

North Area Transportation Corridor Preliminary Recommendations:

Providing a Framework for Implementation

The CWG developed a draft vision, goals and a set of recommendations to be further refined through local processes in conjunction with the North Area Transportation Alliance (NATA). The preliminary recommendations were developed by the group using the software tool WIQ. The WIQ program facilitates stakeholder input and collaboration and provided the CWG with a platform to identify initial recommendations for corridor opportunities and challenges. Please see Appendix B for the responses from the WIQ activity.

Because the draft vision, goals and set of preliminary recommendations were developed within a two-month timeframe, the CWG's initial recommendation is to present these preliminary findings and ideas to the North Area Transportation Alliance (NATA) and the local jurisdictions along the corridors in anticipation of pursuing additional grant funding to further refine the draft vision, goals and preliminary recommendations.

Moving forward, the Preliminary Recommendations are intended to provide a framework to support the draft vision and goals. They reflect the suggested priorities of the CWG based on their expertise and experience and propose next steps for collaboration by the jurisdictions and other key partners in the corridor to continue work begun under the SCI grant and achieve the opportunities created by the build-out of the transit system. Successful and sustainable transit-oriented communities are complex economic and social systems that require thoughtful planning, integrated development, and coordination between jurisdictions.

1. Refine vision and goals.

2. Strengthen infrastructure throughout the corridor to improve mobility through the use of various modes of transportation.

- Funding: When necessary pursue grants, understand the funding gap, seek alternative funding resources, and pursue public-private sources.
- Complete Streets: Conduct analysis to determine missing links in the multimodal network, focus on bicycle and pedestrian connections, and plan for and develop complete streets.
- Expand FasTracks: Add bus service throughout the corridor and expand rail past the North Thornton/Hwy 7 station.
- Prioritize: Collaboratively prioritize the corridor's needs.
- Corridor Planning: Collaboration between the jurisdictions to plan for the whole corridor.

3. Support infrastructure improvements and renovations to meet current needs and future demand.

- Diversify funding
 - Identify alternative funding sources, prioritize funding sources, and bring entities like CDOT, RTD, and DRCOG together to develop funding strategies when necessary.
 - When appropriate, encourage local bond issues and dedicated sales tax.
 - Seek private investment.

- Education: Provide information to a variety of audiences on the cost of infrastructure to create common understanding.
- Prioritize: Collaboratively determine infrastructure priorities and respond to top needs when appropriate. Consider phasing options for projects.
- Collaboration: Explore funding partnerships, potentially coordinate on grant opportunities, on appropriate projects potentially share costs, and partner with other jurisdictions and private entities.
- Legislation: Monitor and potentially support relevant legislation on federal and state transportation funding.

4. Create focused economic improvement strategies to generate development and economic opportunity in the corridor.

- Funding: Explore and pursue funding strategies, when necessary refocus existing funding strategies, and possibly assist in funding projects within close proximity of stations.
- Collaboration: Jurisdictions should come together for strategic area planning and to promote the corridor in order to share resources and expertise.
- Partnerships: Work to develop public-private-partnerships and partner specifically with entities like CDOT and RTD.
- Development Review Process: Potentially streamline the process to make it more efficient and timely.

5. Advance successful and sustainable transit oriented communities that integrate the economic and social needs of residents.

- Planning: Where appropriate, coordinate the development of strategic plans; develop proactive plans for new development, develop or update plans for water and other natural resources, develop station area plans when necessary, develop or update comprehensive plans to integrate transportation, and develop environmental plans.
- Education: Facilitate information to a variety of audiences on the effects of the Construction Defects Legislation and on the benefits of intelligently planned communities.
- Engage: Reach out to key stakeholders, the development community, and land owners.
- Update Standards and Codes: Provide updates to incorporate smart planning techniques when appropriate.