

Let's Talk Resident Engagement Program Work Plan

This work plan summarizes the action items the City has presented to date to Let's Talk neighborhoods in response to resident feedback. It includes a brief description of the item, identifies which neighborhoods have weighed in on the action item and their ranking and level of support¹, notes alignment with any City Council-adopted policies or current strategic priorities, and includes the current status of each item. The items are generally arranged by those that ranked highest first. The Applewood, Bel Aire, East Wheat Ridge, and Leppla Manor Engagement Blitz reports provide more detailed summaries of the respective action items and resident input and can be found at www.whatsupwheatridge.com/lets-talk.

Let's Talk Resident Engagement Program Work Plan (updated September 2021)				
Program Work Plan Item <i>*New item from Blitz 2</i>	Description	Neighborhood Input to Date (rank/support)	City Council and Adopted City Policy Alignment	Status (Categories: Advance in 2021/2022, Budget/Increase Budget for 2022/2023, Requires City Council Policy Direction, Monitor)
*Improve 38th Avenue between Kipling and Youngfield Streets for Walking and Biking	Evaluate preferred concepts followed by developing cost estimates and funding options with a community process.	Applewood (1 of 10, 81% support)	Reexamining and advancing sidewalks on 38 th Avenue is one of City Council's 2021-2022 strategic priorities. The City's adopted Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan (2017) identifies this corridor as a priority for related improvements.	Advance in 2021/2022, Potentially Budget for 2023, Requires City Council Policy Direction City staff intends to bring forward a scope of work and design process to City Council later in 2021 or early 2022, with a subsequent budget request in 2022 (for a 2023 project kickoff). Its integration with improvements to 38th Avenue east would be part of that discussion.
Increase Resources for Neighborhood Traffic Management Program (NTMP) Program	Increase funding and/or staffing for this program that includes a community and technical process to evaluate streets for various traffic calming strategies.	Bel Aire (1 of 8, 74% support)	The City's adopted Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan (2017) recommends expansion of the NTMP program (p. 30).	Recommended Increased Budget for 2022-2023 City staff are recommending a budget increase from \$24,000 in 2021 to \$100,000 in 2022 to City Council in October 2021 to expand the ability for staff to be more responsive to an increasing number of resident requests and potentially fund some physical improvements that come out of the program.
		Leppla Manor (2 of 9, 61% support)		
		East Wheat Ridge (6 of 9, 78% support)		
		Applewood (10 of 10, 61% support)		

¹ This number reflects the percentage of respondents in each neighborhood that said they either support or strongly support this action item.

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*Implement Targeted 44th Avenue Improvements	Evaluate targeted and cost-effective strategies to improve 44th Avenue east of Wadsworth Boulevard within the City's public right-of-way. "Targeted" and "cost-effective" would mean working within the existing street configuration, without changing lanes or impacting traffic flow, and without any reconstruction of the street.	Leppla Manor (1 of 9, 81% support)	The Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy (NRS) (2019) identifies 44 th Avenue east of Wadsworth on the short list of future priority corridors for planning and improvements.	Monitor and Potentially Advance in 2022 City staff intends to explore both short- and long-term opportunities for such targeted improvements in 2022 as part of a potential 2023 budget request. Such opportunities could include tactical urbanism or pop-up improvements, property/business owner driven projects, grant programs, or capital project budget requests.
Implement the 38th Avenue Corridor Plan (east) "Main Street" Vision	Advance the vision in adopted plans and other efforts to date that addresses 38th Avenue between Wadsworth and Sheridan in east Wheat Ridge.	East Wheat Ridge (1 of 9, 81% support)	Reexamining and advancing sidewalks on 38 th Avenue is one of City Council's 2021-2022 strategic priorities. The adopted 38 th Avenue Corridor Plan (2011) and Conceptual Streetscape Design (2014) both provide direction to advance a "main street" vision for 38 th Avenue between Wadsworth and Sheridan.	Advance Some Elements in 2021/2022, Requires City Council Policy Direction City staff are actively advancing The Green on 38 th project to advance a strategic element of the "main street" vision. The City is launching public engagement in Fall 2021 to gather resident input in the design and development of a future public gathering space in front of Stevens Elementary between Upham Street and High Court on 38th Avenue. More information can be found at: https://whatsupwheatridge.com/the-green-at-38th . City Council is slated to address this item more comprehensively at a study session in the first quarter of 2022.
*Improve Youngfield Corridor	Improve the Youngfield Street corridor (for segments within Wheat Ridge) by addressing a range of topics including vehicular traffic flow, walking and biking access and safety, signage, landscaping, and other enhancements.	Applewood (2 of 10, 78% support)	The City's adopted Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan (2017) identifies this corridor as a priority for related improvements.	Advance in 2021/2022, Budget for in 2022 Design concepts are being developed and the City's Urban Renewal Authority plans to issue a bond in November 2021 to fund improvements. The design concepts address bicycle, pedestrian, and vehicular traffic and corridor beautification and follow completion of CDOT's I-70 and Youngfield/32nd Avenue improvements.

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Address Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs)²	Address Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) in the City's zoning regulations, whereas the City does not currently acknowledge these types of units as any different from other types of dwelling units.	Bel Aire (2 of 8, 61% support)	This is one of City Council's 2021-2022 strategic priorities. The 2019 NRS recommends addressing ADUs starting as early as 2021.	Advance in 2021/2022, Requires City Council Policy Direction Staff has scheduled a study session with City Council in November 2021 to discuss ADUs and seek policy direction.
		East Wheat Ridge (2 of 9, 73% support)		
		Leppla Manor (4 of 9, 68% support)		
		Applewood (9 of 10, 46% support)		
*Explore Rezoning 38th and Miller Street Area for Neighborhood Commercial	Consider a rezoning process for the approximately 9-acre area around 38th Avenue and Miller Street that is currently zoned for commercial uses to support it becoming a "neighborhood main street" area.	Applewood (3 of 10, 78% support)	The 2019 NRS calls for enabling residents (through this resident engagement program) to identify possible rezonings for neighborhood retail (p. 55).	Monitor City staff will gauge interest from the adjacent Paramount Park neighborhood in a future blitz and will evaluate inquiries from property owners as they arise about rezoning this area to a neighborhood-scale retail zone district.
*Improve Otis Street Clear Creek Trail Access	Evaluate improvements around the Otis Street Clear Creek trailhead and in the area leading to it. Improvements could include new wayfinding signage leading to the trailhead from the neighborhood, parking area improvements addressing drainage, and enhanced buffering from I-70.	Leppla Manor (3 of 9, 75% support)	The City's adopted Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan (2017) identifies this as a future priority connection from 48 th Avenue to the trailhead.	Advance in 2021-2022 City staff have applied for funding from Jefferson County Open Space for these improvements, which requires collaboration with the City of Arvada as portions of the area accessing the trail are not in Wheat Ridge. The results from that funding request are expected in December 2021.

² The action item related to ADUs was framed more broadly to Bel Aire and East Wheat Ridge residents to "broaden housing options," which also included whether more residential should be allowed on the city's commercial corridors.

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Improve 35th Avenue for Walking and Bicycling	Add bicycle and pedestrian improvements on 35th Avenue from approximately Sheridan to Teller Street.	East Wheat Ridge (3 of 9, 76% support)	The City's adopted Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan (2017) recommends related improvements to this stretch of road.	Recommended Budget for 2022 City staff have included the design of 35 th Avenue bicycle and pedestrian improvements with a community process as part of our 2022 work plan. The 5-year CIP assigns \$500,000 toward construction in 2023. We anticipate that being part of our budget request for 2023. This project would evaluate the segment from Teller to Sheridan Streets and aligns with the City's Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan, East Wheat Ridge resident input, and City staff's assessment of residential streets in need of improvement.
Policies and/or Rules to Support Improvements to Appearance of Commercial Corridors	This could include new design standards and guidelines, zoning rule changes, or other City tools to promote aesthetic improvements to corridors like 44th Avenue, 38th Avenue, and Wadsworth.	Bel Aire (3 of 8, 90% support)	"Commercial Corridor Code Review" is one of City Council's 2021-2022 strategic priorities.	Advance in 2021/2022, Requires City Council Policy Direction City Council is slated to address this item at a study session in early to mid-2022.
		East Wheat Ridge (4 of 9, 88% support)		
Adopt Tree Preservation Rules	Create new rules that either require or encourage retention of mature, healthy trees or a like-for-like replacement of trees removed.	Bel Aire (6 of 8, 83% support)	The Comprehensive Plan (2009) recommends tree preservation rules (p. 98).	Advance Related Elements in 2021/2022, Monitor, Requires City Council Policy Direction The City is launching a Hazardous Tree Removal Program that will provide grants to private landowners for removal of dead or dying hazardous trees at risk and opportunities to plant new trees in certain locations. More information can be found here . City staff has no plans to advance any tree preservation rules on private property in the near term based on mixed resident feedback and has not gotten any City Council direction to do so.
		East Wheat Ridge (5 of 9, 79% support)		
		Applewood (4 of 10, 73% support)		
		Leppla Manor (8 of 9, 69% support)		

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*Improve Access to Clear Creek	Evaluate improving current Clear Creek access points and explore creating new access points, then develop a funding strategy.	Applewood (5 of 10, 68% support)	Clear Creek is recognized as one of the City's most valuable assets in multiple adopted plans including the Parks and Recreation Master Plan and Comprehensive Plan.	Monitor City staff will continue to evaluate improving existing access opportunities to the Clear Creek trail and greenbelt and considering new ones in concert with identifying funding opportunities (e.g., through Jefferson County Open Space).
*Implement Targeted Traffic Calming on 32nd Avenue between Kipling and Youngfield Streets	Evaluate targeted and cost-effective strategies for traffic calming on 32nd Avenue from Kipling to Youngfield Streets.	Applewood (7 of 10, 64% support)	The City's adopted Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan (2017) does not specifically identify this stretch for any traffic calming, but has policies supporting evaluation of such measures when warranted on any residential street.	Monitor No action is planned at this time, but City staff will remain open to evaluating a future project to address targeted traffic calming measures on this roadway segment.
*Improve Apel-Bacher Park	Evaluate a range of park improvements which could include better playground equipment, landscaping, and other amenities.	Leppla Manor (5 of 9, 68% support)	The City's Parks and Recreation Master Plan (2015) recommends investigating the park's use patterns and making improvements (p. 96).	Advance in 2021/2022, Potentially Budget in 2022 for 2023 The City is proposing to budget for a 2022 playground replacement. The Parks and Recreation Department will also seek supplemental grant funding for the project. These improvements would solicit community feedback.
*Expand Hopper Hollow Park	Conduct outreach to private property owners adjacent to the park that may be interested in selling their property to the City to expand the square footage of the park.	Leppla Manor (7 of 9, 59% support)	Hopper Hollow Park's construction (2016) followed guidance from the City's adopted 2006 Parks and Recreation Master Plan.	Monitor No action is planned at this time, but City staff will continue to remain open to discussion with adjacent property owners that may be interested in selling to the City to expand the park.

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Expand Dumpster and Cleanup Days to Address Property Maintenance and Code Enforcement Issues	Expand these programs in recognition that they promote both community building and improved property maintenance. More information can be found on this partnership between the City and Localworks here .	Bel Aire (7 of 8, 91% support) East Wheat Ridge (8 of 9, 85% support) Applewood (6 of 10, 91% support) Leppla Manor (6 of 9, 79% support)	The 2019 NRS calls attention to property maintenance and code enforcement as a key issue (see neighborhood metrics on pp. 25-33), and the 2009 Comprehensive Plan calls for similar efforts (p. 55).	Recommended Increased Budget for 2022-2023 City staff are recommending a budget increase from \$37,000 in 2021 to \$57,000 in 2022 to City Council in October 2021 to expand the capacity of this program where demand nearly always outpaces program resources.
Expand Bulk Plane	Expand current bulk plane rules to apply to more residential areas to regulate building size. More information on the current rules and how they were developed can be found here .	Bel Aire (5 of 8, 63% support) East Wheat Ridge (7 of 9, 59% support) Applewood (8 of 10, 57% support) Leppla Manor (9 of 9, 46% support)	"Implementing bulk plane in all residential zone districts" is one of City Council's 2021-2022 strategic priorities.	Advance in 2021/2022, Requires City Council Policy Direction City Council is slated to address this item at a study session in the first quarter of 2022.
Improve Communications on Development Projects with Potential Neighborhood Impacts	Expand notice to stakeholders for some development applications and expand available information for pending and active development projects.	Bel Aire (4 of 8, 81% support) East Wheat Ridge (9 of 9, 67% support)	"New efforts in engagement of community in government and understanding of City processes" is one of City Council's 2021-2022 strategic priorities.	Advance in 2021/2022 City staff are addressing this topic on multiple fronts. In 2019-2020, the City created new engagement tools – Wheat Ridge Speaks for online engagement with public hearings, and What's Up Wheat Ridge for other types of engagement. A zoning code amendment is pending whereby property owners <u>and occupants</u> get notified of development applications (slated for City Council public hearing on November 8, 2021). The City is developing a new online, map-based and publicly accessible development and infrastructure information tool with estimated completion in late 2022. This effort will be made possible by the 2022 hiring of a new Geographic Information Systems (GIS) position to support administering this tool among several other duties.

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