not hear the cyclists coming by. I think it's a little too risky for everyone (including the maintenance needed for the multi-use trails).

Thank you for taking my comments on opening the Shanahan-Dowdy Draw trail to mountain bikers. I oppose that proposal. While many cyclists try to be safe, many more do not so I avoid trails that allow mountain bikes. Thank you very much.

No bikes on the Shanahan Dowdy draw trail. There could be a compromise sort of like what happens on Betasso, where bikes are allowed only in one direction on certain days.
The combination of bikes and hikers on the same trail, which is heavily trafficked by hikers, would be dangerous. Bikes go much faster, and the possibility of collisions is great. Also, bikes, tear up the trail more and make it much more rocky and uneven for hikers.

Dear Reader,
I would like to express my singular opinion that these trails should remain closed to all bicyclists now and in the future.I currently live across from Betasso and have seen the damage that bikes cause to the surrounding trails, plant life, and noise levels. Bicyclists frequently yell to communicate with one another, and their bikes add to the noise. In addition, there are frequent confrontations with hikers (especially in off-leash areas), as well as countless helicopter rescues and incident reports. Betasso is closed to bikes on Wednesdays and Saturdays, leaving it open only to hikers at those times. While this system seems democratic on paper, it largely shuts hikers and runners out during the remaining five days of the week due to the significant risk of being run over by a bike.
I personally trail run in the Doudy Draw area about once a week and greatly appreciate it. I realize that trying to appease all parties is an impossible task. Nevertheless, my view is that this area already functions in a relative equilibrium regarding native plants, wildlife (especially birds), water management (e.g. active measures that have been taken to mitigate the New Zealand mudsnail), trail longevity & efficacy, potential future fire operations, and allowing countless responsible trail opportunities for the public.
Thank you for taking this into account as we move toward Boulder's future.

Please Do not open up Shanahan-Doudy Draw trail to bikes. To do so would be very unkind and dangerous for elderly hikers, whose reactions are a bit slower. Those of us who are hearing impaired can't hear bikes behind us properly because our hearing aids point forwards, so we don't get a proper locational appreciation of the situation and often freeze or step the wrong way. Unleashed dogs who don't come when called are bad enough; bikes would really ruin things.

Should NOT be allowed.

---

ref. allowing bikers on doudy draw trail. No, absolutely not. No more trails for bikers!! Just by being on the trails they destroy all the wonderful feelings, sights and sounds that walkers enjoy communing with nature, themselves and other companions. Some trails must remain for walkers period, trails that we can walked enjoying the breezes, the sights and sounds of nature without the necessity of being always on guard for a faint voice coming from behind, warning us of a biker and to get out of the way. Why should we? For all the reasons we walk, are exactly all the things that bikers destroy just by being on the trails. Do they see the birds, hear the forest sounds or the billowing clouds. No they don't! In fact, sometimes they don't even see the walkers until they are right on top of the walkers.
It is our right to walk in peace, in safety and with assurances from the city and city attorneys office that we will not be struck from behind, thrown or catapulted off the trail taking a hit from behind to be paralyzed for life or killed being struck from behind by a biker. Isn't one dead walker killed last year by an errant biker enough?

With a biker on the trails, can the city swear to the walkers safety.... to protect us from undue harm. You already know the answer is, "No".

Please no bikes on the trails, we've had many bikes almost take us out on Marshall Mesa. It is one of the reasons I live in Boulder rather than Golden. Please preserve the on foot sports!

Not in favor of cycling on Mesa trail systems

I love and frequent the South Mesa trail at all times of the year. One of many of the great things about this trail is that it's accessible by foot traffic and hikers only. I plead with the City to please keep it this way.

Please don't open more hiking trails to bikes. It's much more dangerous especially for those hard of hearing and walking with kids or dogs. Many bikers just go too fast and do not yield as they should.

No. Just NO!
Stop with the pro-bike at the expense of the majority who are hikers. I'm so sick of this crap.

Whoops, I apologize if I misunderstood. I just left a comment regarding no bikes on the MesaTrail. If that is not the plan then please forgive me for speaking too soon! But my comments about bike/ ped trail sharing stand. The bikes always force the peds off the trail and it can really take away from a nice walk in the woods. Many trails in Jeffco are no longer worth hiking because of the bikes (and this could be contributing to increased peds in Boulder).

No, no, no to bikes om the Mesa Trail. Does someone think this trails isn't already busy enough?Pedestrians should be able to walk trails without having to step off every few minutes/ steps/ seconds to allow bikes to pass. Some bikers are nice but NONE give Peds the right of way. Many bikers are rude (ie 'you're in my line') and most are going too fast. Sharing a trail may work if the trail is not heavily used by either peds or bikers but this trail is so heavily used no one will be happy and there will be injuries. Do you also propose expanding emergency medical services? Parking lots? Additional trail maintenance?

Some bikers are respectful. Most are not. I hike with my dog, which requires an off leash tag. I believe that bikers should pay a similar fee, with a tag on their bike. And watch a video. Bikers come up so fast, with little to no notice that they are behind you. Several have yelled at me to get my dog off the trail. Some of the altercations were difficult as they tried to kick my dog, and came close to running into both of us. These events are not a one off. Several of the trails have steep hills and if you are walking down the hill and a biker come racing down, this is a dangerous situation.
If the bikers have to purchase a tag and watch the video just like the dog folk, the 2 fold, additional revenue for the City of Boulder and hopefully more respect shown on the trails.

I find it difficult to hike trails that allow bikes, I constantly have to move to the side with my dog to let the bikes go by. it is disruptive to the peace that I am seeking when I walk the trails. I do not want to lose this opportunity.

That’s really a shame to say biker have lots of $$ & hikers don’t. The city should be looking out for all their citizens not just money groups. It’s is a terrible idea to let bikers on one of the very few trails were pedestrians, dog walkers & equestrians can go & not be afraid to walk. I spoke to one resident that walks the lower blues stem trail everyday & he says he never walks the Marshall Mesa trail anymore because of the bikers. Plus, one of the road proposed (Thomas lane) is all downhill & people live on this road. It is a ONE lane road with cars, delivery trucks & open spaces trucks & not safe to add bike on it for anyone. Bikers just want more & more & really don’t care about the consequences to others. This is a big NO!!!

The assumption that adding these mountain bike trails for commuters is a stretch. They will be used more recreationally than for that purpose. I lived in Boulder when the mesa trail was open to bikes and it was a disaster. Rutted trails, unpleasant encounters with pedestrians and bicyclists, and general wear and tear on the trail. It was shut down after a brief period due to all this. Also there have been homeowners in the devils thumb area and I myself have encountered bicyclists on pedestrian only trails. When confronted they really didn't care if they were in the wrong.
I know there are responsible cyclists and it just takes a few entitled bad ones to ruin it for everyone. Boulder already has made it clear that multi use trails in south boulder do not work, why are we revisiting the issue another time when we have a few new faces to bring it up again?
Listen to the majority and the previous committee work studies done, Boulder does not want these trails turned over to multi-use.
Isn't that why the NMBA moved to Salida since they couldn't get their south boulder trails? Please don't allow this

---

Please no. I am an avid mountain biker and a hiker. When hiking I frequently love to do so with my two Jack Russell's. Bikers need their own designated connector out close to 93. Putting bikes on Mesa or Blue Stem would ruin that area.
Bikes already rule all of Marshall Mesa trails, Doudy Draw, and Spring Brook Loop. I cannot and will not hike or run there with all the bike traffic. I do however love it for mountain biking and really enjoyed when Spring Brook Loop opened.
I am 64 years old now and grew up in Boulder. I have hiked and biked and rock climbed in the area for my whole life. Not retired yet, but when not working I am out there multiple times a week.
As someone who rides and hikes out there frequently, if you need a connector for bikes from Table Mesa to Doudy Draw then it really needs to be for bikes only and east away from the other trails and wildlife that live in the area.

Please keep Mesa Trail as pedestrian/horses only. There are many trails that I do not hike or walk anymore because of bicyclists speedy past me (and hitting me once). It is too stressful to share trails with speeding vehicles! I repeat It is too stressful and dangerous to share trails with speeding vehicles. Defeats the purpose of the these trails for the majority of people. Please Please Please. There are already many trails for bicyclists that basically disenfranchise people who have paid for these trails. In fact I would advocate for the making the trails that are already multi-use trails like Betasso so that people do not have to share trails with bicyclists.

I mostly think that current hiking trails should not allow bikes on them, especially if there are too narrow to allow safe multi modal transit. But I am open to a Betasso model for sharing use for trails where it make sense to allow dual use -- but set aside a few days for hikers only.

Keep it a walking trail. No bikes. Bikes on a trail make it stressful for pedestrians. You don’t hear them coming so you feel the need to look out constantly for yourself and children.

Bikes should not be allowed on current hiker only trails, most especially Mesa/Shanahan. There are other trails for bikes and there are too many dogs off leash for cyclists to safely ride on those trails.

Bikers already dominate most trails that are used by foot and bike traffic, and they aren't kind. As an avid hiker, most of the time they are annoyed they have to slow down for us. We need hiker only trails or hiker only days.

Let's please keep some trails for hikers only! Of course adding bikes to trails that have been pedestrian only will make significant and detrimental changes ! This is not new information! If there are mountain bike-designated trails, then hikers can make a choice to hike along side, or not. I would choose not to hike on multimodal paths/trails. Even though hikers have the right -of-way that is not always followed! The bikers going uphill force hikers off trails, and bikers careening down the hill also risk the safety of hikers if hikers don't get off the trail, out of their way. Even on our many multimodal Boulder bike paths it's a rarity IF a courteous biker announces "on your left" as they zip by inches away. Of course you no doubt have studied the impact that bike usage will degrade the trails, especially narrow ones, also trails that tend to get extra muddy or icy in shaded areas will be significantly impacted. SO NO to all trails being Multimodal. Please keep signage clear as to which trails are and are not, for safety's sake.

As a biker, hiker and walker, I am completely against making any more hiking trails into "multimodal" trails. Currently, there are many places bikers can go for a terrific biking experience. If bikers start joining hikers on the trail or start carving days away from hikers, it is a loose-loose for the hiking community.
Please don't add bikers to our hiking trails. I am against it.

NO to bikes on Boulder trails.

No bikes. Riders coming down the hills into S. Bld Creek and into S. Mesa Tr are sure to be going too fast for multi-use (groups of peds, on and off leash dogs, children). I walked at Bobolink on Sat 10/5 and it was nuts: bikers way too fast (50% of them), no trail etiquette, a lot of slamming of brakes, and little/no distance from walkers. Got missed a few times by inches. Plus, the whole road-avoiding argument is specious: they'd still have to get to the proposed N entrance--up Greenbriar or Lehigh from B'way. Marshall rd is not unsafe; I've biked it for 40 yrs; it's a slow, safe road. And you've obviously noted that existing multiuse trails up from D Draw, especially on dirt road section at bottom, are heads-up for walkers (dogs, kids), as there is plenty of entitled biker behavior (transl: aggressive). Go to Jeffco--where I've walked/run for decades--to see some bad biker action So, PLEASE DON'T RUIN THESE GREAT TRAILS!

It would be amazing for bikers to be able to connect to south boulder trails on a trail instead of the road! The mesa trail would be the perfect way to do that. There are still many trails that hikes could hike in south Bolder that do not allow bikers. Thank you!

I think alternating days for different uses would be the most fair and appropriate way to make use of the trail. Sharing it any other way makes it dangerous.

As a hiker, road biker, and mountain biker, no to the Doudy Draw connector trail. Marshal Road is a great connection to the south Boulder trails.

Bikes, e-bikes, scooters are out of control and should NOT be allowed on trails. They are dangerous on sidewalks as well. Walking and driving in Boulder is now like navigating in HELL. Everyday is dangerous. I've almost been hit by e-bikes so many times and have seen so many close calls between e-bikes and cars zooming off of sidewalks as well. WHEN WHEN WHEN will the city impose some rules on them? This is insane every single day. HELP!!~!!!!!!!! What happened to the Boulder we used to love? VERY SAD!!!!!!

Keep bicycles off the Mesa trail, please. Thanks

No bikes on the any more trails. Currently on shared trails, there are a few that respect hikers, by biking slower or using a bell, but the majority do not, and I am startled all of the time by bikes racing by from behind me without warning. Too many bikers treat the trails as something to conquer instead of something to relish, where you stop and take in the beauty. And many paths have so many hikers that there is no room for the speed that bikes bring - even runners sometimes have trouble getting through, but at least they can stop easier. Please leave our trail system pleasant for the huge population of hikers.

I thunk trails are for all....
However with the recent uptick in population and people on " gravel bikes" every time I go to one of my favorite trails. I am bombarded with rude bikers that don't move over that. Don't try to accommodate someone that doesn't hear them from behind that has dogs and they riding gangs. I'm sick of it !
I bike and never behave like that.
On the flipside when I do bike, it's very hard to navigate around all the walkers, hikers and dogs. Thus frustration on both sides.
I feel that certain trails should not allow mountain bikers ever!
And that other multi use places need to become like Betasso.
Alot of the bikers do not follow rules of the road or trails and people are sick of their entitled behavior.
I live and play in Nederland.

I would really not like bikes on the Shanahan trails. There are lots of hikers & happy dogs off leash that would be negatively impacted if bikes were to be allowed. Please DO NOT
ruin it!
Thanks

Please don't allow bikes on the South mesa trail. The trail is narrow, curvy, and wooded. How can bikers safely avoid hikers at high speed in this scenario? Sounds like hikers will lose an incredible north/south trail which is a real gem. It's also very dangerous for dogs and bc of that the bikers trying to avoid them.

A BIG NO!!
I have walked my dog at Boulder Rez and Coot Lake for a number of years.
I have never come across such an entitled group of people! They can't slow down, no matter how many people, and loose dogs are on the path! If you ask them to slow down or give you a heads up, they'll yell obscenities at you. Or, just give you the finger.
Two or three across on the road. Give your horn a little tap to give then a heads up. Do they move over? NO.
DONT GETME STARTED ON THE $160 Million for a bike path from Longmont to Boulder!!

Boulder's hiking trails are not built to accommodate cyclists. Mesa trail has many places that are narrow with steep dropoffs to the side. There is no way a cyclist and hiker can pass each other simultaneously or for a hiker to step off to the side. Cyclists will erode and put a groove in the trail causing hikers to lose their footing and fall. And electric mountain bikes on trails result in cyclists coming up fast behind hikers and scaring them--very dangerous for the hiker to be surprised. Many cyclists do not announce their presence to hikers before they are bearing down on them. And it is very annoying to always be stepping aside and waiting for cyclists to pass. All of Mesa Trail and other trails built for hiking must be preserved for hiking only.

Please no bikes on trails. It’s impossible to walk with young kids when bikes are present. It ruins the relaxing experience for all. Please please no.

Boulder needs places for pedestrian only - for safety and enjoyment

---

I think single track trails should be single use trails either hiking only or biking only. Trying to share a single track trail, leads to conflict, accidents and erosion.
I am a hiker who likes to relax and enjoy nature during a hike. Adding dodging bikers during a hike is stressful and greatly reduces my satisfaction with the hike.
Please keep hiking only trails, hiking only.

I'm writing in support of the Shanahan Ridge to Doudy Draw connection in the Multimodal Assessment draft package of solutions.
The City of Boulder's own evaluation matrix scores this connection a 4 - a meaningful impact on safety, mode shift potential, and equity. No other item in the assessment package scores that way across all three. T staff report also notes that a reroute is unlikely to be technically complex and that a sustainable new alignment would likely reduce long-term maintenance needs. Those are the project's stated goals, and this connection delivers on them better than anything else being considered.
The practical case is straightforward. Right now, getting from South Boulder to the Marshall Mesa and Doudy Draw systems by bike means either Highway 170 or a detour with two road crossings. Commuters find that uncomfortable. For families and for the high school and junior teams that ride these routes regularly, it's often the reason the trip doesn't happen by bike at all. I read that OSMP designates roughly 58 of its 159 trail miles for bicycles, and none of the 70 miles between Eldorado Springs and Wonderland Lake.
I don't want to wave off the ecological concerns. The assessment scored habitat, species, and invasive species impacts as substantial negatives. But those scores reflect the connection as currently sketched, not a designed alignment. If OSMP moves forward, I'd ask that it commit to routing away from the most sensitive prairie and riparian segments, seasonal restrictions where ground-nesting birds warrant them, and monitoring with the ability to adjust.
One narrow, well-designed connection is not a reopening of the West Trail Study Area. It's a response to a specific safety gap that has grown more acute since 2011. I'd urge the Open Space Board of Trustees to include it in the final recommendations.

City of Boulder,
I am all for the Multi Use connector route from Shanahan Ridge to Dowdy Draw. I used to Live off Green Briar and hiked the area many, many times with and without a rescue dog. That area does not get a huge amount of traffic. The trails are wide enough to handle bikes as well but NOT E BIKES. I think the opposition to the multi use is from hikers, trail runners with or without dogs is very selfish. I have been ran over by trail runners way too often all over the City and Mountain Parks trails as a senior citizen. Trail runners are the most aggressive people on the trails in Boulder. I feel bikers always ring a bell and are very mindful of hikers with dogs and horse riders. Not having to ride the heavy traffic

on the Eldorado pavement is a big deal when older like me at 69 years old.
Please consider my viewpoint,

I am a trail runner/hiker AND cyclist. I use alot of trails. Humans have a hard time with change. Ingrained habit disruption is challenging! The number of trails open to bikes dwarfs the number open to pedestrians only. Riding on roads even for a short distance can be scary for many so bikers will drive to trails. Having short sections of connection allows for more bikers choosing to ride to a trail rather than drive. This happens to be one of the major drivers of building a path from Boulder to Lefthand canyon for those that ride to Ward. Many drive and park rather than riding US 36. Opening a short connector section will save lives and decrease recreational car travel. Maybe a hiking and riding "tag" to be worn for those that pass a courtesy test?!! On Germany and Austria, rules are taught young and known. If you are in the way when you shouldnt be, there are consequences.

From my experiences, and I have ridden trails, bicyclists and hikers have completely different reasons for using trails. Hikers want to experience the trail and scenery at a walking pace.
Cylists want to see how fast they can go on turns and hills. Their vision is focused on the trail and obstacles ahead. The 2 shouldn't be mixed. One suggestion, and I know that it isn't practical, is to set a speed limit of 5 mph for cyclists.

More bike access as proposed is a dangerously terrible idea. We have added bike lanes everywhere and I know access along Hwy 93 into Boulder is safe especially accessing via Marshall town. Boulder needs trails where we can hike without constantly looking out for bikes on and yes even off the trail. You won't be able to catch them, What will you do about the E-Bikes? You know they will not stay off the trails once you open up bike access. I have seen very fast and incompetent riders on the Marshall Mesa. An accident just waiting to happen if they even get caught. That's not to say there are not responsible riders as there are. I am one of them. I avoid trails and do not ride single track ever.
Please don't allow any more bike access ever. There are plenty of off road places to ride now. These are not commuting trails either. Few if any use these for commuting. They are recreational trails where everyone should be allowed to have a good experience. There are enough bike lanes and trails which we have spent millions of dollars on. Don't approve bikes on Hiker Only trail.

Instead of adding bikes to pedestrian only trails, simply build a new, no frills, connector trail that is open to bikes and pedestrians.

Has a very frequent user of boulder trails I feel that mountain biking is already sufficiently represented. When my friends and I are looking for someplace to hike their biking today and if there is, we will not go. The bicycles are supposed to yield to the pedestrians, but they never ever ever do. They just keep riding. We have to get off the road the trail and then another one comes so we have to do the same thing. It totally interrupts our pleasure of these beautiful trails. Thank you for listening. Hope you make the right decision.

As a hiker and a cyclist, Im in favor of opening the trail to cyclists. Much safer cycling on trail. I avoid areas for cycling if riding on street is involved.

This is a great idea. Once CU south closes in a month, there won’t be any great access routes to Marshall from town. I appreciate any/all new trails and I also support building additional trails as our population of active users continues to grow.

Please do not allow cyclists on the pedestrian paths. I've been hit and nearly been hit by cyclists many times and allowing them will have some benefit but will put pedestrians in danger. Please do not allow cyclists on pedestrian paths. Pedestrians already have such small amounts of space to walk and 'even in Boulder' cyclists frequently ride on the sidewalks and other places they simply should not or are not allowed to be and I have never seen any enforcement of those laws.

Asa hiker who has more than once was nearly run over by cyclists who seem to think they are the only ones on the trail I would strongly oppose this. Cyclists don't share trails.

I my opinion bikers and hikers do no mix very well, mainly if there are also children or dogs involved.
So bikers and pedestrians should remain separated as much as possible.
For certain selected trails alternate days like Betasso Preserve may be a possibility.

Definitely no bikes on hiking trails! I hike to get away from bikes and cars

---

Yes! A loud yes! to the Shanahan-Dowdy Draw connection. Let’s make biking safer for everyone! As a hiker also there are plenty of peaceful trails for hikers. Bikers pay taxes why not make it safer for them to enjoy the area, too!

Increasing bike access can only improve the health and safety of our community. I understand that people have concerns about the speed of bicycles, but I strongly feel that they are largely unfounded and based upon sporadic negative experiences that do not represent 99% of the encounters on any given trail.

South Boulder mountain biker. Resident of 45 years.
Regarding proposal to add bike access to Greenbriar Connector and South Boulder Creek West Trail. A strong NO.
This would not significantly improve the current mountain bike access to the Doudy Draw area.
Its a pretty big climb to get to the Greenbriar Connector and there is no parking in that neighborhood.
Still would have to use or cross 93 to get to SBC West trailhead, or drive and park there
Hikers and dog walkers need bike free areas.
And never, never please allow bikes on any part of the Mesa Trail.
I use and love our local mountain biking trail system, including the improvements recently made in the Marshal Mesa area, but these specific connecter accesses are not needed or wanted.

I am a frequent cyclist and hike. Leaving Dowdy Draw as a hikers only trail is important as it is one of the few trails ib Boulder where one can enjoy the serenity of nature. Like it or not, cyclists on a trail disrupt this serenity. Many come racing by from behind without giving warning. Leave well enough alone. There are more than enough cycling trail in the Boulder area.

Hi! I live in Denver but come up to visit on the train.
My comment is just that I hope there's a lot of outreach to let other communities know if this happens.
I didn't realize the Apex trail was bike only on the day that I came up from Denver. I started at the top. I didn't realize that I wouldn't have access to hike back down to the Light Rail train. So, then I was stuck up on the mountain without transit and had to find another way down.
I'd already been hiking a lot that morning, and didn't have enough stamina to hike the extra 11 miles to go around the

long way. I ended up going back towards Lookout Mountain and getting a ride share to the train, which was not convenient or cheap.

No There is no enforcement. Bikes are capable of 20+ mph downhill and do not yeild to hikers. If the biking community doesn't feel safe on roads with auto and won't share bike lanes with pedestrians why would it be safe for bikes to be on hiking trails.

Hi,
I recently saw a news story on 9 News regarding allowing bikes on South Mesa Trail. I would like to voice my opinion on this. I don't believe allowing bikes on this trail would be a good idea. Especially with the proliferation of e-bikes on these trails. There are plenty of trails that allow biking and very few that don't.

Please let the path just be for hikers/ealkers
There are plenty of BIKE PATHS
please keep this a quiet foot path

Opening the Mesa trail to bicycle use will further the intent and significant investments made to make Boulder a truly bike friendly town... as was done in many cities such as Amsterdam. A city has to make the choices now to create the future Boulder to be truly bike friendly. Every day, not just a day or two a week, as some are proposing.
And yes, there needs to be policing of all disrespectful behavior on the trails (Obnoxious and dangerous behavior by dogs, dog owners, addicts, homeless, cyclists... all of them.
E-bikes with throttles should NOT be allowed on the proposed trail.

I am a regular hiker and enjoy all the county and state trails, even at 78. Bikes would totally destroy that experience. In addition to physically eroding the trails, the speed with which they are going is very hazardous. It is very difficult to get out of their way in time. In addition, I am very hard of hearing and have no idea if they are coming up from behind me. I would have to stop using the trails if this is allowed, even on alternate days. There are plenty of places bikes can go other than these trails.

I would like to see the trail be open to use by cyclists - this would decrease risk of riding on the road in the area. My experience having been and avid hiker and cyclist is that the trail can be shared much like many other trails in the Boulder area. I live near a shared trail and see both user types coexisting with some basic common courtesy.

No bikes should be allowed. Too disruptive and dangerous for hikers and horses

---

Please allow bikers

Received via email to Open Space Board of Trustees
Hi All,
My name is Matt Muir and I serve on the Community Cycles Advocacy Committee. Please see the attached letter from the committee to the Open Space Board of Trustees and OSMP staff.
Note, I apologize, this was intended to be sent yesterday, Sunday August 30th. That was my fault.

Thank you for all your work on these topics.

Attachment available at the end of this document.

Received via email to Open Space Board of Trustees

Hi,

I am a resident and homeowner in Table Mesa, where I live with my 15 year old daughter. I saw the Boulder Reporting Lab article today about the possibility of a bike connector on Greenbriar and South Boulder Creek trails.

I use these trails multiple times a week as a runner and as a hiker with my daughter. I highly value them being pedestrian only, and wanted to express that I am very against them being turned into bike trails. The trails are quiet, rugged, and filled with wildlife. It's a huge asset as a way to get away from the stress of life, and it's one of the places near my house that I can go as a runner to not worry about getting blown by by bikers. I've seen how this plays out on the North Sky trail. It's way less peaceful, and a lot more scary to run there now that it's become a bike corridor.

I also ride gravel and mountain bikes, and I have had no problem with taking Marshall road to the Marshall trailhead and then community ditch. If people are worried about the crossing at 170, I would suggest we work on improving infrastructure at that location to make it safer for bikes.

Thanks for hearing my input. I hope you will keep these trails pedestrian only and find another solution for the bikes.

Thanks,

Ben Lewis

I am in favor of opening a corridor for bikes to get to Dowdy Draw and avoid having to ride on the roads. This is based on my understanding that the only parts of the current hiking-only trails that will be opened for multi-use would be the minimum to accomplish this. I still want to see a map of the proposed change, but am in favor of this in theory.

I am a 30 year resident of Boulder and an avid hiker and former mountain biker.

I think a 'connector trail' that links existing trails avoids travel on HWY 93 is an effective mitigation to a safety issue for cyclists. Linking trails together provides multiple access points to the trail system and effectively 'spreads out' the parking numbers over multiple TH's.

Signage placed at each of theses trailheads to teach proper trail etiquette for bikes, horses and pedestrians would go a longer way to managing recreation assets than limiting access. After all, its really a management problem that can be managed by education.

Separating binets and hikers allow both groups to enjoy their time on the trails without animosity. Alternate days will allow people to plan their usage and avoid confrontations from both parties. Jefferson county has done this well and recommend you reach out to them for how it can be even better

---

It is incredibly frightening to be totally relaxed and enjoying nature and a bike rapidly comes up from behind with inches of a body trying to get the benefits of calm. It is already bad enough that you allow ebikes in public parks. Please go for a hike or walk and experience the panic of of these bikes coming close and fast and tell me how it felt to you? The world is pretty crazy right now so please stop all this bike frenzy. No, you are not giving less abeled people access. You are mostly giving permission for healthy riders to petrify people. The bike have priority on all the Boulder roads. Get them off the trails! The rudeness of many riders is well documented. Even if they are not being rude the speed and closeness to a relaxed person is obviously a bad experience.

The Mountain Bike Association (then) tried to get access to the West OSMP over a decade ago, and public opinion was very much against. OSMP listened, and kept trails in that area safe and sane for hikers. It is wonderful to have an island of bike-free calm, surrounded by vast areas open to bikes (and effectively closed to hikers). A decade ago the Mountain Bike people protested that their membership were responsible, sober, mature citizens who would never shred down trails or careen around corners. Be that as it may, the pro-hiker group asked: Fine, we're sure you are but can you vouch for tens of thousands of CU students who came to Boulder to shred down slopes on bikes or boards? That question stands: open West OSMP to bikes and bikes will come. In droves. And that will effectively close the trails to hikers.
Please keep bikes off trails very wisely closed to bikes and preserved for hikers all those decades ago.

Please please please keep more trails for hikers only. We're in our 70s and really enjoy hiking the trails around Boulder. We don't enjoy sharing so many of them with bikers who aren't very courteous. We can't jump off the trail quick enough at times in a safe manner.

I use those trails a lot. I bike into Eldo a lot too. The argument concerning bikes having to use the road is a bit dramatized in my opinion. Never had a problem and would not like to see the switch. It's a beautiful trail, well kept by the users and maintained well by parks and rec. There's great riders and yucky riders. The yucks do a lot of damage and are quite arrogant esp. passing...hugging your back with their front wheel types. So I'm hoping no.
It will get the e-bikes going up there too. Breaks my heart.

I'm writing to voice my support of allowing bikes on the trail to allow the Shanahan-Doudy Draw connection. I'm both a hiker and cyclist. I feel there are numerous hiker-only options in Boulder. Allowing this to be multi-use would increase cycling safety - which has come under threat from distracted driving and more traffic. Thanks for your consideration!

Absolutely no to cyclists. They just go so much faster than hikers and dogs and they are usually quiet and sneak up on us, scaring hikers and dogs. They rarely tell us they are passing and it becomes a safety hazard. Keep it to hikers only. Cyclists has other bike only paths they can use.

Cyclists and bikes have already received enough time and money from this town. They are a small loud percentage of the population. Stop investing so much time and energy into cyclists and granting more access. Our trails are crowded enough and most multi use trails with bikes are dangerous because they seldomly yield to hikers because they are riding too fast.
About time city council focuses on real issues and stops wasting their time and our money on cyclists! Enough is enough. No more giant bike lanes! No more incremental access. How about hiring the right amount of cops and paying them what they deserve?

A hard no on allowing bikes on this trail. Already WAY too few trails pedestrians can use to get away from irresponsible bike riders!

No bikes on this trail! I avoid all trails with bikes on them as I can’t hear them coming and they go so fast they nearly run me over. This trail is wide and I anticipate their speed to be FAST on this trail, if they are allowed here.

I believe Bicycles should NOT be allowed on the trail. Long time cyclist but I realize the danger of putting hikers and cyclists on the same trail and the issues it poses. There are plenty of other places for cyclists to go. Adding this way is not a good idea in my opinion.

I used to mountain bike a lot years ago, commuted to work in Boulder daily for 20 years, and now I hike South Boulder almost daily. From my experience, hikers and bikers DO NOT MIX well. Combining the two modes is a disservice to both groups and will cause more conflict and more collisions. It will crowd users onto the edge of the trail which will only cause lost of vegetation and more erosion. No amount of public service announcements of "share the trail" or "use your bell" will help the situation. Hikers are distracted by their conversation and are not listening out for bells or scared out of their skins when they hear "ON YOUR LEFT," and bikers want a challenging work out without runners, hikers, children or dogs in their way. Meanwhile the city will have to spend more on trail restoration and erosion control as the trail becomes wider and loses the edge vegetation that prevents erosion.
Enforcement is ineffective as it is impossible for ranges to enforce any rules of the trail since conflicts happen so quickly.
Biking to Drowdy Draw via Marshall is a lovely ride - really sweet with light and slow traffic, and a traffic/crossing light could be installed near the South Mesa trailhead if there are enough safety concerns to warrant it (and slowing west-bound traffic as it approaches Marshall may improve safety, as well.)
I think it may be a relatively small group of bikers who use the access for a Dowdy Draw ride. Meanwhile it may attract several more from outside the area who just use it for dirt bike practice and have no interest in accessing Dowdy Draw.

Let's leave the existing trails for hikers, for hikers. The experience of visiting these trails is best pursued on foot and let's just leave it the way it is. I have performed volunteer work on trails in Boulder County and these trails do not deserve to be impacted by the added bicyclist traffic. There are plenty of bicyclist trails in Boulder County, and why are bicyclists going after these trails anyhow? Would appreciate an answer to that question.

No bikes on trails. They are a danger to pedestrians, riding too fast, near misses with hikers. I avoid trails with bikers. They already have enough places to ride . These trails were designed for hiking and should remain closed to biking. It’s too dangerous and ruins the hiking experience.

I walk, hike (sometimes with a dog) and also have a mountain bike. Biking is great. Except…it often ruins the experience for the walker/hiker and especially those with a dog. Most bikers go WAY TOO FAST and only sometimes announce "on your left (or right) intentions. Please keep these separate! I want to enjoy the beauty of the mountains and the tranquility of the trail without worrying about watching for bikers as well!

Absolutely allow cyclists on more trails that keep them off traveled roads. The state already has enough opposition to existing cyclist/ pedestrian technology mandated on new cars. To do everything possible to separate cars from cyclists is essential.

Please keep bikes off the Mesa Trail. If the city wants to create a connector trail for cyclists, it should build a new trail for that purpose.
Cyclists and hikers move at very different rates of speed. Even when cyclists are considerate, their passing raises adrenaline and takes hikers out of the meditative rhythm, which is part of the pleasure of moving along trails at a walking pace. Many hikers avoid trails shared with bikers for this reason.
We shouldn't always expect to share all trails. Build bikers their own South Mesa Trail connector.

On the Shanahan-Doudy Draw connection:
As a general comment, I moved to Boulder earlier this summer and was frankly shocked to discover how little off-pavement biking there is near the city, especially given how extensive the hiking trail network is in the immediate foothills. Throughout the rest of the state, people on foot and people on bikes seem to coexist with little friction on the whole, so for the trail system here to be so exclusionary seems very strange.
That general comment aside, I strongly favor opening an additional route for people on bikes to access Dowdy Draw. Currently this area on the south side of Boulder is challenging to access for any riders who aren't willing to ride on busy roads with cars, and so a large section of trails in the region are practically off-limits to families and less confident riders. If the city is not going to meet the public demand for mountain biking by creating new trails, or open more of the existing trail network to people on bikes, then it should, at the very least, prioritize providing safe routes for riders to make connections to whatever trail areas are open to bikes.

Only if it's pedal bike, No electric bicycle (EB) that would cause a rise in accidents with pedestrian on hard to reach trails. This is danger that just may as well be avoided for serious safety reasons.

Do not open access!!! Cyclists are extremely rude with terrible trail etiquette and as a hiker I am sick of dealing with them on other trails. Do they not already have enough to ruin? Let them use a different trail system they have ruined for hikers.
Having volunteers on trails won’t change this behavior. They act with impunity and no courtesy. Yes bikes are supposed to yield, do they? No!
Please don’t pass this just because mountain bikers want more miles to ride! Consider other users who are actively avoiding riders/cyclists!
Just because we don’t have “an alliance” doesn’t mean our voices don’t matter. The boulder mountain bike alliance has had a lot of problems over the years and have proved they don’t respect open space. It’s open space to keep it undeveloped and opening these trails will require more modifications to these areas taking away from the intended purposes. More bikers means more infrastructure to support them.
If they are in compliance with road laws it shouldn’t be so dangerous to utilize existing roads and infrastructure, but they choose to operate under their own code that does not align with state laws. Same road, same rules. Keep them off our sacred trails!!

I love to hike along the Mesa Trail. It sees quite a bit of traffic now. I would not want the trail open to mountain bikes. The increased traffic would diminish the experience for humans and for nature. There are so many places where I have to dodge mountain bikes for my entire hike and I greatly appreciate places where I don't have to do so. Please keep mountain bikes off the Mesa Trail.

Bikers have enough trails. Let the hikers have some safety for a change.

Please seriously consider the walker/hikers safety and do not allow bikers to “share” the path with them. The aggressive SPEED of many bikers is of serious concern to the walker who is trying to enjoy the outdoors (and they get buzzed by e-bikes and racers) Not all of us are bike riders.
Picture a narrow highway where some cars are proceeding at 3 miles an hour and others, speeding at 25 mph are weaving in and out trying to get around them and/or get them to move off the path. Everyone loses.
Please allow some peaceful places for walkers where there is no anxiety of being overtaken by bicycle riders — especially e-bikes.

No bikes! As a 35 year long hiker living in south boulder, that's a hard no.
Bikes and hikers DO NOT WORK.
The trails are already too crowded and bikers are RUDE and ride WAY TOO FAST.
If you want to make a connection, them make them a NEW TRAIL. Do not take away the few places that one can escape wheels!
Find a different solution for bikes.

There are so few hiker-only trails as it is...let it be,

Id love to see more mountain biking friendly trails in Boulder.

I strongly oppose allowing bikes on the Mesa trail between shanahan ridge and the South Mesa trailhead. I frequently hike this trail along with homestead and Shadow canyon and know the smoothness and steepness of the trail would lead to bikes careening down the trail without yielding to pedestrians. If a bike route is required then I would instead support converting the lower bluestem system to be multimodal since it has far less traffic

---

No to cyclist on South Mesa trail, that area is very busy with hikers heading up to Bear Peak and other trails.

Just what we need, more asshole kids trying to kill us with their stupid e-motos

---

Hi OSMP,
I just saw a sign on the West South Boulder Creek Trail about the potential change to this trail system as far as allowing bikes. I saw that you were accepting opinions up until 8/30 but I hope you will still consider my thoughts. For various reasons we had not been on the trail for over a month and so only saw the sign today. We absolutely love this trail and have been using it for about 12 years, historically a few times per week. The reason we started hiking here so frequently is because there are no bikes allowed. Our pup was very nervous around bikes and we sought out trails without bikes and fell in love with this trail. Allowing bikes would not only change this situation for our pup but would change the peacefulness we love so much. We would likely stop using this trail if you allowed bikes and this would be very upsetting. We strongly oppose allowing bikes on this trail as well as in Shanahan and hope you will continue to not allow bikes. There are many trails that do allow bikes that we currently avoid. We greatly appreciate all the work that you do. And thank you for considering my opinion. Take good care, Karen

---

Absolutely not. Hikers only. Bikers have plenty of space (and I'm a cyclist). The rudeness of the young cyclists is outrageous. Ask again once they have learned that the trails don't revolve around them.
Now, let's see if these comments are heard or ignored by city leaders.
Senior, 65.
Put these comments in a sign at a hearing.

Please don't allow bikes on this path. It's a nice walk for families, and we do not want aggressive bike riders trying to run us over and starting confrontations out there, as you find on so many other multi-use paths. This is one of the last safe havens from the aggressive bicyclists around this town. We are running out of safe places where we don't aren't almost get run over by rubber! Please they are allowed pretty much everywhere, there isn't many places where you can walk in peace.

I feel the trail for safer reason should remain hikers only- At minimum not allow electronically motored vehicles like e bikes- just impossible to keep pedal bikes and e bikes apart via enforcement. There fore no version of bikes. There are plenty of options for bikes to connect and limited areas to walk safely. Thank you

---

No to more mountain biking trails! Us hikers already have few options where we can be undisturbed.

I'm a hiker and trail runner, and I fully support opening a southern trail connection to bikes. There are plenty of other hiker-only trails, and cyclists should be able to bike the southern trails without having to bike on the road with cars. I've never tried mountain biking, but we should be encouraging folks to get to trailheads via safe off-road bike routes instead of making them either bike with cars or drive their bikes to a trailhead.

Please keep pedestrian only trails available- cyclists are inherently a conflict with speed and the trail degradation. As a pedestrian you are constantly being asked (or not even alerted) to move aside for bikes. It is not a "share" condition at all. Please leave quiet and safe trails for those who want to go slower and enjoy nature. Cyclists are only doing miles and can do that on other access trails.

Yes trails should be both hiker and biker.

Received via email to Open Space Board of Trustees
Dear Open Space Board,
I am a resident of Shanahan Ridge and a long-time user of the Open Space area between Marshall Road and the area where NCAR is located. I'm intimately familiar with all the trails; when I had a dog I hiked in this area almost every day.
I am also an avid cyclist (I belong to two clubs)- mostly road and gravel with some MTB, so I am familiar with cycling people, etiquette and behavior. Lastly, I am familiar with the condition of many of the mountain biking trails in Fort Collins since I have family there. I love cycling and believe there should be accommodation for recreational cycling in Boulder's Open Space Areas. However, we also need to preserve some trails for hikers.
What I've found is that more and more users are flocking to Boulder's Open Space areas. Many are from Denver, Broomfield and other towns that have neglected to vote in funding for their own open space areas so our Boulder trails have gotten substantially more crowded in recent years. I don't feel that mixing mountain biking - which mostly consists of young men looking for speed and challenging terrain - with pedestrian use,

is safe. This mix seriously disadvantages the people on foot - often with dogs - who have to dive to the edge of the trail to avoid being hit by mountain bikers. Boulder has a preponderance of highly skilled and very competitive cyclists. On the trails that ARE available to mountain bikers, which I often ride on my gravel bike, I see that the mountain bikers are inevitably young, fast, strong and yes, intimidating. They often pass without any verbal warning (unless they are women).This isn't a criticism but a fact. They frequently ride in groups; hikers are no match for these riders. Also now that we have a proliferation of eBikes, it's more dangerous and stressful for people who want to walk to use Boulder's multi-use pathways, where other types of cyclists (particularly on eBikes) often exceed speed limits and jeopardize people on foot.

We need some places where hikers, no matter how young, old, or slow, can get out and enjoy a peaceful hike. Another issue I've observed, mostly in Fort Collins, is that the trails where mountain bikes are permitted are rutted, continuously expanding, and subject to serious erosion from rain and snow. This degrades the surrounding environment, particularly as we all endure drier conditions. We can also see this trail degradation happening in the Boulder Open Space as a result of increasing foot traffic. People put logs down to keep hikers on the path, and hikers just create new paths around the logs.

Another issue is that we have already negotiated agreements governing this part of Open Space - over a decade ago. I remember the hard work, the negotiating and controversy that went on around these discussions. Wasn't there a public meeting that went till 3am?!! We - the citizens of Boulder - decided then that the West TSA should be free of mountain biking for both environmental and social reasons. I believe that not only do the same reasons for that decision hold true, but that there are even MORE reasons now to preserve some areas for peaceful enjoyment by people on foot.

Let's work harder to develop suitable mountain biking areas in less sensitive environments that are not already extremely popular with hikers.

Finally, I strongly believe that this decision should be absolutely free of conflict of interest. I realize there are many flourishing local businesses focused around cycling, and that there are important financial opportunities that would result from expansion of mountain biking options. However, potential financial gain for a few companies should not trump environmental factors or the ability of Boulder's citizens - all of whom are taxed for Open Space - to enjoy these natural areas safely and in peace.

Received via email to Open Space Board of Trustees

Hello OSMP Board of Trustees,

My name is Steve Sloan and I appreciate the opportunity to write to you today. I have a conflict Wednesday or I would be speaking in person again.

I am a 25+ year Boulder resident and I coach young athletes as part of the Fairview High School Mountain Bike Team.

Mountain biking is important to me because it's one of my favorite ways to get outside & stay healthy and enjoy our public lands. My wife and I have also experienced both of our kids build grit by building up their skills in this sport.

Sharing the Open Space with others, acknowledging other trail users, doing trail work etc. are all parts of a healthy stewardship of the land we access when riding. My family and I make every effort to be courteous, yield to horses & hikers, let people know we are coming from behind, etc. We teach the kids on the mountain bike team that we yield to EVERYONE - and they also put forward hundreds of hours of trail building.

I encourage OSMP to support a non-motorized connector trail from south Boulder to the Doudy Draw Marshall Mesa area. Although this has been requested since 2011, I've only recently been involved since I spoke at your trustees meeting in December, hoping we would have gotten the green light by this season. The season has arrived, and as I understand it, we're still in status quo - no progress in providing this safe connector. The slow process to approve this trail increases the risks for these kids every time we practice. On behalf of the younger trail users (which include my own two children!) and all mountain bikers, we believe this is a very important project to pursue.

The trail improvements and building of the North Sky trail in North Boulder and significant trail improvements at Boulder Valley Ranch are sincerely appreciated. I think that a “South Sky” connector is also integral to the health and safety of cyclists and motorists. Put another way: there is no non-motorized connectivity in South

Boulder. Cyclists are forced onto medium, or high stress facilities. Contrast this to North Boulder where The North Sky and Cobalt and the future North Foothills Bikeway provide network connectivity that is safe and comfortable.
OSMP has an easy win to put in a cycling connection along the margin of its holding, near population, creating non-motorized connectivity, and eliminating auto-on-bike fatalities completely.
Thank you for reading my message and considering enabling this safe connector trail. I sincerely appreciate you taking the next steps to safely connect mountain bikers from south boulder to these areas.

Hello,
Good afternoon. I am writing today as a concerned coach for youth cycling. Starting the first week of August every year, we ride to the trailheads of Marshall Mesa on Tuesdays and Thursdays. As of present, the route takes us along Marshall Road, through the extremely busy 90 degree intersection of Marshall Road 170. Every time we cross this intersection there is inevitably a vehicle traveling west bound at a high rate of speed, with no Stop nor Yield sign. An alternative route we take to Spring Brook is up CO 67, which presently requires riders to pedal along El Dorado Spring Drive (no shoulder). Regardless of the trail, as a coach, we ensure our riders follow proper and safe trail etiquette to hikers, trail runners, horses, wildlife alike. I was excited to hear there is an option where our student riders can access Dowdy Draw, as well as all of the Marshall Mesa complex without crossing a major intersection. This would mean a lot to me, and our community with regards to safety for everyone. Thank you for your consideration.

A number of us are really concerned about having bikes use our hiking trails around Shanahan and Mesa. They are often dangerous and disrespectful to hikers. As elderly hikers we are more vulnerable. We should have some trails without bikes. Bikers have plenty of trails available.

I missed the comment period for the Multimodal Assessment. I want to put in my support for the connector bike trail from South Boulder to Eldorado Springs on the west side of Highway 93. It would open up lots of rides for me. Hikers have lots of choices, but bikers have many fewer choices about how to get to Eldo. Thanks!

I fully support additional bike trail connections between the Shanahan area to the Doudy Draw Trail. Bikers seem to be the majority of trail users and those numbers will increase.

I am a hiker and mountain biker living in the Shanahan Ridge neighborhood. I wanted to express my opposition to a bike connection from the Greenbriar Connector trailhead to Dowdy Draw. Normally, I am in favor of increased access for mountain bikers. However, this particular plan seems flawed.
or one thing, there is already a perfectly good, safe and pleasant, bike connection between south Boulder and the Marshall Mesa trail network, including Dowdy Draw. The old Marshall Rd is usually very quiet and pleasant, nearly deserted in fact, with at most one or two cars passing by at low speed, and oftentimes none at all. The old Marshall Rd brings me to within about 150 yds or so of the Marshall Mesa trailhead, where I can then proceed on to Dowdy Draw via the 93 underpass and Community Ditch trail. The time on 170 is minimal, a minute at most!
If one did want to eliminate this short stretch on 170 though (see this link where I've marked it: https://maps.app.goo.gl/QWHAHrFpGUcHmAhm9), it is bordered by OSMP land to the south the entire way. One could easily just build 150 yards of new trail stretching from the corner of 170 and the old Marshall Rd up to the Marshall Mesa trailhead to separate bikes and cars along this stretch. With this new, very short connection, there would be no need for a mountain biker in south Boulder to ride on any even moderately well-trafficked roads to reach Dowdy Draw. A little bit of community education, perhaps designating this

route as a recommended bike route so folks know about it, would be all that was needed.
In contrast to the very minimal problems that a bike connection on trails from Greenbriar Connector to South Mesa would solve, it is likely to create a number of much bigger problems. For one, the supposed bike connector would terminate at South Mesa trailhead, one of the busiest hiking trailheads in all of Boulder. As a reference, OSMP's own 2023 visitation study (https://bouldercolorado.gov/media/16884/download?inline - see Table 4, page 13) showed the South Mesa trail as the #5 busiest of the OSMP trails, in a virtual tie with the #4 Sanitas Valley trail on Mount Sanitas and trailing only the Chautauqua, Bluebell Road, and Wonderland Lake trails. I can confirm that the South Mesa trailhead has been packed and a zoo nearly every time I've gone there. The idea of deliberately routing every mountain biker in Boulder wanting to access the Marshall Mesa trail network through this already very high hiking traffic is ludicrous, a recipe for disaster. There's a reason bikers are typically not allowed on our busiest hiking trails.
Moreover, the other existing hiking trails suggested to be part of this scheme are also not ideal for multi-use. The Greenbriar Connector trail for one, has multiple blind corners on it, places where the trail suddenly switchbacks down and drops behind a ridge at the same time. In these places, one often has little warning that oncoming trail users are coming, even as a hiker. As a biker, it would be much worse. There would likely be hiker and biker collisions or near misses, unless the trail was significantly redone. However, because of the steep terrain in the area, the Greenbriar Connector trail is already forced into being very narrow, cut into the slope, and switchbacking down the steep hillside in the area. It would be extremely hard to route it through the existing terrain in such a way that it could become much different and better suited for multi-use.
In conclusion, the proposed plan seems to be a solution in search of a problem. There is already a fine route from South Boulder to all the Marshall Mesa trails via old Marshall Rd, I've ridden it myself many times, and a small 150 yard trail connector to go the last bit to the Marshall Mesa parking lot could eliminate any need to bike on 170 at all. At the same time, the new proposal could create many hiker-biker collision problems on the existing hiking trails in question, most notably at the already extremely busy South Mesa trail, and on the narrow, steeply switchbacking Greenbriar Connector.

Hi - I learned about the Multimodal Access Improvements Assessment questionnaire after it closed but I want to share my opinion through this forum.
I have lived in South Boulder since 1995 and regularly ride the Marshal Mesa, Dowdy Draw, Flatiron Vista, Springbrook trail system. While I do ride from home, I see a number of people driving from Boulder to the Marshal Mesa trailhead. Having a connector from Shanahan Ridge to Doudy Draw would make such a massive improvement in access to those trails for bikers. It would improve the enjoyment of those of us who currently must ride 6 miles round trip on the road to access dirt, and it would undoubtedly remove a significant number of cars (and corresponding pollution) from the road.
Please consider opening a trail between these points for biking. There are plenty of trails out there - surely one can be made available for bikes.

I strongly oppose additional use of bicycles on southern trails. Mesa Trails are full of bicycles, not usable by elder hikers or even families with kids. The bikes are so prevalent that you're "in the way,"have to step off trail. Same with other bike trails. Stop! Let the existing trails for humans, animals, creatures, plants be preserved as open space, not for active recreation. The charter was expressly for preservation of habitat and Passive recreation, e.g. walking, hiking, meditation, naturalist learning. We have ENOUGH trails for bikes.`

Received via email to Open Space Board of Trustees
I would like this to be considered as a formal comment to be added to the record of public input related to your Multimodal Assessment Project and, in particular, the possible establishment of a mountain bike corridor from Greenbriar Boulevard in South Boulder to the South Mesa Trail trailhead.
From 2009 through 2011, I served as the South Boulder Neighborhood Representative to the Community Collaborative Group. In that capacity, I spent 2 years deeply immersed in the highly contentious issue of

mountain bike access on Open Space/

One of my principal responsibilities with the Community Collaborative Group was finding the best way to balance these issues in the South Boulder area. In this regard, the compromise I advocated for (and the compromise that CCG endorsed) did what I still think was a pretty good job of balancing competing community interests.

The fact that the CCG agreement was able to defuse one of Boulder's most intractable conflicts for almost 15 years says a lot about what we were able to accomplish. That said, I think that it is wholly appropriate for the City to reevaluate and consider changes to the decisions we made at that time (decisions that the Open Space Board and City Council also endorsed).

I want to take this opportunity to explain how the way in which I thought about the problem in 2011 applies to the current situation.

I want to start by highlighting what I came to believe was a critically important fact about the relationship between mountain bike and pedestrian trail uses. After listening to extensive community comments on the issue, I concluded that, in high traffic areas, the presence of mountain bikes significantly detracts from the experience of the hiking community. While occasional hiker-biker encounters on lightly used trails are no big deal, in areas with lots of bike traffic, hikers need to constantly be on the lookout for fast-moving bikes that quickly appear (often from behind) and require them to get promptly out of the way. While a vast majority of bikers are considerate, there is an ever-present threat that an irresponsible biker could suddenly present a real danger (especially for hikers who are not so quick footed). This overlay of continual wariness takes a substantial toll on the experience and explains much of the long-running tension between these two groups. Having lots of hikers on a trail, of course undermines the mountain biking experience as well. It forces bikes to negotiate continually changing maze of unpredictable and occasionally unfriendly hikers.

My second observation is that continuing population growth, together with the expected limited expansion of the OSMP trail system, is going to mean that virtually all trails and trailheads are going to be increasingly crowded (including the ones that would be affected by the proposed mountain bike trail corridor).

Beyond this, there is a social conflict dimension. People are quite attached to the trails they use routinely — they are a gigantic part of their quality-of-life. And the imposition of a new use on an already busy trail is going to give people the sense they're being subjected to some sort of hostile takeover. And, this is something that they are likely to rebel against.

This is why in my CCI deliberations, I tried to follow a "no-hostile takeover" principle. Under this principle, I would try to find ways of meeting the need for increased recreational opportunities by adding new trails with the understanding that they would be primarily designated for the relatively new use of mountain biking. Mountain bikers, at least during the CCG's deliberations, had a legitimate claim to being an underserved community. This is why there was such strong support for development of new mountain bike trails in new and relatively undeveloped parts of the OSMP system areas (including Marshall Mesa and the Dowdy Draw areas in South Boulder). This resulted in the construction of lots of new trails that aren't very attractive for hikers. These new trails have made it possible for Open Space to provide a much more balanced array of recreational opportunities.

The other big issue that came up, which seems to be at the core of the current debate, is how best to provide mountain bike access to the new Marshall Mesa / Dowdy Draw trailhead. Given that people want to be able to bike from home and we all had an interest in reducing auto trips, a big priority was providing mountain bike access to the area. Fortunately, construction of a bicycle tunnel under Highway 93 at the Marshall Ditch provided a solution to the problem. With this tunnel, bikers could follow the bikeway system to South Broadway and then follow the very lightly traveled Marshall Road to the Marshall Mesa parking area. From there, the tunnel provided access to the Dowdy Draw area. It was the existence of this new route that made me feel comfortable recommending that the Big Bluestem / South Boulder Creek area continue to be designated as a no bikes area.

This is a decision that I think still makes sense. There are a number of difficulties with the proposed plan for allowing mountain bike access to the Greenbrier Connector, Lower Big Bluestem, South Boulder Creek, and South Mesa Trails. First of all, this is a rather circuitous route with a significant climb up to the Greenbrier Connector Trailhead that doesn't offer many advantages over the existing route. It would also put a lot of bike traffic on two existing but increasingly popular hiking trails, violating my hostile takeover principle. While, in theory, a completely new trail could be constructed through this area that would stay away from existing

hiker trails, such a trail would inevitably wind up chunking up one of Boulder's biggest grassland habitats. This is something that environmental representatives on the CCG were adamantly against for reasons that I found persuasive. Such a trail would also detract from what is the last undeveloped transition from the prairie to the Flatirons and a view of what the Boulder Valley was once like. Giving that up would entail significant environmental recreational and historical preservation costs and I doubt that, given the existing access route, the benefits of the change would outweigh the costs.

The situation would obviously get even more difficult once mountain bikers got close to the South Mesa Trail trailhead. Here, OSMP has only a relatively small strip of land between the mesas and private property along South Boulder Creek. This area already has lots of very popular and very busy hiking trails (and great bird watching opportunities). Putting mountain bikes on these trails would involve a much more serious degradation of the visitor experience. It's also hard to see how you could put another mountain bike only trail through this narrow corridor. And such a trail would doubtless have serious adverse impacts on the ecotone habitat between the grasslands and the mesas.

Bottom line, I don't see how the additional mountain bike access associated with this proposal would justify its significant environmental and recreational costs. As I understand it the Multimodal Assessment Project is focused on making it easier to access Open Space without having to drive. It is not focused on reevaluating the visitor use patterns and environmental protection measures on Open Space. That, as the CCG found out, is a much bigger and much more contentious issue with profound environmental implications. If Open Space wants to consider such issues it ought to do so in the context of a much more comprehensive process (such as the one conducted by the CCG).

Good morning

I missed the deadline on the survey

A little input as I live in Marshall.

Notice many bikers go down Highway 93 instead of using the bike path on South Broadway, which connects to Marshall Road. I believe more signage is needed for some of these people to realize that is there.

Also adding bike path to this trail will make it very difficult to walk my dog in peace, etc. the bikers are fast and when it is slightly breezy, you can’t hear them coming there’s no notification.

In addition, I think this project is perpetuated by the Fairview parents as these kids don’t want to cross at a light on Broadway yet most of them are able to drive and are almost 18 year-old adults if they haven’t figured out how to do that safe safely yet then I am a bit concerned for them

There are very few paths left where I can just walk with my dog and relax please consider

---

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the Multimodal Assessment Project. My comments pertain specifically to the proposal for a Greenbriar connector trail that would allow mountain bikes. I am strongly opposed to this proposal for several reasons:

1. I enjoy mountain biking as well as hiking, and it is already easy to bike from South Boulder to the Marshall Mesa area by using the bike paths along south Broadway. There doesn't need to be another access point.
2. I use the current hiking trail in that area to run/walk several times per week as do many others. Opening it to mountain bikes would significantly impact my enjoyment of the trail and the peace/solitude of using it. I would constantly be on the lookout for a fast moving mountain bike, especially since the trail is downhill, so mountain bikes going downhill could move quickly. This would present a safety hazard.
3. Creating the Greenbriar connector trail would increase parking and congestion in the neighborhood.
4. That area is home to wildlife, including coyotes, foxes, prairie dogs, horses, and cattle (depending on the time of year). Opening it to mountain bikes would negatively impact those animals. It would also cause erosion and as a result, increase costs for trail maintenance.

Received via email to Open Space Board of Trustees

Good evening,
I am writing regarding the potential Shanahan Ridge-Doudy Draw Trail Connection for bikes. I am confused and utterly heartbroken by this proposal. I walk/hike/run the South Boulder Creek West trail to the Mesa trail 4-5 times a week. This is my primary place of choice because so many places I used to go now have a significant number of bikes (Marshall Mesa, Doudy Draw, Flatirons Vista). It's hard to understand why bike use would be proposed for this area for number of reasons:

1. Ecologically sensitive area. The Greenbriar Connector was deemed such a sensitive area that although it was once open to off leash dogs, now dogs are not allowed at all. It is confusing that consideration is now given to opening this sensitive grassland area to bikes. South Boulder Creek West is an often-used area for wildlife. Bears routinely use the area in the summer (particularly this summer), the white tail deer traverse this space all year long, and bobcats are also there on occasion along with many other species. While hikers/walkers/runners have an impact on the wildlife, bikes and the speed at which they traverse the trail system increase the potential for negative human / wildlife encounters. This does not feel like space that is conducive to the addition of bikes.
2. Doudy Draw Parking. The trail access proposed here seems unlikely to impact parking at / driving to Doudy Draw in any meaningful way. The citizens who are likely to use this proposed path without driving already have access to the trail head with minimal use of the road and many already ride via Marshall Road to the Marshall Mesa Trailhead to Community Ditch, etc. The addition of bike access at Shanahan Ridge is, however, likely to increase the number of people driving to and parking in the Shanahan Ridge neighborhood. The pressure on neighborhood parking is already out of control as more people come to the area to hike the Shanahan Ridge trails.
3. User Conflict. I love that Boulder promotes and supports access to the outdoors in all forms. I also believe that we all need to act as good stewards and share the trails in meaningful and cooperative ways. But often, sadly, this is not happening. The biker / non-biker conflict is significantly higher than is often represented (most people don't report it but it happens frequently). This rings true even just reading the on-line vitriol regarding this issue. I use the South Boulder Creek West trail frequently because I love and appreciate the quiet and peaceful access to nature it offers. The addition of bikes significantly changes this and honestly adds a lot of stress. It is also likely to create more user conflict, particularly on the single-track areas which are not set up for both bike and non-bike use. I love bikes, my family bikes, and we greatly appreciate that there is access to areas to bike nearby. But this is not a great place for shared access. More bike-only trails in other areas seems much more appropriate.
4. Safety. I am an advocate for anything that increases bike safety. However, I'm confused about the safety claims made in support of the trail access here. I have seen businesses and groups claim that kids are forced to ride on Hwy 93. This is not true. From the Table Mesa area there is tunnel access under Broadway to a bike path to Marshall Road (which is quiet and has a speed limit of 25). I also repeatedly see claims that you must ride on Hwy 170 to access Doudy Draw. This is misleading. Currently, you must ride for a minute or two and cross over 170 to the Marshall Mesa trailhead. But then you can access Doudy Draw via the existing trail system from Marshall Mesa through Community Ditch. And to the extent folks are concerned about the cross-over on 170 from Marshall Road to access the Marshell Mesa trailhead, a crosswalk with a light and potentially creating a short dirt trail in this area (which I think was included in the survey proposals) could easily alleviate concerns for less cost and a reduced environmental impact. Moreover, the proposed trailhead requires riders to cross Hwy 170 in a less visible area and requires folks to cross Greenbriar.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Re: Connector in area of S Boulder Creek West
Currently the south side of SBoulder Creek West trail is one of few places to utilize Voice and Sight Command program without bicycles on the trail. I do not use Marshall Mesa trail because the bike traffic is so heavy all the time making it difficult to have a relaxing hike with my dog. I know there are many seniors like myself who hike in daytime with well behaved dogs. All it takes is one hell bent cyclist to come from behind or around a blind bend to disrupt and sometimes startle me as we are hiking the trail. This is a hazard as trying to get off a

narrow rocky trail in a hurry could lead to a fall or other accident. I'm fit for my age but the fact is that accommodating cyclists going 15 m/hr is nerve wracking, even on pavement. I'm glad there are hundreds of miles of bike trails in our county. But I ask you whether it's wise to force everyone on foot to accommodate cyclists everywhere, leaving those of us who properly hike with our dogs off leash in open space no alternative but ugly, crowded dog parks. Please balance the needs of law abiding dog walkers with the bottomless demands from cyclists for more trails. You can make connections by paved road on a bike. But when you're on foot that's just not feasible. Thank you.

Received via email to Open Space Board of Trustees

Dear Open Space and Mountain Parks Board of Trustees,

My family has a deep connection to Boulder. My grandfather came here in 1924 to teach at the University of Colorado, and my mother was born here. I have been a Boulder resident since 1979. My husband and I have walked the serene, wild trails of South Boulder Creek West for decades with our dogs, and in that time we've seen deer, bears, coyotes, and a wonderful variety of birds and other wildlife.

I want to be clear that I am also a cyclist myself — I ride both the roads and mountain bike trails. I understand and appreciate the safety concerns about children and others crossing Highway 93 and other streets. But I believe there are better solutions to those safety problems than opening this particular connector, and I am writing to ask you not to include the South Boulder Creek West segment in the Multimodal Assessment's final recommendations.

My concerns are both personal and environmental.

Personally, this is one of the few relatively flat, accessible trails in the area — which makes it a rare option for Boulder's older residents, including us. It is a place to walk quietly, with a dog or alone, without the constant vigilance that shared bike trails require. Many cyclists are courteous, but many ride too fast for a setting like this, and I have learned to avoid trails with bikes for that reason. Opening this connector would take away one of the last truly quiet, walkable refuges in South Boulder.

Environmentally, I worry about the wildlife that depends on this corridor. These animals will inevitably be affected by faster, more frequent traffic through their habitat.

Finally, I would ask the board to remember that this question has already been carefully decided. The existing trails in this area were designated bike-free through the 2011 West Trail Study Area Process. Part of this land is a designated Colorado Tallgrass Prairie State Natural Area, protected for its high-quality habitat. I do not believe the case has changed enough to reopen a decision that was reached through such a thorough public process.

I respectfully urge you to preserve South Boulder Creek West as a pedestrian trail and to explore alternative solutions for safe bike connectivity that do not come at the cost of this irreplaceable place.

Thank you for your service and for your stewardship of the lands that make Boulder what it is.

The problem I have with the survey is that it's geared to "How do the proposals affect my personal experience of Boulder open space." That's not the way I want to participate in the improvements project. I want to participate as a tax-paying citizen of Boulder County, committed to Boulder's continued acquisition and maintenance of open space.

1) The open space is Boulder's crown jewel.

2) Users should by all means bike to the trailheads. In the open space itself --particularly in the foothills-- they should walk.

3) The county should make no tradeoffs between preservation of open space and wildlife habitat vs. use of the open space -- that is, if a proposed "improvement" is likely to degrade open space and wildlife habitat, the improvement should not be made.

4) People who violate county regulations for open space should be prosecuted. That possibility should be part of education campaigns.

What about a simple connector trail between the newly developed trail at Prince lake #1 and Prince lake #2. Looks to me that about everything is in place but a connector.
Come on "Git it DONE!!!"
Jon P.

Hi,
I very much appreciate the efforts of OSMP. We have a beautiful open space and mountain park system, and it is something that I treasure. Thank you for all that you do!
I live in South Boulder and use the Greenbrier connector 2-3 times per week and the South Boulder creek trail 1-2 times/month. I also use the Big Bluestem, N &S Shanahan, Mesa, Marshall Mesa, and Running Brook/Goshawk Ridge trails regularly.
I love the Greenbrier Connector to Big Bluestem to Bluestem Connector to S. Shanahan (or the counter-clockwise version of that sequence) from my neighborhood - my go-to loop for short distance runs or walks. I run or walk the Greenbrier Connector multiple times a week. I love hearing the coyotes, the birds, the wind, and frequently, just the quiet. It is a wonderful and wild place, and the fact that it is so close to the condos, townhomes, and residences of Shanahan Ridge is a blessing.
The difference between the Running Brook and Marshall Mesa Complex multiuse trails and the other hiking/running trails mentioned that are closed to mountain biking is very significant. I find trail damage and the impact to quiet recreation to be very significant on the multiuse trails. It is not a relaxing and quiet experience to travel those trails, and I don't recall seeing wildlife on those trails the way that I do on the hiking trails (compare the running brook trail to the Goshawk ridge trail, for example).
I am also a mountain biker, and I do enjoy riding the multiuse trails that are open. However, I do not see it as a burden to cross Broadway at Greenbrier, ride the paved sidewalk south which turns into to Marshall road, and then ride to access the Marshall Mesa trail system directly at the Marshall Mesa trail head (potentially to access the Flatiron Vista area to the southwest (crossing at 128 and 93) or to access trails to the south and west via the Community Ditch Trail which crosses under 93) or to enter the trail system at Doudy Draw by crossing 93 at the 93/Marshall and ElDo Springs intersection and riding along El Dorado Springs Drive. Note that I did comment in the multimodal assessment survey that improvement of that intersection would be a positive impact for me,
I strongly oppose opening the greenbrier connector, a portion of the big bluestem trail, and the south boulder trial to bicycles, given that we already have multiple access routes to the Doudy Draw area from south boulder. The damage to the current experience, the impact to the trails, and the impact to wildlife and ecosystem fragmenting greatly trumps a slightly shorter path to get to Doudy Draw.
Thank you for your consideration.
Charles Haggans

I am 85 yrs old and have used Boulder open space trails for about 55 yrs. I am very alarmed at any more trails being used by bicyclists. Most elders are concerned not to risk being on trails that allow bikes. Open space had been created in part to protect wildlife and ecosystems and to provide a place where citizens can walk without bikes or any motorized vehicles. Because of the powerful bike lobby group the mission of open space has been altered and bikes and particularly mountain bikes have been allowed and those areas become dangerous and unpleasant for a large population of elders and families with young children who are not an organized lobby. Please do not corrupt anymore trails with bicycles!!!

I do not support creating new bicycle access to the Dowdy Draw trailhead and associated trails. While I am an avid bicycle rider, and support bicycle use for receation and commuting, I do not feel use in this area is appropriate. There is too much degradation to the natural values of Open Space already, and projects that create additional negative impact should be avoided. Between 1900 and 2000 not a single mammal or bird species endemic to Boulder County was lost; but in the time since 2000, approximately 20 species have

disappeared from Boulder County, most on Open Space. Our natural environment has been seriously eroded due to bad OSMP and other Boulder public agencies decisions since 2000.

I am a former cyclist and bike racer. I used to run bicycle tours throughout the western USA and Europe in the '80's and '90's. We had strict rules regarding cycling etiquette. I have never seen cyclists as rude and inconsiderate as they are here in the Boulder area. I live next to a multi-use pedestrian path. Cyclists rarely say they're passing. They will ride 2 or 3 abreast when there's no room for that. They ride exceedingly fast on these pedestrian pathways , which are supposed to have a speed limit, but it remains on posted. I walk with my service dog who has nearly been hit several times even though he's on a leash right next to me. I am a senior citizen with PTSD and a hearing impairment. When cyclists pass me like that , I cannot hear them approaching. I jump out of my skin and my heart races to the point where I'm worried I might have a heart attack. When I have asked a cyclist to slow down, or to at least announce that they are passing with ample warning, I have often been flipped off or sworn at. So, No, I am Not in favor of adding more cyclists to the paths and trails that we hike.
And I will no longer ride my road bike here; it's much too frightening.
I wish you would keep senior citizens in mind when you keep trying to force everyone to ride a bicycle here.

I have major safety and noise concerns about our peaceful hiking trails if bikes are allowed. For a hiker they are wonderful without bikes!!

As an avid user of open space, an elderly person who likes to be outdoors, and a dog owner, I would like to add my voice to object to opening South Boulder Creek Trail to mountain bikes. Bikes do not mix well with hikers, especially bikers that go fast and ride in packs. Allowing mountain bikes on the already crowded South Boulder Creek Trail will create a danger for all hikers, but especially for the elderly, the disabled, children, and dogs. Even solo bikers who don't speed present potential danger to people on foot and pets. While I'm sympathetic to the interests of bikers, opening up this trail will endanger vulnerable people and their pets, and it will create chaotic traffic on an already busy trail. I hope we can keep the trail as a peaceful haven for contemplative hikes.

I totally support limited use of this trail. Although most bike riders are polite and thoughtful , some are not and it is those who are dangerous to walkers who are often considering the beauty and vistas and sometimes not watching out for faster moving users.

The main reason behind the Shanahan-Doudy Draw Trail connection seems to be providing safe access for Fairview High School students to the Doudy Draw Trailhead. I've heard people at public meetings claim that the existing route along Hwy 93 and on Hwy 170 is unsafe for bicycle riders. That's ridiculous. I've ridden the portion of the existing route from Marshall to the Mesa Trailhead at South Boulder Creek many times and find it to be safe. Furthermore, opening the final half mile of the Mesa Trail to cyclists will lead to accidents at cyclists bomb down the last quarter mile to South Boulder Creek. It's hard for me to understand why OSMP would even consider such a hair-brained idea.

I am writing to oppose constructing a new trail through the Tallgrass Prairie State Natural Area or allowing bikes on the trails between the Shanahan and South Mesa areas. There are multiple environmental, safety, and user experience reasons that argue against putting bikes through this trail system.

Foremost, this rare and important remnant of tallgrass prairie has long been recognized by OSMP as critical habitat for declining plant species, ground-nesting birds, and other species of concern that deserves special protection. Significantly increasing use by introducing bikes into the area would contradict established policy and introduce threats to this fragile ecosystem through fragmentation, invasive seed dispersal, runoff, and encroachment into sensitive wildlife habitat. These risks are outlined and recognized in the staff analysis of the Evaluation Matrix and should be very seriously considered.
Secondly, this is a heavily used trail system for hikers, families, and other nature lovers. Introducing fast-moving bikes would necessarily create safety issues and dramatically change the visitor experience for the thousands who enjoy the area. I would personally no longer feel safe using these trails if I had to navigate bike traffic.
In terms of biker safety, an important issue, much of the route between Fairview High School and the Shanahan area is already served by bike trails down to Marshall Road. Rather than threaten the critical habitat of the State Natural Area, introduce safety/conflict issues, and alter visitor experience, a less disruptive alternative would be to address any safety issues on Marshall Road and the Marshall/Eldorado Springs Dr. intersection through options such as widening bike lanes on Marshall Road and adding speed bumps if necessary and modifying the crossing at the intersection for greater safety. From there, there is already excellent biking trail access to Dowdy Draw. Making these changes to an already existing biking trail route is a much more sensible, less disruptive, and environmentally responsible choice to both promote biker safety and protect the critical tallgrass prairie habitat that exists in the State Natural Area.
Thank you for this opportunity to comment and for your concern for the protection of our irreplaceable open space habitats.

I live in Shanahan Ridge, directly across from the Greenbriar Connector Trail, and I use the nearby trails on a daily basis. I am an avid climber, cyclist, mountain biker, and hiker - so I appreciate the use of open space for all of these activities. That being said, I do not think it would be beneficial to allow bike access on the Greenbriar Connector Trail. While it would technically benefit my personal access to the trail routes around Marshall Mesa (as opposed to my current approach via streets and paved bike paths), it would take away from the peaceful experience that I and my neighbors enjoy about Greenbriar Connector. It would also create parking congestion in the neighborhood since there is no dedicated trail access parking. I've lived on Smuggler Way for years, and there can already be a hard time finding parking as things currently are. I would also be very disappointed to see a parking lot added to accommodate this, because that would detract from theserenity of being on the edge of town.

If trail access in this area were to include bikes, I would consider opening the Lower Big Bluestem dirt road that connects South Boulder Creek to Eldorado Springs Rd. This is a longer and wider trail that would be more fun for bikes, more accommodating for the merging of cyclists and pedestrians, and would not affect parking/noise in the Shanahan Ridge neighborhood. Since Greenbriar Connector is such a short trail, I can't imagine cyclists seeking it out compared to other trails. While it would be an easy connector for the trails attached to Souther Boulder Creek, I still believe the drawbacks outweigh the benefits.

None of these options really excite me or seem like much of an improvement aside from the connector to Doudy, but unfortunately that will most likely be built like the Blue Sky connector and end up being better for gravel biking rather than mountain biking.
Things that would actually improve my experience and that of other mountain bikers in Boulder and visiting from other places:
1. Increase the number of trails, especially those within biking distance, on the west side of town where mountain biking is actually fun! Riders from Boulder have to leave town to ride good trials (e.g. Golden, Lyons, etc), but we could be attracting people from outside of Boulder to support our economy! Additional trails off of Betasso would be an easy win, but Chapman drive would be a great spot to build trails too.
2. Build a connector to Walker Ranch from Eldo. Duh.

3. Open the Caribou trails in Ned as legitimate trails rather than closing them.

I love that you're asking these questions -- could you please elaborate where you asked about two named trail expansions. Many of us don't have the time to follow OSMP's every move but would support the work (I googled it, which many won't bother with).

Hi.
I would like a form to see my responses to ensure my "other" written responses went through. I would also like to note that there seems to be bias in the survey design similar to the rec center survey.
Do you contract out survey design or is it done by staff?
Thanks for asking for feedback!

PLEASE do NOT allow bikes on additional hiking trails! The conflicts are too great already and increase with every attempt we make.
Not only are they already everyday conflicts (when I choose to hike on a permitted trail), there are multiple conflicts on a single trail. Virtually all bikers consider themselves the primary users by their ignoring the "yield to hikers" policy. Besides our fear of contact, we get derided by them as they pass.
I do not believe that any trails are compatible unless they are level and very wide AND the riders MUST obey the yield policy. We notice that in very few riders and the situation is degrading on a regular basis.

Although I'm a hiker, and not a mountain biker, I'm in favor of the proposed Greenbriar Connector-South Boulder Creek connection to Dowdy Draw for cyclists. It's only fair that they should have an off-road route to the Eldorado Springs area. It's also a safety issue, as drivers tend to go fast on Eldorado Springs Rd.

Received via email to Open Space Board of Trustees
Hello,
I am writing to comment on proposal of more bike trails on South Boulder Open Space Land.
Please please do NOT allow this.
I have hiked on Boulder Open Space trails since the 1970's. Now at age 76, I limit my hiking to trails where I will NOT encounter bikes. I have to wonder how many other people, who will not be aware of this proposal and who are not commenting on it, are making similar choices.
No matter how emphatically the biking community/lobby claims that bicyclists are careful of other people who are walking on the trails, bikers inevitably get the right of way going up or down, because they are going faster and walkers intuitively step aside because they are afraid of being run over. Basically, when you add biking to a hiking trail, you are giving over the trails to bicyclists.
As a person who has also biked actively for well over 50 years, I find it hard to classify biking as a "passive use" which is one of the guiding principles of City of Boulder Open Space. I biked almost two years while touring internationally, where I fully accepted the fact that biking on roads with cars carries a certain degree of risk. That goes with the territory and my personal decision to bike in those locations.
Please add my comments to the information you present to those who will be making a decision about this.

After reviewing the Draft Package of Solutions provided with the second engagement window. I have to say, this is a blast from the past.
Consensus wasn't achievable then and it won't be achievable now. You have two groups who feel passionately about the issue of mountain bikes on open space who are once again at complete loggerheads.

Unfortunately, that leaves you the unenviable task of determining how to split the baby. You might ask yourself, what has changed since then? There are in fact two significant changes that have occurred.
First, the Community Ditch Trail underpass on Highway 93 was constructed at a cost of $1.1 million to the city. This connected the Marshall Mesa and Doudy Draw trail systems and massively improved safety for cyclists on these trails. The benefit of this cannot be overstated.
Second, the Colorado Tallgrass Prairie Natural Area was increased five-fold, to include most of the open space between Shanahan Ridge and Doudy Draw. This is a clear indication of an intent to preserve this area for future generations.
This is probably the best example of how the city has balanced open space conservation with recreation. Rather than open the West TSA to mountain bikes and put the Colorado Tallgrass Prairie Natural Area at risk, the city made a significant financial investment to improve recreational safety on the southern trails while expanding conservation of a rare and sensitive habitat. What an amazing outcome! I continue to admire OSMP and Boulder for maintaining this balance if the face of an ever mounting pressure campaign from the mountain bike community.
Faced again with this Solomon's choice, I encourage you to follow the wisdom of your predecessors and invest in improving the bicycle safety on Marshall Road while continuing to protect the Colorado Tallgrass Prairie Natural Area.
It just makes sense.

Of the 23 proposed solutions contained in the Draft Package of Solutions the Shanahan - Doudy Draw Trail Connection ranks 22nd by OSMP's own Evaluation Matrix ranking. However, we believe, based on our analysis, that it should really be dead last and, of all the proposed solutions, be the last one to be considered. You may recall that in our analysis this connection was referred to as Alternative 2.a (Greenbriar Connector).
We disagree with at least two of the rankings in the Evaluation Matrix, "Safety" and "Mode Shift Potential". The OSMP ranking of 4 having a "Substantial Positive Impact" for "Safety" appears to be based more on anecdotal comments and conjecture rather than on any objective measure of "Safety". Our analysis puts the "Safety" ranking at the equivalent of zero having "Substantial Negative Impact" based on 27 years of Boulder County Crash data. The proposed Shanahan - Doudy Draw Trail Connection has had 27 reported crashes versus 19 for the existing connection when starting at Fairview High School and 62 versus 4 when starting at the Broadway underpass. Marshall Road has had zero crashes reported for the same period, yet bicycle safety on Marshall Road could still be improved.
With respect to "Mode Shift Potential", the OSMP ranking of 4 having a "Substantial Positive Impact" appears to be based solely on survey responses indicating that 31% of respondents would "change mode if all modes were equally easy". However, this fails to account for the intent-behavior deficit that is well documented in the literature. One study of intent-behavior deficit from surveys on transportation mode shift potential states, "However, the discrepancy is greater for bicycles: only just about 20 percent of the (numerous) people who rate the bike highest actually use it". This would suggest a behavioral change of just 1.9 percent among cyclists in response to the first engagement window's surveys. Our analysis puts the "Mode Shift Potential" at the equivalent of zero.
Correcting the Evaluation Matrix on "Safety" and "Mode Shift Potential" based on our analysis puts the Shanahan - Doudy Draw Trail Connection dead last.

I would like to address the Colorado Tallgrass Prairie State Natural Area that is literally central to this discussion. I overlayed the boundary Colorado Tallgrass Prairie State Natural Area over the OSMP map of the proposed Shanahan – Doudy Draw Connection and it can be seen that the proposed connection bisects the Colorado Tallgrass Prairie Natural Area not once, but twice. The mountain bike community will argue that mountain biking does no more harm to this habitat than other permitted trail uses, and the conservation minded community will argue the contrary. Each side will present research and evidence to support their arguments and dispute the research and evidence presented by the other side. The debate will then devolve

into which side's research is more credible, and the debate simply continues.
What is not debatable is that once the harm is done, it is irreversible. Once a species is eliminated from the Colorado Tallgrass Prairie Natural Area, it is gone forever and will not return. Similarly, once an invasive species is introduced, it is extremely difficult to remove it. This makes the bar to changing the designation of this habitat very, very high. OSMP, Boulder City, and the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Division have executed an Agreement of Designation (AOD) for the Colorado Tallgrass Prairie Natural Area, which places management obligations on the city to maintain it for designated purposes. Changes to that designation should be taken with great caution.

As a solution to encourage a transportation mode shift, the Shanahan - Doudy Draw connection targets one group to motivate, mountain bikers who currently drive to the Marshall Mesa or Doudy Draw Trailheads. This group does not include the Fairview High School Mountain Bike Team, since they already cycle to Doudy Draw and thus would not contribute to a multimodal shift.
I believe that this solution will in fact be counterproductive. While some percentage (31% according to the survey) of this targeted group who live in Shanahan Ridge community will shift from driving to riding. Those who live outside the Shanahan Ridge community will continue to drive and shift their destination to the South Boulder Creek West Trailhead simply because it is more convenient. It's along the way and as much as 2.4 miles closer.
The added convenience and a new trail to ride will be sufficient to entice additional mountain bikers to shift from other activities to driving to the South Boulder Creek West Trailhead. This will offset the shift among the Shanahan Ridge community from cars to mountain bikes. At best this reduces the net multimodal benefit of this solution and at worst creates a net increase in driving among mountain bikers to access open space.
The combined shift among mountain bikers, both current and additional drivers, will increase congestion at the South Boulder Creek West Trailhead, along with the associated trail encounters with other users of South Boulder Creek West Trail.
This solution just doesn't seem to align with the goals of the Multimodal Assessment Project.

You may recall me from August's OSBT Meeting where I introduced our in-depth analysis of alternative connections from South Boulder to Doudy Draw via Marshall Road and the Community Ditch Trail underpass on Highway 93.
With the release of OSMP's Draft Package of Multimodal Solutions, we have revised our analysis to focus on comparing the Existing Connection to the Potential Shanahan-Doudy Draw Trail Connection, rather than the three hypothetical additional alternative connections we reviewed previously, not knowing which the OSMP Staff might propose. This simplifies the analysis and we also include several items that we have learned in the interim.
First, our calculations on travel time for the existing connection of 24 minutes have been empirically confirmed by a member of the Fairview High School Mountain Bike Team in public comment at the August OSBT Meeting. This validates our conclusions that the Potential Connection only saves the Shanahan Ridge community 1 to 2 minutes and costs the broader Boulder Community 4 to 9 minutes.
Second, the OSMP Staff's own ranking of the Potential Shanahan-Doudy Draw Trail Connection, 22nd out of the 23 Draft Solutions contained in the Evaluation Matrix of Draft Multimodal Solutions, is consistent with our own ranking of this Potential Connection and our conclusion that the Existing Solution is the best alternative available.
Third, in our analysis we disagree with OSMP Staff's rating for "Mode Shift Potential" and "Safety". We believe that a fair reading of the facts would indicate a significantly lower rating.
Fourth, Boulder County has a 60-foot right of way along Marshall Road, which is wide enough for a 6-foot bikeable shoulder along both sides of the road. While the County has prioritized bikeable shoulders along Eldorado Springs Drive, it has not prioritized bikeable shoulders along Marshall Road due to the low traffic volume (for both bikes and cars), the low speed-limit (25 mph), and the absence of any reported crashes on Marshall Road. Thus, it is incumbent on the City to convince the County to prioritize such a project.

Lastly, I would like to reiterate our concerns regarding the rare habitat of the Colorado Tallgrass Prairie State Natural Area. We can debate whether mountain bikes harm this habitat more than other trail uses, but we cannot debate that the harm is irreversible. Once a species is eliminated from this habitat it will never return. This sets a very high bar for changing the designation of this are to permit mountain bikes.

An important issue to consider regarding safety is trail visitor conflict. Two studies have been conducted on this topic by Boulder County Parks and Open Space in 2004 and Boulder OSMP in 2009. Both identified mountain bikes as the primary cause of trail visitor conflict and that mountain bikers themselves identified mountain bikes as the primary cause of trail visitor conflict.
When factoring the OSMP visitation data over the past five years for the southern trails (Doudy Draw, Marshall Mesa, South Boulder Creek West, and South Mesa) we can anticipate on average over 11,000 mountain bike caused trail visitor conflicts per year or over 30 per day on these trails.

Because a bike can take the paved multi-use path along Broadway to Marshall Road and get to the Marshall Mesa Trailhead from there, which connects to Dowdy Draw, I really do not understand why we would want to spend the money for these connections.
I really have no idea why a mountain bike would be going through the Table Mesa neighborhood, so the bikes would need to take off from the Broadway path, cut under Broadway, go up Toedtli to Greenbriar and enjoy the narrow portions of Greenbriar complete with buses and student parking at the high school plus the gazillion drivers going to Shannahan to hike rather than just taking Marshall Road.
Or maybe you are thinking they have gone up Chapman, so you are connecting folks who are taking the path behind NOAA/NIST?
I live in Table Mesa and I both hike and gravel bike. I suppose it'd be groovy to not leave Table Mesa to get to trails, but really zipping down to Marshall Road to Marshall Mesa Trailhead is super easy so I'd skip this effort.
A path or wide shoulder along Eldorado Springs Drive from the Marshall Mesa Trailhead that would serve all types of bikes would be more beneficial in my opinion.

Just a comment strongly in favor of the connector between South Boulder and Doudy Draw for mountain bikes. I live in Eldo (and thus wouldn't even benefit much), but OSMP has way too few mtb trails compared to hiking trails and this is a small step towards getting an appropriate balance that's in line with best practices and other communities.

I am deeply concerned about adding another mixed trail. The South Boulder trails are already overcrowded with hikers, walkers and dogs. Try driving in the neighborhoods near the Shannon Ridge trailhead which is one of the busiest trails in Boulder and you will see lines of parked cars on Lehigh, Lafayette and Craigmoor Street. I will never walk on a mixed trail again after witnessing a man being lifted onto an ambulance near BCH after he was struck by a bike and later died. The biker was just riding a road bike not the newer faster e-bikes.
Adding another trail connection on Greenbrair where there is no parking will only add to the congestion in the neighborhood, destroy the fragile trails and be a hazard to walkers.

Hi
I'm a Boulder resident who lives and raises a family in South Boulder. We have a 12yr old son who loves to bike with us on South Spring Loop. If this new bike path gets approved from Shanahan to Mesa TH it will dramatically affect our family life in a positive way. First we won't have to drive, hence safety concerns will be much better since we wouldn't have to use the Eldo Road(huge hint that this road REALLY needs a nice bike lane(s). Less driving, more time in nature and safety improved all seems worth all the hard work that would go

into this wonderful idea. Thanks so much for considering this project and we are keeping our fingers crossed. All the best..The Sanders Family

---

Hi,
I filled out the survey but just wanted to add that I often walk those trails between Shanahan Ridge and Dowdy Draw and so value the kind of quiet walk filled with bird song that is still possible there. It is designated as a State Natural Area because of the tall grass prairie and some other rare plants. If it become a connector for bikes it will change the kind of experience that is possible there as well as threaten wild life and habitat. I know that the biking community is well organized and those of us who hike are not.
Thanks for your consideration.

Please don't give bikers any more of our trails. Once they take over, the hikers are confronted with rude and dangerous situations. They should mountain bike in the mountains and leave our peaceful trails to the hikers to enjoy a quiet place without airport noise and aggressive thrashing bikers. I'm an Indian peaks ranger and we don't let bikes on our trails. People really enjoy that fact and thank us all the time for keeping it a place of peace for them and the wildlife.

Demographics show the greatest increase is in people over 80. I'm really tired of aggressive bicycle advocates using "It will get people out of their cars". Most cyclists in Boulder are recreational and use cars for primary transportation. I would like to know the percentage of cyclists who use their bikes for consistent primary transportation. Stop spending many dollars adding protected bike lanes that few use. I travel Baseline from Foothills to 30th regularly and rarely see any bikers. Ditto Baseline in the other direction.

I strongly support the proposed Dowdy Draw–Shanahan multi-use connector. This connector would greatly improve the lives of those of us living in the Eldorado Canyon area by providing a safe way to bike into town while keeping cyclists and bike commuters off Eldorado Springs Drive.
Personally, we would love for our son to be able to bike to and from school, but right now his only option from Eldorado Canyon is to ride along Eldorado Springs Drive. With fast-moving traffic and limited shoulders, we simply do not consider that a safe option.
The proposed connector would change that. It would give our family, and many other families, cyclists, and bike commuters in the Eldorado area a safe, practical way to access South Boulder and the rest of town by bike. This would be an incredibly valuable addition to our community, and I strongly encourage you to move the project forward.

As a parent, Boulder resident, and frequent trail user — hiking, running, biking, and climbing — I'd like to comment in support of prioritizing the proposed Shanahan Ridge to Doudy Draw connector.
Safety and connectivity. I regularly ride to Doudy Draw with my daughters (as well as with other kids). Today that means riding on Marshall road to get to Marshall Mesa Trailhead (and then taking Community Ditch), or continuing on Eldorado Springs Dr . This is a route with multiple dangerous sections and crossings. A connector on OSMP land would close a gap that currently has no safe non-motorized alternative, which seems squarely within what the assessment describes as a key trail connection.
Congestion and climate. Because riding is unsafe, unfortunately most people drive — to a trailhead lot that is regularly at capacity. Improving bike access addresses trailhead crowding and vehicle emissions at the same time, rather than trading one against the other.
Resource protection. I recognize the ecological concerns raised about a new alignment, and I don't dismiss them. I'd ask that these ecological concerns be weighed against the ongoing ecological impact of the status quo — continued vehicle trips, an overfull lot, and pressure to expand parking — rather than against an

assumption that no connector means no ecological impact.
Thank you for the work on this assessment!

Received via email to Open Space Board of Trustees
I am writing to say that I am OPPOSED to turning any hiker-only trails into multi-use trails. I avoid any trail that allows bikers because they ruin the hike for me, and they scare wildlife. And it's inevitable that e-bikes and e-motos will use the trail, even if they are banned. They are everywhere now and behave very dangerously.

I value quiet uses, exemplary habitat protection and safety. I've been yelled at by fast bikers 4 times. Bikers almost always degrade my hiking experience where they're allowed (and sometimes where they are illegally like I just experienced in the closed area of Tucker Ranch). I live in western Boulder County where bikers have illegally built trails for decades and like to disobey rules (they like to be rogue - recall The Angry Ranger Trail on Flagstaff Mt). Recently a biker took an illegal jump I was looking at just inches away from me. In my area they are threats to other users and the integrity of public lands. I'm depressed about the areas they're in on vast eroded trail systems that should have been intact, protected habitat.
Therefore, I'm concerned that bikers may be disrespectful of the special habitat where they are pushing for new access and the people trying to enjoy it.

As Boulder continues to grow, we need to be ever more mindful of protecting wildlife. Rules such as the one prohibiting dogs on Lion's Lair need to be more strictly enforced. Signage needs to be more "in your face." Please prioritize wildlife protection and environmental safeguards. Please don't increase bicycle access to Open Space trails!

For the most part, I believe the OSMP Multimodal Access Project is misguided and loses sight of both the original purpose of Boulder’s open space and the legitimate interests of the neighborhoods that provide access to it.
I live near a neighborhood open-space access point. Over the years, what was once primarily a neighborhood access point has effectively become a regional destination, attracting substantial numbers of visitors from outside Boulder. That change has brought significant impacts to the surrounding neighborhood, particularly from parking and increased traffic.
I am also skeptical of the premise that additional multimodal infrastructure, such as bike racks, will meaningfully reduce these impacts. Before investing further in this approach, OSMP should spend time observing actual visitor and parking patterns at neighborhood access points in South Boulder. The issue is not simply the transportation mode people use to reach open space; it is the increasing use of neighborhood access points as regional destinations without corresponding management of the impacts.
Boulder residents have made an extraordinary and sustained financial commitment to acquiring, protecting, and maintaining open space. I am deeply disappointed that OSMP increasingly appears to prioritize expanding access without giving comparable weight to the impacts on the Boulder residents and neighborhoods that fund and live alongside this system.
OSMP should place much greater emphasis on managing those impacts. That should include restricting overnight parking, considering parking fees for non-Boulder residents, and adopting other access and parking-management measures similar to those already used at heavily visited locations such as Flagstaff and Chautauqua.
Expanding access should not come at the expense of the neighborhoods that have supported Boulder’s open-space system for decades. OSMP needs to give those residents and neighborhoods substantially greater consideration in its planning and management decisions.

---

10 or 15 years ago there was a city council representative at the West South Boulder Creek Trailhead parking lot asking about opening this trail to biking. I told her at the time that I was a mountain biker and a hiker but that this particular trail was sacred to me for a relaxing hike and I still feel the same way. I understand that bikers always want more trails but I've had no problem riding from my house to the all the trails in South Boulder and adding bikes to this one would be a huge negative for me. Otherwise I would be driving further for a relaxing hike. This is a trail that you see families with small kids and older people (more than other trails) and that is not something you should add bikes to.

The City budget is ALREADY underwater.
If bikers were respectful of hikers, there would NOT be a problem.
Dirt biking and hiking are not compatible, rules won;t change a thing.
Our open space is OVERRUN with non residents already who pay NOTHING to support their activities.
98% of wildfires are human caused, adding MORE users increases damage potential significantly.
None of this is rocket science.
Do the right thing
PLEASE

I was looking at the evaluation matrix (below) and the Dowdy connector scores as "substantial negative impact" across most environmental categories. I looked up how reroutes are described in the West TSA, and there, reroutes are generally/at a glance described positively and from an improvement to visitor experience perspective. Broad language about avoiding sensitive or invasive species is noted in West TSA, rather than stating that sensitive or invasive species would be disturbed as shown in this matrix. I'm wondering if this evaluation matrix format is used anywhere else to see if reroutes are evenly scored here. Is every reroute given a "substantially negative impact" rating for these categories or is there something unique about where the existing trail is located? Thats just something I was wondering looking at the matrix.

Received via email to Open Space Board of Trustees
Chair and Members of the Open Space Board of Trustees,
Front Range Nesting Eagle- Studies (FRNBES)—with offices and many members in the City of Boulder—is submitting the attached comment in opposition to opening the Greenbriar Connector and associated South Boulder trails to mountain bike use.
Our concern is particularly focused on the long-established conservation direction for this landscape. OSMP's own research, planning, and management have for decades recognized the exceptional biological sensitivity of Tallgrass West and the Greenbriar/Big Bluestem area—including its grassland-nesting birds, locally rare Big Bluestem communities, and the importance of minimizing trail-related fragmentation and recreational impacts. Greenbriar's prohibition on dogs and the additional protections at Lower Big Bluestem are important parts of that history.
The attached comment reviews that record, as well as OSMP's own trail guidance and the existing bicycle network providing access to Marshall Mesa and Doudy Draw.
We respectfully ask that the attached FRNBES comment be distributed to all members of OSBT, included in the Multimodal Assessment project record, and considered as the Board reviews this proposal.
Thank you for your time and consideration.
Attachment available at the end of this document.

Front Range Nesting Bald Eagle Studies (FRNBES) opposes opening the Greenbriar Connector and associated South Boulder trails through the Colorado Tallgrass Prairie State Natural Area to mountain bike use. For decades, OSMP's own science, planning, and management have recognized the exceptional biological sensitivity of this landscape, including its grassland-nesting birds, rare prairie communities, and

vulnerability to recreational fragmentation and trail impacts. Adding bicycle through-use would reverse that long-established conservation direction, particularly when an existing bicycle network already provides access to Marshall Mesa and Doudy Draw. FRNBES is separately submitting a detailed referenced report to OSMP for inclusion in the Multimodal Assessment project record.

Thank you for considering this connecting trail -- everything we can do to give bikes (especially for kids) a way to access the outdoors without having to be on the roads is HUGE. We have so many cyclists in this community and we have seen too many car-vs-cyclist accidents -- I'm really supportive of investing in infrastructure that lets people keep riding but also keeps them as safe as possible. My kids love being on gravel pathways and I'll feel a lot better, too, if I know they are far from cars.

The connector from Greenbriar to Dowdy Draw has merits, but the illegal use of high powered e-bikes will make it extremely dangerous for non-biking and non-ebiking users. I think the trail will need significant patrols. So far OSMP has not been able to effectively patrol the trails that already exist.
Also, ranger knowledge seems to be lacking. I was on Chapman recently and a Class 3 e bike passed me at high speed. There was a ranger at the upper parking lot who stopped the e-biker, but then the ranger said the “bike seemed like the ones not allowed on the trails” but that she didn’t know for sure, and just cautioned the rider to check if legal.

It’s so important to link South Boulder to the biking trails beginning at Marshall Mesa/community ditch. The Marshall Mesa Road is adequate but is shared with cars.
I’ve currently lived in South Boulder for 40 years and always felt that there were possibilities to create use dual routes either by widening and existing trail to allow hikers and bikers or creating parallel routes as is done in many parks in the United States that I’ve riddden.

Bike Connectivity between Shanahan Ridge in South Boulder and Doudy Draw trailhead.
Thank you for considering Bike Connectivity between Shanahan Ridge in South Boulder and Doudy Draw trailhead.
With all the fine work you've done and are in progress doing in north Boulder, I can think of no higher priority for the city than a trail connection between Shanahan Ridge in South Boulder and Doudy Draw trailhead.
I've lived in north Boulder for 30+ years. We run, hike, dog-walk and bike the trails. Most of the trails up here are multi-use and people get along. Even on the North Sky single-track.
The amazing work going on presently on the Foothills North re-route is in some respects analogous to the proposed Shanahan-Doudy connection: It allow people to bike from the town out to the trail network of Boulder Valley ranch, which was arduous or impossible on the current rocky and erosion-prone trails depending on your ability.
With North Sky opening a few years ago as well as Cobalt to bikes and the Eagle reroute from the mesa, I see many more cyclists in the area enjoying the open space.
Cyclists love "loops" for variety, change ups, different mileages etc.
Shanahan-Doudy would be a huge win.

The proposed Doudy Draw connector would markedly improve safety and lessen need for vehicle use to reach trailhead(s).

I am an OSMP Trail Ambassador and have put in more than 300 hours in the past three years on the trails south of Boulder. These include:
South Boulder (west of CO93), Doudy Draw, Fowler, the two Springbrooks, Lower Bluestem, and Goshawk. (I have spent lots of additional hours on these trails in the past 30+ years I've been a resident on SoBo and visiting them.)
The use of bikes on OSMP trails in this area, particularly Doudy Draw and to a lesser degree the Springbrook trails, has created serious erosion problems. Doudy Draw went from a "single-track" trail to a (ever-widening) jeep trail, largely due to bikes riding on the edges to avoid mud.
OSMP spent a lot of time and money repairing this trail a couple years ago. And now it is getting worse again due to the heavy bike traffic. It used to that one could hike the Doudy and Springbrook loops in the morning without the danger from speeding bikes. That is no longer the case.
Has anyone involved in this project actually hiked these trails and seen the damage being done to them? I'd be happy to take anyone from OSMP or the Trustee Board (or the City Council) to these areas for a visit.
Bikes also go on trails they are not permitted to do so, particularly the Goshawk Ridge Trail, leading to braiding and erosion -- and visitor conflicts. In fact, it was during the pandemic that I became (was recruited?) to be an OSMP trail ambassador as I started reporting the visitation of damaging bikes to this magical area -- and the volunteer coordinator suggested I go through OSMP training and become a volunteer.
Allowing bikes on South Boulder Creek would be serious mistake for OSMP to allow, especially given the large use of dog-walkers on this trail. It would increase erosion (already a problem on the trail), reduce the population of diverse bird populations, and disturb the elk herd that is found in the area during the winter months, in addition to leading to more visitor conflicts (there are already conflicts between some of the dog users and some of the runners & hikers). It would be a shame for OSMP to allow "recreation" to prevail over the need to preserve open space for generations to come.
I would be happy to share more of experience and observations on these trails, their uses, and the changes I've seen over the past three decades. Please feel free to contact me.

Hello,
Just wanted to say that I fully support a bike trail to connect Doudy Draw and other trails to South Boulder. As a resident of Eldorado Springs who spends a lot of time on local trails (on foot) and roads (mostly by car), I think it would help alleviate some considerable dangers in the area.
HWY 93 is a terrifying highway and the congestion of cars and bikes on 170, especially on the weekends, feels increasingly scary. I've seen many near accidents between cars, bikes, and pedestrians. More so, as a parent of two school-age kids, it's nightmarish to think about letting them ride independently in the area.
A bike path would do a lot to make trails in the area safer and more accessible to a broader range of users -- including kids -- with the added (and important!) benefit of more closely connecting communities that currently feel farther away than they should because of the highway looming between them.
And while the bike path is a huge step in the right direction, I hope to see additional conversations and improvements around car, bike, and pedestrian safety on 170.

Boulder is in desperate need of off-road bicycle connections between open spaces, at the city, county, state, and federal level. No city-level mileage totals are available to the public, but my own analysis using data from trailforks has shows that in the greater Boulder area (going as far west as Betasso and as far north as James canyon found that 25% of singletrack was open to bikes (including unofficial social bike trails). My calculations are publicly available here: https://github.com/dbemerydt/boulder-trails/blob/main/trail-distances.ipynb
Beyond just the numbers, the offroad cycling network in Boulder is fractured, forcing bikers who want to experience the mountains to bike on dangerous roads unless they drive a vehicle. Boulder is an extreme outlier in this respect, with almost every other Colorado town within biking distance to mountains having more integration of cycling into their trail networks. There's no reason for Boulder to have worse access than Golden or Buena Vista or Durango or Grand Junction.

But it does have worse access because we've allowed the moneyed interests of the geriatric NIMBY classes to exercise outsized influence over our outdoor spaces, their environmental misinformation informed by the eugenics of early 1900's ecofascist "environmentalist" movements.
It's time to give power back to the people who champion true environmental stewardship. Who maintain trails and don't cut switchbacks, who believe in the interconnected symbiotic relationship between nature and society, who want to expand access and support micromobility and reduce reliance on personal vehicles, and will compose the future of Boulder as a place where people will continue to want to live.
Please lead with reason and compassion by committing to open the Greenbriar connection.

Not all names had linked explanations-i.e. Wrangler Multi Use Connection

---

Where are the descriptions of all of this work and how you came to your conclusions? Your PDF's are tiny and hard to read even on a computer. Enlarging the table is problematic since you can't read the row and column headings. There is no narrative outlining the way you came up with the numbers for each of the boxes in the spreadsheet. How was this done? The maps are practically useless. You have no roads marked so the borders between north/west/south are nebulous. It's as if you found an old map, took the road names off, and drew some circles on it. Technology allows you to do a better job.

This plan definitely supports bicycle interests and not hiker interests.
1. Sage single track. Bikers can use the main trail. Why are we spending more money to add SINGLE track.
2. Other hiking trails in Boulder are not being maintained. They are ones that have been used by locals forever and are now in such poor condition that they are avoided. For instance: Flagstaff trail, especially where the trail crosses roads. and the trail as it starts from Eben G Fine to Panorama Point. Money is spent on trails that out-0f-town visitors use, but not on old, local trails.
3. This campaign is tarketing popular tralls. No wonder they are overused. Maybe you could target other trails used less frequently, like Hogback Ridge, and the hiking population would get spread out. That trail has degraded over time. And it is used by locals more that out-of-towners so maybe it is not worth improving.
4. Mahogany Trail on Joder Ranch. This goes through HCA!!!! How can you put a trail through there? Why would anybody follow HCA rules which are to protect habitat and animals when they know the rules might change tomorrow? Why are we paying taxes to maintain HCA places when they obviously are not important if you can put a trail through there? Why is it bad for one person to walk through there now, but tomorrow it is OK for lots of people to bike through. Oh, animals and habitats are not affected by bikes? So only bikes can go there and not walkers?
5. parking cameras: situation changes so fast that I would not find them useful. Parking is packed at centennial TH about 8 in the morning and much more empty by 9:30. Maybe charts of expected usage would be more helpful.
6. Restrooms are definitely useful at THs. Shade shelters less so. We should emphasize hiking, not hanging out at THs.

Please do not allow bikes on the South Boulder Creek trail. This is a quiet peaceful trail and bikes would really ruin the current experience.

With at least an approximately $25 to 30 million trail maintenance backlog still to be addressed, a declining budget, and a greater number of visitors, it seems to me naive to avoid considering the ongoing maintenance costs to OSMP for each of the alternatives suggested in this Analysis.
I believe that for all new OSMP trails and infrastructure a long-term maintenance cost should be approximated -- and the possibility of being able to include that in the budget needs to be evaluated.

Topic: the Shanahan Ridge to Dowdy Trail possibly re-routing to allow bike use.
I frequently use the trails originating from the South Mesa Trailhead for family group outings with young grandkids and educational group hikes including some senior citizens. Continued use of the trail for those purposes would not be safe with groups of cyclists riding downhill on the approximately half mile initial part of the Mesa Trail.
The first part of the Mesa Trail is often congested, and I cannot imagine how it could be safe to have it used by both pedestrians and cyclists. Friends have suggested designation of a dismount zone, or limitation of cyclists to groups of 3 or fewer. However, the lack of OSMP personnel for rule enforcement precludes those potential solutions.

I really like the no-bike days hiking Betasso and think that type of schedule should be implemented elsewhere, so everyone knows the rules and can plan. The dog crap bags are not working when people do no pick them up, which is frequent.

Received via email to Open Space Board of Trustees
There are many reasons that this area should remain as it is. The West TSA plan was carefully studied and it was determined that this area should be protected from use by bikes. It is already very heavily used and the rare and endangered plant life is already compromised. The state has recognized it as a rare ecotone to be protected.
No mountain bike use should be considered for this area.

It seems as though Boulder studies issues to death and often nothing changes.
There are multiple stages of study or so it seems and years pass if any change occurs.
This all seems like a huge waste of taxpayer money as the taxpayers shoulder the cost of multiple studies and surveys.
Why not have a finite number of studies and surveys- say 3 at the most for each.
Then move forward according to the data rather than restudying and resurveying.
Case in point- the Boulder airport.
I thought a decision had been made but now it is being rexamined.
Boulder seems to like to study issues to death

My wife and I have ridden horses at Boulder Valley Ranch for over 30 years. Parking a horse trailer to access the ranch has changed dramatically over that period of time. Currently there is NO horse trailer parking allowing access at any of the trailheads. This has been an issue ever since the lessee prohibited parking where the people who board at the ranch park their trailers. As the Boulder County Horse Association VP and Trail Advisor I have brought this issue up to many OSMP staff. Parking was planned at BVR trailheads in the North Trail Study Area Plan back in 2016.
https://bouldercolorado.gov/media/2437/download?inline
It hasn't happened.
Recently I have had conversations with staff and made suggestions of where trailer parking could be added with minimal construction and minimal cost. If accessing trailheads by the community/equestrians is part of this project please consider improving the access to the ranch by equestrians. I would gladly meet with you and let you know my ideas.

Received via email to Open Space Board of Trustees

OSBT,

Hi my name is Josh Fine and I am President of the Shanahan Ridge 5 HOA Board. We recently became aware of a discussion about changes to the Greenbriar Connector including the potential to expand use to bikes. As SR5 represents the 120 homes closest to the connector we stand to feel the greatest impact to changes to it. Our HOA also owns the acre of land on the south side of Greenbrier where the current trailhead is. As such I would appreciate more information I can share our members along with the other Shanahan Ridge HOAs nearby. I don't want to jump to conclusions in terms of organizing a response or opinion without facts (though there are many in the community eager to), and as both a trail hiker, runner, and mountain biker I can see both opportunity and danger in the rumored changes.

A few key questions:

- please confirm whether there is serious consideration happening this year of expanding usage and making changes to the Greenbriar Connector
- what is the timing and process for sharing specific proposed changes with our community so we are able to raise any concerns or suggestions?
- what is the approval process for this type of change?
- if no additional information is to be expected, where should we direct our members to provide input?

Thank you for considering this request, and I welcome any future opportunity to discuss this. We love our trails and use them daily and appreciate everything you do to support our amazing open spaces!

Received via email to Open Space Board of Trustees

Dear Board of Trustees,

As retired Boulder County Transportation Director, longtime Boulder residents, open space volunteers, teacher, retired County Transportation Director (and original Poster Child for Open Space; one of the kids holding hands on the original open space campaign poster), active cyclists, trail runners and hikers, I urge you to preserve the OSMP trails between Shanahan Ridge and Doudy Draw as bike free.

The Open Space Charter provides clear guidance on the appropriate uses allowed on open space; “Providing low impact public enjoyment such as hiking, nature study, photography, and - where specially designated - bicycling, fishing or horseback riding.” This open space between Shanahan Ridge and Doudy Draw is unique and provides one of the few portions of the plains open space ecosystem west of Broadway that is free from the impacts from mountain biking. Opening up these trails to biking would result in an unacceptable and unnecessary impact to the ecosystem and trail experience.

The proposed connection for mountain bikers is unnecessary as there is currently a safe and efficient bike route along Marshall Road / Community Ditch connecting south Boulder residents/bicyclists to the trailheads along Marshall Drive and SH93 that provide bike access to the southern trail system with appropriate safety features at Marshall Drive and underpasses under SH93. Please do not further impact the open space between Shanahan Ridge and South Boulder Creek by allowing mountain bikers in this critical scenic and environmental treasure.

The County, along with the city, advocated strongly to CDOT for the underpass under SH93 / Community Ditch since it would provide a safe and convenient access for bikes (and pedestrians) to the southern trail system and would preserve, and reduce impacts from bikes, on the trails to the west. With the recent safety improvement on Marshall Drive, there is already a safe, convenient, access for bicyclists from Shanahan Ridge/South Boulder to the southern trail system. Additional bike access on the trails is not necessary and will damage this critical and scenic resource.

Please preserve the environmental values, passive user experience and scenic integrity of the open space and trails between Shanahan Ridge and South Boulder Creek. Doing so is consistent with the Open Space Core Charter.

Received via email to Open Space Board of Trustees

I've lived on Tincup Circle, Shanahan Ridge in South Boulder since 1984. I see the negative impact on the delicate OSMP ecosystem due to increased
human activities that fragment the ecosystem, impact water drainage, disturb wildlife, and increase erosion. Since 2020, there is a huge increase
in human use of our Boulder Open Space on Shanahan Ridge and south to Doudy Draw. Human activity already impacts the fragile Colorado Tallgrass
Prairie State Natural Area. Pedestrian use has less impact than bicycles. Due to my background in the biological sciences and science education (biology
teacher), I pay very close attention to changes in the environment. I am opposed to mountain bikers having new trails and/or adding bike access to existing
heavily used trails from Shanahan Ridge to Doudy Draw. The current West TSA Plan is a reasonable solution.
On a personal note as an 82 year old woman, I am afraid to walk on trials with bicycles. One miscue and I could be seriously injured or killed by a biker
going too fast. I know many people who have the same fear of being hurt walking on paths with bicycles.
Thank you for listening to my concerns.

Received via email to Open Space Board of Trustees

Hi OSBT-

I'm a Boulder County resident (Louisville) and I oppose opening the trails to mountain bike use from Shanahan Ridge to Doudy Draw. I'm concerned about the environmental impact that mountain bikes would have and those trails are already so packed with hikers, having mountain bikers traveling at high speeds in that same area is a recipe for collisions and crashes.

Received via email to Open Space Board of Trustees

Dear members of OSBT,

I truly value nature and the wildlife on the pedestrian-only trails I live near and hike on almost every day in South Boulder.

I am extremely concerned that the Multimodal Assessment Project and adding mountain bike use on existing trails or adding new trails for this purpose in the area between Shanahan Ridge and Doudy Draw would have severe negative ecological impact on the high-quality grassland block and also on all the birds and wildlife and native plants that need this pristine area to survive.

This area is so environmentally valuable it has been designated as a Colorado Tallgrass Prairie State Natural Area. This area provides a large unfragmented area with very high biodiversity and high-quality habitat for rare butterflies, wildflowers, brids, and globally imperiled plant communities.

OSMP has important and existing constraints concerning trail use and maintenance, parking, and enforcement, and adding trails or adding mountain bikes to these precious, fragile areas would be a huge mistake.

Please keep the OSMP trails from Shanahan Ridge to Doudy Draw Trailhead Bike-Free. Many other areas exist for mountain bikes. This would be a highly damaging and unnecessary addition and one that would do irreparable damage and lead to losses of plants, birds, animals, and ecosystems that we cannot afford to lose. Survival of these treasured places and species is absolutely at stake.

Please protect our quiet, nature-filled, trails by not adding mountain bike use or mountain bike trails.

Thank you for understanding my concern. I appreciate your caring about my experience and many others and our love for this area and all it includes.

Thanks for caring enough to do the right thing.

Received via email to Open Space Board of Trustees

Hello, I am a resident of the Shanahan Ridge area and an active user of open space there and elsewhere in the county. I am a cyclist as well as a hiker and birder, and use Boulder open space for all of these activities.

In particular, because I live nearby, I'm very familiar with the lower bluestem trail off of Greenbriar and connecting to additional trails over to the South Mesa Trail complex. This is an area of Prairie which is unlike much of the mountain and Forest open space. The trail is basically narrow. It is already heavily used by runners and walkers. There is no room to pass one another in most places and someone has to step aside for this to happen.
This area provides habitat for a number of species that the county is monitoring for the health of their populations, including the black wood nymph butterfly, which I have observed there. It is also Home to a great many species of birds of the prairie, such as kestrels, prairie Falcons, and Lark sparrows, which I have observed there. I occasionally see coyotes and deer in this area as well.
When this was last considered in the planning process, this area was not opened up to mountain bikes due to the conditions I describe above. These considerations have not changed, and if anything, the closure to mountain bikes is even more appropriate, given the increased usage by pedestrians and the utility of the habitat for wildlife.
I understand the vigorous advocacy being put forth by mountain bike interests. Should the commission be inclined to consider opening this area to mountain bikes. I request two reasonable conditions.
First, that this would be done only on a pilot project basis, in order to evaluate the impacts, such as the widening of the trail that is bound to occur, etc.
Second, if opened, it would be prudent to stagger mountain bike and pedestrian usage every other weekday and one day each on the weekends, such as is done on Centennial Cone Trail in Jefferson County, where I have also both hiked and ridden a mountain bike. This is a wonderful way to reduce conflicts between the two user groups.
What I have seen from the recent call for comments and decision-making on going to alternate day usage on some trails in the North Boulder County area is that it is very difficult to implement this common sense practice after a trail has been open to mountain bikes every day of the week. For this reason, I repeat and stress that a common sense introductory measure would be to have a pilot project, and to allow mountain bike use on even numbered weekdays and pedestrian use on odd numbered weekdays, and giving each user group one weekend day exclusively.

Received via email to Open Space Board of Trustees
I am writing to express my concern about the ecological impacts if the city opens up pedestrian-only trails between Shanahan Ridge and Doudy Draw to mountain bikes.
The grasslands between Shanahan Ridge and Doudy Draw Trailhead are so ecologically valuable it has been designated a Colorado Tallgrass Prairie State Natural Area. The grasslands provide a large unfragmented area with very high biodiversity and high-quality habitat for rare butterflies, wildflowers, grassland birds, and globally imperiled plant communities.
Adding more stress on this system by mountain bikers and potentially new trails will inevitably damage this diminishing ecosystem.
Additionally, as a frequent hiker at Shanahan Ridge I ask that the board take into consideration how adding mountain bikes to these trails will alter the experience for hikers; I will be less likely to hike there given the disruption bikes create.
I urge the board to not move forward with this proposal for the sake of this valuable ecosystem and for the sake of hikers that want to have some trails maintained for their own use.

Received via email to Open Space Board of Trustees
Hi OSBT members,
We know Priority Action 7c is not on your agenda this month, but we also know that a recent email blast from PLAN-Boulder County, Boulder County Audubon Society and Boulder County Nature Association encouraged people to contact OSBT and oppose bike access between Shanahan Ridge and Doudy Draw.
We absolutely believe everyone has the right to weigh in on how our public lands are managed and who has access to them. We also recognize that reasonable people can disagree about this particular connection.

However, the email significantly mischaracterizes what BMA is asking OSMP to consider, so we felt it was important to clarify our position before those characterizations become part of the public conversation.
Most importantly, BMA is not asking for a new network of bike trails through the South Boulder grasslands or to open the area's pedestrian trail network to bikes. We are asking OSMP to evaluate one safe, natural-surface connection between Shanahan Ridge and Doudy Draw.
The West TSA already calls for rerouting Lower Big Bluestem and South Boulder Creek West for environmental and visitor experience reasons unrelated to bikes. We believe those planned reroutes create an opportunity to improve habitat and the visitor experience while allowing bikes on one connection and keeping the other bike-free.
The email also characterizes the 2011 West TSA bike-access compromises in ways we believe deserve important context, particularly the unbuilt Eldorado Canyon-to-Walker Ranch connection and the fact that several of those outcomes depended on agencies other than the City.
We've put together a more detailed response explaining what we're actually asking for, where we agree with the conservation groups, and where we believe their email creates a misleading impression of the proposal:
What BMA Is Actually Asking for in South Boulder
We believe conservation and thoughtful recreation access can coexist, and we hope the eventual 7c discussion focuses on the actual proposal, its impacts and possible mitigation rather than ruling out a connection before alternatives have been designed and evaluated.
Thank you for reading and for your service on OSBT.

Attachment available at the end of this document.

Follow-up Email
Hi OSBT and staff,
It sounds like there was a robust discussion last night. I am on a quasi-vacation and tuned in remotely to catch some of the comments from the board. One question that came up was about the schedule of the 7c process. At the June OSBT meeting, the next 7c presentation to the board was to be in September:
The website now says it will be October:
Was this schedule change addressed earlier in the meeting? I plan to watch the recording when it is posted to YouTube.

Follow-up Email
Thanks Dan.
There was a spiral bound document presented by a community member to OSBT on Wednesday evening. Was that document also submitted digitally? How may I see a copy?

Follow-up Email
Hi Dan,
Thanks for getting the draft 7c materials out. I have a clarifying question about the evaluation matrix, particularly the Shanahan-Doudy Draw connection.
The proposed connection receives “Substantial Negative Impact” scores for Species of OSMP Management Interest, Introduction or Spread of Invasive Species, and Agricultural Use. The notes explain that adding bikes is expected to increase overall visitation, which “may affect wildlife movement, access to water, and use of the area,” but don't provide an explanation for the invasive species or agricultural scores.
Can you help me understand what data, research or assumptions were used to assign those three substantial-negative scores?
More broadly, is the ecological evaluation comparing the existing condition with the proposed condition, including the environmental benefits of rerouting and restoring portions of the existing trails? I ask because the same proposal receives a “Substantial Positive Impact” for wetlands, streams, riparian areas and floodplains, and the matrix notes that the new sustainable alignment would likely reduce maintenance needs.
I'm also curious about how increased visitation is being calculated. Is there data suggesting this

connection would create significant new OSMP visitation, versus shifting how existing visitors reach Doudy Draw and Marshall Mesa? Mode shift is one of the goals of the project, so someone riding from home instead of driving to a trailhead wouldn't necessarily represent a new recreational visit. I'm not trying to argue the scores before understanding how you got there. I just want to make sure I'm interpreting the matrix correctly, particularly since the red "Substantial Negative Impact" scores are likely to carry a lot of weight in the public discussion.
Thanks for any clarification you can provide.

Follow-up Email
Hi Dan and staff,
I did not know that the Boulder Reporting Lab was covering this story. I have not communicated about the questionnaire to our community as I was hoping to get a copy of the PLAN report and clarification about the matrix before I did so. Is it possible to get this information today?

Received via email to Open Space Board of Trustees
Hello OSMP Board of Trustees,
My name is Steve Sloan and I appreciate the opportunity to write to you today. I have a conflict Wednesday or I would be speaking in person again.
I am a 25+ year Boulder resident and I coach young athletes as part of the Fairview High School Mountain Bike Team.
Mountain biking is important to me because it's one of my favorite ways to get outside & stay healthy and enjoy our public lands. My wife and I have also experienced both of our kids build grit by building up their skills in this sport.
Sharing the Open Space with others, acknowledging other trail users, doing trail work etc. are all parts of a healthy stewardship of the land we access when riding. My family and I make every effort to be courteous, yield to horses & hikers, let people know we are coming from behind, etc. We teach the kids on the mountain bike team that we yield to EVERYONE - and they also put forward hundreds of hours of trail building.
I encourage OSMP to support a non-motorized connector trail from south Boulder to the Doudy Draw Marshall Mesa area. Although this has been requested since 2011, I've only recently been involved since I spoke at your trustees meeting in December, hoping we would have gotten the green light by this season. The season has arrived, and as I understand it, we're still in status quo - no progress in providing this safe connector. The slow process to approve this trail increases the risks for these kids every time we practice. On behalf of the younger trail users (which include my own two children!) and all mountain bikers, we believe this is a very important project to pursue.
The trail improvements and building of the North Sky trail in North Boulder and significant trail improvements at Boulder Valley Ranch are sincerely appreciated. I think that a "South Sky" connector is also integral to the health and safety of cyclists and motorists. Put another way: there is no non-motorized connectivity in South Boulder. Cyclists are forced onto medium, or high stress facilities. Contrast this to North Boulder where The North Sky and Cobalt and the future North Foothills Bikeway provide network connectivity that is safe and comfortable.
OSMP has an easy win to put in a cycling connection along the margin of its holding, near population, creating non-motorized connectivity, and eliminating auto-on-bike fatalities completely.
Thank you for reading my message and considering enabling this safe connector trail. I sincerely appreciate you taking the next steps to safely connect mountain bikers from south boulder to these areas.

Received via email to Open Space Board of Trustees
Hello,
Good afternoon. I am writing today as a concerned coach for youth cycling. Starting the first week of August every year, we ride to the trailheads of Marshall Mesa on Tuesdays and Thursdays. As of present, the route takes us along Marshall Road, through the extremely busy 90 degree intersection of Marshall Road 170. Every

time we cross this intersection there is inevitably a vehicle traveling west bound at a high rate of speed, with no Stop nor Yield sign. An alternative route we take to Spring Brook is up CO 67, which presently requires riders to pedal along El Dorado Spring Drive (no shoulder). Regardless of the trail, as a coach, we ensure our riders follow proper and safe trail etiquette to hikers, trail runners, horses, wildlife alike. I was excited to hear there is an option where our student riders can access Dowdy Draw, as well as all of the Marshall Mesa complex without crossing a major intersection. This would mean a lot to me, and our community with regards to safety for everyone. Thank you for your consideration.

As you know I frequently visit Chautauqua, on foot, using the Grant Place entrance, my home for the last 40 or so years :-)
Access for pedestrians is clearer, safer, and more pleasant than it has been for years.
The stretch from Baseline, on the east side of the access drive, safely brings you to the stop sign for the circle drive. Many folks are on their way to the Green, the Dining Hall, the Auditorium, and/or the trail head at Enchanted Mesa. That's where the trail becomes sketchy and becomes an eroded, drainage improvement that serves as a poor sidewalk.
My simple idea would be to continue the sidewalk up to the parking strip with both a walking surface and improved drainage pan. This would give folks a safe and pleasant way to work their way up the hill.

Received via email to Open Space Board of Trustees
Open Space Board of Trustees,
I am writing to you in to express my hope that you will not open up the south boulder trails to mountain bikers. I am a mountain biker myself, but we are also dog owners and hikers who have lost several cherished miles of trail to the joint use with mountain bikes. Particular concerning now is the use of ebikes and quite frankly, persons aren't all as courteous as they once were, further exacerbating the concern over safety. Especially concerning are ecological impacts of adding mountain bike use to the west-to-east drainages, and fragmentation of the high-quality grassland block between Greenbriar Blvd and South Boulder Creek - ESPECIALLY if new trails were constructed.
Grasslands are a particular love of mine and the grasslands between Shanahan Ridge and Doudy Draw Trailhead are so ecologically valuable that they have been designated the Colorado Tallgrass Prairie State Natural Area – and provide a large unfragmented area with very high biodiversity and high-quality habitat for rare butterflies, wildflowers, grassland birds, and globally imperiled plant communities.
Trails in the area from Shanahan Ridge to Doudy Draw are already heavily used by hikers, runners, dog walkers, and families.

Received via email to Open Space Board of Trustees
Dear Open Space Trustees:
I live in Louisville, and hike and birdwatch in City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks. I'm writing to express my opposition to any mountain bike use on Open Space between Shanahan Ridge and Doudy Draw. This area includes the Colorado Tallgrass Prairie State Natural Area, an area of high biodiversity that supports numerous species, including grassland birds, mammals, rare butterflies, wildflowers, and globally imperiled plant communities.
I'm particularly concerned about the potential ecological impacts of adding mountain bike use to the west to east drainage and fragmentation of the high quality grassland block between Greenbriar Blvd. and South Boulder Creek, especially if new trails are constructed. Trails in the area from Shanahan Ridge to Doudy Draw are already heavily used by hikers, dog walkers, runners, and others; allowing mountain bike use would exacerbate impacts occurring from these existing uses.
I understand that everyone experiences and enjoys open space in their own way. For me, hiking on quiet trails where I don't have to dodge mountain bikes allows me to fully experience the plant, insect, and bird life around me. Please do not add mountain bike use to the area between Shanahan Ridge and Doudy Draw.

The natural life forms in this area could be adversely impacted by these high speed, disruptive activities.
Thank you for considering my comments.

I am writing to express my concern about the new trail connections in the southern West TSA being proposed by the mountain bike community. I understand this is part of Boulder's Multi-Modal Assessment section of the City Manager's City Strategic Plan.
I worked for two years from 2009-2011 with the Community Collaborative Group (CCG), on input to the West TSA Plan,and hoped that the resulting balanced package of agreements would persist longer than 15 years. But here we are now, with OSMP considering adding bike trails in this ecologically sensitive. I strongly suggest that the use of mountain bikes on the OSMP trail system particularly in the environmentally sensitive area between Greenbriar and South Boulder Creek continue to be prohibited.
I lived in Boulder from 1979-1990 and returned to the city in 2008 to take up a position as Scholar-In-Residence at the CU Boulder Department of Civil, Environmental and Architectural Enngineering. A position which I hold to date. Even in 2008 it was a shock to see some of the changes that had occurred in the OSMP from my perspective as a runner (earlier) and avid hiker. My home on Shanahan Ridge affords me easy access to the OSMP trail system. Despite being a senior citizen with a walking disability, I manage to get on the trails (when the temperature is less than 95 degrees) 3-4 times per week. I have the advantage of being able to walk to some trailheads in my vicinity.
I value the Shanahan Ridge trail system all the more, since the once lovely walking trails I recalled south of Eldorado springs, i.e. Doudy Draw, became unusable for me due to mountain bike use. For senior citizens and those with disabilities like me, walking is treacherous now that trails I once used to hike are open to mountain bikes. So I simply don't use those trails anymore - a concession that was made with the balanced outcome of the CCG process. Besides user experience, numerous other considerations came to light in the 2011 CCG process which ruled out further expansion of mountain bikes in the southern West TSA region, and these points remain valid. Particularly obvious to me given where I live, is the importance of maintaining the area of important biodiversity between Greenbriar Blvd and South Boulder Creek. It is unimaginable to think that this unique, high quality region could be open to mountain bikes.
In sum, to extend mountain bike access further into the south OSMP region from Shanahan Ridge to Dowdy Draw Trailhead is inconsistent with the reasoning that went into the plan in 2011. If anything, the continued degradation of ecosystems evident from mountain bike use in OSMP makes the argument against expansion of mountain bike access all the more compelling. Let's put those financial resources to better use that meets the mission of OSMP.
Thanks for your consideration,

Received via email to Open Space Board of Trustees
When I began my seven-year tenure on the OSBT, where you now serve, I was a long-distance and sprint runner, and a triathlete, and I remember how puzzled I was that there were rather strict rules about behavior on OSMP properties and trails. I was in for a big education. I got that in spades.
Several imminent personalities on the City Council and on the PLAN Boulder board quickly coached me about my OSBT duties. Invariably part of their message pertained to the mission of the OSBT members, that is the importance of one's (your) responsibility to conserve the natural values of OSMP… as well as to adhere to the other charter purposes. Ultimately I ended up finding it rewarding to serve in this manner.
In the last five to eight years, I've become ever more amazed at the seeming lack of awareness of OSBT members with respect to the preservation part of your mission. At every opportunity, this board's members have taken the position that the mountain biking community's wishlist should trump the values of all the rest of us.

· According to the 2018 statistically valid city survey, 85% of trail users choose walking, wildlife watching, meditation or dog-walking as their primary activity. 26% of recreationists choose biking. While the number of bikers haa grown in eight years, the preponderance of non-biking recreationists is still huge in comparison.

I 'm going to assume the mantle of the elderly grouch here: It is not too late for you to at last publicly and

politically recognize these givens which are so evident to the rest of us:

- the need for resource protection so that our grandkids will still see lizards, and snakes, bears, and bobcats, grosbeaks,and sparrows, rare plants and butterflies, and so much more;, Boulder citizens do this so that children and their families will enjoy it all with increasing motivation to conserve and protect it all in perpetuity;
- the importance of caring for the grasslands as well as the forests and riparian areas, all essential to the preservation of functioning ecosystems;
- the grace needed to accord room for peaceful recreation for ALL, including the disabled, the elderly, the very young, the dog-lovers, and the nature walkers.

One day you also will be slower and unable to nimbly step off the trail to avoid approaching vehicles (thus widening the trail and spreading invasive weeds. Or you may have small children who are not bike-aware and must be closely watched to protect them from the multiple riders sharing the trail. Or you may limp and use a cane. Or you may simply desire an hour of peace in nature.)

- Finally, the number of quiet no-bike, no-dog trails is pathetically small, though they are popular: they include only seven miles. 162 miles are open to bikes on OSMP; at least 104 in County POS and many hundreds more in the USFS. This imbalance is distressing. You can address it!

There are constructive and safe alternatives to putting bikers, whatever their age, on the hiker trails in the southwest. These have been completely ignored in the ongoing Multi-modal discussions.

Please respect the hard-acquired usage network that was put in place a decade ago (the WTSA process) to protect the enjoyment of ALL users. Reject the idea of adding bicycles to the crowded WTSA trails that we all cherish.

Received via email to Open Space Board of Trustees

To the Open Space Board of Trustees,

I strongly support a safe, off-street bike connection from South Boulder to the Doudy Draw trail system. This project would improve rider safety, alleviate congestion, and solidify Boulder's reputation as a bike friendly city.

Riders — especially youth — currently have no safe way to reach Doudy Draw from town without riding on busy streets and highways. As a MTB coach for Fairview HS, I experience first hand the safety risks of the team's current route to south Boulder trails - Marshall road, often crossing a busy 93 at the Eldorado Canyon intersection. It is unfortunately just a matter of when, not if, an accident will happen unless off-road access is improved.

In addition to the safety concern, access to the Marshall Mesa trail system is highly congested due to popularity of the trails, lack of sufficient MTB trails throughout the city, and construction of the new trailhead. A Shanahan Ridge to Doudy Draw MTB Connection would divert substantial bike traffic and reduce the number of cars accessing the south Boulder trail networks.

Finally, let's restore Boulder to its rightful place as a bike friendly destination. A "South Sky" trail to complement the recently completed "North Sky" section would signal that Boulder is still willing and able to build great outdoor access for all recreation activities.

This connection has strong community backing, and is teed up to go. Please take action to approve and construct the Shanahan Ridge to Doudy Draw Bike Connection trail.

Received via email to Open Space Board of Trustees

Nothing against bikers, BUT I already avoid all trails that allow bikers because the conflict is TOO great. Whether bikers obey regulations/suggestions or not (and in my experience, they seldom do), the conflict arises with the speed differential. Virtually ALL bikers, in my experience as an avid hiker/mountaineer, do NOT yield to pedestrians. In fact, it is quite obvious that unless their speed is severely restricted (which it isn't), they have very limited potential to yield due to speed typically or realistically traveled, and due to visibility limitations. Unless the trail is very straight and very level, the front view of a bike is too short for braking to be effective enough.

I reiterate, I have NO objection or distaste for bikes or bikers, but they are not compatible with pedestrian use, both by intent AND by practical limitations. Actually, there is enough speed conflict with trail RUNNERS, let alone bikers.
PLEASE keep OSMP trails the wonderful asset that they are and can be by limiting conflicts among users and allow us trail hikers to enjoy them the way they have been and were intended to be. If not, I and others will be abandoning all trails that do not keep hiking safe and enjoyable. Is that your intent ?

Received via email to Open Space Board of Trustees
Good afternoon,
I am a Boulder County resident and frequent user of City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Park trails.
I am opposed to any mountain bike use in the area between Shanahan Ridge and Doudy Draw for three reasons:
1 – I believe there are plenty of trail options in the area that are already available to mountain bikes. Mountain biking is a specialized activity, not available to most people because of the skill required and the expense. We have enough trails for mountain bikers, and if we truly do not, then we need to find places for them to bike that do not impact trails that are already beloved by hikers and wildlife.
2 – I think that a vast majority of trails should be for pedestrian and nature only uses. This preserves the character of the landscape, protects wildlife habitat, and provides for a unique experience on the trail.
3 – Mountain bikes drastically change the experience and feel of a trail. I hike mostly on trails that do not allow mountain bikes for this reason. Like many people, I want a more tranquil experience in nature and to not have to worry about bikers, moving out the way, etc. Even the most conscientious mountain bikers impact my enjoyment of a trail, and there are still many riders who are not so conscientious.
Thank you for your consideration.

Received via email to Open Space Board of Trustees
As a senior living in the Shanahan Ridge area, I would like to urge the OSTB to oppose the use of mountain bikes in the trail areas between Shanahan and Eldorado Springs west of Broadway.
I use these trails multiple times per week, and I can testify to the differences between the experience of walking (or, less frequently, running) on trails with and without mountain bike access. There is a feeling of peace and quiet on the more restricted trails, even when the number of users increases, that is not the case when sharing the trails with mountain bikes. While the bikers south of Eldorado Springs (e.g., Doudy Draw area) are (almost) always careful and respectful, moving aside and maintaining an extra degree of vigilance negatively affects the hike.
In reviewing the West Trail Study Area document (from 11/2011), we are reminded of both the care and compromise that went into its creation and its conclusions concerning this southern region. Consider the ecological implications: this area should include the Colorado Tallgrass State Natural Area: our conservation and habitat protection goals for this area are not compatible with mountain biking.
Going further, wildfire mitigation practices in the northern part of this area, coupled with climate change (e.g. increasing temperatures and drought), are already stressing wildlife habitat. We anticipate that carrying capacities for all species—avian, mammalian, invertebrates, and plants--will be decreasing further. Better protection of habitat areas and conservation areas is vital. While understanding that the pressures to increase recreational opportunities are also increasing, caring for nature must be a priority in Boulder.
I urge the Board (and OSMP) to continue to prohibit the use of mountain bikes on all of these sensitive trails.

Received via email to Open Space Board of Trustees
Dear OSBT members,
I am a 71 year old resident and frequent hiker in the South Boulder area and am writing to urge you to reject proposals to allow mountain bikes on the trails between Shanahan Ridge and Dowdy Draw. These trails were designated as hiker-only by the West Trails Study Area Plan with the goal of reducing biker-hiker conflict and

ensuring hiker safety. If anything has changed since then, it is that these hiking trails have become even more popular and heavily used since Covid with a mix of hikers, runners, dog walkers, bird watchers, and others who study or enjoy nature. Trail users range from families with young children to the elderly. Given the high density of usage on this trail system, the potential for conflict and safety issues multiplies with the addition of mountain bikes.

I moved to this area expressly to be near this trail network and I hike and/or bird watch there multiple times per week. Unfortunately, I would no longer feel safe and would likely avoid returning to these trails that I love if they are opened to fast-moving bikes, which would be a great loss for both my physical and emotional well-being. I know that there are many others who feel similarly and who have abandoned trails that are no longer hiker-only due to concerns regarding their safety.

It is my understanding that the main issue prompting the opening of these trails is the safety of bikers reaching the Dowdy Draw and Marshall Mesa trail networks from the north at the crossing of Highways 93 and 170. These areas constitute a very popular network of biking trails that already exist in South Boulder. The safety of bikers in navigating busy roads is a critical matter and one that needs to be addressed. As good biker access to this area already exists up to the intersection, a safer and less disruptive solution for all trail users, bikers and hikers alike, would be to modify the intersection at that spot to provide protected crossing as was recommended in the West Trails Study Area Plan final report.

The worst solution would be to add additional trails to the currently intact block of high quality grasslands in the area. The high biodiversity of this ecotone habitat, including rare and imperiled flora and fauna, has earned it the designation of a Colorado Tallgrass Prairie State Natural Area. Fragmentation with additional trails would subject the area to risks of invasive seed infiltration, potential erosion, and disturbance of grassland nesting birds. While recreational activities are an important component of Open Space lands, maintaining and protecting the biological integrity of these habitats for the future enjoyment of users and for the species who depend upon them for survival is the greatest overarching priority.

Hikers and bikers are united in sharing the goal of safely enjoying our beautiful open spaces. But a combination of narrow trails, fast moving bikes, and slow moving hikers, especially those who are elderly or have young children, is not a safe choice. Nor is the option of jeopardizing the habitat quality of the important grasslands of the Colorado Tallgrass Prairie State Natural Area through fragmentation from additional trails a responsible decision. The reasoning of the conclusions from the West Trails Study Area Plan applies even more today, with higher density of foot traffic on these trails, than it did at the time of its writing. Two years of hard work and compromise went into the formation of the Plan, which consolidated feedback from multiple segments of the community to reach a path forward that bests protects both the sensitive environment of the area and the users who recreate there. Taking the risk of unraveling that plan should not be undertaken without again involving all stakeholders in evaluating the potential pros and cons.

I urge you to maintain the current hiker-only status of the South Boulder trail system and avoid compromising the integrity of the grasslands system with additional trails. Please address any safety issues for bikers accessing the biking trail areas to the south by making sensible modifications to the highway crossing.

Thank you for your protection of our open spaces and for the opportunity to comment.

Received via email to Open Space Board of Trustees

Dear Trustees,

I have been hiking in this area for 35 years and have seen the number of users grow and the land change. I am terrified that disturbance will be greatly accelerated by allowing bicycle access to this area as requested by the mountain bike alliance.

I am very supportive of bicycle commuting. We need improved trails for cyclists that do not bisect open space. Wildlife that depends upon the open space has nowhere else to go.

Please stand up for wildlife in open space and bicycle commuting outside of open space.

Received via email to Open Space Board of Trustees

Dear Open Space Board of Trustees - PLEASE don't open biker access to our pedestrian-only trails in South Boulder between Shanahan Ridge and Doudy Draw. The West TSA plan shouldn't be unraveled and was well conceived as it stands.
I use these connected trails on foot, without a dog, year-round and they are a treasure - it is very important to me as a local resident and taxpayer to experience hiking on quiet pedestrian-only trails. Marshall Mesa is available in a similar zone for bikers.
Please keep things as they are to preserve the grasslands between Shanahan Ridge and Doudy Draw Trailhead which are so ecologically valuable that they have been designated the Colorado Tallgrass Prairie State Natural Area! We know they provide a large unfragmented area with very high biodiversity and high-quality habitat for rare butterflies, wildflowers, grassland birds, and globally imperiled plant communities.
Lastly, thank you for your time and dedicated service on this important Board!

Received via email to Open Space Board of Trustees
I am a long time Boulder resident and I spend a lot of time hiking in Boulder county, including the wonderful trails between Shanahan Ridge and Doudy Draw. I also bike a lot. As a biker I have no shortage of places I can ride my bike, whether on bike paths or on trails. When hiking my wife and I always look for trails that do no allow bikes, as do many of our friends, because bikers go so fast. It mars the experience having to worry about them coming up behind you or down the hill in front of you. One cannot relax and enjoy the scenery. If bikes are allowed on trails in this area we will stop hiking those trails. Please don't allow bikes here. Thank you.

Received via email to Open Space Board of Trustees
I understand that the OSBT is considering opening up the area between Shanahan Ridge and Doudy Draw to mountain bike access and I am concerned that this will adversely affect the area.
For reference, I live in South Boulder and I am an avid mountain biker and hiker. I routinely bike Marshal Mesa and Doudy Draw.
I am against opening this new area because currently the area is already a high use hiking area and it is a critical wildlife habitat so adding bikes as well will be detrimental to wildlife and create conflict with hikers. There is currently easy access for bikers to Marshal and Doudy trails if bike paths and the Marshal frontage road are used. I use this route routinely and do not need to drive. It is safe for bikes and easily accessible and low in car traffic. The addition of the trail connector on trails will be of minimal benefit but will have tremendous detrimental impact to the area.

Received via email to Open Space Board of Trustees
I am a mountain biker and feel that your considering allowing bikes on the area near town now off limits to biking to be a future disaster. There are too many hikers to allow biking on any of these trails. When I hike I want to be relaxed and not have some bike barrel past me like they have the right of way. Many do not slow down and think I hear them (I do NOT wear headphone), even when I am on my bike.
We have enough bike paths. Please do not allow bikes on the paths near town.
Thank you.

Received via email to Open Space Board of Trustees
I am very concerned about the human and ecological impacts of adding mountain bike use to the west-to-east drainages between Greenbriar Blvd and South Boulder Creek. I object to any new trails to be constructed especially for mountain biker use. The area between Shanahan Ridge and Doudy Draw Trailhead is designated as the Colorado Tallgrass Prairie State Natural Area. Their continued conservation provides the area with very high biodiversity and high-quality habitat for butterflies, wildflowers, grassland birds, and plant communities. The trails are already very heavily used by hikers, runners, dog walkers, and families. The area

already has high trail use, parking, and law enforcement presence. I value being able to walk on quiet pedestrian-only trails. I choose them as it is aggravating to be surprised by fast mountain bikers coming up behind me, ringing their bike bells, and asking me to step aside, and then say, “There’s four more behind me.” as they speed away. Many mountain bikers behave as if they have the right of way, when they must yield to hikers and horses. There are already abundant trails that are designated for mountain bikers, such as Marshall Mesa. Don’t let that small fraction of the population take over and destroy the peace of a valued resource used by wildlife, birds, insects, and walkers. Preserve and conserve the west-to-east drainages between Greenbriar Blvd and South Boulder Creek!

Received via email to Open Space Board of Trustees

I'm writing to express my opposition to the proposed Multimodal Assessment Project, specifically any mountain bike use between Shanahan Ridge and Doudy Draw.

1. Ecological impacts of allowing bikes along the west-to-east drainages and the resulting fragmentation of the high-quality grasslands is one worry. The grasslands between Shanahan Ridge and Doudy Draw Trailhead are ecologically invaluable; they provide high biodiversity and quality habitat for rare butterflies, grassland birds, globally threatened plant communities, and more.
2. Area trails are already extensively used and impacted by hikers, runners, dog walkers, and others.
3. Adding trails or use types in this area would add to the existing OSMP constraints concerning trail use and maintenance, parking, and enforcement.
4. As a longtime Boulder resident and hiker/runner, I cherish quiet pedestrian-only trails where I can hear myself think, talk with a hiking mate, and not be constantly on guard of passing bikes.

I hope the plan results in some hiking trails without bikes and perhaps some with few or no pedestrians.
Thank you for your consideration.

Received via email to Open Space Board of Trustees

In regards to the upcoming decision to allow mountain bike use in the area between Shanahan Ridge and Doudy Draw, I ask you to deny its passage.
One only has to hike the Left Hand Trail in Roosevelt National Forest to see the impact of allowing bikes on trails. Numerous “social” trails have been blazed by mountain bikers seeking new thrills throughout the area. This disturbs and displaces a disturbing amount of wildlife compared to simple foot-traffic only trails.
Please be smart about this.

Received via email to Open Space Board of Trustees

We want you to know that we reject the idea of:
Multimodal Assessment Project and are opposing any mountain bike use in the area between Shanahan Ridge and Doudy Draw.

Received via email to Open Space Board of Trustees

In regards to the issue:
Open Space Board of Trustees (OSBT) to allow bikes in the area between Shanahan Ridge and Doudy Draw, which is part of the West TSA.
PLEASE DO NOT OPEN THAT AREA TO MOUNTAIN BIKERS !!!!!!!!!!!!!! I have been put in personal danger due to bikers and that area is a respite from bikers plus a safer area for animals.
Thank you.

Received via email to Open Space Board of Trustees

Hi! I am tired of the one and only real focus these days by City of Boulder Open Space to be bike trails. You don't care about wildlife and the environment, which is clear when you kill tens of thousands of prairie dogs on public open space trail areas so that more cows can roam. This created a monoculture of just grass and cows, to pretend we live in a rustic farmbelt in city limits? You don't care about protecting open spaces when you put more bike trails in a pristine environment, all at taxpayer expense. There are plenty of places for bikers to ride in Boulder. Moreover, sharing trails with them on public trails near my house is a pretty big danger. I won't be at all surprised when there are more bad accidents with pedestrians.

Received via email to Open Space Board of Trustees

I would like to register my objection to possible changes to the trail rules for the lesestilrian only trails. Walkers and nature (birds and animals as well as plants) will both will be adversely affected by the proposed changes. Let's keep walkers and habitat safe in this area!

Received via email to Open Space Board of Trustees

To the Open Space Board of Trustees,

Trails in the area from Shanahan Ridge to Doudy Draw are very heavily used by hikers, runners, dog walkers, families, and more. OSMP already has challenges with trail use and maintenance, parking, and enforcement. Adding trails or use types in this area would pose many additional challenges.

Especially concerning are ecological impacts of adding mountain bike use to the west-to-east drainages, and fragmentation of the high-quality grassland block between Greenbriar Blvd and South Boulder Creek - ESPECIALLY if new trails were constructed.

The grasslands between Shanahan Ridge and Doudy Draw Trailhead are so ecologically valuable that they have been designated the Colorado Tallgrass Prairie State Natural Area – and provide a large unfragmented area with very high biodiversity and high-quality habitat for rare butterflies, wildflowers, grassland birds, and globally imperiled plant communities.

I believe it is essential to keep the OSMP trails from Shanahan Ridge to Doudy Draw Trailhead bike-free!

Thank you,

Received via email to Open Space Board of Trustees

As a Boulder County resident and user of the South Boulder Natural Areas I am requesting the OSBT NOT allow mountain biking on these trails. Specifically

Shanahan Ridge and Doudy Draw.

Ecological impacts to these trails would be a disaster in these very high biodiversity and high quality habitat areas. These trails are already in heavy use by hikers, families with children and dog walkers.

Support efforts to get people to these trail heads by bike, bus or on foot.

Received via email to Open Space Board of Trustees

Dear Boulder Open Space,

I would like to express my opinion as a lifelong boulder county resident who VOTES and loves our open space. I enjoy walking, biking and birding on our trails. I am greatful for all our public open space, wildlife and the access to it.

I do not appreciate cyclist being frame as destructive, anti-conservation, anti-environment. Cyclists are other users that do not impact these areas anymore than walkers, who are often in huge groups that gather off trail and have loud conversations.

Additional cycling access to these areas would enable safe passage of cyclist, we need more of this not less. We have high schoolers riding on the road because this well, funded, very organized group can't share.

We need to be planning additional bike access not less!

Received via email to Open Space Board of Trustees

Hello, Open Space Board Members, and thanks for all you do.

Please know that your care for Boulder's trails is much appreciated.

I have loved living on Shanahan Ridge for almost 40 years. I have usually hiked from the trail heads off Greenbriar and Lehigh and with my former and current 21lb puggles, although the Greenbriar Connector is now off limits to dogs, given nesting birds. As OSMP considers (again) allowing more bike access to those trails, I wish to emphasize the reality that bicycling and hiking just don't mix well for the optimum and safest experience for each of those categories of users.

I also wonder why bicycles would not disturb nesting birds...

I have joined friends to hike on other trails that are open to bikes, e.g. Marshall Mesa, and I never want to return, as the constant shouted "On your left" or, worse, the sudden approaching whoosh of a speeding bike that demands, without warning, a sudden move to my right alarms and disrupts the calm of my forest bathing senses. I would think the potentially erratic and unpredictable behavior of hikers would be uncomfortable, perhaps unsafe, for the bicyclists as well.

Bicyclists should certainly have their trails, and, as I have learned, they do have Almost 40% (58 miles) of the 155 miles of designated OSMPtrails. Perhaps, if that is not enough or different routes are needed, they can subsidize additional trails just for them.

Most importantly - let's let each type of experience in our beautiful setting thrive separately.

Thank you for gathering user input and thoughtfully considering how to address it.

Received via email to Open Space Board of Trustees

Dear OSBT members,

As 50-year residents of Boulder, we urge you to vote against the proposal to allow mountain bikes on the trails between Shanahan Ridge and Dowdy Draw. We value hiking these quiet pedestrian-only trails where we don't have to worry about running into bicycles. In contrast, the Marshall Mesa Trail is a dangerous and stressful trail to hike because of the heavy bicycle use, so we don't use it any more.

Allowing bicycles on these trails would further fragment the high-quality grassland block between Greenbriar Blvd and South Boulder Creek. This area has been designated a Colorado Tallgrass Prairie State Natural Area because of its high diversity of birds, butterflies, and vegetation.

We are avid bicyclists but Bouder doesn't need more mountain bikes on pedestrian-only Open Space trails.

Thank you for your consideration,

Received via email to Open Space Board of Trustees

I am writing to oppose any increase in mountain bike usage in the area between Shanahan Ridge and Doudy Draw.

I have owned a home in Boulder for 26 years and have always supported OSMP tax initiatives. However, my understanding has always been that our highest priority as OSMP supporters is to preserve our open space natural ecosystems and all the flora and fauna that exist therein. A secondary priority is then to allow careful access to humans to observe and experience the wonders of these natural areas. I am a birdwatcher and nature photographer who enjoys slowly hiking with multiple stops for wildflowers, butterflies and especially birds, including both seeing and listening. Sharing trails with mountain bikes is not an option for me because it continually disrupts my ability to engage in these activities that I enjoy. (For example, I have already had to give up trying to go birding in Doudy Draw.)

But even more important is the need for all of us supporters of OSMP to rethink our priorities going forward. With increasing temperatures and loss of precious water becoming more prevalent in Boulder, our open space ecosystems are under greater and greater stress. We need to focus more efforts on protecting these native environments, through more nature trails and educational opportunities for field study experiences. Opening more trails for mountain bikers to zoom through, when these riders are often completely oblivious to

the nature that surrounds them, goes against everything I value.
Please, please preserve our precious open space ecosystems.

Received via email to Open Space Board of Trustees
As a resident of Boulder County, I value the delicate and diverse ecosystem of our OSMP trails, and oppose mountain bike use in the area between Shanahan Ridge and Doudy Draw. Please keep these as pedestrian-only trails to help preserve the plants and wildlife that make Boulder County a special and beautiful place in which to live.
Thank you for your consideration to this matter.

Received via email to Open Space Board of Trustees
I oppose any mountain bike use in the area between Shanahan Ridge and Dowdy Draw.

Received via email to Open Space Board of Trustees
Please continue to support keeping the OSMP trails from Shanahan Ridge to Doudy Draw Trailhead bike-free. I love to do bird watching here and bikes would destroy the quiet stillness needed for birds to stay nearby. Bikers already have so many spaces to use. Please support us older walkers who often almost get shoved off the trails by some bikers and allow a pedestrian use only area to continue. Thanks for considering my view.
Judy Jordan, Boulder

Received via email to Open Space Board of Trustees
We live near multiple Shanahan Ridge trail heads and this is a beloved area for quiet walking, used by many people, from local neighbors like ourselves to people who come from across the Denver area, including families and many dog walkers. It needs to be kept for walking, without hikers worrying about high speed mountain bikes coming up on them. It is also an area of great beauty and precious ecosystems that should not be penetrated with new trails for bikers. The West TSA study involved lengthy study and discussions among different user groups and its conclusions should be respected. I urge you to vote against turning this into a mountain bike area.

Received via email to Open Space Board of Trustees
Please no bikes in the S/W TSA where the connections argument seems like a greenwash for more, more, and more. Sharing is difficult, even dangerous, in other areas where I try to bird, botanize and connect with nature with the bikes whizzing by. I've been yelled at on Open Space Trails to get out of the way (in so many words) 3 times.
Sustainable Recreation means not losing what we have. Educating about why this area is important is what bikers, and especially young people, need.

Received via email to Open Space Board of Trustees
peaceful users and their safety. I fear for those families whose toddlers and pre-schoolers wander across trails to watch a bid or insect or pick up a leaf to take home. Does OSMP propose that they be leashed for their safety? Additionally, sas a homeowner adjacent to the trail entrance on Hardscrabble Drive, I object to the obvious increase of traffic and illegal parking which mountain bikers would pose on my street. It is currently an entrance for families and quiet individuals or small groups on foot.
While I admire mountain bikers, Shanahan Ridge hikers and families should not be allowed to destroy their

peaceful use.

Received via email to Open Space Board of Trustees

I am writing to tell you that I support the city's efforts to get people to the Open Space trailheads by bike, bus or on foot without having to drive, AND to keep the city's OSMP trail from Shanahan Ridge to Dowdy Draw Trailhead bike-free.

Of course, mountain bikers absolutely need a plethora of places to ride their bikes. And I appreciate that mountain bikers are some of our strongest advocates of open space trails. At the same time, I feel strongly about the need to keep some trails quiet places for walking, hiking, running--and contemplation. In this age of constant cell phone use and connection to the online world, I feel these hiking-only trails are more important than ever for our community and for young people. In this vein, I hope that the OSMP trail from Shanahan Ridge to DowBdy Draw Trailhead will remain bike-free.

I know that there were two years of community meetings and hundreds of people involved in forging the agreement we have now with our trails. I know there are efforts to make compromises so that the plan could result in some hiking trails without bikes and some biking trails with few or no pedestrians.

Beyond the fact that hiking-only trails provide for quiet contemplation, they also provide places for our citizens who may be unable to mountain bike for a number of reasons. In this way, hiking-only trails make our open space trail system a more inclusive environment.

The need to prioritize conservation is another reason to keep some trails hiking only. The grassland between Shanahan Ridge and Dowdy Draw Trailhead are so ecologically valuable that they have been designated Colorado Tallgrass Prairie State Natural Area – and provide a large unfragmented area with very high biodiversity and high-quality habitat for rare butterflies, wildflowers, grassland birds, and globally imperiled plant communities.

We raised both of our children in Boulder who are today in their 20s. Both of our boys basically grew up on the Bobolink trail. They were both very involved in the Junior Ranger Program. Today, one is pursuing a career in ecology. His experience on open space trails is no doubt part of what influenced his passion for the natural world and his desire to pursue ecological science.

For all of theses reasons, I hope you will keep the city's OSMP trail from Shanahan Ridge to Dowdy Draw Trailhead bike-free. Doing so will still provide ample trails for those who love to mountain bike.

Received via email to Open Space Board of Trustees

I strongly oppose mountain bikes on the current trails between the plains and higher mountains (OSMP properties) between Shanahan Ridge and Linden.

Hikers avoid trails once bikes are allowed.

This area was specifically set up for hikers and wildlife.

This area is very important for wildlife, and is a sort of ecotone; such areas are significant for wildlife.

I have watched wildlife return to these areas since I moved here in 1970. Many species had been wiped out earlier last century. For example, there were no deer or elk in Boulder County by 1906. Mountain lions were rare, and bears had to be reintroduced. Foxes and mink were not common, but they are today. These are just a few examples of what wildlife conservation has accomplished.

Wildlife is much more sensitive to human activity than is commonly thought. For example, elk avoid areas within 1/2 mile of roads. Estes Park elk are quite different behaviorally than most wild elk.

People will miss the wonderful wildlife if we allow bikes, as the animals will avoid the fast movement and noise associated with bikes.

Mountain bikers have made over 50 miles of illegal trails in Arapahoe-Roosevelt National Forest. Let's leave OSMP lands free of that disturbance.

I think we need a stronger stewardship approach to our wildlife resources than allowing mountain bikers on the trails represents.

Received via email to Open Space Board of Trustees

Dear Open Space Board of Trustees:

I am an avid supporter and user of City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks.

Since moving to Boulder in 1981, my activities on OSMP lands have included mountain bike riding, trail running, family hiking, contemplative solo hiking, "then and now" landscape photography (photo series used by OSMP staff), forest ecological research (sponsored by OSMP and by NSF), and group educational outings.

I encourage you to preserve the quiet pedestrian-only character of the trails in the West TSA. That said, I also recognize the need to provide access to OS lands for mountain biking in areas outside of the southern West TSA.

The reasons for my preference for the pedestrian-only status of trails in the southern West TSA area include:

High usage of these trails requires some limitations.

Since 1981, I have witnessed the remarkable growth in the use of trails such as the Mesa Trail, Upper Big Bluestem and nearby areas that are accessed from the South Mesa Trailhead. When I have out-of-town visitors, this is the location I recommend for family hikes where parking is less of a problem (except on a weekend) and where they can find some of the best views of Boulder's mountain backdrop. When I walk in this area with visitors, I can proudly point to the fact that Boulder had the vision to protect diverse grassland communities designated as Colorado Tallgrass Prairie State Natural Areas. These are highly valued habitats for rare species of butterflies, grassland birds, and other species of concern. When I feel the need for a contemplative solo hike it often involves learning to identify birds with the audio of a bird ID app. I appreciate that I can do this without the distraction of bikes passing by.

Bike-free trails are essential for safe group educational activities.

Since the early 1980s I have been leading group educational field trips on the trails that originate near the South Mesa Trailhead. Many of these field trips were with CU student groups where I taught courses on ecology for 40 years. Walking with a group of 10 or so students is safer where we don't have to be concerned about rapidly approaching cyclists. I typically would lead field trips to observation points along the Towhee Trail to discuss the tree-ring fire history research which we conducted in the early 1990s at the request of City of Boulder Open Space. I have led numerous field trips to the same area that were linked to conferences of forestry and ecology organizations meeting in the Front Range. These scientific visitors are always impressed with the early leadership of the City of Boulder in creating Open Space for both nature protection and outdoor recreation. Since my retirement from CU in 2021 I have been leading public education field trips in the same area originating from the South Mesa Trailhead. On these field trips, I summarize our research findings on climate change impacts on fire, bark beetle outbreaks, and tree regeneration. This becomes the scientific basis for wide ranging discussions on the theme of "How can we avoid the worst outcomes of climate change." These field trips, sponsored by environmental NGOs, include a diverse group of participants, including volunteer naturalists as well as current employees of City and County Open Space, retired and current land managers from federal and state agencies, numerous employees or volunteers working with environmental NGOs, and Boulder residents interested in climate change issues. The age range is broad but tends to skew towards retirement ages. In addition to the scientific reasons for locating these field trips in the southern sector of OS, I choose locations where we do not have to be concerned about safety hazards due to bike traffic.

BTW, we would be delighted if members of the OSBT participated in our future field trips on the ecological impacts of climate change on forest ecosystems in Bouder County. The trips will be posted on the Nature-Net Google Group of the Boulder County Nature Association.

Received via email to Open Space Board of Trustees

Dear Open Space Board of Trustees,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to allowing mountain biking on the currently hiker-only trails in the Colorado Tallgrass Prairie Natural Area in South Boulder as part of the MULTIMODAL PROJECT.

This area is an exceptional natural resource and one of the places where Boulder's commitment to protecting open space, wildlife habitat, and quiet recreation is especially important. The transition zone between prairie, foothills, and lower montane forest supports remarkable biodiversity, including a diverse

range of birds, mammals, butterflies, and other wildlife. It also provides a rare opportunity for people to experience this landscape through quiet, low-impact recreation.
The existing hiker-only designation protects an important balance between recreation and conservation. These trails are heavily used by hikers who value the peaceful experience and the opportunity to observe wildlife and enjoy the natural landscape without the increased speed, traffic, and potential conflicts associated with mountain biking.
I believe the City should preserve this area as a place for quiet recreation and prioritize the protection of its sensitive habitats and wildlife. The fact that this area was previously protected as hiking-only after extensive community discussion should carry significant weight in considering any changes today.
Please do not open these protected hiker-only trails to mountain biking. I respectfully ask the OSBT to maintain the existing protections and ensure that the Colorado Tallgrass Prairie Natural Area continues to serve as a refuge for wildlife and a place for quiet, low-impact recreation.
Thank you for considering my comments and for your work protecting Boulder's open space.

To the Open Space Board,
I would urge you to spend some time on trails with bicyclists and see how scary it can be as they come zooming around corners, down hills, and appear suddenly out of nowhere with no warning.
Sometimes it is a solo person but often there is more than one bicyclist speeding along the trails, in a group. Cannot count how many times I've been either run off the trail by bikers or in danger of being run into. They create a huge hazard.
The e-bikes have exacerbated the problem. This past winter, two 20-something guys nearly hit me and a friend while we were in a huge expansive meadow — despite all that room, they could not control their bikes because they were going too fast!
At some point, there has to be a limit on how much of our County the bicyclists can occupy.
They have taken over the mountain roads and do not get off the blacktop onto their specially built bike ways that have been put in at great taxpayer expense.
We pay for the sweeper to push debris off their road paths but still they do not stay in their "lane" and instead ride directly in the middle of the road and refuse to move over to allow a car to pass.
And, the mountain bikers have caused considerable erosion on hiking trails all over the County. Trails that used to be packed dirt and grasses and flowers with some rock are now all rock.....and ruts.
In addition, I do not understand how you have allowed e-bikes onto Open Space trails — they are essentially a small motorcycle moving at relativley high speeds.
Please do not turn hiker only trails into bicycle trails too.
Bicyclists may be a big lobby group but there are a lot of hikers in Boulder County who cherish the peace and quiet of trudging along Open Space and National Forest trails, looking at butterflies, plant diversity, scenic vistas, or photographing while not having to watch every second for a potential bike or several coming around the corner.
The bicyclists expect hikers to get out of the way despite the Colorado law that states they must yield to pedestrians. Most do not pay attention to that law.
I have been the victim of a couple of accidents because the bikers will not stop or yield.
Hikers may not have as big a voice because we don't beat our chests about having access to hiking trails. But we are taxpayers and we are huge in number.
Please also keep in mind that many who hike the trails are older folks who cannot nimbly get out of the way of a bike zooming towards them.
A considerable portion of our tax dollars have been spent on providing bicyclists with a lot of access both on roads and Open Space. Plus ongoing sweeping efforts to remove road debris.
All we are asking for is to have some trails expressly kept only for hikers that are safe and tranquil to use for the enjoyment of protected areas of Nature and wildlife.
I also urge you to require licensing for bicyclists, esp those on the roadways. As it is now, they have no accountability for their bad actions because there is no way to know who they are.
You require dogs to have a Voice and Sight tag that is paid for annually for a fee plus requiring every couple of

years to watch and be tested on an online 2-hour webinar on safety and rules of dogs in Open Space.
Why are bicyclists exempt from that?
It would be great if you could require something similar of bicyclists — both road and mountain bikes — to educate them about how to follow Colorado laws to yield to pedestrians, and to require them to pay a fee that goes toward maintaining their bike paths. And, educate them about not leaving trash or bowel movements on trails or on private property.
They need some education on courteous behavior and respect for the environment as it is sorely lacking.

Received via email to Open Space Board of Trustees
Hi there, as a frequent user of open space, I oppose any mountain-biking use in the protected area. Thank you for considering my comment.

Received via email to Open Space Board of Trustees
I am a senior citizen. Regarding the MULTIMODAL PROJECT, please do not allow more bikes in the protected area. They are dangerous to people like me and threaten wildlife. There are already sufficient opportunities for bikes. Thank you/

Received via email to Open Space Board of Trustees
Hello,
I am one of the butterfly researchers for Boulder County Open Space. Some of our transects are on trails where bicycles are allowed. One (Walker Ranch Open Space) had to be abandoned due to so many bicycles traveling very fast and not willing to slow down for pedestrians. Heil Valley Ranch Open Space, is another place where bicycles are allowed. There is a stream crossing where the butterflies congregate to get moisture and minerals from the wet sand and gravel. Our job is to identify, count the butterflies and the species at this crossing. Cyclists have no concern for the butterflies or the researchers and they speed through the crossing splashing us and in some cases killing butterflies. On rare occasions a cyclist will stop and walk carefully so as not to harm the butterflies.
I also have transects in the mountains in Caribou Ranch Open Space. One transect allows bicycles. In my experience cyclists have no desire to slow down for hikers, or researchers. They just want people who are walking to move quickly out of their way. Any trail that includes bicycles will no longer be safe for hikers. The habitat becomes at risk. The animals, birds and insects will also be at risk. Please keep trails bicycle free. As you can see, the people who are demanding access to more trails are demanding and somewhat aggressive people who like to ride fast and do not want hikers in their way. I don't know why but bicyclists seem to feel very entitled to do as they please whether on a trail or riding on a road.
I sincerely hope that those of you making decisions on this topic will consider keeping some trails for hikers only. That decision will have benefits on many levels.

Received via email to Open Space Board of Trustees
I stopped hiking on bike trails because of many negative encounters with bikers.

Received via email to Open Space Board of Trustees
1) I support the City of Boulder's efforts to get people to the Open Space trailheads by bike, bus or on foot (without having to drive). Why? Overflow non-resident visitor parking in OSMP trailhead-adjacent neighborhoods competes with needed street parking spaces for residents and for service vehicles.
AND
2) I support efforts a) to keep not just the City's OSMP trail from Shanahan Ridge to Dowdy Draw Trailhead bike-free but also b) efforts to keep ALL OSMP trails bike-free year round.

Received via email to Open Space Board of Trustees

Hello OSMP Board of Trustees,

I am writing to express my support of a "South Sky" Trail connection. I request action to provide non-motorized access from South Boulder to Doudy Draw area. This has been requested since 2011.

A “South Sky” connector is integral to the health and safety of cyclists and motorists. On behalf of the younger trail users and all mountain bikers, this is a very important project to pursue. Mountain biking, like hiking, trail running, & horse bike riding is a valuable activity on OSMP.

On Tuesday, August 4 and Thursday, August 6, 2026 I observed very dangerous situations between 4:00 - 6:00 PM.

See the attached videos. Note the videos filmed on August 6, 2026 are a time lapse. Traffic looks faster than in real time..

Per subject matter expert, Matt Muir, (formerly of Coalition 4 Cyclists), clearly states the situation:

"There is no non-motorized connectivity in South Boulder. Cyclists are forced onto low, medium, or high stress facilities. Contrast to North Boulder where The North Sky and Cobalt and the future North Foothills Bikeway provide network connectivity that is safe and comfortable.

OSMP has an easy win to put in a cycling connection along the margin of its holding, near population, creating non-motorized connectivity, and eliminating auto-on-bike fatalities completely."

I watched several high school mountain bike riders navigate this intersection and it is very dangerous!

Observations:

A large volume of traffic at high speeds. The speed limit on Marshall Road/Highway 170 between Costco and the light on 93 is 40 mph if it is actually followed.

The speed limit on Marshall road between South Broadway and Highway 170 varies between 30-25 mph on the section through the town of Marshall.

I witnessed/videoed many road departures and lane deviations, especially when turning west toward the light at the intersection of 170 & Marshall road.

I spoke to a Boulder High coach who said it is slightly better with the crosswalk. He stated that sometimes a coach needs to stand in the middle of the crosswalk as cars often do not stop.

The cars back up to the east towards Costco. It is very difficult to see riders approaching the crosswalk.

Cars driving east drive very fast down the hill once they turn east at the light on 93.

On August 6, 2026, I witnessed a near miss where a truck almost hit a cyclist riding on the shoulder of highway 170 near the crosswalk at the Marshall Mesa trailhead. The truck did not see the cyclist on the west side of the road due to the traffic backed up. Once cars moved the truck sped forward from the Marshall Mesa TH driveway (west), to cross 2 lanes of traffic (highway 170) to drive toward 93 and turn north. Thankfully, the truck noticed riders on the west shoulder and stopped just in time. The truck was in the middle of the road perpendicular to 2 lanes of moving traffic. This is incredibly dangerous for all involved.

Environmental degradation arguments seem thin given that cattle are grazing in many areas of open space for fire mitigation. The connection proposed includes existing trails and/or agricultural grazing land. Mountain bikers rarely if ever deviate from trails relative to equestrians, hikers and dog walkers.

I sincerely appreciate you taking the next steps to safely connect mountain bikers from south boulder to these areas.

I believe this trail can be easily constructed by volunteers, Boulder Mountain Bike Alliance, and local high school team members. I implore you to take action before someone gets seriously injured or dies.

Thank you for your service, respectfully,

Received via email to Open Space Board of Trustees

I am writing to convey my support of the OSMP trail between Shanahan Ridge and Dowdy Draw to include access for for mountain bikes. This connection has been long awaited and will significantly reduce the number of cars going to the marshall mesa and dowdy draw trail heads. I wanted to express my appreciation for the thoughful planning and to share that while I understand many people will want this trail to be for hiking

only, the impact of this trail keeping cars of the road make is critical that mountain bikes be allowed.
Thank you for your time and consideration.

Received via email to Open Space Board of Trustees
Please do not allow more mountain bike trails just to appease the aggressive and pushy mountain biking community of Boulder. These trails were
NEVER intended for biking of any kind and we all can see the damage to trails where mountain bikers area already allowed. These existing trails are already over used by hikers already. Many of whom have dogs. I used to love hiking the south west Boulder trails but rarely go because many of the trails allow mountain bikers which is treacherous and unpleasant with my dogs. And my dogs are voice
And site controlled
But the stress of never knowing when I biker would
Fly by with no announcement doesn't make hiking fun And the trails that don't allow bikes are so heavily traveled by people. The open space was purchased by citizens to protect and preserve the open space. Not to allow humans to destroy it by recreating anyway they wanted to. Bikers do t have a right to this land even if they think they do. Please do your job
To protect and preserve it

Received via email to Open Space Board of Trustees
Hello,
I strongly feel we need these trails to remain open exclusively to hikers. There are increasing numbers of bikers dominating th trails that are for bikes already and I'd hate to see even more rutted and filled with zippy bikes.

Received via email to Open Space Board of Trustees
Dear Boulder,
I strongly oppose allowing bikes in Colorado tallgrass prairie natural area in South Boulder from Shanahan Ridge to S. Boulder Creek. Boulder's open spaces are part of what make it a special place and bikes are already allowed on so many trails. Open spaces with rare, priority habitats such as this one deserve protection from more impactful use cases and their greater associated noise.
People also deserve places for quiet contemplation in and of nature and this use aligns well with the sensitive habitat and wildlife that find a home here.
Not all uses are appropriate in all spaces.

Received via email to Open Space Board of Trustees
We have plenty of experience with speedy bikers threatening walkers. We should not allow these bikes on the remaining walking-only trails. This adds danger to the smaller animals who cannot move out of the way. The added sound effects bird nesting. butterflies seek quiet areas and plants that are native - not beside the wider trails the bikes cut. Thank you for your help in protecting the wildlife known by Boulder County. Janet Chu long-time resident

---

Received via email to Open Space Board of Trustees
As a resident of Shanahan Ridge of 10 years, I am writing to express my strong opposition to adding a mountain bike trail across the Shanahan Ridge open space area, particularly on the Greenbriar Connector Trail.
Such a trail would bring increased vehicle traffic to our quiet residential neighborhood, thus compromising potential fire department responses and resident emergency evacuations. It would also compromise

environmental values by running through a State Natural Area, fragmenting a grassland habitat and area of high biodiversity. Visitor traffic to Boulder open spaces has only increased in recent years, making these threats even more severe.
Shanahan Ridge residents have one access road to our homes -- Greenbriar Blvd./Lehigh Street, and there is little or no public parking available on the main road or the side streets.
Neighbors in our area have demonstrated that when cars are parked on Greenbriar, the accessible road narrows down to ONE lane. All cars are forced into the center of the road. What will happen if a fire truck needs to get through? What will happen if residents need to evacuate due to an approaching fire?
During the Marshall fire, for example, we were unable to drive out of the area because so many people were parked on Greenbriar to watch the fire.
Open space lands near Shanahan Ridge are home to rare and declining wildlife species, dozens of bird species, grassland nesting birds, rare butterflies, and the federally threatened Preble's jumping mouse.
Mountain biking trails would very likely harm these environmental values, perhaps permanently. A new trail through this area would prevent the preservation of one of the rarest and most endangered ecosystems in the world.
In 2011, as part of the WTSA process, the Greenbriar Connector Trail was closed to dogs to protect those nesting birds and other environmental values. Ironically, that is the trail that mountain bikers now want access to.
Another major concern is the inevitable conflicts that could arise.
Who will police the trails? Who will ensure that mountain bikers do not use nearby hiking-only trails? Who will ensure that they yield to pedestrians? Who will ensure that large commercial groups don't illegally use the trails and park dozens of cars in our resident-only parking areas?
The OSMP staff acknowledged in 2011 that they can't do it.
Mountain bikers already have access to 40% of OSMP trails, despite making up only 11% of visitors. They also have access to more than 100 miles of Boulder County Parks' 155 trails.
This trail is NOT needed. Bikes already have a full path from Boulder to Marshall Mesa and Doudy Draw by using the city's bike paths and underpasses.
Let's not make a mistake that could irrevocably damage our open space. Let's err on the side of caution, and preserve and protect our open space.
I fully support OSBT's efforts to get people to trailheads without driving. But opening the Greenbriar Connector Trail to mountain bikes is not the way to do it.

Received via email to Open Space Board of Trustees
I am opposed to any mountain-biking use in the protected area. We emphasize the values of the Natural Area - quiet recreation, wildlife, and habitat protection. Mountain biking would greatly harm these areas and destroy quiet recreation and would negatively impact wildlife and habitat protection. I say NO to mountain biking in the protected area.

Received via email to Open Space Board of Trustees
No!!!!!

Received via email to Open Space Board of Trustees
Dear Board Members,
I understand the Board is considering opening hiker-only trails in the areas west of Broadway via the Multimodal Project, including the Colorado Tallgrass Prairie Natural Area in South Boulder from Shanahan Ridge to S. Boulder Creek. 16 years ago, after bitter negotiations (West Trails Study Area), the Board protected the area from Broadway to the mountains, and S. Boulder Creek to Linden Ave for hiking only. This area is heavily used by hikers and now the mountain bikers want it and are exerting maximum pressure the Open Space Board of Trustees.

The Natural Area is an area of high biodiversity, recognized by the State for a rare community, an ecotone between prairie, foothills and lower montane forest, supporting a diverse population of birds, mammals, butterflies, and magnificent scenery. The State's policy is to establish Natural Areas where they will be protected.
I value quiet recreation, wildlife and nature and strongly oppose any mountain biking use in the protected area. Mountain biking causes more soil erosion, trail modifications like jumps, banked turns, widening and creates unsafe conditions for hikers and impacts wildlife.
Hall Ranch is an example of what could happen if you allow bikers in. I have dozens of photos of degraded trail there and will personally guide any Board Member to see what I mean.
I urge you to oppose and changes to the existing system.

Received via email to Open Space Board of Trustees
I am writing to express my strong opposition to adding a mountain bike trail across the Shanahan Ridge open space area, particularly on the Greenbriar Connector Trail.
Such a trail would bring increased vehicle traffic to our quiet residential neighborhood, thus compromising potential fire department responses and resident emergency evacuations; compromise environmental values by running through a State Natural Area, fragmenting a grassland habitat and area of high biodiversity; and increase visitor conflicts.
I've lived in Shanahan Ridge for 30 years, and have hiked the local trails hundreds of times. They provide a quiet respite from the world and a chance to experience Boulder's beautiful nature as well as chat with neighbors. I have also hiked Doudy Draw and Marshall Mesa, where bikes are allowed. The experience with bikes was quite different -- most importantly, I did not feel safe. I was always worried I'd get hit by a bike, and I was forced off the trail often. I have not returned to those areas because of those concerns.
In 2011, I and many other people in my neighborhood took part in the West TSA planning process, expressing our opposition to bike trails. The decision then was that mountain bike trails would NOT be allowed on Shanahan Ridge open space. We agreed to compromises: we did not oppose closing one favorite local trail to dogs, due to concerns about nesting birds and other environmental values. We accepted restricted access to a neighborhood favorite trail -- but now that very same trail -- the Greenbriar Connector Trail -- is being proposed as a mountain bike trail.
Traffic Congestion and Fire Safety
Shanahan Ridge residents have one access road to our homes -- Greenbriar Blvd./Lehigh Street, and there is little or no public parking available on the main road or the side streets.
I am concerned that this neighborhood could become like the Doudy Draw trailhead area. According to OSMP staff in 2011, “On weekends, dozens of cars are illegally parked along Eldorado Springs Drive…[presenting] a risk to pedestrians and vehicle owners..OSMP is concerned that over time there would be a similar level of congestion…in the more densely populated neighborhoods of South Boulder.”
Most importantly, neighbors in our area have demonstrated that when cars are parked on Greenbriar, the accessible road narrows down to ONE lane. All cars are forced into the center of the road. What will happen if a fire truck needs to get through? What will happen if residents need to evacuate due to an approaching fire? We had a small taste of this during the Marshall fire. So many people were parked on Greenbriar to watch the fire that we were unable to easily drive out of the area.
Visitor traffic to Boulder open spaces has only increased since 2011, making these threats even more severe.
Environmental Values
According to OSMP staff in 2011, open space lands to the south and west of Shanahan Ridge are home to rare and declining wildlife species, dozens of bird species, grassland nesting birds, rare butterflies, and the federally threatened Preble’s jumping mouse. The Tallgrass West portion of the area is one of the few remaining tallgrass prairie ecosystems left in the state, and is “one of the rarest and most endangered ecosystems in the world and of statewide and global significance.” It has been designated as critical habitat by the Nature Conservancy. Many environmental organizations have spoken out for the need to protect these habitats and species.
Mountain biking trails would very likely harm these environmental values, perhaps permanently. A new trail

through this area would prevent the preservation of one of the rarest and most endangered ecosystems in the world.
In 2011, as part of the WTSA process, the Greenbriar Connector Trail -- now proposed for mountain bikes -- was closed to dogs to protect those nesting birds and other environmental values.
Visitor Conflicts
Another major concern is the inevitable conflicts that could arise.
I'll note that in 30 years of living on Shanahan Ridge I have only rarely seen rangers patrolling the trails here. Yet visitor usage has increased substantially over the years since the TSA process.
If this area is opened to additional uses, who will police the trails? Who will ensure that mountain bikers do not use nearby hiking-only trails or venture into critical habitats? Who will ensure that they yield to pedestrians as required? Who will ensure that large commercial groups don't illegally use the trails and park dozens of cars in our resident-only parking areas?
The OSMP staff acknowledged in 2011 that they can't do it: "Some public input has argued that a greater ranger presence will control conflicts among visitors. Unfortunately, staff finds no evidence to support that conclusion…Trails currently have no speed limits, and if they did, OSMP would have limited means of enforcing them; the level of ranger presence necessary…is simply not feasible."
Mountain bikers already have access to 40% of OSMP trails, despite making up only 11% of visitors. They also have access to more than 100 miles of Boulder County Parks' 155 trails.
This trail is NOT needed. Bikes already have a full path from Boulder to Marshall Mesa and Doudy Draw by using the city's bike paths and underpasses.
When It's Gone, It's Gone
The OSMP staff in 2011 concluded that "adding an extremely popular activity to the most heavily used part of the OSMP system will result in types and levels of degradation to natural resources or the visitor experience that OSMP cannot, or cannot afford to address." In other words, adding mountain bike trails is a bad idea. The OSMP staff presented plenty of expert evidence to make that case.
Conversely, there was no data presented showing that adding mountain bike trails is a good idea – no evidence that doing so would not cause great harm to open space and our neighborhood.
Since 1967, the residents of Boulder have consistently voted to purchase and protect open space. As a result of those decades of effort, Boulder is recognized worldwide as a leader in the preservation of open space, and we have the privilege of living in one of the most beautiful places on Earth. Indeed, the stated mission of the Open Space and Mountain Parks Department is to "preserve and protect the natural environmental and land resources that characterize Boulder."
Let's not make a mistake that could irrevocably damage our open space. Let's err on the side of caution, and preserve and protect our open space.
I fully support OSBT's efforts to get people to trailheads without driving. But opening the Greenbriar Connector Trail to mountain bikes is not the way to do it.

Received via email to Open Space Board of Trustees
Dear Trustees,
I'm writing to share my experience with bike access on open space trails. I lived in Jefferson County for 23 years, first working for Jeffco's Lookout Mountain Nature Center then for CSU Extension in partnership with Jeffco. In both my roles, I was responsible for outdoor education programming on Jeffco open space trails. Starting in 1995, I watched as more and more bikes accessed Jeffco open space trails due to increased popularity and a change in leadership that emphasized biking over hiking. I watched as trails widened significantly, families with children and older hikers decreased significantly and it became impossible to teach outdoors on the trails open to bikes. So I moved all our programming to the few hiker only trails. Now Jeffco is a mecca for bikers from the entire metro area including Boulder.
I'd hate to see any further expansion of biking on Boulder open space because it discourages families, older folks, environmental education anctivities and negatively impacts the resource through trail widening and erosion. Bikers are highly organized and so, appointed and elected officials hear from them most. There's no organization that speaks for hikers, families, kids, older folks, environmental education and the natural

resource itself. Trustees need to speak for them by voting against any further expansion of biking on open space.

Received via email to Open Space Board of Trustees

Hi, I am writing to express concerns about the proposal to open biker access to Boulder OSMP trails that are currently designed as hiker-only. I strongly oppose opening these trails to bikes. This issue was addressed years ago with the West Trails Study Area.. These areas are heavily used by hikers and should not be opened to bikes. The Colorado Tallgrass Prairie Natural Ares is a rare commodity of high biodiversity in the state. Keeping these areas for quiet and less impactful recreation and protecting wildlife habitat and biodiversity should be the number one priority and is the mission of OSMP despite bikers lobbying to open every possible trails to bikes that have significant negative impacts on hikers, wildlife, biodiversity and habitat.

Received via email to Open Space Board of Trustees

Dear Open Space Board of Trustees;

It has come to my attention that an effort is being made to allow mountain biking on trails in the Boulder Mountain Park, specifically from Shanahan Ridge to Doudy Draw. To open up these trails to mountain bikes would constitute a desecration of a sacred space. It would be a slap-in-the-face to all those of us who have worked to preserve Boulder's surrounding natural lands since 1898. It would be a violation of trust for those of us who have voted and paid taxes to purchase and maintain Open Space lands since 1967. We paid those taxes in the belief that this priceless inheritance handed down from those visionary individuals was for all time and for-ever.

The fact of the matter is that there already exist plenty of trails in both city and county open space areas that allow mountain biking. For example: Rabbit Mountain, Hall Ranch, Heil Ranch, Marshall Mesa and Flatirons Vista. Regardless of specious assurances that mountain biking is compatible with horse and foot traffic, you know this to only be true in isolated cases and only in areas where bikers do not congregate in masses. It is more often the case that the two users are in conflict. There is no point in denying what you already know to be a simple fact of life. One only has to look at the sad fate of open lands around Moab, Utah, to see the tragic results of unregulated mountain biking clearly. Please do not do this to our mountain park.

I implore you to maintain the prohibition of mountain biking in the Boulder Mountain Park.

Received via email to Open Space Board of Trustees

Dear Open Space Board of Trustees,

I have lived in Boulder since 1978. Ever since then, I, and then later my whole family, have enjoyed the marvelous hiking trails in Boulder. We have been very grateful that the trails continue to be generally well-maintained, despite their heavy use.

I am alarmed that OSBT is even considering allowing bikes on more trails in the Boulder system.

My wife and I have already been driven away from using the Dowdy Draw trails because of the amount of bicycle traffic. We used to enjoy walking there. No longer.

Although most of the cyclists are courteous, walking there has become a matter of constant vigilance and frequent interruptions. What once was a peaceful, beautiful walk, now is unpleasant and potentially dangerous.

From talking to friends, I know there are many who, like us, avoid trails that bicycles use.

I have biked for years; and I support the idea of bike trails. But OSMP already has 58 miles of trails open to bikes. In addition, over 100 miles of Boulder County Parks & Open Space's 155 miles of trails are also open to bikes. I understand that the most recent (2023) OSMP Visitor Survey found that 84% of all visitors are

pedestrians and 11% are bikers. Please don't penalize the majority of visitors. Please don't drive all of us away from more trails.

Also, I would be strongly opposed to any new trail construction in the West Trail Study Area. Trails fragment the environment and make it difficult if not impossible for all but the most human-habituated species to survive. At some point, more and more trails mean less and less nature to enjoy. Nobody wants to turn our open space into just a velodrome with grass.

Received via email to Open Space Board of Trustees

Dear OS Trustees:

I am concerned about reports that bike trail access may be expanded into the western OSMP which, for many years, has been wisely closed to bikes. This small area is an island of serenity surrounded by extensive bike trails to the north, south, and west – and of course the very extensive bike trails we've built in Boulder itself. It is my (and many others) experience that "shared" bike/pedestrian trails soon become bike trails, as hikers and walkers shift away from possible encounters with bikes. Our trails are used by a wide cross-section of Boulder citizens including older people, families, dog-walkers, runners/joggers, and of course pedestrian hikers.

One of the best features of these trails is not having to worry about bikes. You may run into a bear, but you won't have to dive into the bushes to avoid a bike racing downhill.

Over a decade ago, the Boulder Mountainbike Association tried to do what is currently being proposed, and they were not successful. At several public meetings, the BMA insisted that their members were sober citizens and good neighbors who would never inconvenience hikers. Our response was: OK if you say so, but can you vouch for 10,000+ CU students who came to Boulder (in part) to shred down hills on boards and bikes? Of course no such assurance could be given. At that time, there was an explicit argument that it was environmentally negative to transport bikes on cars or trucks to designated bike trails. Our response was: OK, but by that logic shouldn't we discourage trips to ski areas? Another argument was essentially that bike owners had invested thousands of dollars in their bikes, and therefore should be granted access. Our response: OK, but couldn't dirt-bikers or ATVers make the same case?

Over a decade ago, we preserved the western OSMP for hikers and horses. I sincerely hope we continue that long-standing, wise policy. Please DO NOT expand bike access to the western OSMP.

Received via email to Open Space Board of Trustees

Dear OSBT Members:

I am writing with concerns about expanding bike access on OSMP trails in the west part of Boulder. I am hoping that you will keep the trails from Chautauqua to Doudy Draw bike-free. We live near the Mesa Trail and walk it almost daily. The calm, serene trails are the reason we have continued to live in Boulder and our life is so much richer for them. We frequently encounter like-minded people on the trails, getting out in nature and relaxing. I see lots of older folks, people with small children, and other vulnerable pedestrians. They all require a calm, safe trail. I understand and appreciate people who use bikes, but when I have hiked trails that allow bikes, the experience has been much less calm and enjoyable. Most bikers are polite and courteous, but they are unable to see pedestrians around a corner and their speed makes for a fraught experience. Hence, I am tense when I walk on trails with bikes.

In 2010, I worked with other neighbors concerned about bike/pedestrian use on these same trails. Hundreds of people came to the meetings that were held and there were sincere efforts at compromise. Our discussions became part of the WTSA planning process in 2011. I think the solutions that were implemented then are still appropriate now. Bikers have access to 40% of OSMP trails and 65% of the Parks & Open Space trails. Given that 84% of visitors to OSMP are pedestrian (according to the 2023 OSMP survey), I think it is sensible and fair to leave some trails for pedestrians to enjoy without concerns about dodging bikes.

Thanks very much for your consideration and the work you do with OSMP!

Received via email to Open Space Board of Trustees

Dear Members of OSBT,

I urge the Board to maintain the current bike-free status on existing or future trails between Shanahan Ridge and Doudy Draw for following reasons.

To protect sensitive flora and fauna during all times of day and night; where biking is permitted, night riders broadly illuminate landscapes and disturb wildlife with high-powered lights.

To enable those of us when choosing unmechanized recreation to enjoy hiking and running without the anticipatory stress or actual risk of encountering speeding bikes, sometimes in large groups. I also note the quiet needed by bird watchers and the solitude sought by many for physical and mental rejuvenation.

It is well documented that hikers and solitude-seekers tend to abandon trails where bikes are permitted.

There are ample opportunities to enjoy mountain biking in our region, as does my daughter with great enjoyment that I share. About 55% of all trails on City and County open spaces are open to bikes.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Received via email to Open Space Board of Trustees

I have lived in south Boulder since 1979. For decades, my family and I have hiked the OSMP trails within the Shanahan Ridge trail system. Today, I continue to hike these trails year-round, usually with a hiking partner, at least twice a week.

The bike-free trails are essential to my physical and mental well-being. They provide an opportunity to exercise in nature in a peaceful, quiet, and restorative environment. When my children were young, we regularly took them on these trails to help foster their appreciation and love of nature. Today, many other families continue to use these trails for the same purpose.

As a senior, maintaining bike-free trails is also important for safety. The Shanahan trails are heavily used by hikers and dog walkers, and the absence of bicycle traffic helps create a safer and more enjoyable experience for everyone. I once frequently hiked the Marshall Mesa and Doudy Draw trail systems but gradually stopped using them as bicycle traffic increased. As bicycle use grew, both my sense of safety and my ability to enjoy the peaceful natural setting diminished.

For these reasons, preserving bike-free trail opportunities within the Shanahan Ridge trail system remains extremely important to me. These trails provide a rare combination of natural beauty, tranquility, recreation, and safety that has enriched my life, and the lives of many other Boulder residents, for generations.

As a longtime OSMP trail user, I participated in the West Trail Study Area (WTSA) planning process in 2011. At that time, I believed the resulting compromise plan was reasonable and balanced. Certain trails were designated for pedestrian-only use, while others were designated for bicycling, creating opportunities for different recreational experiences throughout the area. That compromise has served the community well and should be maintained.

I support the use of open space lands by bicyclists. Access to nature and opportunities for physical activity improve quality of life for everyone. However, safety and the ability to enjoy a calm and peaceful outdoor experience must remain paramount.

Trail use in the Shanahan Ridge area has increased significantly since the COVID era. The trails are often crowded with runners, hikers of all ages, and many off-leash dogs, which are permitted on these trails. The existing trail designations help ensure the safety of pedestrians and dogs, particularly on the many narrow trails with limited sightlines. I also believe bicyclists' safety could be compromised if they were required to share these trails with pedestrians of varying abilities and off-leash dogs. The significant differences in speed create risks for everyone involved. Maintaining separate trail opportunities minimizes user conflicts and allows all visitors to enjoy the open space experience.

I urge OSMP decision-makers to preserve the Shanahan Ridge trail system as a bike-free hiking area and to protect the unique recreational experience it provides. As Boulder continues to grow and demands on open space increase, it is vital to maintain a diversity of trail experiences, including places where hikers can enjoy nature without conflicts with bicycle traffic.

Once these quiet, hiker-focused trails are lost, they cannot easily be restored. Please take action to preserve the Shanahan Ridge trails for current users and for future generations who deserve the same opportunity to

experience these special landscapes in a safe, peaceful, and restorative setting.

Received via email to Open Space Board of Trustees

I have lived in Boulder since 1976. I am an avid hiker and bike rider. I can tell you from my own experiences hiking and biking on trails in Boulder and Colorado that the two types of recreation simply do not mix well on the same trail. When we bike, we tend to go fast and we tend to not want to stop. So, if hikers are on the trail, there is a tendency to go around them causing a widening of the path.

Also, it's just annoying when I'm hiking to have to deal with fast moving bikes that can cause serious harm if there is a collision. And now with e-bikes. It's even more dangerous. Sure, you can put in regulations, but a lot of people don't follow regulations. You should see how fast people bike on the Boulder multi-use paths.

There are plenty of bike paths already in Boulder that allow biking (over 50 miles). And there are plenty of ways to bike to Dowdy draw from South Boulder. I do it all the time.

I was involved in the work on the West TSA Plan 15 years ago. We had extensive meetings and forums for both hikers and bikers and came up with a good compromise. I don't understand why this issue has to keep coming up. Most people want to enjoy hiking these trails. The 2023 OSMP survey of users on all OSMP trails found over 80% of the users are pedestrian/hiking.

Let's not let the voices of a minority take away what a majority of Boulder citizens want.

Received via email to Open Space Board of Trustees

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I am writing to ask you to preserve the bike free status of the trails between Shanahan Ridge and Dowdy Draw. I have been walking on these trails throughout my life and am now a 79 year old woman who continues to walk, more slowly, on the trails. My elderly husband has Parkinson's Disease and until recently was able to walk on the trails too.

We enjoy the scenery and seeing other hikers with well behaved dogs and young children out walking and talking. These walks provide an opportunity to enjoy, at a quiet and leisurely pace, without fear of approaching bikers, the beautiful scenery as well as other walkers enjoying the same.

Although most bikers are polite and give notice when they try to pass, their presence changes the entire experience for walkers. (I used to be a biker.) The sound of a bike bell or a voice warning of a biker's approach, particularly for those of us who cannot move swiftly or who face challenges on the rough surfaces at the sides of the trail, can completely change our sense of serenity as well as our safety. Apparently more than 80 percent of the people using the trails are walkers. Already 40% of trails are open to bikes. So bikers have many possible routes.

Please preserve these bike free spaces for quiet walkers who no longer can safely ride bikes but who still treasure the ability to enjoy the open space.

Thank you for your consideration.

Received via email to Open Space Board of Trustees

I am a longtime Boulder resident and I strongly support keeping the OSMP trails from Shanahan Ridge to Dowdy Draw bike – free.

Received via email to Open Space Board of Trustees

Dear OSBT board members:

I live in south Boulder and hike/walk/run various trails in this area. Please, do not allow bikes on more trails! It is great that so many more people are using bikes of various kinds, and motor scooters to get around Boulder. Unfortunately, even the "bike paths" are not safe for pedestrians given the speed that some people using wheels of some sort are on them. Some of these users find it wonderful that they can zip along much faster than if they were on the streets. Thus the problem for walkers. I find the trails I use are so delightful in

that I don't need to worry about bikers. Please do to open up more trails for those on bikes! Bikes and walkers/hikers/runners on the same trails don't work. No matter who is suppose to have the right-of-way, the bikers win and the walkers are at risk.

Received via email to Open Space Board of Trustees

Dear Board Members,

I've lived in Boulder for 48 years. I walk to South Boulder trailheads and hike about 3 miles most mornings. Shanahan Ridge is usually part of my hike.

I meet many hikers, often with dogs, everyone very respectful. But bikes are another matter — they come up on you so quickly, you have to be "on guard" all the time. And in narrow places the bikes can't get off the trail, so it's the hiker who has to jump off. Bikes would interfere with the peaceful contemplation and problem-solving that my hikes currently allow.

I cannot promise that bike-free hiking will allow me to bring another Nobel Prize to Boulder. But for the sake of the long-time residents like me who get much-needed exercise and mental rejuvenation on these trails, please ban the bikes!

The calls for an additional mountain bike connection from South Boulder to the Doudy Draw Trail highlight a safety concern with the existing connection. Whether a new connection is created or not, the existing connection will continue to be used by a majority of cyclists. This concern must be addressed for the safety of the hundreds of cyclists who use this connection daily, including the Fairview High School Mountain Bike Team. Safety on this connection could be easily enhanced by improvements on Marshall Road, such as widening the shoulders for bike lanes and adding speed bumps to control traffic. A failure to take action for the safety of open space visitors could be considered gross negligence on the part of the OSMP Board of Trustees. After all, the city paid $1.1 million to construct the Community Ditch Trail underpass on Highway 93 for the safety of open space visitors.

Once these safety concerns are addressed, and they must, what purpose does an additional connection serve? Particularly in light of the impact on the Tallgrass West which offers habitat for a variety of rare and declining wildlife species and represents the largest and highest quality block of extremely rare tallgrass habitat in Colorado. Tallgrass parcels on OSMP, including Tallgrass West, have been identified by the Nature Conservancy as habitat critical to the global conservation of rare skipper and butterfly species. As stated in the West TSA Plan approved by the OSMP Board of Trustees in 2011,"The addition of a new designated trail through this area would make long-term preservation of these important resources unlikely and create conditions that distanced OSMP further from reaching the conservation objectives articulated in the Grassland Plan. A new trail would fragment the habitat block, lowering its suitability for area-sensitive species. As a result, a new trail through this habitat block is inconsistent with both the CCG's focus on the conservation of this area and OSMP's management objectives for grasslands. Indirect impacts to natural resources are also a concern-especially for the alternative of adding mountain biking as a designated use on existing trails." Creating a new trail or designating existing trails for mountain bike use through the Tallgrass West could be considered gross indifference to the Open Space Charter on the part of the OSMP Board of Trustees.

Received via email

Hello Mr. Burke,

I am writing to formally voice my strong opposition to any expansion of mountain bike access, multi-use trail conversions, or new mechanized trail development on Boulder County public land.

Our open space was acquired primarily to preserve native ecosystems, protect wildlife corridors and offer passive, low-impact recreation. Mountain bike access undermines these goals.

There is no getting around the speed differential between mountain bikers and hikers, no matter how you

position it. We need to preserve and expand hiking trails in Boulder and Boulder County.

I would like to address the calls for an additional mountain bike connection from South Boulder to the Doudy Draw Trail. These calls are curious given that the existing connection via Marshall Road and the Community Ditch underpass on Highway 93 is used by hundreds of cyclists daily, including the Fairview High School Mountain Bike Team.
If safety on this existing connection is a concern, then improvements on Marshall Road, such as widening the shoulders for bike lanes and adding speed bumps to control traffic, should be the priority. A majority of cyclists will continue to use the existing connection and their safety should be first and foremost.
Also, there are a limited number of open space access points in South Boulder where a cyclist could access open space (e.g., Greenbriar Connector, Hardscrabble Connector, etc.) and all involve an arduous climb on residential streets to reach them. It beggars belief that a majority of cyclists would prefer this over the gentle descent to the flat stretch of Marshall Road. Such a new connection would only serve the Fairview High School Mountain Bike Team and the immediate community. If we are being generous, it would only serve the community of a few thousand homes west of Broadway and south of Table Mesa. Everyone else will continue to use the existing connection. The number of people who would shift their behavior from vehicle to other forms of transportation to use a new connection is minuscule.
If the goal is to get people out of their cars and onto their bikes, the best investment is to improve the safety of the existing connection by widening the shoulders for bike lanes and adding speed bumps to control traffic on Marshall Road. Anything else would be a waste of time and money, not to mention the negative conservation impact to the ground nesting Meadow Larks and the Big Bluestem grasslands.

The thought of this is absurd. As a runner and an equestrian, we will have no trails without mountain bikes if this gets passed. In addition, the majority of mountain bikers do NOT know the rules on the trails and just run you over. There are plenty of trails for mountain bikers all over Boulder and Jefferson county. The impact it has on the trails as well is awful. I have been on these trails for 25 years and they have gone totally down hill. The ruts and widening of the trails due to mountain bike use is astounding. I live in the city of Boulder and pay taxes on these open space trails so that I can enjoy them without the anxiety and stress of mountain bikers. I feel it is dehumanizing as a runner and equestrian to push us all to the side and allow mountain bikes to take over all of our trails. I will continue to stand against this issue and voice my opinion.

Thanks for this opportunity. I am a 72-year-old Boulder resident and runner. I run several times a week on the south Boulder Creek Trail. On the part of that trail that is west of Gapter Road and just south of the golf course, the trail was heavily damaged in the flood of 2013 creating a very rocky path that is quite unsafe for runners and even walkers. In the last few years, I have been discouraged from running on pavement (it is an aging thing) so I use this dirt path. I try to be super careful but have tripped and fallen twice in the last year on protruding rocks. I met someone representing this part of Boulder government who directed me to this website so that I could share this issue. I'm wondering if there's anyway that that trail could be raised so the protruding rocks get covered. I have taken photos that I am happy to send. Thank you so much for considering this.

Comments Received During Engagement Window 1

(Received through July 1st, 2026)

Please support the proposed bicycle connection between South Boulder and Doudy Draw. This connection would provide safer access to South Boulder trails, reduce parking lot congestion at Doudy Draw, and create genuine multimodal access from South Boulder. Please include bike access in the upcoming Lower Big Bluestem reroute design.

I recently learned that some folks, especially concerned parents of middle school children and high school youths, are asking OSMP Board and staff to modify significantly OSMP trail management in order to increase safer access to the south part of the West-TSA system for bikers. While I'm a cyclist myself, I'm also a grandparent and very sensitive to this expressed need. Still, I hope you (the OSBT) will not pressure staff into moving rapidly on this city-wide issue that concerns many folks, not just parents of young bikers. I've been a recreational and commuter biker for over 60 years, so I'm very conscious of the complexity of this community challenge.The Boulder Strategic Plan (and particularly item 7.C on trailhead access modalities) is already under way and no doubt will be articulated in greater detail--where OSMP is concerned--in December. If you have not experienced multi-department master plans in the past, know that this process will explore a range of alternatives generated by the OSMP staff, the Transportation staff, and the community. I am confident that it will address environmental concerns, the safety of bike riders, and also—where OSMP is concerned--the safety of pedestrians on the trails, including older adults like myself as well as young children hiking the trails with their parents. All parties, not just one recreational group, must be consulted. Let's thoughtfully permit the process to unfold.

I hope this comment method will work, since my computer is not playing nicely with the OSMP website. I plan to attend the Wed. meeting, just in case, but this is a more complete explanation of my thoughts:
I'd like to comment on the Strategic 7.c. issue that has suddenly ballooned into a push by the Mountain Bike Association and parents who are members of the biking community as they endeavor to revive an old wishlist of biking constituents. These folks are hoping to find a warm reception from this board.
A bit of history:
If any of you were in Boulder during the 2010-2011 WTSA Management Plan era, you may remember the quasi-Civil War that occurred at that time over the use of bikes on the trails in the south end of the system. The community-wide Community Working Group that was established at the time (which contained an equal number of constituents from conservation groups, biking groups, and local communities, with a professional facilitator to keep things civil) came to the conclusion that bikes should be allowed on certain trails, but not all. The City Council blessed this arrangement with a unanimous vote, and it has functioned fairly well until the present day.
Since a valid visitor survey was performed in 2019, which demonstrated that 85% of Open Space users are hikers or walkers, and only 26% are bikers, the above arrangement still seems to be more than fair to the biking community.
City goals in 2026:
At this point in the renewed discussion, I'd like to focus on the immediate suggestion, brought up by the MBA and various parents of young bikers: This notion is that to get folks out of their polluting and pedestrian-dangerous cars, all we have to do is convert Open Space trails to make them multi-modal, beginning first with "only" two long and currently rather pristine trails. I feel that this is a false trade-off, and a slippery slope. I suspect that this will become apparent to you over the coming months of community-wide discussion.
Most importantly at this moment, pressing this idea is premature.
Ground-truthing:
Speaking specifically about article 7.c., I've taken three field trips to the south Boulder area to scope out the traffic and highway situation there. On the first of those trips, I explored (on my faithful Yeti bike) the current

roads connection between Fairview High School, Marshall Road and the Marshall Mesa area. Even in mid-afternoon on a school day, I found that the upper part of that 12-minute bike ride is easy and peaceful, with many pedestrians and only an occasional car on the road. It is a no-brainer safe ride.
On the south end, at Hwy 170, there are admittedly safety challenges. At the worst point of these—crossing Hwy 170 to access the trails—steps are already being taken to diminish the risk to bike riders. OSMP, with the encouragement of CDOT, has a plan under way to install an on-demand lighted crosswalk across the road to a new trail connector for accessing the complex of trails on the Mesa. From there, all the bike trails in the south part of the system can be reached off-road.
Future developments
The Marshall/170/trail connection route will soon be a safe alternative, and one that certainly cannot be compared to the safety of bike riders along the shoulder of the main regional axis that is the Diagonal Hwy in north Boulder. Furthermore, the road route avoids transferring of risks: a safe road route for bike users as opposed to the increased risk to the many other trail users who desire to have peaceful hikes on Open Space trails: The latter includes the elderly, small children hiking with parents, distracted nature-lovers and birdwatchers, etc.
Current observations on bike-friendly trails
A final note on the so-called multi-modal trail model is this: If any of you have tried to hike—on foot—the lovely bike trails that we now have, such as the Picture Rock trail on Heil Ranch, or the N. Sky trail on OSMP, you will observe that there are almost no pedestrians using these any more, only an occasional long-distance runner. I do bird surveys on Picture Rock and now have a decade of data on bike and pedestrian use. Anyone on foot who can access a no-bike trail will prefer to do so: it is called the “self-select” factor. The bike trails become defacto NO pedestrian trails because stepping constantly off the trail (thus widening it and introducing weed seeds) is annoying, as is looking over your shoulder for oncoming wheeled vehicles. I hope that you all will set aside your “favorite sport” hat and put on your “Open Space protector” hat for this ongoing discussion. thanks for your time and serious consideration of this ongoing discussion.

PLAN-Boulder County has been involved in the creation of the OSMP system and its management since its inception in 1967; We have participated in passing every Open Space tax measure to fund the system; We have participated in every major planning process, including each of the Trail Study Areas, Master Plans, and management plans; We have played a significant role in developing the system; and we know its resources. This 7.c. planning process is intended to Assess Multimodal Improvements. The City-wide Strategic Plan says it is to: "Invest in and maintain a transportation system with an array of multi-modal choices to reduce vehicle miles traveled and greenhouse gas emissions." We ask you to keep two important/basic concepts at top-of-mind as you pursue this planning effort: 1. PLAN-Boulder knows the natural resources in this system. We are amazed that they are not called out in the initial Staff Memo. The unique natural resources in OSMP's designated State Natural Areas and Habitat Conservation Areas must NOT be included in this assessment. Their exclusion from the outset will ensure (A) the continued carbon sequestration that occurs naturally in our native grasslands -- an important element of the city's climate action plan, and (B) the preservation of the incredible biodiversity that still sustains itself in our especially unique designated areas. See footnote). 2. With 85% of OSMP visitors frequently participating in "hiking/walking" (according to the most recent statistically valid survey), maintaining trails designated for walking/hiking WITHOUT bike use must be a high priority for this assessment. Already our system has more miles of trails on which bikes are allowed than trails where bikes are not allowed. We must sustain trails that allow for quiet, enjoyable pedestrian use that are free from conflicts with bikes. Footnote In Phase 1 -- as part of "Review existing conditions" all State Natural Areas and Habitat Conservation Areas should be included in a comprehensive map that shows all OSMP trails (coded by type of use allowed), all City Bike Paths and "multi-use" trails not on OSMP lands, and all RTD routes. In addition to this mapping, priority must be given to protecting native plant communities that are sequestering carbon and diverse native species populations that contribute to the preservation of biodiversity. Introduction of invasive species and degradation of these natural areas must be avoided (i.e., the plan must not fragment or degrade these areas with new trails). "Priority areas" must avoid these especially high-quality natural areas. Thank you for this opportunity to comment on staff's initial plans.

Boulder County Audubon Society (BCAS) is aware of recent discussions about the possibility of adding bike access to some existing trails in the southern portion of the West Trail Study Area (TSA).
Moving forward with the Strategic Plan 7.c. project, we support a robust process that explores a range of alternatives from OSMP and the community, which address environmental concerns, the safety of bike riders, and the safety of pedestrians, from young children to older adults, using OSMP trails.
BCAS members were involved in the lengthy and contentious West TSA planning process, and recall the importance of considering the viewpoints and needs of everyone who uses OSMP lands. We look forward to participating in upcoming discussions.

BCAS's mission is to be "a voice for birds and wildlife conservation through habitat protection, advocacy, and nature education." We consider it of the utmost importance to prioritize protection, restoration, and enhancement of wildlife and ecosystems in management of OSMP lands. These priorities are consistent with the results of the 2019 OSMP Master Plan Survey of Boulder Valley residents, where 74 percent of respondents rated Ecosystem Stewardship and Health as absolutely essential, an additional 20 percent rated it as very important, and 79 percent of respondents felt that Ecosystem Health and Resilience should be one of the most important themes for guiding OSMP management in the future (2019 Master Plan Survey, updated January 2020, p. 14 https://bouldercolorado.gov/media/9920/download?inline.) As long as the full range of ecological impacts are carefully considered and addressed, BCAS supports the City Strategic Plan goals of reducing vehicle miles and greenhouse gas emissions. We do not believe it is appropriate or necessary to move forward with smaller, specific proposals ahead of OSMP's planned project and timeline. Globally imperiled plant communities and native species with declining or threatened populations occur on State Natural Areas on OSMP lands and in OSMP-designated Habitat Conservation Areas. Fragmenting these important areas with additional trails and visitors will decrease the biodiversity preserved in our open space system and reduce the ability of our native grasses and forests to continue sequestering large amounts of carbon. It is imperative that this multimodal planning effort prioritizes protection of these high-value natural areas and their biodiversity. Regarding reducing vehicle miles and greenhouse gas emissions, only nine percent of the 2019 survey respondents reported that bus, bike, or walking access was a barrier to visiting OSMP. Also, transition to electric cars is underway. From a climate perspective, we would like to see an analysis showing the relative climate value of preserving functioning ecosystems vs. how much fossil fuel vehicle use can actually be reduced by any actions proposed. According to the 2019 Master Plan Survey (p. 10), the majority of OSMP visitors are on foot - 85% hike or walk. This includes many of our members, many of whom are older adults who visit open space for quiet activities such as hiking and observing nature, including birdwatching. In areas with heavy bike use including the North Sky trail, Spring Brook trail, and the Marshall Mesa area, pedestrian visitors have already been displaced from OSMP trails due to degraded, unpleasant experiences and fear for their safety. Adding bikes to more trails will cause additional safety concerns for older adults and other pedestrians, and more displacement of pedestrians. In summary, we urge you to prioritize wildlife and ecosystems and to include safety of pedestrian OSMP visitors as an important component of safety concerns, as this multimodal project proceeds. Any new trail projects should include full review of their impacts to wildlife

---

I oppose the proposed expansion of the southern trail system proposed by the Boulder Mountainbike Alliance due to its environmental impacts and the impacts upon the user experience of hikers.
With regard to the road map for the Multimodal Improvements Assessment and the Mountainbikers request, I offer the following comments.
First, please ensure that the road map for this project is framed by the values articulated in the City Charter. And, that particular attention is paid to the requirements to preserve natural areas and water resources. For these environmental elements, the preservation requirements of the City Charter are:

(a) Preservation or restoration of natural areas characterized by or including terrain, geologic formations, flora, or fauna that are unusual, spectacular, historically important, scientifically valuable, or unique, or that represent outstanding or rare examples of native species;
(b) Preservation of water resources in their natural or traditional state, scenic areas or vistas, wildlife habitats, or fragile ecosystems.
See Article XII § 176 of the City Charter available at
https://library.municode.com/co/boulder/codes/municipal_code?nodeId=THCHBOCO
While the City is already knocking it out of the park when it comes to passive recreational opportunities, it is falling short on preservation.
Secondly, to further compliance with the environmental mandates of the City Charter, please direct Staff to develop a robust scoring matrix that expressly takes into account the environmental impacts on natural areas and water resources, including impacts on habitat, wildlife, pollinators, and native plant communities. For example, will there be increased weed dispersal in high quality natural areas? How much would it cost to manage areas which may become infested with weeds? What impacts upon wildlife and biodiversity will further habitat fragmentation have?
Thirdly, protect the experience of hikers. Afterall, the vast majority of people using Open Space are on foot. In fact, 85% of trail users are hiking or walking. See Figure 2: Question #2 "Activities in Which OSMP Area Visitors Engaged" in the statistically valid survey found in OSMP's 2019 Master Plan Survey (updated January 2020). A copy is available on page 14 of 592 of the PDF available here,
https://bouldercolorado.gov/media/9920/download?inline
I avoid certain trails because I have been verbally harassed by bikers when using them or have been placed in unsafe situations by speeding bikes. When I hike, I like to smell the earth, experience the texture and colors of plants, the quality of the light, or watch the way a bird feeds its young. I do not have the same experience when bikes are whizzing by and the riders tell me that I don't belong on the trail.
As Trustees, you are called upon to take into account the needs of all human users, including the dominant recreational user group - the hikers.[1]
Fourth and finally, when deciding what weight to give to greenhouse gas reductions, please ensure that you receive sufficient information to be sure that the climate benefits are truly there. Because both our forests and grasslands are very good at sequestering carbon, determining the net effect of new trails is not as simple as calculating the reduction in fossil-fuel vehicle miles travelled. A disciplined analysis would take into account the direct carbon cost of the materials and machines used to construct the trail, the rate of conversion to electric vehicles, and would also compare the reduction in carbon sequestration to the reduced emissions. With this information you could determine whether the best strategy is to: (1) preserve our functioning ecosystems, or (2) reduce miles driven in vehicles consuming fossil fuels.
Thank you for reviewing my comment letter and all that you do to steward, preserve, and restore Boulder's Open Spaces. They are one of the crown jewels of our community.

Thank you for your ongoing stewardship of Boulder's Open Space and Mountain Parks. Your dedication to balancing the protection of our natural resources with community access is vital, and I am grateful for the thoughtful work you do on behalf of our environment, residents and future generations.
I support the City's 7C multimodal vision, especially expanding bus service and strengthening roadway bike lanes to reach OSMP trailheads. These investments reduce car trips, improve safety, and connect communities without fragmenting wildlife habitats or adding bikes to pedestrian only trails. Protecting open space must remain the priority.
As a CU student in the late 1980s, I began cycling Boulder's roads and hiking its trails. Each decade the roads have grown more crowded and more dangerous, underscoring the need to fix our transportation infrastructure. Safer bike lanes and better bus service are the solutions, not pushing the problem into Open Space where new trails would harm habitats and diminish the pedestrian experience.

- Safety First: Solve access with roads and buses, not by fragmenting open space. Multi-modal solutions lie in expanded and strengthened roadway bike lanes and RTD circulator buses creating more bike trails through OSMP properties fragments wildlife habitats and impacts biodiversity.

Automobile and bicycle conflicts and tragic accidents on high speed roads highlight the need for improving and building safer road routes.

- True Multimodal Access: Building new and improving existing bike lanes in our roadway infrastructure, along with increased bus service, will reduce car trips to trailheads without harming open space.
- Protect Grasslands: Don't fragment habitat and undermine conservation goals by creating new bike trails through OSMP grasslands, partner with the county and state to create bike safe/road-based infrastructure.
- Pedestrian Only Trails: Avoid adding bicycle traffic to heavily used pedestrian trails, create a safe road-based alternative for bicycle vehicles. Adding bikes would increase conflict and diminish the experience for horseback riders, hikers, walkers, families, and wildlife watchers.
- Alignment with Values: Multimodal access should mean safe, sustainable connection; not sacrificing ecological integrity.

I urge the Board to recommend that the City partner with Boulder County and the State of Colorado to build and strengthen bike lanes on roadways. Access to Open Space properties, regional trails, and neighboring communities should be addressed through regional transportation infrastructure, not by creating new trails that fragment habitats.

Thank you for your leadership in ensuring we can continue to protect wildlife, ride the roads safely, and reach our trailheads in ways that honor both conservation and community. Together we can expand sustainable connections while safeguarding the wildlife habitats and natural landscapes that define our region for generations to come.

I strongly support exploring a safe, off-street bike connection from South Boulder to the Doudy Draw trail system. Riders — especially youth — currently have no safe way to reach Doudy Draw from town without riding on busy streets and highways. I go to school at Southern Hills middle school and this would allow me safe access to the trails, which would be super cool!! This connection has strong community backing, and work to make this happen can begin now. LETS DO THIS!!!!!

Please keep this process moving

I have been a high school mountain bike coach for 7 years. We have had multiple safty issues getting kids from school to the Marshall trail area. Crossing and riding along Broadway is dangerous. The bike path crosses many blind street and driveway intersections where cars can not see riders until they are pulled out onto the bike path. I strongly support exploring a safe, off-street bike connection from South Boulder to the Doudy Draw trail system. Riders — especially youth — currently have no safe way to reach Doudy Draw from town without riding on busy streets and highways. This connection has strong community backing, and work to make this happen can begin now.

I strongly support exploring a safe, off-street bike connection from South Boulder to the Doudy Draw trail system. Riders — especially youth — currently have no safe way to reach Doudy Draw from town without riding on busy streets and highways. I have two daughters who both mountainbike; an off-street bike connection from South Boulder to the Doudy Draw trail system would make riding any of the south Boulder trails a lot saver. This connection has strong community backing, and work to make this happen can begin now. Please keep this process moving.

I'm writing in strong support of pursuing a safe, off-street cycling route from South Boulder to the Doudy Draw trail system. Right now, riders—especially youth—have no protected way to reach the trails without navigating high-traffic roads. Hundreds of high school mountain bikers commute from Boulder to Dowdy Draw during

their fall season and this route would create a safe option for them. This project has broad community support, and the groundwork to advance it can begin now. I encourage you to keep this effort moving forward

---

I strongly support exploring a safe, off-street bike connection from South Boulder to the Doudy Draw trail system. Riders — especially youth — currently have no safe way to reach Doudy Draw from town without riding on busy streets and highways. This connection has strong community backing, and work to make this happen can begin now. Please keep this process moving. As a long time South Boulder resident, I know this would be a huge improvement and used by many, including my 10 year old son who loves mountain biking as much as the rest of Boulder :)

This is a safety issue that needs addressing. Mountain bikers, especially kids need safe access to trails. Please make this [south sky] connection!

I strongly support exploring a safe, off-street bike connection from South Boulder to the Doudy Draw trail system. Riders — especially youth — currently have no safe way to reach Doudy Draw from town without riding on busy streets and highways. This connection has strong community backing, and work to make this happen can begin now. Please keep this process moving.

My name is Heather Williams… I am also the Program Director at Singletrack Mountain Bike Adventures (SMBA) which is a youth non-profit mountain bike program for kids ages 5-18 headquartered in Boulder. In addition to my Program Director duties, I ride with all our after school and summer camp groups which is about 145 days on trails with various groups of athletes between March and October each season. Some of these days include rides at Doudy Draw / Springbrook and Flatirons Vista; especially during the fall and spring with our after-school programs. Currently there is not a safe route for our groups to ride to and from the south Boulder trailheads without requiring riding on a large section of roadway with cars, limited shoulder, and a crossing where cross traffic does not stop. While Marshall Road has low traffic volume, there is very little shoulder and a group riding to the Marshall Mesa trailhead is still required to cross CO-170 which does have a higher volume of traffic and that traffic does not have a stop sign. If a group of our athletes wanted to ride to Doudy Draw without having to ride through Marshall Mesa and Community Ditch first, then they would have to cross HWY 93 at the light and ride down Eldorado Rd. to the trailhead, again a roadway with cars and increased risk of a potential collision between one of our young athletes and a vehicle. Rider safety and risk management is a priority in our program and is considered when we make our ride plan each day, which means that we are often forced to use van transportation to and from the Doudy Draw trailhead for most of our group rides there. Although this allows us to use the trails, it adds to vehicle congestion in an already crowded parking lot. A trail connection between South Boulder and Doudy Draw trailhead would create a safe route to the trails, potentially reduce traffic congestion in the parking lots, and encourage healthy and environmentally friendly transportation among our youth. The Lower Big Bluesteam trail reroute presents a great opportunity to reroute an eroded trail out of a wetland to a more sustainable alignment that can serve as a bike connector. The connection has already been identified as a priority by the community and OSBT staff. Let's continue to keep this connection a priority, especially for the health and safety of our youth.

Please support the next steps in making the Doudy draw trail system connect with Shanahan Ridge. As a resident born and raised in Boulder I have been a part of the cycling community for decades. I have also raised a family active in cycling. This connector trail is paramount to both keeping our community safe, away from busy roads to connect to the trail system(s) and an essential part of continuing to recognize and support the outdoor lifestyle that makes Boulder a very special place. I hope you will support this process moving forward.

I strongly support exploring a safe, off-street bike connection from South Boulder to the Doudy Draw trail system. Riders — especially youth — currently have no safe way to reach Doudy Draw from town without riding on busy streets and highways. This connection has strong community backing, and work to make this happen can begin now. As a parent with two girls on the high school mountain bike team, I know they need safe options for local riding from their high school for weekday after-school practices. This would help open a lot of options. Please keep this process moving

---

I strongly support exploring a safe, off-street bike connection from South Boulder to the Doudy Draw trail system. Riders — especially youth — currently have no safe way to reach Doudy Draw from town without riding on busy streets and highways. This connection has strong community backing, and work to make this happen can begin now. Please keep this process moving.

As a parent coach for the Fairview HS Mountain Bike Team, I strongly support exploring a safe, off-street bike connection from South Boulder to the Doudy Draw trail system. The vast majority of our practices are conducted on South Boulder Trails, and the access route we must use along Broadway, down Marshall Road, and crossing Highway 93 makes me very nervous over fear that we have a serious accident involving numerous cars commuting home and one of our young riders. Fairview riders contribute 500 hours of volunteer trail building each year and would be more than happy to make this new corridor happen and maintain it as a safe resource for the community. Please keep this process moving.

I strongly support exploring a safe, off-street bike connection from South Boulder to the Doudy Draw trail system. Mountain biking is one of the most popular clubs in the Boulder schools, and the kids really do not have a safe way to access the trails. This connection has strong community backing, and I hope that the work to make this happen can begin now. Please keep this process moving.

I live in Boulder because of the access to the outdoors, as does my family. I strongly support exploring a safe, off-street bike connection from South Boulder to the Doudy Draw trail system. Riders — especially kids — currently have no safe way to reach Doudy Draw from town without riding on busy streets and highways. This connection has strong community backing, and work to make this happen can begin now. Please keep this process moving.

I strongly support exploring a safe, off-street bike connection from South Boulder to the Doudy Draw trail system. Riders — especially youth — currently have no safe way to reach Doudy Draw from town without riding on busy streets and highways. This connection has strong community backing, and work to make this happen can begin now. Please keep this process moving.

I am emailing to support the proposal to build a trail to connect Dowdy Draw to Shanahan Ridge in Boulder. Please let me know if there's anything else I can do to support this project

---

Please vote for it :) This connector would go from Shanahan Ridge to Doudy Draw on the West side of 93 and would give riders a safe, all-dirt MTB route instead of using busy roads and highways

---

Writing with massive support for the South Sky connector. As a frequent North Sky user, I can't state enough how this will dramatically improve safety of cyclists recreating in this corridor. Let's do everything we can to keep cars and cyclists safe - what a great solution we have with South Sky

---

Writing to express my support for a mountain bike connector between Shanahan Ridge and Doudy Draw. Help keep me and my friends safe as we ride out from South Boulder

---

The grasslands extending from the Greenbriar Connector trail southward to the South Boulder Creek West trail are highly rare relicts of biological and geological circumstance. Erosion has spared many areas that now include very old soils and grassland plant communities. These areas may look like just more grass to many. They have been studied by geologists, and also by botanists and ecologists. The result has been the discovery that they are part of a highly unusual and likely unique time sequence of soil and plant community development. These areas represent an element of biodiversity little known or understood yet by science. It is important to protect these natural oddities for future scientific research into how they have survived up to 2 million years of dramatic climate change. Management of the area as a Hiking Only part of Open Space has protected them. Recognition of their value has been demonstrated by designation of much of this area as a Colorado Natural Area. Allowing mechanized recreation in the area would threaten these special natural features. It would almost surely lead to their degradation. Mechanized forms of recreational access, including bicycles, ebikes or other electric motorcycles, invite adventuresome exploration of what seems to be "just grass." It is too much to expect mechanized users focused on fun and exercise to practice forbearance fostered by disciplined respect for unique natural features. Please maintain the Hiking Only management of these areas.

I'm Karen Hollweg, and I come before you as one of the very few (perhaps the only?) member of the West TSA Community Collaborative Group here tonight. I'm here to comment on and make some suggestions for improving staff's "Scope, Methodology and Schedule" for the Multimodal Improvement Assessment. As staff has pointed out, "understanding current conditions" is an essential first step in this, and in any planning process. My biggest concern is that some of the counts required to assess levels of use need to be done in warm months – NOT Quarter 1. Afterall, January, February and March are the coldest and historically snowiest months we have.The reason these counts are important is that before adding a new user group to a trail or street, it's important to understand current levels of use (as we learned in the West TSA planning process). As several have already pointed out, it's not safe to add bike use to a road with ...say 50 vehicles /min. zipping by – never mind a state highway with vehicles traveling at 50 to 60 mph. Similarly, it's not safe to add bikes traveling 15 or more mph to a trail with 30 or so hikers, runners, dog walkers/min. who are already using the trail.

Just as it's important to do in-person intercept surveys on a trail to find out what trail users say, it's important to do on the ground assessments of proposed multi-modal routes to assess current conditions. For example,

• during the West TSA Planning Process, we counted so many people hiking, running, walking dogs on the Mesa Trail that that was one of the factors that led to its NO bike designation; and recently, on Marshall Rd. on a sunny October day, I counted 37 vehicles and 64 bikers per hour.

These are important counts that should guide decision-making.

So, Once potential "focus areas" have been selected for multi-modal access, it's essential to count users on trails being considered for multi-modal use during peak use/on sunny warm days – i.e. in Q2 and 3. I realize this will require a significant revision in the proposed timeline, but for staff's recommendations to be functional, such data is necessary

---

I'm writing as a South Boulder resident and frequent user of Shanahan Ridge, South Mesa, and Doudy Draw as a runner and mountain biker to express strong support for the proposed "South Sky" connection between Shanahan Ridge and Doudy Draw. The North Sky trail has shown how powerful a safe, car-free connection from town to open space can be. A similar South Sky connection would provide that same opportunity for South Boulder: allowing people to ride or walk from their neighborhood directly to Doudy Draw and the broader Marshall Mesa / Flatirons Vista network without relying on a car. This would: Improve safety by giving riders and families an alternative to mixing with high-speed traffic on Eldorado Springs Drive and Highway 93. Reduce parking pressure and congestion at the Doudy Draw and South Mesa trailheads. Directly advance the goals of OSMP's Strategic Plan Action 7C to improve multimodal access to open space. Make access to our open space more equitable for people who don't want to or can't drive. The upcoming Lower Big Bluestem reroute and the 7C multimodal effort create a unique, time-sensitive opportunity to thoughtfully plan this connection rather than trying to retrofit it later at greater cost and with more impact. I encourage you to: Direct staff to fully evaluate a safe, off-road, bike-accessible connection from Shanahan Ridge to Doudy Draw as part of the early 7C work; and Consider options such as opening the existing Greenbriar Connector to bikes and assessing whether South Boulder Creek West, Lower Big Bluestem, or a new alignment provides the best multimodal route. Boulder Mountain bike Alliance has outlined this concept in more detail here: https://www.bouldermountainbike.org/south-sky-imagine-a-shanahan-ridge-to-doudy-drawconnection/ Please use tomorrow's discussion to keep the South Sky connection clearly on the table and to signal that you want staff to bring back concrete options for a safe, continuous neighborhoodto-trailhead route in South Boulder. Thank you for your time and for your work on OSMP

I strongly support exploring a safe, off-street bike connection from South Boulder to the Doudy Draw trail system. Riders — especially youth — currently have no safe way to reach Doudy Draw from town without riding on busy streets and highways. This connection has strong community backing, and work to make this happen can begin now. Please keep this process moving.

Do not put a bike trail from shanahan to dowdy draw. That would be devastating.

I'm writing to voice my support for a safe, off-street bike connection from South Boulder to the Doudy Draw trail system. I ride the current route multiple times a week and now ride it with my 10yr old son as well. Riders like myself and my son currently have no safe way to reach Doudy Draw from town without riding on busy streets and highways. Please keep this process moving.

I'm a South Boulder resident and strongly support a possible bike connection from South Boulder to the Doudy Draw trail system. There is no safe way to reach Doudy Draw from town without riding on busy streets and highways (crossing 93 at Greenbriar or elsewhere, also at Marshall road). The open space with the cattle on it would hardly be changed by one trail and this would make a great addition to the limited trails available to off-road cyclists in Boulder. Please keep this process moving!!

I am writing this email to state my strong support for establishing a bike connection from South Boulder to the Doudy Draw trail system. My daughter is a high school student at Fairview and she rides her mountain bike on the Doudy Draw system multiple times per week during the summer/fall (she is a member of the Fairview Mountain bike team). Unfortunately there is no safe way to reach Doudy Draw from south Boulder without going on roads that are often busy, so this connector would serve to greatly improve bicycle safety. Please keep this process moving.

I strongly support a safe, off-street bike connection from South Boulder to the Doudy Draw trail system. Riders — especially youth — currently have no safe way to reach Doudy Draw from town without riding on busy streets and highways. This connection has strong community backing, and is a wonderful way to ensure bikers like my 2 kids (one currently at Fairview on the mountain bike team and another in a local mountain bike club) have safe access to these areas. Thank you so much for getting this process moving!

As a resident of Boulder for nearly 40 years (and an avid outdoorsman), I strongly support the bike connection from South Boulder to the Doudy Draw trail system. A couple of years ago I sat in on an OSMP call to discuss options for our High school athletes to safely ride Marshall Mesa and Doudy draw. The idea of opening this trail got me excited and relieved. Safety is the biggest driver, but the enjoyment of the outdoors is important to me and my family as well. We live in North Boulder and rarely ride or hike Doudy draw due to the amount of time on the roadways. Like many Boulder residents, we try to cut down on the use of cars. Taking the bike path to Shanahan ridge would open our options, keep us off the roads and expand Boulder's culture of cycling. Please keep this process moving. Open the trail and let's enjoy more of Boulder's trails.

I strongly support exploring a safe, off-street bike connection from South Boulder to
the Doudy Draw trail system. Riders — especially youth — currently have no safe way to reach Doudy Draw from town without riding on busy streets and highways. This connection has strong community backing, and work to make this happen can begin now

---

Thank you for considering a proposed off-road bike connection from Shanahan Ridge in South Boulder to the Doudy Draw trail system. Cyclists of all types can currently only access Doudy Draw by riding on Marshall and Eldorado roads or driving to the trailhead. Having an off-road route from South Boulder to Doudy Draw would offer a safe alternative that would benefit everyone, especially youth. It will also help reduce car trips to the trailhead, partially addressing the issue of parking congestion. An off-road, bikeable route is something that everyone I know in South Boulder, especially those with younger riders, have wanted for years. Based on the tremendous success of the North Sky trail, a "South Sky" route seems poised for success. Now is the time to make this happen.

I've lived and played in Boulder for the past 12 years, and love all the amazing opportunities Boulder open space has to offer. I recently learned about a proposal to build a MTB connection from South Boulder'e Shanahan ridge to Doudy draw. This would be an amazing development and add quality MTB experience for the local community, free up the parking space at doudy draw, and invite more people to bike from Sobo, to the MTB trail systems and Eldo on trails Please consider my strong support for such development. More MTB friendly trails would be a welcome addition to our cherished open space.

I strongly support exploring a safe, off-street bike connection from South Boulder to the Doudy Draw trail system. Riders — especially youth — currently have no safe way to reach Doudy Draw from town without riding on busy streets and highways. This connection has strong community backing, and work to make this happen can begin now. I am a high school mountain bike coach and these types of connectors keep our kids safe!

I strongly support exploring a safe, off-street bike connection from South Boulder to the Doudy Draw trail system. Riders — especially youth — currently have no safe way to reach Doudy Draw from town without riding on busy streets and highways. This connection has strong community backing, and work to make this happen can begin now. Please keep this process moving.

I wanted to express my support for a safe, off-street bike connection from South Boulder to the Doudy Draw trail system. This connection would provide a safe, off road option to access the amazing trails down by doudy draw. The North sky trail is amazing and I'd love to see something similar in South Boulder

---

I am the owner of Sports Garage Cycling, as well as an avid cyclist and a Coach for the Boulder High Mountain Bike team. I have lived in Boulder for over 30 years, and it has been great to see the increase in trails such as Benjamin many years ago and, more recently, the North Sky Trail. Personally, I know it makes Boulder a better place to live with added recreational opportunities and safer routes to the other trail systems. Tying the network together is important, both for the recreational aspect and for the safety of both riders and drivers. As a coach for the Boulder high school team, we work really hard to find safe ways of getting to the trails so the kids can enjoy our great open space, train, and most importantly, have fun without fearing an accident with a car. Having access to Dowdy from Shanahan Ridge would open many possibilities for routes, and it would be a big improvement to the network that is already in place. Boulder will be a safer, better place to live with this trail. Thank you for considering this addition, and I hope you vote to allow the construction of this trail!

I strongly support exploring a safe, off-street bike connection from South Boulder to the Doudy Draw trail system. Riders — especially youth — currently have no safe way to reach Doudy Draw from town without riding on busy streets and highways. This connection has strong community backing, and work to make this happen can begin now. I have 2 children who bike and apart of the biking community. I would love for them to have a safeway to get to Dowdy draw without riding on 93. Please keep this process moving and support this,

---

It would be so impactful for the mtb biking community to have the South sky Connector be put in the plans and come to life. Projects like this make boulder so special - and safer for bikers.

I would like to express my deep interest in a connector trail from south boulder to doudy draw that permits cyclists. As a resident of South Boulder and mountain biker, this would greatly increase my access to the Marshall Mesa trail network and prevent me from having to ride on roads to access the trail networks. This would be especially impactful for families in South Boulder who are looking to get their children out on trails without riding on roads.

It would be so impactful for the mtb biking community to have the South sky Connector be put in the plans and come to life. Projects like this make boulder so special - and safer for bikers

---

I'm 100 percent in favor of a South Sky MTB connection in South Boulder.

A mountain bike trail connecting to Dowdy Draw would be a tremendous addition. Currently, parking at Dowdy Draw sucks during busy times, and driving to ride your bike is even worse! Please help add a pleasant way to access Dowdy Draw without driving.

On behalf of our outdoor hiking and cycling family of 3 - including a sophomore on the mountain bike team at Fairview High School - we strongly support exploring a safe, off-street bike connection from South Boulder to the Doudy Draw trail system. Riders — especially youth — currently have no safe way to reach Doudy Draw from town without riding on busy streets and highways. This connection has strong community backing, and work to make this happen can begin now. Please keep this process moving to make a positive and lasting impact for our community! Thanks for your consideration

---

I've been in Boulder for over 20 years. We need more mountain bike trails in the West TSA. Boulderites waste too much time pollution loading mountain bikes into their vehicles to drive to distant trailheads because there is insufficient mountain bike access provided from within city limits. I support the proposed South Sky Trail as well as a renewed mindset to support adding additional future mountain bike trails on city open space land. In support of this trail, please consider the following points:
- No Unnecessary Bridges: build the trail in a frugal way and don't waste money using helicopters to install unnecessary over-built bridges like we saw at the North Sky trail and at Chapman.
- Minimize Trail Closures: minimize trail closures while allowing bikes on these trails. Consider simple solutions like updating the signage and using existing trails, then upgrading them in-place and over time. Don't close trails for months-to-years as was done on the Beech Trail when North Sky was built.
- Prioritize Recreation Access: encourage the open space department to prioritize access to recreation on our open space lands more generally, minimizing extended trail closures and looking for new ways to expand access to under supported user groups.

I am writing in advance of your December 10th meeting, to express strong support for the potential bike connection between South Boulder and the Doudy Draw trail and highlight the meaningful benefits it would bring to the community. The proposed route—from Shanahan Ridge to Doudy Draw on the west side of Highway 93— would provide mountain bikers with a safe, sustainable, all-dirt alternative to traveling along busy roads and highways. Currently, riders must navigate high-traffic corridors to reach these trail systems, creating unnecessary safety risks and discouraging use of the open space network. An off-road connection would significantly improve rider safety while supporting the city's broader goals around multimodal access, recreation equity, and responsible outdoor stewardship. Beyond safety, this connector would seamlessly link two highly traveled areas, reduce vehicle dependence, and enhance the overall trail experience for residents and visitorsalike. It aligns with Boulder's longstanding commitment to thoughtful trail planning that respects natural resources while enabling sustainable recreation. I encourage the Board to continue advancing this connection and to recognize the substantial positive impact it could have on our community and our open space system. Thank you for your time and for your continued dedication to managing Boulder's public lands

---

I strongly support exploring a safe, off-street bike connection from South Boulder to the Doudy Draw trail system. Riders — especially youth — currently have no safe way to reach Doudy Draw from town without riding on busy streets and highways. My family and I have lived in South Boulder for over 17 years and routinely use the trails in the Doudy Draw trail system. Having a safe route to access these trails from town, without having to drive and park, would be a benefit for the entire community in multiple ways. We believe in your mission and our votes have always supported Open Space funding. I trust the Open Space Board will make the right decision to allow the development process to move forward on this initiative.

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed off-street bike connection from South Boulder to the Doudy Draw trail area. As a resident of Boulder County since 1982 and avid cyclist since 1986, I am very much in favor of adding safe ways to connect between the various trail systems in the county. My wife is also

a frequent cyclist who refuses to ride on roads with motor vehicles, so this would also be of great benefit to her. And my 17 year old son is a competitive cyclist (enduro mountain biking, cyclocross, etc) and I would like to see additional ways for him to be able to utilize the local trails without placing hm in danger by having to ride on streets with cars and other vehicles. All three of us in my family ride the Doudy Draw trail system frequently, and adding this connection would allow us to get into the city without needing to switch into a car to do so safely. Please continue to keep this project moving for the benefit and safety of our community.

I strongly support a safe, off-street bike connection from South Boulder to the Doudy Draw trail system. This project would improve rider safety, alleviate congestion, and solidify Boulder's reputation as a bike friendly city. Riders — especially youth — currently have no safe way to reach Doudy Draw from town without riding on busy streets and highways. As a MTB coach for Fairview HS, I experience first hand the safety risks of the team's current route to south Boulder trails - Marshall road, often crossing a busy 93 at the Eldorado Canyon intersection. It is unfortunately just a matter of when, not if, an accident will happen unless off-road access is improved. In addition to the safety concern, access to the Marshall Mesa trail system is highly congested due to popularity of the trails, lack of sufficient MTB trails throughout the city, and construction of the new trailhead. A Shanahan Ridge to Doudy Draw MTB Connection would divert substantial bike traffic and reduce the number of cars accessing the south Boulder trail networks. Finally, let's restore Boulder to its rightful place as a bike friendly destination. A "South Sky" trail to complement the recently completed "North Sky" section would signal that Boulder is still willing and able to build great outdoor access for all recreation activities. This connection has strong community backing, and is teed up to go. Please take action to approve and construct the Shanahan Ridge to Doudy Draw Bike Connection trail. It's clearly the right thing to do. I'll even offer to help build the trail, and I know dozens of FHS MTB volunteers who will do the same. Just give us the chance!

My name is Martha and I've lived in Boulder for almost 10 years and I love our trail system so much. I love biking and running and I think a bike accessible trail from Shanahan Ridge to Doudy Draw would be an incredible opportunity for the city of Boulder and its residents! A safe off-road connection between Shanahan Ridge and Doudy Draw would have such a positive impact! I'm soon moving to South Boulder and would personally use this biking trail multiple times per week to get over to Doudy Draw. The parking lots (Marshall Mesa, Doudy Draw ect) are frequently full, and riding a mountain bike on the roads is less fun and more unsafe, having a connector trail would help mitigate both of these issues.
Thank you for your consideration and all of the work that you do for Boulder.

I am writing to express strong support for the development of a mountain bike connector between South Boulder and the Dowdy Draw trail system. This connection presents an important opportunity to improve safe, sustainable access for riders while advancing Boulder County's commitments to equitable recreational use. At present, riders traveling between these areas must rely on busy roads and highways, which creates unnecessary safety risks. An all-dirt, designated mountain bike route would provide a safe, environmentally responsible alternative. While the region offers numerous hiker-focused trails, there remain no comparable options for mountain bikers. This imbalance limits access for a significant and growing user group that relies on soft-surface, bike legal connections to recreate responsibly. A connector trail would meaningfully address this gap, distribute use more effectively across the landscape, and support the County's broader objectives of providing diverse, low-impact outdoor recreation opportunities. The connector would also be incredibly beneficial to the the various mountain bike teams that regularly utilize the south boulder trail network, especially those in South Boulder. Fairview, Summit and Southern Hills Middle Schools, BJC and SMBA to name a few. These teams regularly drive to the trailheads further south and the more they can connect from town the lower their carbon footprint will be. I respectfully encourage the Board to prioritize planning, public engagement, and environmental review for a South Boulder–Dowdy Draw connector and to consider the substantial public benefits associated with enhanced bicycle access. This community needs and would

greatly value this addition to the trail network. Thank you for your time and for your ongoing stewardship of our public lands. I appreciate your consideration of this important matter

---

I am writing to express strong support for the development of a mountain bike connector between South Boulder and the Dowdy Draw trail system. This connection presents an important opportunity to improve safe, sustainable access for riders while advancing Boulder County's commitments to equitable recreational use. At present, riders traveling between these areas must rely on busy roads and highways, which creates unnecessary safety risks. An all-dirt, designated mountain bike route would provide a safe, environmentally responsible alternative. While the region offers numerous hiker-focused trails, there remain no comparable options for mountain bikers. This imbalance limits access for a significant and growing user group that relies on soft-surface, bike legal connections to recreate responsibly. A connector trail would meaningfully address this gap, distribute use more effectively across the landscape, and support the County's broader objectives of providing diverse, low-impact outdoor recreation opportunities. I respectfully encourage the Board to prioritize planning, public engagement, and environmental review for a South Boulder–Dowdy Draw connector and to consider the substantial public benefits associated with enhanced bicycle access. This community needs and would greatly value this addition to the trail network. Thank you for your time and for your ongoing stewardship of our public lands. I appreciate your consideration of this important matter

---

I strongly support exploring a safe, off-street bike connection from South Boulder to the Doudy Draw trail system. Riders — especially youth — currently have no safe way to reach Doudy Draw from town without riding on busy streets and highways. This connection has strong community backing, and work to make this happen can begin now. Please keep this process moving.

It's really quite simple, riding a bike on a road with cars is scary and I always feel the potential danger of getting hit by a distracted or unaware driver. On the other hand, riding a bike on a bike path or trail is amazing. We live in Boulder because we love the outdoors. Let's make this trail a reality.

I am writing in support of the bike connection between South Boulder and Doudy Draw trail systems. An all-dirt, off-road trail to connect riders to the popular Doudy Draw area would open bike connectivity and contribute greatly to rider and traffic safety. Please support this proposal.

My family and I strongly support exploring a safe, off-street bike connection from South Boulder to the Doudy Draw trail system. Riders — especially youth — currently have no safe way to reach Doudy Draw from town without riding on busy streets and highways. This connection has strong community backing, and work to make this happen can begin now. Please keep this process moving and support and protect our kids.

I strongly support exploring a safe, off-street bike connection from South Boulder to the Doudy Draw trail system. Riders — especially youth — currently have no safe way to reach Doudy Draw from town without riding on busy streets and highways. As someone who likes to connect my rides from Boulder to Arvada, this trail would help to keep me off the road and safer when riding. This connection has strong community backing, and work to make this happen can begin now. Please keep this process moving.

I strongly support exploring a safe, off-street bike connection from South Boulder to the Doudy Draw trail system. Riders — especially youth — currently have no safe way to reach Doudy Draw from town without

riding on busy streets and highways. This connection has strong community backing, and work to make this happen can begin now. Please keep this process moving.

Open Space Board of Trustees:

Even as a mountain biker since 1981, I strongly favor hikers only on the trails between Shanahan Ridge and South Mesa Trailhead. With increased Boulder area population, our local trails are becoming congested with hikers. Adding the mountain bikes to the trail system crowds the pathways, widens trails, increases erosion, and lessens the value of a restorative walk in the Open Space.

Although Forest Service roads are less accessible, they offer miles of scenic and challenging riding. Additionally, on-street bicycle lanes are useful for in town transportation.

We walk or ride our bikes to trails whenever possible as parking can often be problematic. I would like to comment on the Lehigh Connector trailhead on Lehigh. Our home is diagonally across the street from the trail. As everywhere trail usage has significantly increased in the past six years. Once the city of boulder started charging for parking on Baseline road (not a neighborhood and a main road) the congestion and parking problems on or street got exponentially worse . People park right up to the edge of our driveway in their large vehicles making it dangerous to back out. They trample the plants on the apron by the curb. Their dogs poop in the rocks there (and they dont clean it up). It is impossible to park in front or our home. I dont understand the thinking in creating a situation where a trailhead in a neighborhood gets so many people funneled from the main trailheads at Chautauqua . We would certainly appreciate any help that could be provided, especially in the near impossibility of backing out of our driveway safely and having our plants trampeled.

I'm submitting a comment with regards to the project goal of identifying gaps or barriers to accessing and using trails. I frequently mountain bike at Dowdy Draw and experience barriers accessing the trailhead because there is not a safe way to access the trail from my house in Shanahan Ridge. I frequently drive to the trailhead, even though it is so close to my house. I am in favor of improving access to Dowdy Draw through the development of a Shanahan Ridge to Dowdy Draw trail connector. This would greatly improve my ability to ride from my house in Shanahan Ridge and improve access for everyone -- including hikers, runners, and fellow bikers -- who want to enjoy Dowdy Draw without getting in the car.

Hello! I am an avid hiker and mountain biker living in table mesa. Im grateful for the hiking trail access in So Bo, I wish there was a safe way to access mountain bike trails without the need of a car. While I can take a bike path part of the way to Marshall Mesa, you must bike on Marshall Road and 190 to access this network which I am not comfortable doing, even as an adult. Knowing how often Marshall Mesa is ridden by Fairview and BJC kids, a path connecting SoBo to Dowdy Draw/Marshall Mesa would be heavily utilized by this population as well. In addition, there isn’t easy trail access for adaptive wheelchairs or user anywhere in South Boulder or the Flatirons, so I would also urge making a trail disability friendly. While bike commuting around the town of Boulder is easy, trail access without a car is not in SoBo. Just one trail opened to bike in SoBo would go a long way to helping our community have better trail access.

Do you have any plans to increase rangers patrolling the OSMP trails to prevent users from smoking on them?

I continue to live here (52 years) in no small part because the local trails are invaluable to me, both for the exercise, sense of community and mental well being. I use them daily, rain, snow, ice, scorching sun, regardless, it's that important to me. But at 75 with knee (and other) issues some have become less user friendly either due to "improvements" (steps) or lack of maintenance.

Coot/Rez were my winter favorite till 29 steps were put in connecting the upper and lower trails on the Rez side. Dakota Ridge (Sanitas) was a summer time favorite till massive steps were added there. As for lack of maintenance, still waiting on the de facto entrance to the Valley Trail (from Mapleton) which has become ankle turning treacherous rock.

I also take issue with charging local tax paying residents to park at Chautauqua on summer weekends. In the same way an exception is make for Flagstaff parking for locals, so it should be for those of us who continue to pay taxes for use of these trails, especially given that 80% of Chautauqua visitation is out of area.

Yes, I will continue to vote for Open Space taxation but would be grateful for consideration given to Boulder's aging population that has supported the program for decades.

We spend too much time and money catering to the cycling community. At my age (75), I can no longer bicycle. One fall could cripple me for the rest of my life. But I'm also wary of the minority of bicyclists who speed down trails (especially on paved paths, like along the creek near busy Eben Fine park. I don't want to get run over). From my house, bus service is many blocks away, so I don't take the bus. I walk to nearby trails, but we have to drive if we want a change of scenery. Stop the crusade against cars--it discriminates against older Boulder residents. You'll be one of them someday.

You need to add more parking in the Chatauqua. It could easily be done by cutting in spaces along baseline. Or by adding a whole parking lot in lower Chatauqua. I know you won't do that because it's way too practical, but the fact is that people drive to go hike, climb, picnic, listen to music or eat at the restaurant. They don't ride bikes or take the shuttle. Lower Chatauqua has no historic or untouched nature value, why not add spaces so the poor, the tourists, the handicapped and the elderly can enjoy the glory of the park?

I would love to get to more trailheads by bike, specifically my gravel bike. Connecting the south end of the Mesa Trail with a bikeable trail/fire road that starts at the Boulder city limits (off Greenbriar) would accomplish that.

Using existing trail/fire road would be all it takes, so not a fancy MTB trail, more of an access trail. This would also allow mountain bikers to access the Dowdy Draw complex of trails on their bikes. While the frontage road/Marshall Road provides a low traffic route, an off-road option would be great. The older I get, the more I seek roads w/o cars, such as Chapman, which is great.

Thank you,

David

Keep up the efforts to make the city even more walkable. I try to walk rather than drive to errands.

I really like the newish pedestrian cut-through between 31st and 30th (Target), Pearl and Walnut. It follows a ditch. I use that pleasant path often to walk toTarget and Whole Foods.

I also appreciate the mid-block pedestrian crossings with the flashing lights. Again, it makes walking more appealing.

I would ride my bike more often but I hear so much about stolen bikes that I'm afraid to leave it outside a store even if locked. I only ride my bike for pleasure, not errands.

I have a few questions for you about your budgeting plans for OSMP. I have lived in my home near OSMP since 1977.
Do you have plans for rangers to patrol and enforce no fire ie no smoking and no campfire bans on and near OSMP trails given the increased fire danger this year?
Do you have plans, given the increased fire danger, for OSMP staff and crews to remove dead trees, tall grasses and dead bushes on OSMP property in urban interface neighborhoods like Wonderland Hills?
Is there clear communication between the City of Boulder and Boulder County about OSMP urban interface maintenance?
Thank you

Hi there,

I wanted to add a comment in support of the Boulder Mountainbike Alliance's push for a bike access trail from south Boulder to the Dowdy Draw/Marshall Mesa area. As a resident of the Shanahan ridge area, when I want to bike in the Dowdy Draw/Marshall Mesa area I either have to drive to the trailhead or ride along Marshall road. Opening up bike access to go between the areas would help mountainbikers stay off the busier roads, and make access to the wonderful trails in that area significantly more convenient, pleasant, and safer as would reduce cyclists on the road. Please consider opening up a bike-friendly trail to connect south Boulder to the Dowdy Draw/Marshall Mesa area!

Thank you,
Andy Walowitz

As a frequent hiker on City Open Space, I frequently meet people who live outside Boulder or even outside Boulder County on our trails. For example, one friend's Mom from Louisville hikes or runs Boulder Open Space trails 3 times a week year round. I would like to see all open space lots charge out-of-City users. The Open Space Fund has many needs and this would be a simple way to increase capacity without construction and minimal cost while charging users that do not pay into the Open Space Fund. This method seems to work well at the South Mesa Trailhead and Flatirons Vista and I would like to see it implemented system-wide.

I also would like to see trail renovation follow the model of Lion's Lair which is highly accessible to older users because of its design. This design uses natural boulders to form steps which have options for a large step up or a step that's half the height. There are no long runs of multiple steps but rather the grade is continuously up with limited small groups of natural rock steps. I hike this trail frequently.

I was very excited about the upgrade to Anemone trail. However, I'm unable to hike this trail because of the numerous steps using pre-cut stone where there's only the one large step up choice. Plus the trail is flat or even reverses the incline in many places which requires long runs of these precut steps. This makes it inaccessible to me and my many fellow older hikers in the Flatirons Club, Colorado Mountain Club and University Women's Club, combined membership totalling 2,000+. These members are dedicated hikers and are on open space trails multiple times a week but avoid the trails with many precut steps. With the increasingly older but still active population of Boulder, it's forward thinking to use a more accessible trail

design like Lion’s Lair. Please go back to the much more accessible design of the Lion’s Lair Trail for future upgrades.

Hi,

I'd love to see safer bike access to biking trails, and in particular, the Dowdy Trail trailhead in South Boulder. The trailhead is often overcrowded and parking shortages force cars to park along (and often in) the bike lanes/shoulder along highway 170. This makes biking to this trailhead especially dangerous.

It'd be great to see a connector trail from South Boulder to Dowdy Draw, which would allow access to those trails as well as the connecting trails further east and south.

Thanks,
Sara

I just finished hiking all of the trails in the system. I rode my bike to many. Some were not convenient....I had to connect to a sign or walk a block. Seriously, this is not our highest priority!! We should be protecting our land from wildfires first and THEN looking at multi-modal transport. PLEASE, re-evaluate this project.

Before hiking on Friday, my friend and I talked about carpooling to the South Mesa Trail trailhead. I live near Baseline and Foothills. She lives near Broadway and Table Mesa. We considered the parking lot by Neptune Sports and decided the lot is for the shops. We both ended up driving separately.
It would be nice if Boulder had parking lots for carpooling around town. Free lots.

If there was a shuttle bus that allowed dogs that could be great. Maybe there could be an additional tag (I already have Voice & Sight for my dog) for $20 that would allow me to ride the shuttle with my dog (human rides free if you have the extra tag that allows your dog in the bus) and I would assume there would be the kind of “test” like V& S requires to make sure your dog is able to ride the bus safely with other dogs on board.

Thank you for all the work you do for trail access and other improvements. I would like OSMP to consider placing a natural rock at trailheads, and where gates are placed for equestrians. Not all your gates are safe for equestrians to pass through without dismounting, so a block or rock of some sort would be of use for mounting back on your horse. You take the time to accommodate cyclist with bike racks and ramps. Larimer County adds natural landscape objects, like rocks, to be "inclusive" in trail designs. They also place any chains higher on the gates so you can easily open them and close them from the top of the gate without dismounting if the gate is designed wide enough for safe passage. Recently OSMP place a sign where the new trail into hidden valley, near the Silver Canyon coffee roasters alerting users of NO BIKE use. The person placed the sign so close to the gate, which makes it difficult for equestrians to pass through without dismounting. Then there is no rock placed to remount. Please consider these natural objects for equestrian users when designing your access gates.
Best Linda Parks

Hello. I live in South Boulder near the Shanahan RIdge access point at the top of Lehigh. It is no mystery that this has become a very active access point as is obvious from the number of cars parking along Lehigh and Lafayette. I am concerned about the initiatives in Devils Thumb to restrict parking near the trail access

points. This is not fair and will only further exacerbate the parking along Lehigh and Lafayette, and spread the parking into other residential neighborhoods in the area. My understanding is that Devils Thumb agreed to the current access points in an agreement to limit the number in their community some years back. It is not acceptable to prevent parking around the trailheads at the expense of other neighborhoods.

Perhaps a shuttle from somewhere along broadway like the Chautauqua shuttle?

I am an OSMP volunteer. I am also in my 70s. I go to any of my commitments and also Trails in a car. One time I tried walking a good distance and was hit from behind by a bicycle so I don't walk on the streets anymore.

This is wrong on so many levels. I'm speaking about the Lehigh connector project you have going on. The only people who walk or biked to that trail are the ones the wealthy people who live in the immediate neighborhood. This is not Eldo Canyon where you're gonna have a shuttle that goes in. This is a place where a lot of people in South Boulder run up to do a 45 minute, hour hour and a half hike. I know that the people who bought their houses right next to that hiking trail fully knowing it was popular and people park. There are now trying to get people to stop parking there. This is one of the best parts of South Boulder. If you stop people from parking there, it will mean only the wealthy homeowners are going to be able to access it. No, we cannot all ride bikes or take a shuttle in the middle of our workday. This happens all over Boulder. People buy homes near Southern Hills or right next to the Lehigh connector and then get mad because the traffic that is anticipated shows up. Do not become LA. In LA some of the best hiking was in the canyons. But those were expensive homes. So they made all of the adjoining roads no parking. So no one except those very wealthy folks and those big houses are able to use those hiking trails. And don't hide it in some we want to get people to walk rather than driving thing. This is 100% driven by this neighborhood. Do better Boulder.

You are taking away CU south which a lot of people use to connect to south boulder and beyond

---

Continuous sections of mtn bike access that avoids riding on roads is great, I like the expansion of trail options
at Eagle Cobalt North Sky at north end of town, which you can get to by starting on your bike from Wonderland lake without having to ride on the road.

Staying off the road to get from one trail to another would be amazing!!

I'm always in favor of finding routes that bikes can take and stay off the roads with cars. Is what makes boulder special so need to keep the tradition of being a bike friendly city.

I HATE the idea of opening up the Shanahan Ridge- Doudy Draw trails to MTBs!!! Those trails are used a LOT by hikers looking for a peaceful non-strenuous hike with great views. And to have to put up with a constant stream of teenagers on MTBs trying to break the speed of sound would DESTROY the experience!!!

Please consider the needs of pedestrians in your new plan. They usually walk a trail out and back and do not need connectors. They move slowly and appreciate wildflowers, animal signs and birds which are often overlooked by speedy bicycles . In addition pedestrians do not impact the trails as bikes do. Many bikes pass

pedestrians quickly so that the hikers have to jump out of the way. And yes, I am a long time hikers on Open Space and wish to see hikers have a say in this matter.

Martha Dick

It'd be wonderful to connect up the Shanahan Ridge Trail with dowdy draw or community ditch.
That way cyclist in South Boulder would be able to easily connect up with the Marshall Mesa Trail system.
A wide gravel path would accommodate hikers, mountain bikers, gravel, riders, and people with strollers.

For me the highest priority of open space lands is the protection of ``natural features,'' e.g., animal and plant communities first, then geological
and ecological elements, for example. (Humans have already appropriated most of the landscape for their use, we must remember.) Of course, managed, low impact human use has to be integrated into any plans for open space management in order to sustain public support for the continued preservation of open space from more intensive human development. This is a delicate and ongoing
situation. As far as the human users go, there seems to be three major categories: bikes, horses and foot travel. I have managed to coexist
(mainly as a hiker) with other non motorized users. I have avoided heavy bike and horse use ``days'' , but I realize that there may come a time when, say bike use, is continuous, and time for hikers needs to be ``carved out.'' I hope we never get to the point where hikers have to register for a time slot in the way the autos have to sign up (in season) to enter Rocky Mountain National Park. The situation requires monitoring periodically and assessment from time to time. But then that is what you are doing! In any event, I will repeat that the well being of the native animal and plants should always be the top priority. Realistically this requires ``co-management strategies'' with other public lands, e.g., national forests, wildlife corridors. I wish us and the planet good luck and will do my part.

Multi-use trails are much too hazardous for pedestrians and trail runners. Just ask my PT, who was concussed in a collision with a hit and run cyclist. Just ask my hair stylist, who stopped walking to work along a multi-use trail after a near collision. There is a culture of carelessness among many in the Boulder cycling community. As someone who loves walking, hiking, and trail running, I fear cyclists more than dogs, careless runners, and cars. I will take a car to my destination rather than walk with cyclists around.

Any increase of bike travel on Open Space is contrary to the protection of hikers and pet walkers. While I appreciate mountain biking ad the use of bikes for commuting, in the past, I was forced off trail by careening mountain bikers, whose use emphasized speed, strength and agility, while mine was appreciation and protection of the natural environment. The two usages are not compatible.

I'm a regular e-biker ranging as far as N Boulder, Erie and Westminster.

Most trails are in good or great shape other than the Coal Creek and Rock Creek trail underpasses at 120th St Lafayette?

One is closed causing a risky crossing of the street, the other is often degraded by mud.

I am an avid birder and many times go in groups of 15+. There have been several instances over the past year where bikers have been verbally and physically abusive to our group. It can get ugly.

I thought hikers had the right of way, but I have had bikers push us out of the way (physically). Some in my group are well over 70 so it is dangerous.

I understand birders tend to sprawl n the trail but we keep an eye out and try to be courteous and make way for oncoming bikers.

Not sure what to suggest but thought I would comment.

Please! No more bikes on our trails. There are currently miles of trails for bikers to use. I am very much opposed to any additional trails being opened to anything with wheels.
Sincerely,
Linda Pounds

The key issue with allowing bikes on trails is the conflict it creates. While signage says bikes yield to pedestrians, it is not taken literally. FAST riders that pass you so fast without indicating their approach and almost clip you as they go by are a serious issue.....the reason I object to adding any trails to bike accessibility.
I have been clipped by a rider and though I've not fallen, riders are not considerate at all and don't care one bit, even when they have clipped me going by. So now I carry a hiking pole horizontally in front of me with a flashing light and it's the ONLY reason that I've continued to be on trails with bikes.....it still annoys me tremendously.

Please press forward with the Dowdy Draw to Shanahan Ridge connection. It will help encourage more people to bike rather than drive to those trailheads.

OSMP is too quick to close trails and "open space". We paid for that land and it should never closed short of real emergencies.

To the Council and OSBT,
I got an email from the City yesterday asking me to take this survey (link on this web page) regarding how I access OS trails, etc.:I have to say it was completely unclear what the survey was really looking for, and pretty much impossible to answer the questions because they were so general, but the actual facts are so site-specific.
To the point, this is really about the desire of some MTB riders to use the OS trails south of Shanahan Ridge and west of Broadway to access the bike trails around Doudy Draw, etc.
Having ridden that area for a long time, and also hiked the trails in the area many times, the issue is clear:
A lot of people like to hike that area to the west of 93 and north of South Boulder Creek. It’s VERY peaceful, not steep, and has great views. It would be a disaster to allow MTBs to also use the area, as it would destroy that serenity of experience.
And that would be especially true if lots of the MTB riders were high school students looking to break the sound barrier by riding as fast as possible.
Plus, much of this is an area designated of ecological importance. So it’s not just dirt to be torn up.
And a lot of people take dogs — not a good mix, MTBs and dogs.
And it’s not as if there is no other good access for bike riders. It’s easy to ride down from e.g. Fairview HS to the underpass on South Broadway, then south on Marshall Road, cross the road to Superior (which doesn’t have much traffic), ride the dirt up the hill, and then use the underpass on 93 to get to the dirt road/trail along

the ditch that goes back west. (Or, of course, just ride along South Broadway and 93.)
Plus, if you want a quick dirt ride, you can turn off the north end of Marshall Road and ride the South Boulder Creek trail.
Or you can go a bit further and ride the trails to the south of the road to Superior and east of 93, which are great, and also then cross 93 at the designated light next to the trail access parking area, and get to the trails west of 93.
I know, because I've ridden all of this many times.
None of these require converting trails to allow MTBs on them.
Please leave the limited access as it is, and do not allow MTBs in that restricted area.
Steve Pomerance

I mostly walk the trails and I'm often scared by bicyclists zooming down in front of me or coming up silently behind me.

NO to opening more trails to bikes. Hikers are solo, twos, small groups, older citizens who used to bike—because our voices are singular, we do not have the voice of the organized groups, like FHS mountain biking or MBWA. As it is hikers use bike less trails more often because, though courtesy is promised, bikers do NOT always yield to hikers, slow down or even give appropriate signals. Hikers can easily be in danger from bikers. LET BIKERS USE THE ROADS - I urge you to maintain the quiet, birder friendly, wildlife friendly, hiker only trails.
Thank you for your work to equalize voices and not give in to the loudest voices.

I am adamantly opposed to combining bicycles with hikers on the South Mesa Trail or Big or Little Bluestem. I avoid other jurisdiction's trails because of the joint use. I am a hiker and love the quiet and peaceful experience I get on these trails

---

Permitting bicycles on these trails poses a serious safety concern for the many hikers who rely on them daily — families with young children, elderly walkers, and runners among them. The trails were designed for foot traffic, and in many sections the paths are simply too narrow to safely accommodate both hikers and bikes. When a cyclist approaches, hikers are often forced to step off the trail onto uneven or sloped terrain, creating a real risk of injury.

Beyond safety, there is the matter of the experience itself. People come to these trails for the peace and quiet of being in nature. Bicycle traffic fundamentally changes that — introducing noise, speed, and an atmosphere of vigilance that is at odds with why most people are there in the first place.

These trails can continue to serve a broad, multigenerational community well — but only if they remain spaces where people can walk without fear. Bikes belong on trails designed with them in mind, not on paths already well-used by those on foot.

I have enjoyed hiking and climbing on the OSMP trails for many years. I strongly support the preservation of the few trails in the OSMP system that are for people who walk, hike or run only, and are without dogs or bicycles. These pedestrian only trails allow for the appreciation of our superlative native plants and wildlife. They also are more quiet than the multimodal trails. Thank you for considering how important it is to have places that are peaceful and slow paced in our world.

This survey is missing a big population--like me. The survey seems to assume that everyone has a pedestrian-friendly or bike-possible way to get to trailheads. I don't. I have to drive any time I want to get to an Open Space trailhead. I can't ride a bike--I'm too unsteady. And all of the open space trailheads are too far away from me to walk. Or take the bus. I live in Frasier Meadows subdivision. The 209 bus, that once ran nicely through my 'hood, was removed in about 2008. It's now over a 3/4 mile for me to walk to any bus line. That is too far to walk to have to take a bus to get to a walk!!!

And so, How does that figure into the survey? I am dead set against putting more bikes on open Space trails--having nearly been run over far too many times on the Bobolink Trail--to say nothing of the Mt. Sanitas Valley Trail. The connector trails to the trailheads also aren't anywhere near enough to me to walk to them---in order to get to a trail to take a walk!!!

Why on earth don't you include cars and parking as one of the MODES of travel in your supposedly "multi-modal" transportation survey? And what about people with disabilities? small kids who can't walk to a distant trailhead? Are they supposed to wait until they become longer-legged adults to visit the trails?

Once again, the single minded focus on bikes, walking, and maybe hoverboards as the single acceptable Modes of transport shows just how really exclusionary the thinking in Boulder is--on most public issues.

Please don’t put any more bikes on more trails, especially in places between Doudy Draw and Chautauqua. Bikes completely change the experience. Regardless of the laws, pedestrians will always be stepping out of the way for bikes, bikes negatively impact the trails, and they negatively impact the hiking experience. I used to love hiking at Doudy Draw, Flatirons Vista, Marshall Mesa... but I never go to these places to hike. As a matter of fact I tend to avoid most trails that allow bikes because the bikers do not know and follow the laws. Bike patrollers have helped, but there just aren’t enough rangers out there patrolling to keep things under control. The county’s Hall ranch is the same.. it is like hiking on a crowded bike highway.
We have too many people and dogs already hiking to add bikes to the mix in these areas. I am a mountain biker too but you have to leave some of our beautiful OSMP lands for simply hiking. I hope you will see that this would be a huge mistake for the land and the folks who hike there.

I'm afraid I'm late to be giving my input on this. I just found out about it and wanted to put in my two cents worth. I've lived in Boulder since 1971 and have hiked extensively on open space trails over the years. As the population has exploded, there are more difficulties with accessibility.

I'm a senior citizen (79) but I still like to hike occasionally. I have to drive to trailheads and park in the available spaces. The congestion in the parking areas has sometimes been a problem and there've been occasions when I had to turn around and go home. It sounds like you're aware of this issue. I'm unable to ride a bike due to age and a neck problem which is exacerbated by bike riding. Sadly, I wish I was still able to ride my bike. But also, you have to be in really great shape to ride up to a trailhead, hike, and then ride home again. This is beyond the ability of most of us.

I've hiked on a number of occasions on trails which were also used by mountain bikers. (Betasso and Heil Valley Ranch) They've always been very polite, but inevitably it's the hiker who has to step out of the way of the biker in these situations. That can get tiresome after a while. I like that Betasso has days when it's only open to hikers and I try to always go on those days of the week. That seems like a good system. I do worry though that constant use by mountain bikes is hard on the trail itself.

My pet peeve is that I feel like a lot of the users of our open space trails are people from outside of Boulder. This annoys me, because I feel like we in Boulder are paying for these trails, but they're getting clogged up

with people from the entire Denver metro area. I don't know what can be done about this. I wish there was some way of checking for residency but it's hard to think what that would be . I'm originally from the East coast, where it's beaches that are the big issue. Each town has their own beach and these town beaches are for residents only. You get a sticker for your car that says you're a resident. There's usually someone stationed in a little hut at the entrance to the parking lot checking cars as they come in. I'd suggest something like that, but there are so many trailheads that I'm sure it would be cost prohibitive. Perhaps a system of windshield stickers that were required and it would be up to Boulder residents using the trails to check cars in the lot and report license plate numbers of cars without a sticker???

Thanks for reading this. I appreciate the chance to give my feedback.

Greetings,

I hope email this will find its way to appropriate folks, could not figure out from the OSMP website where to write my opinion about allowing bikes on, near close to the Shanahan Trail system. Please let me know if I should send this to someone in particular and huge THANKS!

I do not know if anyone from Open Space remembers when mountain bikes were allowed on open space, the mesa trail, in particular, I do. I was a runner then and am still a runner on our open space trails! (well closer to fast walker, 😄) I recall full well and remember quite vividly how dangerous the trails were with all of the mountain bikers. Not only did many of them not slow down on a fun-filled steep gnarly downhill trail, but they would run you off the trail, yell, scream and were so very rude to hikes, runners other slower cyclists. Never mind, how they destroy trails, make them wider, find rocks to jump over (which are off trail) and did not really care about the status of the trails. I have seen them ride in mud and tear the trail to bits, leaving huge divets on the trail and off. This is why there were banned from the trails. This attitude of cyclists has not changed, there are many who believe they own the trails and will not follow trail rules. I have had to jump off the trails at Betasso, Hall, Doudy Draw, Heil, Marshall Mesa etc. Not all of the cyclists are like this, but enough of them are that it really leaves a very sour taste in ones mouth when out on shared trails. Shanahan Ridge, is a huge family trail, lots of children and folks with dogs utilize this trail system.I know, I am a volunteer hiker for OSMP and this trail, esp on weekends has many many different people enjoying the many trails here. The trails cannot handle more on them and the cyclists will be just too dangerous for the variety of folks using the trails. Please do not open this area to cyclists, I am not against cyclists, I totally understand the exhilarating experience of riding full speed down a trail (I used to be a gang-ho mountain biker)...nothing better than getting air and landing and gaining speed on a corner. And this is why they cannot be on any part of the major trail system from Baseline or even Mapleton to Eldorado Springs. Too many folks use those trails and the cyclists will add a stress factor that does not need to be. I have not even gotten into the animal populations and how this will effect them...but you know this, bears and bikes, not a good meet and greet, the bears will become so stressed in an already uneasy world for them (climate change is a true factor in their survival). All of the animals, birds, etc will be negatively affected by the addition of cyclists.

Thanks for taking the time to read this, let me know if you want articles, research as to how cyclists affect trails, wildlife etc.

We have an aging population and many people going on shorter out and back hikes with a goal of experiencing natural areas and wildlife. For example, bird watching and plant identification are growing activities. A project emphasizing more biking "connections" on the south side of Open Space will conflict with this. Making connections seems like a go around for our big bike lobby to access more and more. This sounds to me like bikes making long, fast rides that might be disrespectful of others and disturb wildlife.

Please keep wildlife and quiet uses foremost in your decisions. Many of us, people and animals, will simply

stop going to these wonderfully wildlife rich, biodiverse places if they are full of Boulder's ever increasing biking traffic.

Thanks.

Good Morning:

I am writing as a a citizen of the City of Boulder regarding the Multimodal Assessment Project and its possibility of adding bikes to pedestrian trails between Shanahan Ridge and the South Mesa Trailhead. As a resident of the City and a user of these trails, I urge you to not allow bikes on these pedestrial trails for obvious safety issues. Me and my family already avoid so many trails in our City that allow bikes and that our tax dollars fund because we have had very dangerous encounters and simply do not feel safe. Seeing the injuries a close friend of our family sustained after being hit by a bike as a pedestrian has only reinforced these concerns for safety. The the number of pedestrian only trails in our network continues to diminish and the very vocal and well-funded bike advocacy lobby in our community for years has chipped more and more away at pedestrian only trails. For once, please stand up to them and protect these trails for pedestrian use.

John Malenich