



# Envision LITTLETON

*Our Community. Our Future.*

## 2040 PLAN SUMMARY



**Littleton**  
*Colorado*



# WHO WE ARE

Littleton is a place where visions and values endure across decades and generations. It is a place where nature and city living intersect, can both be enjoyed, and are guarded with a fierce sense of stewardship.

Envision Littleton, the 2040 vision and plan, manages change and growth amid the reality of a community that is largely already developed. Over the next 20 years, Littleton will continue to build on the shoulders of its founders and past civic leaders with a continued dedication to innovation and celebration of this unique place.

The Envision Littleton Comprehensive Plan is all about Littleton, its people and its places. The Plan captures what is treasured today and what citizens strive for going forward. The Plan is the city's framework to help the city and others make decisions, inform policy, and ensure the community never loses its heart and soul – what makes Littleton, Littleton – as it continues to grow and thrive.

## NO STRANGER TO GROWTH

Littleton grew **304%** in the 1950's

## A STRONG SENSE OF COMMUNITY LIVES HERE

Among Littleton's core values are a **passion and commitment** to local history, the outdoors, being inclusive, being a model community, civic involvement, integrity, quality, and safety.



# STRATEGICALLY PRINCIPLED

*These Guiding Principles describe the values identified by the community and serve as the foundation for the 2040 Vision.*



## ANCHORED

Even in the face of potentially significant demographic change ahead, Littleton will remain anchored by a firm belief among its residents and leaders of what makes this a truly special place.



## AUTHENTIC

Littleton will continue to be authentic and comfortable for both residents and guests. The often-cited “small town feel” and sense of community dates to its origin as a “Little Town” separate and apart from Denver.



## CONNECTED

Littleton will be an increasingly connected and accessible place. From a physical and mobility standpoint, it will continue to have regional ties via highways and arterials, transit services, long-distance trails, and the Mary Carter Greenway.



## ACTIVE

Littleton will always be a community of active people who make the most of their city’s cultural and natural resource abundance.



## ENGAGED

Littleton will remain engaged and civic-minded in all matters affecting the direction and priorities of city government and the community.

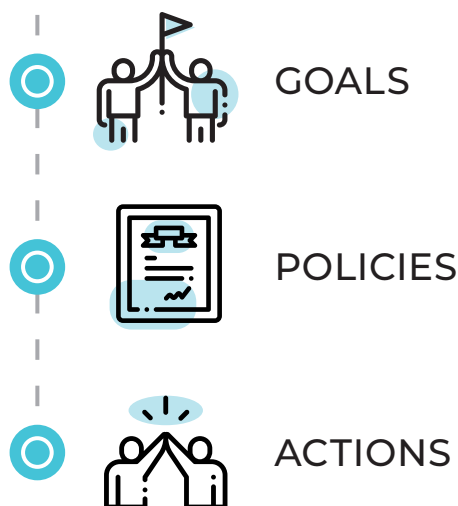
# PLAN & ACTION

**Preserving the history, culture, and overall quality of life for current and future residents is central to Envision Littleton.**

As a framework to proactively plan for the next 20 years, this Plan outlines the aspirations of the community with each section paying tribute to the legacy of past planning, key issues and considerations, and a framework for action.

The Plan guides city officials and staff in their daily decisions to collaborate with the community on the future direction, financial health, and “look and feel” of the community. Envision Littleton sets the tone and moves the community forward in coming years.

## THE FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION



## WHAT'S NEXT?

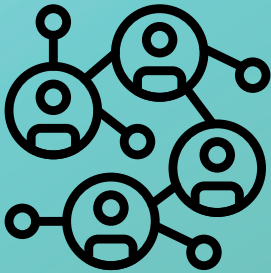
Going forward, continue to listen, learn, and adapt so that the desired future for everyone in Littleton stays in focus. All who have contributed to Envision Littleton must remain stewards of the vision the community has put forward.

## THE PATHWAYS TO ACTION



# IN THIS TOGETHER

Partnerships are at the heart of Envision Littleton because the Plan requires collaboration for both programmatic and funding support from the public, private, and nonprofit sectors.



Some community initiatives identified in the Plan cannot be accomplished by the city government alone. More can be achieved through direct coordination, intergovernmental agreements, and joint funding. The role of private and non-profit partners to advance the community's action agenda should not be underestimated. Achieving the vision will require collaboration between public, private, and nonprofit sectors on programming and funding for improvements to the community.

18

MONTHS OF  
LISTENING & LEARNING

92,249

REACHED THROUGH  
EMAIL & SOCIAL MEDIA

8,315

CONVERSATIONS WITH THE  
PUBLIC & STAKEHOLDERS

261

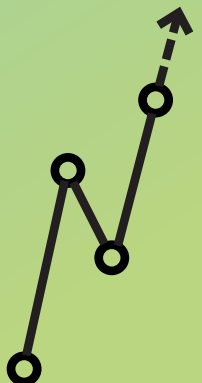
ENVISION EVENTS

870

SURVEY RESPONSES

# MANAGING GROWTH

The plan considers a range of potential growth as well as the tools to help manage change over the next 20 years.



# DESIRED OUTCOMES & GOALS

*Through collaboration, comprehensive plan goals were identified to help focus on the outcomes the community desires.*

## QUALITY COMMUNITY



Maintained the integrity of its established neighborhoods and historic areas.

## SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY



Protected its cherished natural setting in harmony with new development and redevelopment.

## RESILIENT COMMUNITY



Ensured that reinvestment in the community, whether in Littleton's legacy housing stock or along its commercial corridors, has met local expectations for quality and compatibility with its surroundings.

## SAFE COMMUNITY



Made itself even safer and more accessible for all the ways that people navigate through and within Littleton.

## NATURAL COMMUNITY



Achieved a higher standard for cleanliness and burnished its appeal as a place with strikingly beautiful vistas.

## FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY



Secured the long-term sustainability of city finances to continue providing its citizens the best in public services.

## COMPREHENSIVE PLAN GOALS

**E&T:** Economy & Tax Base  
**ENV:** Environment

**H&N:** Housing & Neighborhoods  
**HART:** Heritage, Arts, Recreation, & Tourism  
**L&C:** Land Use & Community Character

**I&S:** Infrastructure & Services  
**S&D:** Special Areas & Design  
**TMP:** Transportation

<b>H&amp;N 1</b>	A quantity and diversity of housing options that makes living in Littleton attainable for a wide range of age groups and income levels.
<b>H&amp;N 2</b>	Appealing housing choices for families drawn by Littleton's educational, recreational, and other amenities.
<b>H&amp;N 3</b>	Neighborhoods that are safe and comfortable for all residents.
<b>H&amp;N 4</b>	Neighborhoods that maintain their character or are carefully managed when headed toward transition.
<b>H&amp;N 5</b>	Housing that supports choice in mobility and investments in transportation infrastructure.
<b>E&amp;T 5</b>	A commitment to education at all levels that meets the workforce needs of area businesses and ensures lifelong learning and skills acquisition opportunities for residents and visitors.
<b>HART 5</b>	A community that thrives on and leverages the economic and social power of the arts to enhance its fiscal strength, regional reputation, social connectivity, and overall quality of life for residents of all ages.

<b>L&amp;C 1</b>	A land use allocation and pattern that supports and promotes Littleton's pride in, and reputation for, quality neighborhoods and an abundance of parks and preserved open space.
<b>L&amp;C 2</b>	A sustained focus on the long-term fiscal sustainability of Littleton city government while recognizing the direct connection to the community's land use mix, especially for sales tax revenue needs.
<b>L&amp;C 3</b>	Ongoing and effective collaboration between land use and transportation planning and implementation to ensure compatibility among decisions and actions taken with respect to each.
<b>L&amp;C 4</b>	A more attractive community, based on quality design and character of both private development and the public realm.
<b>ENV 2</b>	Commitment to Littleton's leadership role in contributing to clean water and healthy air across the Denver metropolitan region.
<b>ENV 4</b>	Reduced energy consumption and solid waste generation by residents, businesses, and the city.
<b>ENV 5</b>	City facilities, vehicle fleet, and public infrastructure that promote Littleton's environmental resilience and minimize adverse impacts.

<b>E&amp;T 1</b>	A focus on the revenue needs of Littleton city government to continue meeting the public service expectations of its residents, businesses, and institutions.
<b>E&amp;T 2</b>	Continued nurturing of key employment sectors, target industries, and small businesses that expand local job opportunities and contribute to better incomes for those who live and/or work in Littleton.
<b>E&amp;T 3</b>	Revitalized commercial centers and areas that alleviate obsolete conditions and vacant sites and that meet the contemporary shopping and service needs of Littleton residents and visitors.
<b>E&amp;T 4</b>	Provision of resources, services, and a conducive regulatory environment to help businesses of all sizes develop and grow.
<b>S&amp;D 1</b>	A downtown that continues to serve the entire community as a civic, historic, cultural, and economic focal point.
<b>S&amp;D 2</b>	A future Littleton Boulevard that accommodates local businesses and nearby attainable housing options amid a more walkable setting of authentic neighborhoods and historic architecture.
<b>ENV 1</b>	Careful monitoring and increased awareness of land, air, and water quality within Littleton's jurisdiction.

<b>I&amp;S 2</b>	Consistent budget and community support of a well-staffed, trained, and equipped police force to ensure a safe and secure city.
<b>S&amp;D 4</b>	Roadway corridors that fulfill their primary transportation functions for drivers, pedestrians, cyclists, and public transit while advancing the community's economic development, housing, and aesthetic interests.
<b>TMP 1</b>	Connect people conveniently to the community, resources, and opportunities.
<b>TMP 2</b>	Promote safety and support efforts to maintain a healthy and active lifestyle.
<b>TMP 3</b>	Allocate services and facilities so that all people have transportation options that are best suited for their needs and lifestyle.

<b>I&amp;S 2</b>	Well-maintained water, wastewater, and storm drainage infrastructure that serves the needs of Littleton residents and businesses while minimizing adverse impacts on the environment.
<b>HART 1</b>	Preserved and enhanced public green spaces that provide access to nature, widespread opportunities for recreation and play close to home, and continuous greenway connections within and through the city.
<b>HART 2</b>	Continued protection and promotion of Littleton's heritage, especially where it is tangibly visible in historic architecture, designated districts and landmarks, and distinctive neighborhoods and buildings.
<b>HART 3</b>	A healthy community with convenient access to recreational facilities and programming and outdoor fitness activities.
<b>HART 4</b>	A vibrant city for both residents and visitors, enlivened by an active downtown, an array of arts, cultural, and entertainment options both indoor and outdoor, extensive heritage tourism opportunities, and popular community events and festivals throughout the year.
<b>ENV 3</b>	Efficient use and conservation of water resources.
<b>S&amp;D 3</b>	An ecologically sound and exceptionally attractive South Platte River corridor, framed by sensitively planned land uses, that continues to anchor the entire community's trail and open space networks.

<b>I&amp;S 3</b>	A continuing commitment to periodic assessment and ongoing maintenance of public facilities that are essential to Littleton's livability and accommodation of visitors.
<b>TMP 4</b>	Contribute to economic prosperity while maintaining and enhancing the community's character.
<b>TMP 5</b>	Build and operate a financially and environmentally sustainable transportation system.



# COMMUNITY CHARACTER

The Envision Littleton Comprehensive Plan guides future development, redevelopment, and community enhancement efforts over the next 20 years. It's a framework for continued community discussion on the challenges currently facing the city, and opportunities that will shape its future. Through long-range planning efforts, Littleton can accommodate growth and revitalization in a way that preserves its history, culture, and overall quality of life.

## WHAT IS THE PLAN'S FOCUS?

- + Land Use & Community Character
- + Housing & Neighborhoods
- + Transportation
- + Infrastructure & Services
- + Economy & Tax Base
- + Heritage, Arts, Recreation & Tourism
- + Environment
- + Special Areas & Design

*These percentages are a sampling of how community character will evolve. The full detail of existing land use and character is referenced by category in Table 1 on page 28 of Appendix 3. The future land use and character allocation is on Table 2 on page 40 of the Comprehensive Plan.*

## 1. PARKS & OPEN SPACE

30% CURRENT CITY  
30% 2040

### SOME SHARED PRIORITIES OF SURVEY PARTICIPANTS INCLUDE:

- + PARKS & OPEN SPACES
- + DOWNTOWN LITTLETON
- + SAFETY & ACCESSIBILITY
- + SCHOOLS & AMENITIES

OVER 150 SURVEY RESPONSES CITED "SMALL TOWN FEEL" WHEN ASKED TO LIST WORDS THAT REPRESENT WHAT THEY VALUE ABOUT LITTLETON

## WHAT'S NEXT?

The Envision Littleton process was launched in the spring of 2018 as a prelude to initiating an update of the city's Comprehensive Plan. Concurrently, the first-ever Transportation Master Plan (TMP) for Littleton was developed. Envision Littleton provides a foundation for any additional in-depth planning efforts that will supplement the work in the future.





## What Does Community Character Mean?

Littleton has a distinct identity as a community, but there are variations in the look and feel of its places. Littleton includes a full spectrum of character from parks and open space to suburban neighborhoods to a vibrant, walkable historic downtown.

# HOW WILL THE CHARACTER EVOLVE OVER TIME?\*

### 2. SUBURBAN CHARACTER

25% CURRENT CITY  
45% 2040

### 3. MIXED CHARACTER

2% CURRENT CITY  
14% 2040

### 4. URBAN CHARACTER

1% CURRENT CITY  
2% 2040



LITTLETON'S POPULATION IS STABLE. MANY LITTLETON RESIDENTS GREW UP IN LITTLETON, HAVE STAYED FOR A LIFETIME AFTER MOVING HERE FROM SOMEWHERE ELSE, OR HAVE FAMILY THAT ALSO LIVE IN LITTLETON.

\* All 2040 numbers are projected estimates

#### ONGOING LAND USE PLANNING

- + Macro-level, about neighborhoods.
- + Guidance.
- + Based on what exists today and what is wanted in the future as a community.

#### ZONING UPDATE (2020-2021)

- + Micro-level, about blocks or sites.
- + Regulation.
- + Based on the City of Littleton Comprehensive Plan.

# GOING TO WORK FOR ALL USERS



The Envision Littleton TMP is the community-driven framework for providing a transportation system that works for all users. The plan maps out a complete network of streets that are vibrant, safe and promote a sense of place while providing choices for users of all ages and ability. This systematic approach emphasizes the following major themes:

## TMP Community Character

Incorporating community character into the design of the streets is key to move the city forward. The plan considers adjacent land use through sidewalk treatments, landscaping, parking, and other aspects of a street's design.

### THE 5 C'S OF THE TMP

## A SYSTEMATIC APPROACH

### 1. Community

Make sure streets serve the needs of the community and contribute to improved quality of life.

### 2. Connections

Recognize the need to strengthen connections between neighborhoods and to the region in order to maintain the livability of the community.

### 3. Calming

Identify context-sensitive guidelines for streets to encourage appropriate driving behaviors and speed while providing a welcoming environment for all users.

### 4. Choices

Maintain a vibrant and active culture; and work to provide comfortable, convenient, and safe options that make it easy for people to walk, bike, ride transit and drive.

### 5. Capacity

Address traffic concerns as a top priority. The plan includes a toolbox of techniques and strategies to move cars more efficiently.

# TMP Complete Networks



The Envision Littleton TMP details a complete set of networks that move people and goods. Today, the networks focus on mobility grouped into the following modes:



## PEDESTRIAN

Pedestrians are the most vulnerable travelers, and walkability is an important aspect of community character. All of Littleton's streets should provide safe spaces to move along and across the street.



## BICYCLE

Bicycle priority streets aim to provide low-stress bicycle options to reach destinations. The treatments used on these streets may include striped bike lanes, protected bike lanes, cycle tracks, or separate off-street facilities, such as parallel trails.



## AUTO & FREIGHT

The movement of people and goods on streets in vehicles will remain a top priority. Providing appropriate Levels of Service for this movement is a key policy of the TMP.



## TRANSIT

Bus and light rail corridors should offer amenities and infrastructure to provide competitive and attractive transit service as an alternative to the private car.

### TMP MISSION

## RESPONSIBLE STEWARDS

The mission of the TMP is to enable connection and accessibility for all through regional leadership and responsible stewardship of the city's transportation systems, policies, programs and services.



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