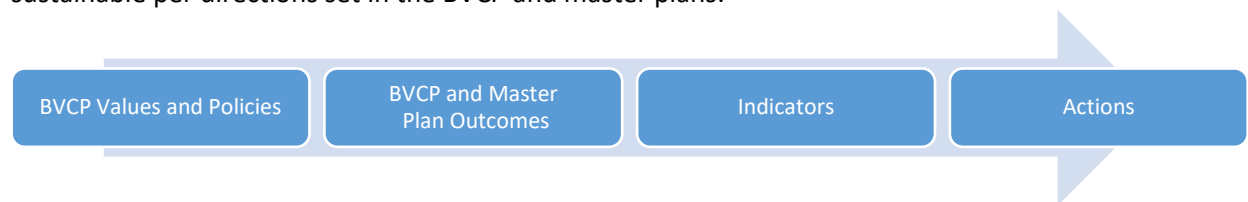# BVCP Indicators – Draft

The draft Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan states that the city and county will use indicators (or metrics) specific to the Boulder Valley to measure the overall health and well-being of the community, environment and economy and progress toward implementing the vision and values of this plan. For this paper, the term "indicators" and "metrics" are used somewhat interchangeably. Indicators are a measuring system to provide info about trends and realities that can assist with future decision-making and provide data and information as a precursor to action. With indicators, planning goals can be less abstract and more achievable.

The BVCP contains broad values and policies, some with direct and well defined measures of outcomes, some less so. Other detailed goals and metrics appear in master plans. Indicators can provide insights into the overall direction and progress of the Boulder Valley community and trends toward being more sustainable per directions set in the BVCP and master plans.

| BVCP Values and Policies | BVCP and Master Plan Outcomes | Indicators | Actions |

Many communities have developed "score cards," or dashboards tracking indicators or metrics – in part because "what gets measured gets done" and because transparency and accountability are cornerstones of democracy and are foundational to how constituents can engage with the city and local government. In 2016, the City launched its own *Boulder Measures* – an online dashboard to visualize progress toward community goals. The dashboard is iterative as new data sets and measurements are added as appropriate and made in a timely and consistent way. The current Phase One is a starting point to gather input on metrics (i.e., those included in the initial launch as well as future metrics the community would like to see) and is focused on site design and overall functionality.

Additionally, *Boulder Measures* is organized around the Sustainability Framework which helps provide a common language for goals and priorities and assists in alignment with the Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan, master plans, decision-making and budgeting processes. The framework uses seven broad categories and outcomes as noted below.

BVCP Policy Section	Relationship to Boulder's Sustainability Framework
Sec. 1 - Intergovernmental Cooperation and Growth Management	*Livable Community, Good Governance*
Sec. 2 - Built Environment	*Livable Community, Environmentally Sustainable Community*
Sec. 3 - Natural Environment	*Environmentally Sustainable Community*
Sec. 4 - Energy, Climate and Waste	*Environmentally Sustainable Community*
Sec. 5 - Economy	*Economically Vital Community*
Sec. 6 - Transportation	*Accessible and Connected Community*
Sec. 7 - Housing	*Livable Community*
Sec. 8 - Community Well-being and Safety	*Healthy, and Socially Thriving Community Safe Community*
Sec. 9 - Agriculture and Food	*Environmentally Sustainable Community*
Sec 10 - Governance, Community Engagement	*Good Governance*

The next phases of *Boulder Measures* will evolve as a full set of indicators are identified, selected, and refined to focus more clearly on information that is:

- **ownable** - tracking those areas where the city or county can own and manage outcomes
- **transparent** – linked to open data and clear how they were calculated
- **aligned** – with master plans and programmatic strategies
- **story-telling** – illustrate how the community is doing relative to policies; share trends
- **sustainable** – documentable and possible to refresh and manage over time

This report outlines each Sustainability Framework category, highlights the relevant BVCP policies, includes a summary of possible future indicators or metrics relating to BVCP values and policies for discussion and further refinement. In some cases, the city and community has set specific targets (or milestones) for indicators, often through master plans (e.g., GhG emissions, neighborhood access scores, affordable housing, measurable objectives in the Transportation Master Plan), in other cases objectives have yet to be defined.

Finally, the *BVCP Trends Report* (2015) contains certain measures that may be meaningful to carry forward into the dashboard as either foundational data or as indicators, and the *Community Profile* and *Housing Profile*, updated each year, also contain baseline information such as total population, total jobs, total households, housing units, median home prices – factors that will be measured and presented regardless of whether they will be integrated into the *Boulder Measures* dashboard.

Environmentally Sustainable Community

Sustainability Framework Principles & Outcomes

Environmentally Sustainable Community
- Supports and sustains natural resource and energy conservation
- Promotes and regulates an ecologically balanced community
- Mitigates and abates threats to the environment

BVCP Policies that Relate to Environmentally Sustainable Community

o *Open Space and rural lands preservation (2.04, 2.06-2.08, 2.19)*
o *Protecting natural ecosystems and biodiversity (3.03-3.07)*
o *Environment stewardship within the transportation section which includes new policies such as "Clean Mobility." (Sec. 6)*
o *Energy conservation, climate action, energy-efficiency, waste minimization (Sec. 4)*
o *Sustainable business practices (5.11)*

Possible BVCP Indicators

- Open space land acquisition
- Community GHG emissions
- GHG Emissions from city operations and facilities
- Waste diversion rate
- Energy conservation and use rate
- Number of electric fleet vehicles
- Urban tree canopy
- Upgrades to residential energy efficiency
- Upgrades to commercial energy efficiency
- Water use and conservation
- Index of biodiversity measures from OSMP (e.g., raptor nestings, species of vertebrates, forest management)
- Public support for OSMP land management – community survey
- Human wildlife conflict reductions

Safe Community

Sustainability Framework Principles & Outcomes

Safe Community
- Enforces the law, taking into account the needs of individuals and community values
- Plans for and provides timely and effective response to emergencies and natural disasters
- Fosters a climate of safety for individuals in homes, businesses, neighborhoods and public places
- Encourages shared responsibility, provides education on personal and community safety and fosters an environment that is welcoming and inclusive

BVCP Policies that Relate to Safe Community

o *City will encourage neighborhood schools and safe routes to schools (2.10)*
o *Outdoor lighting to reduce light pollution, conserve energy while providing for public safety (2.35)*
o *City's policy toward "Toward Vision Zero" and improving emergency response access (New policy in Sec. 6)*
o *Safety and community well-being policies as they relate to emergency services, health, cultural, food, resilience and physical activity (8.06-8.07 & new policies).*

Possible BVCP Indicators

- Police Department Priority One response time
- Property Crimes clearance rate
- Person Crimes clearance rate
- Fire Department emergency response time
- Bicycle and pedestrian safety (accidents)
- Community perception of safety – community survey
- Help community prepare for disasters (training)
- Notification system (people signed up)

Livable Community

Sustainability Framework Principles & Outcomes

Livable Community
- Promotes and sustains a safe, clean and attractive place to live, work and play
- Facilitates housing options to accommodate a diverse community
- Provides safe and well-maintained public infrastructure, and provides adequate and appropriate regulation of public/ private development and resources
- Encourages sustainable development supported by reliable and affordable city services
- Supports and enhances neighborhood livability for all members of the community

BVCP Policies that Relate to Livable Community

Livable community policies are scattered throughout the BVCP. They can mainly be found in:

- o *Sec. 1: Policies around limited expansion of the city while ensuring high quality of life and benefits for residents.*
- o *An expanded policy regarding community benefit is included (1.15-1.18).*
- o *Sec. 2: Policies committing to community character, urban design and amenities, preserving existing residential uses, protecting adjacent non-residential development, and mixing of uses. More policies address design, trails, and environment and historic preservation.*
- o *Sec. 6: Improve access and safety in neighborhoods through transportation facilities (6.11). Improvement to the transportation infrastructure to encourage 15-minute neighborhoods (new policy).*
- o *Sec. 7: Inclusive housing policies around affordable and middle-income housing, housing for a range of households, and market affordability.*
- o *Sec. 8: Policies around social equity, human services and community facilities.*

Possible BVCP Indicators
- Affordable housing units by type
- Index of social diversity (e.g., age distribution, race and ethnicity, language spoken at home, incomes)
- Code violations/enforcement
- Art and cultural events or installations (measures to be determined in relationship with Community Cultural Plan)
- Building permits and square footage of mixed use, infill projects
- Community perceptions about design and growth – community survey

Economically Vital Community

Sustainability Framework Principles & Outcomes

Economically Vital Community
- Supports an environment for creativity and innovation
- Promotes a qualified and diversified work force that meets employers' needs and supports broad-based economic diversity
- Fosters regional and public / private collaboration with key institutions and organizations that contribute to economic sustainability
- Invests in infrastructure and amenities that attract, sustain and retain diverse businesses, entrepreneurs and the associated primary jobs

BVCP Policies that Relate to Economically Vital Community

Most related policies are found in the Economy section which focuses on:

- o *Strategic Redevelopment and Sustainable Employment*
- o *Diverse Economic Base*
- o *Quality of Life*
- o *Sustainable and Resilient Business Practices*
- o *Job Opportunities, Education and Training*

Measurable policies include: revitalization and avoiding displacement (5.01), diverse mix of uses and business types (5.03), vital and productive retail base (5.04) encouragement of affordable business space and diverse employment base (new), funding city services and infrastructure (5.07), arts and culture (new), sustainable business practices (5.11), partnerships (5.15), diverse workforce and training (5.17).

Possible BVCP Indicators

- Retail sales tax revenue
- Commercial office and industrial vacancy rates
- Community unemployment rate
- New business
- Nonresidential building permits and structures
- Industry mix
- Small business innovation research awards
- Patent activity
- Qualified and diversified workforce (population with advanced degree)
- Jobs:population ratio

Good Governance

Sustainability Framework Principles & Outcomes

Good Governance
- Models stewardship and sustainability of the city's financial, human, information and physical assets
- Supports strategic decision-making with timely, reliable and accurate data and analysis
- Enhances and facilitates transparency, accuracy, efficiency, effectiveness and quality customer service in all city business
- Supports, develops and enhances relationships between the city and community/ regional partners
- Provides assurance of regulatory and policy compliance

BVCP Policies that Relate to Local Governance, Community Engagement

o *A new Local Governance and Community Engagement section is included with policies on high performing government, communication capacity for resilience, informed community and volunteerism. (Sec. 10)*

o *A youth engagement policy appears in Sec. 8.*

o *The plan carries forward a community engagement policy that commits to improving public communications, and using effective technologies and techniques for public outreach efforts and other necessary actions to establish a robust community engagement framework (1.05 in Sec. 10).*

o *It addresses regional and statewide cooperation which includes other cities, counties, unincorporated communities, the University of Colorado, the school districts, regional organizations and other policy-making bodies (1.11).*

Possible BVCP Indicators

- General Obligation Bond ratings
- General Fund reserves
- Social media posts views
- Community response to "overall direction of city" in community survey
- Community response to "effectiveness" in community survey
- Capital Improvements Program maintenance spending
- Board and Commission participation
- Volunteer hours for city and/or community organizations
- Access to local government – webpage data, open data
- Partnerships with other agencies and organizations (events, agreements)
- Voter participation in local elections

Accessible & Connected Community

Sustainability Framework Principles & Outcomes

Accessible & Connected Community
- Offers and encourages a variety of safe, accessible and sustainable mobility options
- Plans, designs and maintains effective infrastructure networks
- Supports strong regional multimodal connections
- Provides open access to information, encourages innovation, enhances communication and promotes community engagement
- Supports a balanced transportation system that reflects effective land use and reduces congestion

BVCP Policies that Relate to Accessible & Connected

- *Commitment to a walkable city by introducing mixed use business areas and design to create access (2.21).*
- *Improve mobility grid and connections, and encourage the develop of trails (2.22 & 2.23).*
- *Transportation section (Sec. 6) that covers:*
  - *Complete Transportation System*
  - *Regional Travel*
  - *Funding and Investments*
  - *Integration of Land Use and Transportation with Sustainability Initiatives*
  - *Other Transportation Policies*
- *Creating safe and accessible connections to schools (8.09)*
- *Community Connectivity and Preparedness – to promote well-being, deepen a sense of community and encourage civic participation (New Policy in Sec. 8)*
- *Information Resource/Community Center policy to provide access to information by providing materials and through the use of technology and services to enhance personal development of the community (8.15)*

Possible BVCP Indicators

- Vehicle Miles of Travel (VMT)
- Bike counts
- ConnectBoulder Free Public Wi-Fi Access
- Missing sidewalk and trail links completed
- Index of transportation measurable objectives for mode share including transit ridership
- "Ease of travel" – community survey
- "Internet access" – community survey
- Employee commuting patterns (resident/nonresident)
- Total vehicles per day on regional roads

Healthy & Socially Thriving Community

Sustainability Framework Principles & Outcomes

Healthy & Socially Thriving Community
- Cultivates a wide-range of recreational, cultural, educational, and social opportunities
- Supports the physical and mental well-being of its community members and actively partners with others to improve the welfare of those in need
- Fosters inclusion, embraces diversity and respects human rights
- Enhances multi-generational community enrichment and community engagement

BVCP Policies that Relate to Healthy and Socially Thriving Community

- *Mostly covered in the Community Well-Being Section as it covers topics related to human services, social equity, diversity and community engagement. Examples include:*
  - *Maintain human service programs for a broad spectrum of human needs and provide a regional approach to human services (8.01-8.02).*
  - *Support the integration of diverse cultures and socio-economic groups, infrastructure and facilities and cultural resources (8.05).*
- *Commit to a walkable and accessible city that encourages a healthy and active lifestyle (2.21-2.23)*
- *Accessibility and mobility for all users, including people with mobility impairments, youth, older adults, non-English speakers, and low-income persons (6.05-6.06).*
- *Increasing the number of affordable housing units and encourage the development of housing for populations with special needs (7.02-7.03)*
- *Improvement of water and air quality (3.23-3.30)*
- *Policies on local food system to support agriculture, urban gardening, and creating access to healthy food (Sec. 9)*

Possible BVCP Indicators

- Parks and Recreation per capita operating expenditure
- Population within .25 miles of a park
- Library visits
- Food tax rebate program
- Park land and developed park land
- Other human service programs (index)
- Recreation facilities
- Recreational and cultural programs
- Agriculture on public lands
- Walkability index (walk score)
- Farmers' Market sales (and SNAP program)