



Board of County Commissioners  
Eva J. Henry - District #1  
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Emma Pinter - District #3  
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Lynn Baca - District #5

## STUDY SESSION AGENDA

Tuesday  
November 15, 2022

*ALL TIMES LISTED ON THIS AGENDA ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE*

### STUDY SESSION ITEMS

11:30 a.m.	ATTENDEE(S):	Michael Ruddock / Eliza Schultz / Elisabeth Rosen / Alan Morse
	ITEM:	State Lobbyist Legislative Update
12:00 p.m.	ATTENDEE(S):	Byron Fanning / Rae-Anne Reichow
	ITEM:	Fall 2022 Open Space Sales Tax Grant Award Recommendations
12:30 p.m.	ATTENDEE(S):	Brian Staley
	ITEM:	E. 58th Ave. Project Change Order - Contaminate Mitigation
1:00 p.m. – 1:10 p.m.	ATTENDEE(S):	
	ITEM:	Break
1:10 p.m.	ATTENDEE(S):	Jenni Hall / Ryan Nalty / Chase Evans / Tim Morgan / Ethan Rouse / Caroline Joy
	ITEM:	Economic Development Strategies & Organizational Funding
1:40 p.m.	ATTENDEE(S):	Noel Bernal
	ITEM:	2023 Memberships / Sponsorships
2:10 p.m.	ATTENDEE(S):	Noel Bernal
	ITEM:	Administrative Item Review / Commissioners Communication

**2:40 p.m.**

**ATTENDEE(S):**

**Heidi Miller**

**ITEM:**

**Executive Session Pursuant to C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(b)  
and (e) for the Purpose of Receiving Legal Advice and  
Instructing Negotiators Regarding DIA Land  
Development**

**(AND SUCH OTHER MATTERS OF PUBLIC BUSINESS WHICH MAY ARISE)**

**\*\*\*AGENDA IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE\*\*\***



## STUDY SESSION ITEM SUMMARY

<b>DATE OF STUDY SESSION:</b> November 15, 2022
<b>SUBJECT/TITLE:</b> State Lobbyist Legislative Update
<b>OFFICE/DEPARTMENT:</b> County Manager's Office
<b>CONTACT:</b> Michael Ruddock, Policy Analyst
<b>FINANCIAL IMPACT:</b> None
<b>SUPPORT/RESOURCES REQUEST:</b> None
<b>DIRECTION NEEDED:</b> Informational update.

### DISCUSSION POINTS:

- Election results/state political map
  - General Assembly breakdown
  - Adams County races
  - Leadership Elections
- Update on priority bills
  - County Revitalization
  - Treasurer Accountability
- Looking forward
  - Start of Session Jan. 9
- Legislation process check-in
  - Adams County Internal Legislative Committee
  - Board of Commissioners makes all final decisions on all legislation

# State Lobby Team Update

November 15, 2022

Prepared by: Eliza Schultz, Elisabeth Rosen and Alan Morse

# Election Update

- Democrats won big in Colorado, picking up every competitive seat plus some.
- Democrats will have historically large majorities in both chambers.
- In the House 46-19
- In the Senate, 23- 12
- Democrats also won every statewide race (Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General and Treasurer)

## Passed Ballot Measures

- Amendment D – Passed - 18th judicial district
- Amendment E – Passed - Extends homestead exemption to gold star families
- Proposition FF – Passed – Healthy School Lunch for all
- Proposition GG – Passed – Table for changes in taxes owed on ballot measures
- Proposition 121 – Passed – Reduce state income tax
- Proposition 122 – Passed – Legalize mushrooms
- Proposition 123 – Passed – Affordable housing fund
- Proposition 125 – Passed – Wine in grocery stores

## Failed Ballot Measures

- Amendment F – Failed – Charitable gaming licenses
- Proposition 124 – Failed – Expand liquor licenses
- Proposition 126 – Failed – third party delivery for alcohol

# Senate Leadership

- Senate Democrats:  
President: Sen. Stephen Fenberg (D- Boulder)  
President pro tem: Sen. James Coleman (D-Denver)  
Majority leader: Sen. Dominick Moreno (D-Commerce City)\*  
Asst. Majority: Leader: Sen. Robert Rodriguez (D- Denver)  
Majority Whip: Sen. Julie Gonzales (D-Denver)  
Caucus chair: Sen. Janet Buckner (D-Aurora)
- Senate Republicans:  
Minority Leader: Sen. Paul Lundeen (R-Monument)  
Asst. Minority Leader: Sen. Bob Gardner (R-Colorado Springs)  
Caucus Chairman: Sen. Jim Smallwood (D-Douglas County)  
Minority Whip: Sen. Barb Kirkmeyer (D-Weld County)



# House Leadership

- House Democrats  
Speaker: Rep. Julie McCluskie (D-Summit County)  
Majority Leader: Rep. Monica Duran (D-Wheat Ridge)  
Asst. Majority Leader: Rep. Jennifer Bacon (D-Denver)  
Majority Co-Whip: Rep. Andrew Boesenecker (D-Fort Collins)  
Majority Co-Whip: Rep. Iman Jodeh (D-Aurora)  
Majority Caucus Co-Chair: Rep. Mandy Lindsay (D-Aurora)  
Majority Caucus Co-Chair: Rep. Brianna Titone (D-Arvada)
- House Republicans:  
Minority Leader: Rep. Mike Lynch (R-Weld County)  
Asst. Minority Leader: Rep. Rose Pugliese (R-Mesa County)  
Caucus Chair: Rep. Mary Bradfield (R-El Paso County)  
Minority Whip: Rep. Richard Holtorf (R-Akron)

# Adams County Delegation

- Sen. Dominick Moreno (D)
- Sen. Faith Winter (D)
- Sen. Kyle Mullica (D)
- Sen. Kevin Priola (D)
- Sen. Janet Buckner (D)
- Sen. Rachel Zenzinger (D)
- Rep. Shannon Bird (D)
- Rep. Adrienne Beneavidez (D)
- Rep. Dafna Michaelson Jenet (D)
- Rep. William Lindstedt (D)
- Rep. Lindsey Daugherty (D)
- Rep. Jenny Wilford (D)
- Rep. Mike Weissman (D)
- Rep. Said Sharbini (D)
- Rep. Rod Bockenfeld (R)
- Rep. Gabe Evans (R)

## Joint Budget Committee

- The Joint Budget Committee starts meeting this week with hearings from state departments on budget requests. The JBC will continue to meet through March.
- Members:
  - Sen. Rachel Zenzinger (D-Arvada) – Chair \*
  - Rep. Shannon Bird (D-Westminster) – Vice Chair \*
  - Sen. Jeff Bridges (D-Englewood)
  - Rep. Emily Sirota (D-Denver)
  - Sen. Bob Rankin (R-Carbondale)
  - Rep. Rod Bockenfeld (R-Adams County) \*

# Budget Forecast

- The last economic forecast was presented in September
- A billion dollar surplus is forecasted for next fiscal year, but that surplus is much smaller when you incorporate caseload growth and other budgetary obligations.
- TABOR continues to constrain the budget
- JBC will have to balance many priorities

# Governor's Budget Request

- Governor Jared Polis released his budget request on November 1
- Priorities:
  - Fee relief, lower cost housing, and healthcare innovation
  - implementing the first year of Universal Preschool for Colorado
  - Investing in public and school safety
  - Responding to evolving wildfire risks;
  - Increasing affordable workforce housing supply
  - Buying down the budget stabilization factor by \$35 million
  - Supporting targeted workforce needs in health and safety areas
  - Defending the State's water rights
  - Setting aside State funds to maximize the new federal infrastructure dollars to draw down for Colorado to support projects in rail, broadband, water, etc.
  - Maintaining the record 15% reserve.

# County Revitalization Bill

- OLLS is drafting
- Stakeholder Work Update
  - SDA
  - CCI
  - CML
- Leadership
- Next Steps

# Treasurer Bill

- Stakeholder meetings with Treasurer Association
- Engagement with Rep Bird

## Upcoming Dates

- MONDAY Jan 9: Session Starts
- Feb 14: Senate Committee deadline\*
- Feb 21: House Committee deadline\*
- March 1: Bills must pass first chamber\*
- March 27: Introduction of the budget in the Senate
- April 14: Long Bill Conference Committee adoption
- MONDAY May 8: Sine Die
  
- \*Leadership may waive these deadlines on a case-by-case basis





## STUDY SESSION ITEM SUMMARY

<b>DATE OF STUDY SESSION:</b> November 15, 2022
<b>SUBJECT/TITLE:</b> Fall 2022 Open Space Sales Tax Grant Award Recommendations
<b>OFFICE/DEPARTMENT:</b> Parks, Open Space & Cultural Arts
<b>CONTACT:</b> Mary Willis
<b>FINANCIAL IMPACT:</b> \$10,480,479.69
<b>SUPPORT/RESOURCES REQUEST:</b> Present the Open Space Advisory Board's recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners
<b>DIRECTION NEEDED:</b> Approval from the Board of County Commissioners

### **DISCUSSION POINTS:**

On September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2022, the Open Space Program received 14 full grant applications and 4 mini grant applications for a total of 18 grant submissions.

The total amount requested for open space grants in this cycle is \$11,206,484.69 which includes mini grants. The total amount available for distribution was \$10,679,951.42 (Exhibit A for details).

The Open Space Advisory Board (OSAB) recommended funding of the applications that scored 1 through 13 and not funding projecting 14.

If the Board of County Commissioners follows the OSAB's recommendations, the fund will carry a balance to the next grant cycle in the amount of \$199,471.74. Detailed information about each grant and the OSAB's recommendations are below. The projects are listed according to their ranking, with mini grants listed last. See Exhibit A.

### **Adams County – Clear Creek Water Park**

#### **Project Summary:**

Adams County Parks, Open Space & Cultural Arts seeks additional funding for the Clear Creek Whitewater Park. An eight-foot drop structure currently exists along Clear Creek west of Pecos

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Street. The drop structure used to protect the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) bridge foundations, but the BNSF recently replaced the bridge with one that no longer needs the drop structure. The drop structure is now obsolete, and in order to mitigate a safety hazard and improve flood conveyance it should be replaced. Replacing the drop structure outside the BNSF right-of-way presents a tremendous opportunity for recreational enhancements and improvements to the health of Clear Creek. This is Adams County's second application for funding for this project, due to significant increases in the project cost estimate.

**Grant Request:** 50% of the total project costs, up to \$1,500,000.00

**Previous Grant Request:** No

**OSAB Recommendation:** Full funding

**OSAB Vote:** Motion for full funding passed, 6-0

### **City of Aurora – Westerly Creek Greenway Improvements**

#### **Project Summary:**

The project includes greenway improvements such as channel realignment to create more usable recreation space and trail connectivity from the Westerly Creek Regional trail to Aurora residents, business, and local developments where a gap currently exists. A passive recreation area will also be developed including an event lawn, future futsal courts, seating, internal trails, enhanced native landscaping and overall water quality improvements. The project is a collaborative vision between the City of Aurora, Mile High Flood District, adjacent businesses, and the local community. This phase will include design for the project with the second phase being construction.

**Grant Request:** 61.73% of the total project costs, up to \$750,000.00

**Previous Grant Request:** No

**OSAB Recommendation:** Full funding

**OSAB Vote:** Motion for full funding passed, 6-0

### **City of Brighton – Cherry Meadows Park**

#### **Project Summary:**

This grant request is for constructing the new Cherry Meadows Park on an undeveloped 4.38-acre site in northern Brighton. The park lies adjacent to Brighton's future regional trail that will circle the city. This neighborhood park will include a playground with poured-in-place surfacing, other play structures, a loop trail, road buffer, shelter, benches, site furnishings, bike rack, signage, pond, trees, shrubs, and 40% of the site will be bluegrass while 60% of the site will contain native grasses. This park, when completed, will be sustainable and create a positive impact on this neighborhood, regional trail users, and the community.

**Grant Request:** 33.33% of the total project costs, up to \$600,000.00

**Previous Grant Request:** No

**OSAB Recommendation:** Full funding

**OSAB Vote:** Motion for full funding passed, 6-0

### **City of Commerce City – Stampede Park Improvements**

#### **Project Summary:**

Commerce City is requesting funds for several improvements to Stampede Park located in the Buffalo Run West subdivision. The park is approximately 9 acres in size and was constructed 20 years ago. Few improvements have been made to date and several amenities are nearing the end

of their lifespan. This project will replace the irrigation system and the playground and add a basketball court.

**Grant Request:** 57.69% of the total project costs, up to \$375,000.00

**Previous Grant Request:** No

**OSAB Recommendation:** Full funding

**OSAB Vote:** Motion for full funding passed, 6-0

#### **City of Commerce City - Fairfax Park Improvements**

##### **Project Summary:**

Fairfax Park received a major renovation in 2013 replacing shelters, improving ball fields, adding a futsal court, and creating a full loop perimeter trail. At that time, the playground was still in good condition but now it is over 20 years old and needs to be replaced. Leveraging available funds for the playground replacement will allow the city to replace the vault toilet with a plumbed restroom and add a structure for the seasonal portable restroom as well. Repair and replacement are a priority for the city and this project will ensure park users have the best possible experience at Fairfax Park.

**Grant Request:** 56% of the total project costs, up to \$700,000.00

**Previous Grant Request:** No

**OSAB Recommendation:** Full funding

**OSAB Vote:** Motion for full funding passed, 6-0

#### **City of Northglenn - E.B. Raines Jr. Memorial Park Renovation Project**

**Project Summary:** E.B. Rains Jr. Memorial Park is a heavily used, 22-acre regional park. The Park includes a variety of amenities, but this project will focus on the four primary components, below. The goal of each of these projects is to refresh and update several key areas within the park striving to increase accessibility, safety, security, and encouraging adequate use of the facilities. This project will consist of construction of the four primary components:

- A. Complete Renovation or Replacement of Existing Restroom near Playground.
- B. Sitting Wall & Pedestrian Access Trail Replacement.
- C. Skatepark Hardscape Enhancements.
- D. New Parks & Recreation Storage Facility with Restrooms (adjacent to east parking lot).

**Grant Request:** 50% of the total project costs, up to \$1,350,000.00

**Previous Grant Request:** No

**OSAB Recommendation:** Full funding

**OSAB Vote:** Motion for full funding passed, 6-0

#### **City of Thornton – Playground & Furniture Rehab & Installation**

##### **Project Summary:**

Thornton has 73 playgrounds and almost 40% are 20 years old. Most were built by development as part of subdivision requirements and today don't meet the city's Design Guidelines of play components or site furniture. Replacing two playgrounds per year of the 29 oldest playgrounds will take almost 15 years to complete, at which point most of the remaining 44 playgrounds would also be 20 years old--a no-win timeline. This grant would help fund playground & furniture rehab & installation as Thornton develops a depreciation plan and works to increase the annual number of play area rehabilitations.

**Grant Request:** 70% of the total project costs, up to \$726,005.00

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**Previous Grant Request:** No

**OSAB Recommendation:** Full funding

**OSAB Vote:** Motion for full funding passed, 6-0

**City of Thornton - Shade the day, Light the Night! Pavilions and Skatepark Lighting**

**Project Summary:**

This grant request will help Thornton improve physical comfort and extend usage hours at a number of parks through provision of shade pavilions and skatepark lighting. New shade pavilions are being installed at Community Park, Tuck Ditch Park, and the West Sprat Platte Archery Range. Thornton is also in the process of designing and installing lighting at three different skateparks; Slocum Memorial Skatepark, Carpenter Park Skatepark, and Trail Winds Skatepark. The shade projects will create more comfort on hot days, and the skatepark lighting will extend hours of use and enjoyment for the skateparks, especially during the winter months, by an estimated 736 hours.

**Grant Request:** 70% of the total project costs, up to \$728,000.00

**Previous Grant Request:** No

**OSAB Recommendation:** Full funding

**OSAB Vote:** Motion for full funding passed, 6-0

**City of Westminster – Squires Park Renovation**

**Project Summary:**

This project will update one of the most popular parks in the city, home to one of the best mountain views in our system. Squires was built in 1985 and is 16.6 acres. The park abuts Rocky Mountain Elementary School on the west and south, and offers a large picnic pavilion, playground, basketball court, detention – natural area, washrooms, a non-programmed ballfield, and soccer / open play areas. Planned improvements include a new adventure playground, accessibility upgrades, trails, replacement of a 30-year-old irrigation system, additional native vegetation, an overlook with interpretive signage, a small off-leash dog area, and additional shade shelters.

**Grant Request:** 33.33% of the total project costs, up to \$900,000.00

**Previous Grant Request:** No

**OSAB Recommendation:** Full funding

**OSAB Vote:** Motion for full funding passed, 6-0

**City of Westminster – Implementation of McKay Lake Area Management Plan**

**Project Summary:**

The City of Westminster Open Space team is seeking funds for implementation of the McKay Lake Area Management Plan. The existing infrastructure is not sustainable as it does not account for increased usership and higher water levels. The proposed plan includes sustainable and accessible trails, raised trails for habitat connectivity and flood resistance, and an expanded trailhead and parking lot with restroom facilities and a picnic area. The support of Adams County funding will allow the city to take on the whole project in a cohesive approach that promotes sustainability and a positive user experience.

**Grant Request:** 67.89% of the total project costs, up to \$1,000,000.00

**Previous Grant Request:** No

**OSAB Recommendation:** No funding

**OSAB Vote:** Motion to not approve funding passed, 6-0

**Hyland Hills Park and Recreation District – Clear Creek Valley Park – Phase V- Large Event Shelter(s)**

**Project Summary:**

The goal is to continue to meet the needs of the community at Clear Creek Valley Regional Park. In Phase V, we plan to add an event shelter (60 x 90) to host events such as farmer markets, large family gatherings and other special events. We also want to add three additional shelters to allow for areas that can be used for programs as well as family events. One of the shelters would be located in the community garden area to allow for educational programming and a place for the community garden plot holders to have shade areas to get relief from the heat. The other two shelters would be located by the newly renovated sand volleyball and pickleball courts.

**Grant Request:** 60% of the total project costs, up to \$360,000.00

**Previous Grant Request:** No

**OSAB Recommendation:** Full funding

**OSAB Vote:** Motion for full funding passed, 6-0

**Town of Bennett – Civic Center Park Construction**

**Project Summary:**

Bennett Civic Center came to life in 2010 via comprehensive planning, when the Town of Bennett identified anew central area along Highway 79 that would become the core of Bennett. Civic Center Park is identified in the Town’s Parks, Trails, and Open Space Master Plan as one of the Most valuable assets for active and passive recreational amenities in the community. Phase I of Civic Center Park encompasses the veteran’s memorial, trailhead parking, community garden and this Historical Charles Muegge House. Phase II of Civic Center is the subject of this grant. Phase II is the construction of a regional park which will include many active amenities, including playfields, playgrounds, and water activities.

**Grant Request:** 60% of the total project costs, up to \$1,950,000.00

**Previous Grant Request:** No

**OSAB Recommendation:** Full funding

**OSAB Vote:** Motion for full funding passed, 6-0

**Town of Bennett - Art in the Park**

**Project Summary:**

This project is to commission Some Girls and a Mural to paint one large mural in our Civic Center Park complex and five smaller murals at our other Adams County Parks. The murals will be of regional birds. The overarching theme for the murals is "Bennett a Place to Spread your Wings". This ties into other art in the community such as the "Nest" located at the Bennett Any Think Library. The large mural is located off of the Highway 79 Trail which is the backbone of the trail system. Near the large mural there will be directional signs encouraging the use of our trail system to see the other smaller murals.

**Grant Request:** 70% of the total project costs, up to \$70,000.00

**Previous Grant Request:** No

**OSAB Recommendation:** Full funding

**OSAB Vote:** Motion for full funding passed, 6-0

**US Fish and Wildlife Service RMA National Wildlife Refuge – Visitor Center Amphitheater Shade Structures**

**Project Summary:**

This project will build upon the extensive and ever improving public-use facilities at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge) by creating a modern shade structure over the Visitor Center amphitheater. The Refuge is a major outdoor recreational facility in Adams County and this project will enhance recreational opportunities and repeat visitation by providing much needed shade in this public space that connects to the Rocky Mountain Greenway Trail.

**Grant Request:** 67% of the total project costs, up to \$116,479.69

**Previous Grant Request:** No

**OSAB Recommendation:** Full funding

**OSAB Vote:** Motion for full funding passed, 6-0

**Mini Grant's:**

**City of Brighton – HS Seniors Beautification Project at Carmichael Park**

**Project Summary:**

This “High School Seniors Beautification Project at Carmichael Park” addresses several needs with one overall purpose. The purpose of the project is to enhance the beauty and shade within the heavily used Carmichael Park. The park is the host to huge special events (Summerfest, 4th of July, Citywide BBQ, Art in the Park, and more), concerts and summer movies, walking, jogging, in-line skating, tennis, pick-up frisbee games and tag football, outdoor fitness classes, playground use, reunions, family picnics, and more. The purpose of this all-inclusive tree planting project will be accomplished with volunteer labor from High School Senior students of all abilities. The Seniors will be planting 30 trees (deciduous trees and evergreen trees) around the edges of the park and in highly visible locations. The city will use native Colorado tree species where considered appropriate due to the soils within the park site. All of the trees surrounding the park will be planted in new locations and a few will be replacing trees that died or were vandalized over the past twelve years. The evergreen trees will be a minimum of 5-6 feet tall, and the deciduous trees will be 2-inch caliper in size. This busy park also includes birds singing in the trees, squirrels, rabbits, and other small wildlife living in or around the grounds. Plus, humans walking, jogging, running, bicycling, skateboarding, using electric scooters, and transporting by other means through the areas where the grant-funded trees will be planted. Our Parks, Forestry, and Open Space staff will educate the High School Seniors about the tree species being planted, how to plant them correctly, plus explaining why the Adams County Open Space grant funding is important for this project, and how the city is using the Adams County Open Space Tax funding. The Brighton High School 2012 Senior Class approached the City’s Parks and Recreation Department and wanted to do a Park Beautification Project in Carmichael Park instead of entering into unsafe and unhealthy behavior of the traditional “Ditch Day”. The Department, during each spring from 2012 through 2019, has worked with Brighton High School on park beautification projects with each of their Senior classes. (The Seniors have completed nine tree planting projects within the City’s Open Spaces and Parks.) The ninth and tenth beautification projects, scheduled for the Seniors, were during the 2020 and 2021 Coronavirus COVID19 Pandemic and the Senior classes were not allowed to attend because of the Pandemic. The City’s Parks, Forestry, and Open Space Division ordered and planted the trees per approval of Adams County. When Carmichael Park was originally re-built in 2012, Brighton only had enough funding to complete two-thirds of the park and had to decrease the number of trees in the park. The park is the closest City-owned Park to Brighton High School. In 2023, the High School Seniors are scheduled to again participate in the tree planting project. And they are excited to again plant trees in Carmichael Park to enhance the shade, buffering, and beauty of the park. Due to the success and growth in participants of the past Beautification

Projects; the High School Seniors will again work with the City's Parks and Recreation Department – Parks, Forestry, and Open Space Division on this project. The Division, and neighbors of the park, realize that Carmichael Park needs an additional 30 trees. And this High School Seniors Beautification Project is an appropriate and inclusive project for the Senior class in late April-early May 2023, prior to their graduation. Watering of the trees and future tree maintenance will occur through the park irrigation system and the City Parks, Forestry, and Open Space staff. Payment for a portion of the trees is the only item being requested through this Adams County Open Space Mini-Grant application, and this an appropriate use of the Adams County Open Space grant funding.

**Grant Request:** 60% of the total project costs, up to \$6,000.00

**Previous Grant Request:** No

**OSAB Recommendations:** Full funding

**OSAB Vote:** Motion for full funding passed, 6-0

### **City of Thornton – Tree Canopy Restoration & EAB Mitigation**

**Project Summary:** Thornton's tree canopy and urban forest is an essential element to life in our community. As our residents indicated in our 2017 Parks and Open Space Master Plan, a variety of healthy tree throughout our community are vital to the overall sense of well-being and enjoyment. Our parks and open spaces provide the ideal canvas to create a vibrant and sustainable urban forest. Our current tree canopy has been decimated by the recent prolonged drought conditions, warmer average temperatures, decreased air quality, and the lack of available water resources. In addition to these environmental constraints, we have recently discovered the prevalence of the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) in the City of Thornton. This highly invasive and destructive pest continues to become increasingly more prevalent throughout the City of Thornton, Adams County and if left uncontrolled, the entire front range of Colorado. This project is intended to include tree removal, tree pruning, stump grinding, EAB treatments and additional tree planting. This project will help to identify, remove, and replace the declining Ash trees and replace them with new and more adaptable tree species. The work will take place throughout all of Thornton's Parks and Open Spaces in all five of the city's forest districts. All work performed will be under the direction/guidance of the City Forester. The project will result in a more resilient tree canopy that will provide needed shade for residents, increased habitat for birds, insects, and small mammals, and an increased sense of well-being for residents and visitors to the City of Thornton and Adams County.

**Grant Request:** 50% of the total project costs, up to \$25,000.00

**Previous Grant Request:** No

**OSAB Recommendations:** Full funding

**OSAB Vote:** Motion for full funding passed, 6-0

### **Hyland Hills Park and Recreation District – Bicycle Park at Clear Creek Valley Park**

#### **Project Summary:**

The purpose of the project is to hire a firm to work with staff and key stake holders to develop and present a concept plan and cost estimates for a new bicycle park at Clear Creek Valley Park. The concept plans will be used for the RFP project design stage and build out of the future bicycle park within Clear Creek Valley Park. The original plans for Clear Creek Valley Park called for having a bicycle park located within the park. The Clear Creek Valley Park location is ideal and a convenient bicycle environment where people of all ages and abilities can safely and comfortably enjoy their bicycle experiences. This aligns with Hyland Hills 2020 Parks and Recreation Master Plan as well as the City of Arvada Parks Master Plan with improved opportunity for outdoor recreation.

**Grant Request:** 50% of the total project costs, up to \$25,000.00

**OSAB Recommendations:** Full funding

**OSAB Vote:** Motion for full funding passed, 6-0

**Town of Bennett – Trupp Park Concrete Improvements**

**Project Summary:**

Trupp Park is currently our primary community park in Bennett. It is the location for our annual Bennett Days Celebration and in the site for many outdoor sports including soccer, flag football, rugby, and kickball. This park includes a skate and bicycle playground, and ADA inclusive playground with rubber surfacing, a grandstand utilizes in our summer party in the parks and a perimeter walking trail. The focus of this grant is to make much needed concrete repairs to the walkways within the park as well as on the concrete pad within the skate park. The concrete in the skate park is over 10-year-old and has developed several cracks due to settling and extreme weather conditions. The walkways throughout the park have also developed cracks, breaks, and significant gaps due to the same factors. The damaged concrete in both areas creates a significant safety concern for trips and falls for all users. Trupp Park is out most highly utilized park for all demographics, therefore it is important that these repairs are made

**Grant Request:** 50% of the total project costs, up to \$25,000.00

**OSAB Recommendations:** Full funding

**OSAB Vote:** Motion for full funding passed, 6-0

**Comments from OSAB–Fall 2022**

**Project:**

Adams County Parks, Open Space and Cultural Arts – Clear Creek Water Park

- Significant open space funds have been given to this project. Now due to many factors, the project needs more money. I feel it should be completed not only because partners are in place, but the safety features and hazards still need to be mitigated. In doing so, unique recreational opportunities will be available not just for the immediate area, but really the whole state. This project should be completed for public safety and enjoyment.

**Project:**

Town of Bennett – Civic Center Park Construction

- The Town of Bennett has been diligently working to complete the civic center area. Step by Step, they are seeing the vision come to life. Bennett is a small community that would benefit greatly from more open space funds. Their hard work would be rewarded, and the comprehensive project will be closer to completion enhancing the lives of the residents and visitors.

**Project:**

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge – Visitor Center Amphitheater Shade Structure

- The Arsenal has become a well-used, unique park. It draws people from all over Adams County as well as the greater Denver area. The amphitheater is well done, and a shade structure is very important to thoroughly utilize this space and enhance the arsenal as an urban wildlife center.

**Project:**



City of Westminster – Implementation of the McKay Lake Area Management Plan

- Open space funds have been given to this project to plan a unique open space and environmental habitat in the metro area. Improvements will provide better accommodations for the public using this space. They will also preserve the wetlands habitat and provide trails with shoreline access for fishing. Elements for this project will include natural gardens and educational signage to enhance user enjoyment. This is a project that is worthy of supporting and finishing.

**Project:**

City of Brighton – Cherry Meadows Parks

- I do question why it has taken the City of Brighton to develop this parcel of land as I'm sure the residents would much rather have a park than a frankly not esthetically pleasing parcel of land. It seems as though it is time to develop this open space park so that residents of Brighton can use it for recreation. Consideration has been given to use 60% native grasses and plantings and 40% turf. The land also must have a retention pond available for floods and high water. This grant would help develop this previously unused land.

**Project:**

City of Northglenn – E.B. Raines Jr. Memorial Park Renovation Project

- This park is well “loved” and takes heavy usage. It does need renovations to maintain safety for park users and to expand areas for ADA compliance.

**Project:**

City of Aurora – Westerly Creek Greenway Improvements

- This grant would kick start a new design for a large greenway space (11 acres). As is, the trails do not connect. Habitats need restoration and water control is needed in high water events. This space has a great potential to enhance residents' recreation use of the extensive trail system in the metro area.

**Project:**

City of Commerce City – Fairfax Park Improvements

- This is a 20-year-old park with 22 acres and is highly used by the public. As anything that is older, improvements and renovations are needed. An open space grant can help in these projects with the park. Replacing surfaces and restrooms plus the addition of more portable restrooms would benefit park users.

**Project:**

Hyland Hills Park and Recreation District – Clear Creek Valley Park, Phase V – Large Event Shelters

- As this is Hyland Hills only park, shade structures would greatly enhance the park for its users. Open space funds have provided many improvements for this widely used park. Funding shade structures would be consistent with other grants given to Hyland Hills.

**Project:**

City of Thornton – Shade the Day, Light the Night! Pavilions and Skatepark Lighting

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**{{item.number}}**

- This grant would provide shade structures for several parks that currently don't provide protection from the sun for park users. Shade would enhance these parks. Lighting for numerous skateparks would extend the use of these skateparks with LED lighting especially in the fall and winter when night falls early. According to calculations over 700 hours of extra time to use these skateparks with lighting features.

**Project:**

City of Commerce City – Stampede Park Improvements

- Stampede Park is a nine acre, 20-year-old park. The open space grant would facilitate upgrades to the restrooms, replace the playground, irrigation system and create a new feature, a basketball court. All the elements would give the community users friendly improvements.

**Project:**

Town of Bennett – Art in the Parks

- Bennett missed out on this project last cycle, so for me this is a priority to fund the arts project. It is well thought out and will be a beautiful welcome to travelers and residents.

**Project:**

City of Westminster – Squires Park Renovation

- Squires Park is an older but heavily used park of 16 acres. This grant would help renovate and improve this park. Westminster asked the public for their input with many survey and public meetings which helped create the blueprint for the needed improvements.

**Project:**

City of Thornton – Playground & Furniture Rehab & Installation

- This grant would be for numerous Thornton parks that due to age and usage, need replacements of various features most notably the playgrounds and park furniture. Thornton wants to create equal improvements for all residents and users of their parks. Important to all the renovations would be more ADA accessibility as well as creative play.

**BACKGROUND:**

In 2021, the OSAB recommended that the BOCC approve a change to the maximum funding amount for mini grants from \$5,000 to \$25,000 which was approved on November 23, 2021. In practice, many jurisdictions have taken advantage of this change in funding amount and submitted request for the full \$25,000 for their mini grant requests. The OSAB is concerned that the mini grant funding amount may detract from funding being available for larger grant requests. They are requesting approval for two changes.

- Cap total mini grant funding to 2% of all available funds for each cycle (for example, if \$12,000,000.00 is the funding available for the cycle, mini grant awards would be capped at \$240,000)

**{{section.number}}.**  
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- In order to achieve the 2% cap and provide a feasible funding recommendation, mini grants are to be subject to the same ranking process as full project applications.

**Updates to Policies and Procedures:**

- Page 13: Updating Resolution 2020-480 Applying to the Program – Application Types
- Page 15: Updating Resolution 2020-480 Application Criteria and Scoring
  - o Presentations are required with either a video or Power Point presentation for mini grants

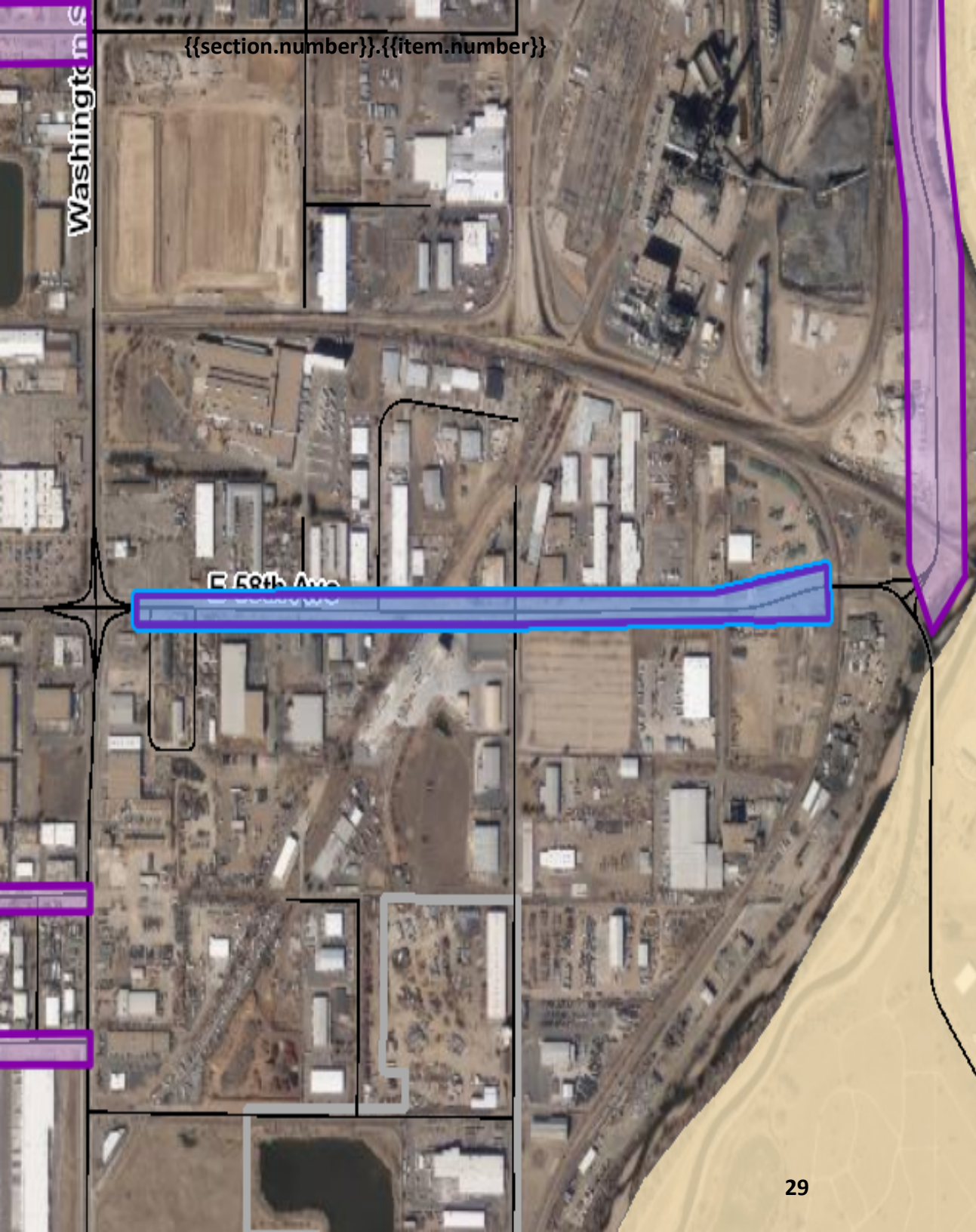


## STUDY SESSION ITEM SUMMARY

<b>DATE OF STUDY SESSION:</b> November 15, 2022
<b>SUBJECT/TITLE:</b> E. 58th Ave. Project Change Order - Contaminate Mitigation
<b>OFFICE/DEPARTMENT:</b> Public Works
<b>CONTACT:</b> Brian Staley
<b>FINANCIAL IMPACT:</b> None
<b>SUPPORT/RESOURCES REQUEST:</b> N/A
<b>DIRECTION NEEDED:</b> Selection of a contamination mitigation strategy for the E. 58th Ave. Project; approval of the proposed contamination mitigation change order in the amount of \$5.02M.

### DISCUSSION POINTS:

- Phase II Environmental study revealed soil and ground water contamination in the project area.
- Soils contaminated with Cadmium will need to be removed and trucked to Resource Conservation & Recovery Act (RCRA) Subtitle-C & D Landfill
- Arsenic is naturally occurring in Colorado however the soils on our project site is 5 times the natural allowable levels.
  - PW has two options to address the Arsenic contaminated soil: o A - The material may be trucked to WM for disposal (~\$5M) or o B - The material could be land applied at another County-owned property (~\$4M)
- Staff recommends Option A because there is no guarantee that the land applied method would not contaminate the new location and that the county would not be responsible for long term documentation of the material.



## 58<sup>TH</sup> AVE- WASHINGTON TO YORK

- Reconstruct & Widen to 4-Lanes
- Construct Curb, Gutter, & Sidewalk
- Intersection Improvements at Franklin Street
- Drainage System Improvements
- Construct a Water Quality Pond

## PROJECT STATUS



Construction began August  
1, 2022



Phase II Environmental  
Analysis Performed



Contaminated Soils &  
Groundwater Discovered

## PROCESS OPTIONS



Option A-\$5M



Option B-\$4M



## STUDY SESSION ITEM SUMMARY

<b>DATE OF STUDY SESSION:</b> November 15, 2022
<b>SUBJECT/TITLE:</b> Economic Development Strategies & Organizational Funding
<b>OFFICE/DEPARTMENT:</b> Community & Economic Development
<b>CONTACT:</b> Jenni Hall, Director; Ryan Nalty, Deputy Director
<b>FINANCIAL IMPACT:</b> The Board has requested additional information related to our economic development partnerships and strategic goals for consideration in the annual budgeting process.
<b>SUPPORT/RESOURCES REQUEST:</b> Not at this time
<b>DIRECTION NEEDED:</b> Provide input specifically on the topic of levels of membership support.

### DISCUSSION POINTS:

- Context of economic development function in Adams County
- Alignment to organizational vision, mission, structure
- Economic Development goals
- Partnerships and how they fit in 2023 budget
- Highlights of 2022 activity
- Major initiatives for 2023



# Economic Development Strategy & Organizational Funding

BoCC Study Session

Jenni Hall, Director and Ryan Nalty, Deputy Director

November 15, 2022



# What defines Economic Development?

*Economic development is the intentional practice of improving a community's economic well-being and quality of life. It includes a broad range of activities to attract, create, and retain jobs, and to foster a resilient pro-growth tax base and an inclusive economy. The practice of economic development comprises a collaborative effort involving industry, government and myriad community stakeholders.*

- International Economic Development Council



# Adams County Context

## Past

- Externally handled by Adams County Economic Development (ACED)
- Few municipalities had dedicated staff for economic development
- County government played a supporting role – largely financial
- More reactive in nature and centered on primary employment

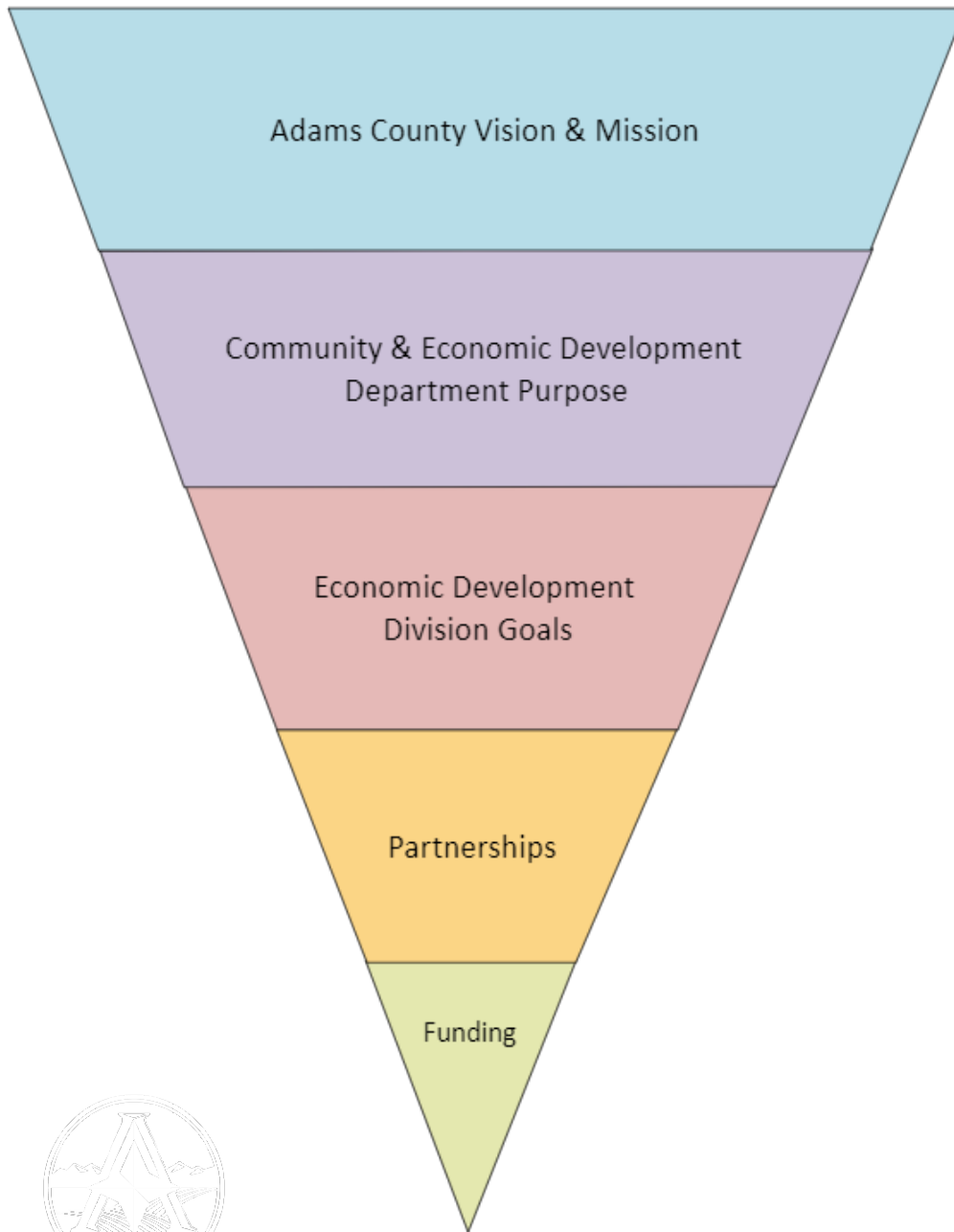
## Transition

- ACED and North Metro Chamber merged to form AC-REP
- Municipalities developed their own economic development staff
- Adams County created internal economic development function
- Desire to be more proactive and develop assets such as CASP and DEN for growth

## Present

- Emphasis on partnerships – cities, EDCs, chambers, and others – in updated and defined roles
- Staff from cities and County collaborating on economic development projects and activities
- Combined County Community & Economic Development Department to align vision and development
- Shift to strategic approach emphasizing inclusive and equitable economic development
  - Target industries and innovative technologies
  - Neighborhood and community-based economic development
  - Workforce housing
  - Redevelopment areas and brownfield sites





## Vision

*Adams County is the most innovative and inclusive county in America for all families and businesses.*

## Mission

*To responsibly serve the Adams County community with integrity and innovation.*



# Purpose

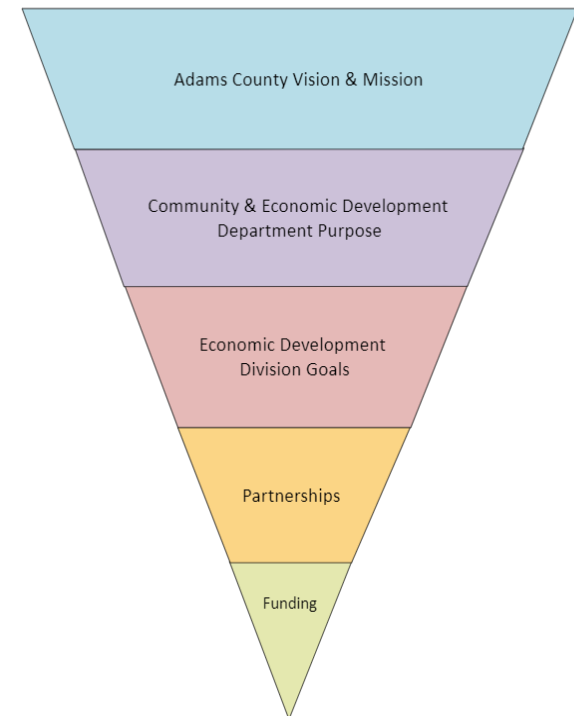
## Community & Economic Development Department

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*We serve the public with integrity and respect to improve the quality of life by facilitating responsible development and partnerships.*

### Divisions:

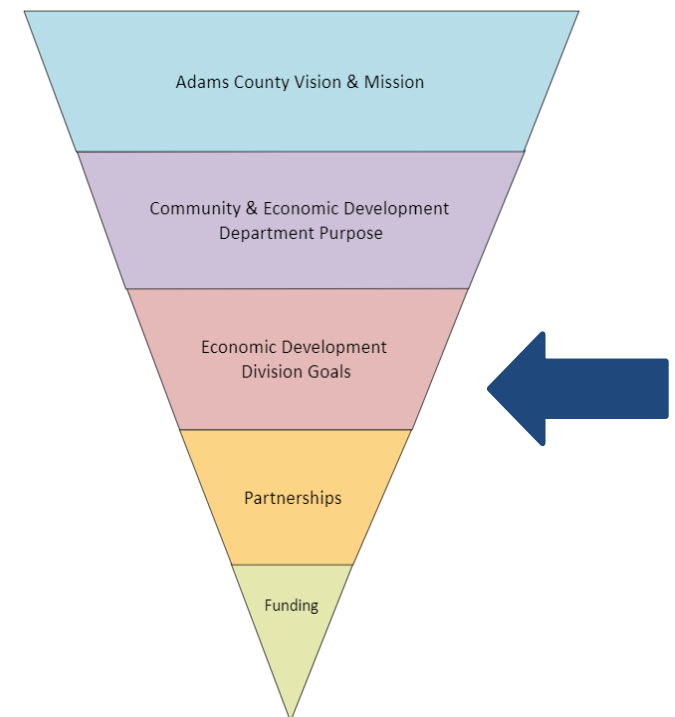
Building Safety  
Permits & Licensing  
Planning & Development  
**Economic Development**  
Environmental Programs  
Housing Policy & Community Investments



# Economic Development Goals

## 2022 Advancing Adams Comprehensive Plan

1. Encourage a “people first” philosophy in economic development that is committed to innovation, exceptional service, and transparency.
2. Foster fair and equitable development throughout the county.
3. Guide growth and development to targeted areas and provide compatible transitions between land uses.
4. Build and sustain a resilient and diverse economy.
5. **Promote the character and potential of the area through strong partnerships and effective collaboration with key stakeholders.**



# Strategies for partnerships

**ED 5.1.01:** Work with incorporated jurisdictions in the county to leverage resources that support the attraction, retention, and expansion of target industries.

**ED 5.1.02:** Support regional economic development organizations in their efforts to reinforce and strengthen the regional economy through marketing and attraction campaigns.

**ED 5.1.03:** Expand internal efforts to market the vision of Adams County more broadly and to targeted audiences to establish new partnerships and potential opportunities for economic growth.

**ED 5.1.04:** Collaborate with public and private sector partners on redevelopment tools such as Opportunity Zones, State Enterprise Zones, and Urban Renewal Areas to maximize investment dollars.



# Partnerships by Category

Economic Development Organizations		Areas of Service	2022 Approved	2023 Request
Government	Adams County			
	State Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT)	Statewide incentive programs, grants, business prospects (leads)	\$0	\$0
	Arvada*	Business development activities for retention & expansion, small business assistance, incentives, permits and development services; most also work on marketing and attraction (* denotes a combined government/EDC structure); permits and licensing	\$0	\$0
	Aurora		\$0	\$0
	Bennett		\$0	\$0
	Brighton*		\$0	\$0
	Commerce City		\$0	\$0
	Federal Heights		\$0	\$0
	Lochbuie		\$0	\$0
	Northglenn		\$0	\$0
	Thornton		\$0	\$0
	Westminster		\$0	\$0

Government partnerships generally take the form of formal agreements on specific projects or activities that provide mutual benefit. Examples include parallel incentive agreements for development projects or IGAs to share costs, as well as collaboration on federal and state programs. Urban renewal can also be a partnership – this is an area where we are taking a stronger role now.





# Partnerships by Category

Economic Development Organizations		Areas of Service	2022 Approved	2023 Request	Fiscal Benefits
EDC	AC-REP	Attraction, events, policy & advocacy, regional marketing	\$150,000		Attraction and marketing of Adams County, SW Weld, I-25 corridor areas
	Aurora EDC	Attraction, BRE, events, incentive coordination with Aurora, advocacy, marketing	\$300,000		Primary jobs/wages, coordination of capital investments and incentives for Aurora area
	Metro Denver EDC	Attraction, leads/prospects, events, policy & advocacy, site selectors, regional marketing	\$25,000		Primary jobs/wages, coordination of investments at regional level (Metro Denver)

Economic Development Corporations/Councils/Organizations are non-profit membership driven entities, often structured to complement Chambers of Commerce. EDCs generally focus on longer-term economic growth and attraction of private investment into a geographically defined area. Their status enables them to play a stronger role in legislative policy and business advocacy on behalf of their members.

# Partnerships by Category

Economic Development Organizations		Areas of Service	2022 Approved	2023 Request
Chambers of Commerce	Arvada	Networking, leadership development, marketing, advocacy, events	\$3,000	
	Asian			
			\$3,000	
	Aurora		\$10,000	\$15,000
	Greater Brighton		\$3,000	
	Commerce City		\$3,000	
	Metro Denver - Leadership Exchange		\$7,000	
	Westminster		\$3,000	\$3,000

Chambers of Commerce are entirely membership driven and serve to promote the interests of businesses in a particular area. By contrast to an EDC, chambers focus on existing businesses in the community and provide an important role in networking. They also often provide leadership development activities (LEAD Metro North is a good example) and frequently host events to recognize local businesses.



*\* Note – Need additional information to add Hispanic Chamber of Commerce*

# Partnerships by Category

Economic Development Organizations		Areas of Service	2022 Approved	2023 Request
Other Organizations	Colorado Enterprise Fund	Small business grant and loan programs	\$0	
	Commerce City Business & Professional Association	Local businesses, non-profits, and schools	\$3,000	
	East Colorado SBDC (UNC)	Free consulting and low-cost training programs for small businesses	\$10,000	
	North Metro SBDC (FRCC)		\$65,000	\$65,000
	Progressive 15	15-county non-partisan policy & legislation	\$2,500	\$2,500
	Regional Economic Advancement Partnership	Economic development, workforce development, transportation focus	\$30,000	\$30,000
	World Trade Center	International trade consulting	\$15,000	

The County also partners with the local Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs) to help small businesses and start-ups, while work with the World Trade Center focuses on growth in international markets. The REAP helps to address unique issues in rural areas of the county. These other organizations help provide a full spectrum of support for economic development.

# Incentives

## *Motivations for people to take certain actions*

Partnerships play a key role in our approach to incentives because:

- There are certain statutory limitations on the County, and we may need another entity to complete the package.
- They often work best when layered with other tools to address project needs in specific ways, and we can leverage more with our other government partners.
- Awareness of incentives is important, and our partners can help us broaden the message to reach our desired audiences.

# Highlights from 2022

- **Advancing Adams Comprehensive Plan** adopted
- Stakeholder engagement with industrial property owners (continuing)
- Drafting legislation for 2023 general assembly to establish financial tool for redevelopment areas – “**Community Revitalization**” bill
- Incentive agreement with Northglenn and **Prost Brewing**
- **Business registration program** launched and networking event at Adams County Fair with local businesses
- Nexus and feasibility studies launched to provide input for **workforce housing**
- Initiating **agricultural supportive housing** with CRHDC
- Support for community-based programs on Emergency Rental Assistance and Small Business Stabilization Program
- Sponsored **EDCC statewide conference** session on “Food Systems Reimagined”
- MDEDC Site Selector Conference featured presentations
- **Restructuring** of Economic Development Division to include expertise in economic development marketing and research/data analytics



# Next steps for 2023

- **Incentive Policy** – draft and study session in January, final version by end of Q1 (connected with County Revitalization bill)
- **ED Strategic Plan** – adds detailed tasks, timeframes, and resources to Ch.6 of Comp Plan; formal document structure Q2
- **Website** - overhaul of CED web pages to support user interface and emphasize economic development tools and resources (continuous improvement)
- **Branding and marketing strategy and campaigns** – includes greater integration across departments for holistic economic development approach (ongoing)
- **Regional local government engagement** – quarterly convening with city staff (CED directors and managers) and sponsorship of booth at ICSC in May



# Budget for Marketing & Branding

- **ICSC Conference** – booth host to highlight Adams County and cities (Bennett, Brighton, Commerce City, Westminster confirmed) in retail development
- **Print materials** – Economic Development Strategy, profile, materials for Development Standards outreach and engagement with business community
- **EDCC Conference** – sponsorship and presentation role at statewide economic development conference
- **Adams County Fair Business Event** – expanding on kick-off from 2022 to host, support, and showcase local businesses
- **Partnership with Manufacturer's Edge** – effort to understand and support local manufacturing industry
- **KUVO/RMPBS** – opportunity to create video(s) and features across multiple media platforms to promote Adams County for economic development
- **Other sponsorships**

