

■ Our Challenge

How to move more people safely & efficiently through one of our busiest travel corridors. With travel demand predicted to increase by as much as 20% in the next two decades, we need to reorganize our streets to provide better travel options for commuters and for the greater number of people who will be working and living in the corridor.

■ How the Plan and the SH7 Coalition Address the Challenge

Setting the vision for the East Arapahoe corridor (between Folsom and 75th Street) is the first step in a multi-year journey. The plan provides the vision framework to begin improving corridor conditions in the short term for neighborhood residents, employees and visitors; and into the future as the city works with local and regional partners to advance regional mobility improvements on SH 7 between Boulder and I-25/Brighton.

This plan sets out a long-range vision that will be implemented over time, with safety, access, and mobility improvements that can be phased incrementally to improve conditions for people working and living in the corridor now and into the future.

The plan is part of a regional initiative: regional partners between Boulder and Brighton have formed the SH 7 Coalition to coordinate and advocate for creating a regional multimodal corridor with high-quality/high-frequency bus rapid transit (BRT), a regional bikeway, pedestrian improvements and first and final mile supportive infrastructure and strategies.

East Arapahoe is a key segment of this corridor and this plan defines the city's commitment to advancing local multimodal improvements along the length of SH 7.

■ Moving More People

We know that we can't build our way out of our congestion. More lanes attract more traffic and invite bigger problems.

In the short-term, adding general purpose lanes in the east end of the corridor would reduce some congestion, but they would quickly be filled by new traffic and those who change travel patterns. In the long-term, Arapahoe Avenue would become so congested that additional traffic would disperse to connecting roadways making those intersections and corridors more congested.

Instead, we're considering how to move more people with better travel options in the roadway space we have. Right lanes (or curbside lanes) in the corridor today are underutilized because drivers try to avoid getting stuck behind buses and turning cars. The vision calls for a more efficient use of this space by carrying more people on transit in the curbside lanes, while maintaining two general purpose lanes in each direction through most of the corridor.

■ The Vision

The 2040 vision for East Arapahoe creates a Complete Street: one where all users are considered, safely accommodated, and celebrated. Regional BRT service connects Boulder to I-25 and Brighton via State Highway 7 and East Arapahoe and includes the following features:

- Two general-purpose traffic lanes are maintained in each direction
- Curbside business access and transit (BAT) lanes accommodate local and regional transit, right-turning vehicles, HOVs and new technologies such as shared autonomous/connected vehicles
- Raised protected bike lanes with a multi-use path create safe, comfortable places for people to walk and bike
- Amenity zones enhance the streetscape and public realm

The plan also aligns with Boulder's Transportation Master plan (TMP), Sustainability Framework, and Climate Commitment.

■ Benefits of the Vision

The plan is expected to enhance safety for all users, maintain auto travel times while providing a transit travel time that is competitive with the automobile, and increase access and comfort for all people walking and bicycling. The plan also:

- Provides the flexibility to adapt — both to future land use changes within the corridor and to rapid technological advances in mobility options
- Increases mobility options to improve safety, health, air quality and reduce our impact on the climate
- Reduces vehicle miles traveled in the corridor by 14% compared to making no improvements
- Enhances livability with designs that focus on moving people, not just cars, creating an attraction for community-oriented businesses

■ Plan Implementation

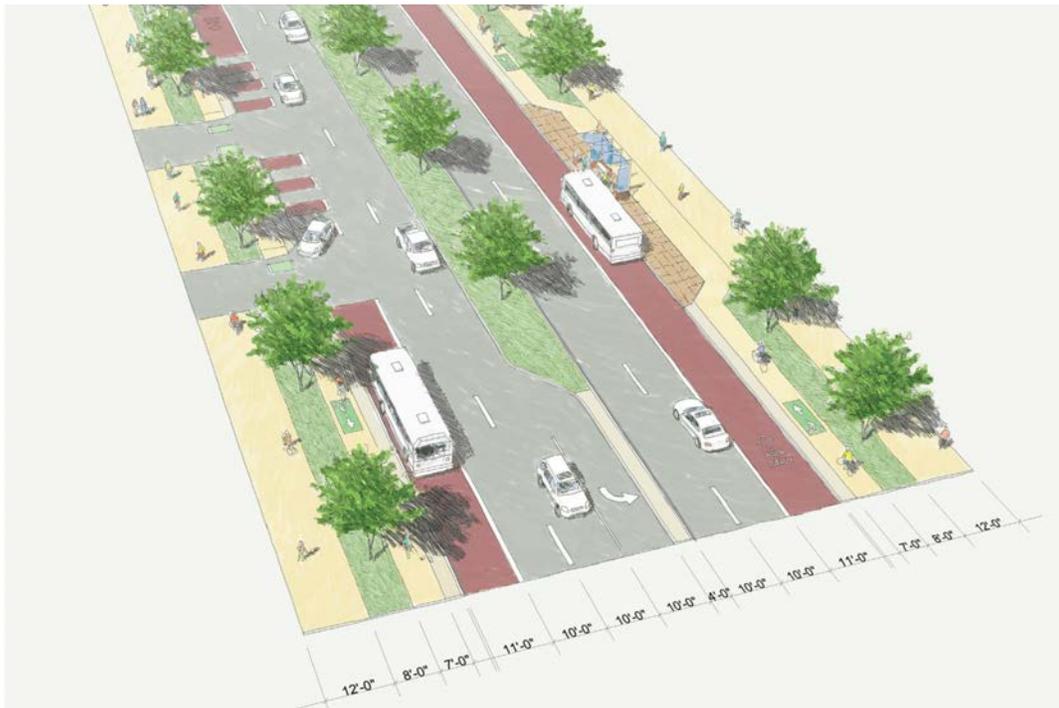
This plan is the first step on the journey to accomplishing the vision for the corridor. It includes near-, mid-, and long-term implementation actions, with additional community engagement at each step. The next phases of the project include finalizing corridor design as we continue to pursue funding with regional partners and make progress toward shorter term localized improvements in the corridor.



Existing – Typical



2040 Vision – Typical



Learn more and share your opinion

Visit EastArapahoeTransportationPlan.net to share comments, questions, or suggestions.