



**Information Packet
April 11, 2019**

1. INFORMATION ITEMS

- A. Advancing Soil Science and Research on City Open Space and Mountain Parks Land
- This memo describes recent work conducted by OSMP staff in 2018 on soil health and sustainability.
 - OSMP staff conducted a new pilot project on Carbon Farming that demonstrated how compost applications and key line plowing can be used a management intervention to increase soil health in highly degraded agricultural fields.
 - OSMP also conducted a first-ever inventory of upland grassland soils and used the data to establish a critical positive link between soil carbon storage and native plant species diversity.
 - Finally, OSMP co-sponsored the well-received Soil Revolution Conference, a full-day event on soil health and agricultural production held at the Jewish Community Center in Boulder.

2. BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

- A. Library Commission – February 6, 2019
B. Library Commission – March 9, 2019
C. Transportation Advisory Board – January 14, 2019

3. DECLARATIONS

- A. None



INFORMATION PACKET MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and Members of Council

From: Jane S. Brautigam, City Manager
Dan Burke, Interim Director, Open Space and Mountain Parks (OSMP)
Brian Anacker, Science Officer, OSMP
Brett KenCairn, Senior Sustainability & Resilience Policy Advisor, Climate Initiatives
Lauren Kolb, Agricultural Management Coordinator, OSMP
Andy Pelster, Agricultural Stewardship Supervisor, OSMP
John Potter, Resource and Stewardship Manager, OSMP

Date: April 11, 2019

Subject: Information Item – Advancing Soil Science and Research on City Open Space and Mountain Parks Land

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This memo describes recent work conducted by OSMP staff in 2018 on soil health and sustainability. In 2018, OSMP staff accomplished the following:

- Conducted a pilot project on Carbon Farming that explored how compost applications and keyline plowing could be used as management interventions to increase soil health in degraded agricultural fields.
- Conducted a first-ever Grassland Soils Inventory and used the data to establish a critical positive link between soil carbon storage and native plant species diversity.
- Co-sponsored the well-received Soil Revolution Conference, a full-day event on soil health and agricultural production held at the Jewish Community Center in Boulder.
- Supported several citywide collaborations on managing carbon and soils in urban settings.

In 2019, OSMP staff plans to accomplish the following:

- Continue work on Carbon Farming, the Grassland Soils Inventory project and the 2019 edition of the Soil Revolution Conference.
- Support a new citizen science initiative to understand and improve agricultural soil health in the Boulder Valley.
- Sponsor a research study on the effects of atmospheric nitrogen deposition to soils and the concomitant spread of non-native plant species.
- Serve as a technical advisor on a \$24,800 grant received from western Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) to investigate whether providing annual soil health testing, education and team building will lead to broader adoption of practices which improve soil health.
- Continue strategizing how best to incorporate the work of soil health into OSMP's Master Plan that is scheduled to be completed later this summer.

Combined, OSMP's recent and ongoing work on soils represents a renewed recognition of the essential ecosystem services that soils provide on City open space, including carbon sequestration in agricultural lands and the promotion of native plant diversity in upland grasslands. This work also highlights important management interventions that OSMP can build on to conserve and improve soil health.

FISCAL IMPACT

Recently, OSMP has spent approximately \$60,000 on advancing soil science and research, in addition to staff time. Going forward, staff has worked on grant proposals to secure funding for additional soils-related work and have proposed an additional \$182,000 in the 2020 CIP to work on 100 to 150 acres of agricultural rehabilitation projects, including continued research on soils.

BACKGROUND

Maintaining healthy soils is critical for the long-term sustainability of agricultural lands and natural areas. In agricultural settings, healthy and productive soils allow farmers to obtain high crop yields with lower expenses and less damage to the environment. In natural areas, intact soils stabilize slopes, slow flood waters, and promote native biodiversity, including thousands of native plant species and millions of species of insects, bacteria and fungi.

The sequestration of atmospheric carbon is another essential ecosystem service provided by soils. In the Boulder Valley, agricultural lands represent one of the biggest opportunities for accelerating carbon sequestration using innovative farming practices, such as compost application, that build soil organic matter. Boulder natural areas, in contrast, represent a major existing carbon sink. Intact topsoil and standing vegetation contain millions of tons of sequestered carbon. Preventing land conversion and reducing the impacts of fires and floods are critical strategies for keeping this carbon and out of the atmosphere.

A major threat to soils in our area is soil erosion. This can be caused by a variety of factors, including overgrazing by livestock or native species such as prairie dogs, continuous tilling of

fields, and catastrophic events like fires, floods, wind storms, and droughts. In 2018, a team of environmental planners from across the city identified soil loss as one of the three most critical ecological issues facing Boulder, along with landcover change (e.g., 25% loss of tree canopy cover to emerald ash borer) and species loss (e.g., pollinator decline).

ANALYSIS

Carbon Farming

The Bennett property is a degraded agricultural land holding owned by OSMP. The 124-acre property was acquired in 2007 by OSMP and leased as a cattle ranching headquarters. At the time of acquisition, prairie dog burrows covered approximately 10 of the 103 acres of agricultural fields on the property. Since then, prairie dog extent has increased, rapidly at times, with their 2018 extent covering 68% of the agricultural fields on the property. Citing an inability to stay in business due to devastating hay and forage production losses on this and other prairie dog-occupied properties, the agricultural tenant did not renew her lease with OSMP in 2017.



Fig. 1 (left): Rocky subsoil exposed on Bennett property, February 2018.



Fig. 2 (right): High tensile fence on east side of Bennett property, buried with top soil. Photos courtesy of Tanner Starbard.

An assessment of the Bennett property has identified significant resource concerns, including sheet and wind erosion, compaction, organic matter depletion and saline crusts. The entirety of the O and A horizons in the soil profile--the organic matter and topsoil layers-- have eroded. High wind events have blown the sites topsoil east, burying the property boundary fence and leaving the rocky subsoil exposed (Figs. 1 & 2). The soil degradation on the property has left a marginal resource base for future agricultural production, given inadequate forage production for livestock grazing. This is evident in Fig. 3, where hayfields managed to the north and south of the Bennett property on private lands appear verdant and productive, while vegetation on the Bennett property is simultaneously limited by these degraded soils and overgrazed by prairie dogs.

The loss of properties like Bennett from the OSMP agricultural leasing program represents a significant devaluation of the land and water assets that the city acquired. Once in such a degraded state, these lands are difficult to restore and become a management burden for the city. More importantly, soils in this state have diminished capacity to absorb and hold carbon, further contributing to climate impacts and significantly reducing the resilience of these ecosystems to climate change and associated extreme weather events.



Fig. 3: Aerial photograph of Bennett Property, May 2018. Photo courtesy of Phil Taylor.

The question of how to slow, stop and reverse soil degradation on these prairie dog-occupied properties has coincided with a joint-initiative with Boulder County that is exploring carbon sequestration strategies based on sustainable and regenerative agricultural practices. Given the large municipal land holdings within Boulder County, there is significant capacity to sequester carbon and offset greenhouse gas emissions on agricultural lands. Based on modelling by Mark Easter at Colorado State University's Natural Resource Ecology Laboratory, compost applications to cropland have the greatest potential to reduce CO₂ emissions but were also the most expensive to implement on a per-acre basis¹. The city has selected the Bennett property as a pilot project to test different soil regeneration techniques that would have the co-benefit of sequestering carbon. City staff was interested in trialing compost applications side-by-side with other methods that have shown promise to build carbon and water-holding capacities in soil and

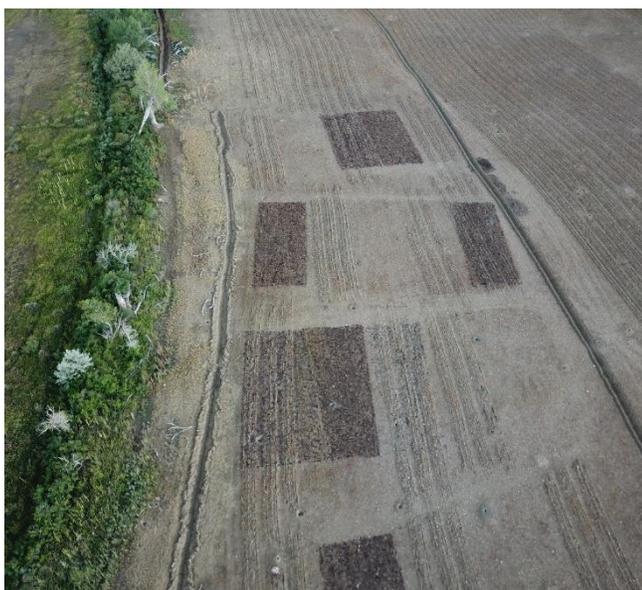


Fig. 4: Experimental plots established on Bennett property, July 2018. Photo courtesy of Phil Taylor.

¹ Easter, M., Stermer, M., Swan, A., Carlson, M. and Paustian, K. (2018) *Carbon Sequestration Pilot Project Feasibility Study*. Colorado State University. Prepared for City of Boulder and Boulder County.

enhance the soil microbiome, including the use of biochar and a subsoil plowing technique called “keylining”.

Using a novel soil regeneration contract designed to leverage investments from multiple sources including adjacent land owners, the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and other outside investors, experimental plots were established in July 2018 with the assistance of the contractor, Marcus McCauley, his staff, Phil Taylor and research fellows from Mad Agriculture, and OSMP’s Junior Rangers (Fig. 4). Replicated treatments included a control, a compost treatment consisting of commercially-available compost applied at a rate of 16.8 short tons per acre (Compost), a treatment where the soil was keyline plowed on the contour (Keyline), and a treatment combining the keyline and composting treatments together (Keyline + Compost).

Forty-five days after cover crop planting, weed and cover crop biomass samples were taken in each plot, dried and weighed. Data were analyzed using

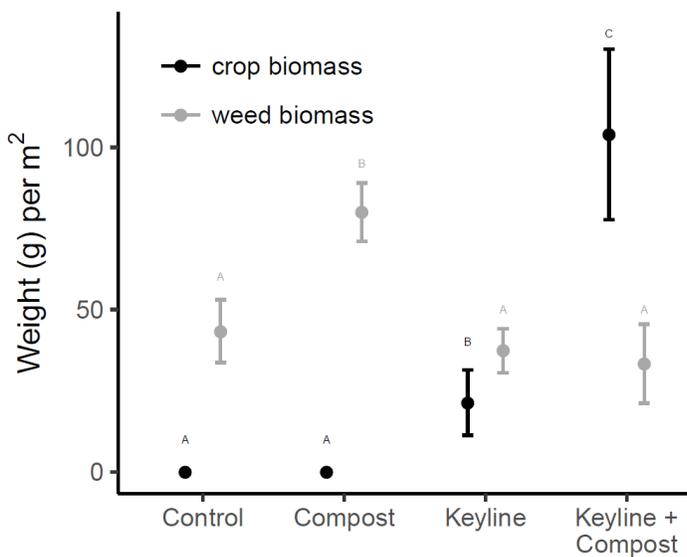


Fig. 5: Effect of compost and keyline plowing on mean (+/- 2SE) weed and cover crop biomass, 45 days after planting. Means with the same letter are not significantly different from each other (Tukey's HSD test, $P > 0.05$)



Fig. 6: Cover crop growth in keyline plowed area, two weeks after planting.

an analysis of variance (ANOVA).

Cover crop biomass was four times higher in plots that received both compost and keylining than plots that had keyline plowing only, and absent in control and Compost plots (Fig. 5). Fatal germination of cover crop seeds in the Control and Compost plots is suspected due to the low water holding capacity of the soil. Weed growth was highest in Compost treatments, as there was no successful cover crop establishment to compete with weeds for the nutrients in the compost. Weed growth was equally low in the Control, Keyline and Keyline + Compost treatments.

These results highlight the importance of keylining to realize the benefit on compost on desired plant species and to prevent the compost from stimulating weeds on these degraded soils (Fig. 6). These results are encouraging. They suggest that a combination of keylining, compost, irrigation and plant seeding can substantially improve plant establishment and growth. Based on the success of 2018, City staff and Mr. McCauley will be working on establishing perennial vegetation in these experimental plots and designing larger demonstration plots elsewhere on the property.

The Carbon Farming project is attracting research collaborations with the USDA's Agricultural Research Service, CU's Sustainability Innovation Lab and exploratory discussions with CSU's Natural Resource Ecology Lab. The objective of these efforts is to utilize OSMP's carbon farming and agro-ecology projects to help accelerate the development and deployment of successful soil regeneration and sequestration practices to both public and private land managers.

Grassland Soils Inventory

To describe the range of soil conditions across all of OSMP grasslands, OSMP staff worked with researchers at CU Boulder to take soil samples from 90 locations in 2018, each adjacent to long-term OSMP vegetation monitoring transects, and analyze them in the laboratory. Below are the results for soil organic carbon (hereafter, soil carbon), a correlate of organic matter content and soil fertility.

There was a remarkable range of soil carbon in the soil samples (Fig. 7), ranging from 0.8% to nearly 6%.

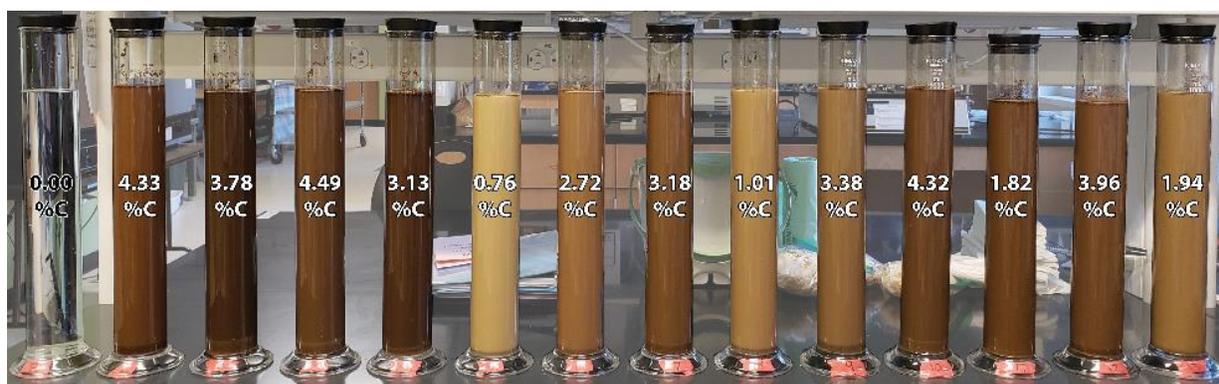


Fig. 7: Example of color variation and %C variation among grassland soil samples, when suspended in water in the laboratory. The left-most cylinder is a blank. Note how darker colored soils tend to have more carbon. Photo courtesy of Tracy Halward of CU Boulder.

Moreover, the preliminary analysis of the data from 51 of the 90 locations (the Mixed Grass Prairie Mosaic grasslands) showed a significant, positive correlation between soil carbon and native plant species diversity (defined as the number of species per 100 m² area; Fig. 8). The correlation suggests a positive feedback where plant growth and decomposition enrich topsoils with organic matter, the enriched soils in turn support a greater diversity of species, which in turn contribute even more organic matter to soils. The slope of the line suggests that each native plant species adds an additional 0.1% of sequestered soil carbon (or, 10 species adds 1.0% soil carbon). Interestingly, this same pattern did not hold for non-native plant species. Thus, by restoring and conserving high native plant diversity in native grasslands, OSMP is also managing for the co-benefit of high soil carbon.

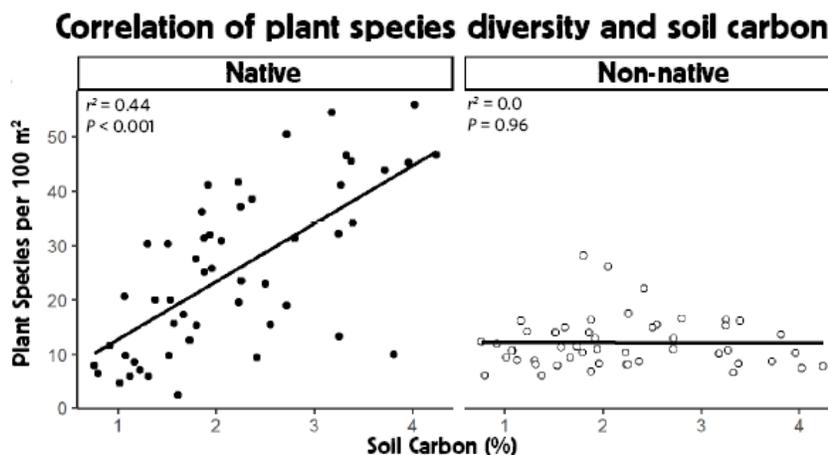


Fig. 8: Variation in soil carbon (x-axis) is a good predictor of plant species diversity (y-axis), but only for native species.

Third Annual Soil Revolution Conference, Dec. 2018

On December 12, 2018, the City of Boulder joined Boulder County Parks & Open Space, Colorado State University Extension, the Boulder Valley and Longmont Conservation Districts and NRCS in hosting the 3rd Annual Soil Revolution Conference. This year's conference was held at the Jewish Community Center in Boulder and featured Dr. David Montgomery, author of *Dirt: The Erosion of Civilizations* and *Growing a Revolution: Bringing Our Soil Back to Life*, and John Kempf, a plant nutrition and biostimulants consultant, as keynote speakers.



Fig. 9: Boulder County Parks & Open Space's Vanessa McCracken hosting the afternoon farmer panel.

A sell-out crowd of 230 people included staff from OSMP and the city's Planning Department, several OSMP agricultural lessees, Mayor Suzanne Jones and all three Boulder County

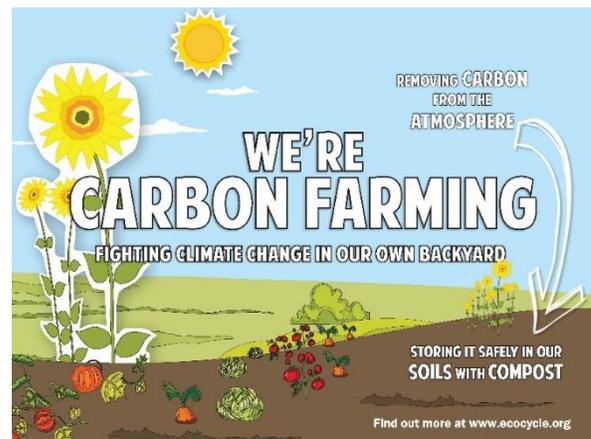
Commissioners. Attendees had opportunities to learn about the intersection of soil health, plant health and human health, as well as the larger implications for the sustainability of our society. Five principles of soil health were discussed: minimizing tillage; keeping the soil covered; increasing plant diversity; growing a living root system year-round; and integrating livestock. Real-time audience polls taken during the conference indicated that the most significant barriers to implementing these practices are lack of fencing; prairie dog conflicts; poor provision of irrigation water; need for livestock watering; and lack of time, money and knowledge.

OSMP support for this conference dovetails with other ongoing efforts to study and improve soil health on OSMP properties. Soil health also features prominently in the recommended agricultural focus area of the OSMP Master Plan. OSMP staff are committed to supporting regenerative agricultural practices to improve soil health, buffer against drought, protect water quality and sustain long term agricultural economic viability.

Citywide Collaborations on Carbon

OSMP is supporting the city in the development of new initiatives within both the Urban Sustainability Director's Network (200 cities in North America) and the Carbon Neutral Cities Alliance (CNCA; 22 of the leading global cities in emissions reduction). City representatives will be leading discussions on joint city strategies around carbon sequestration and negative emissions strategies at the CNCA's annual meeting in Helsinki Finland in May. Boulder is also partnering with San Francisco, New York City and five other US cities in pursuing funding support for the development of new sequestration tools and inventory systems through the Urban Sustainability Director's Network.

OSMP is also collaborating with the city's Climate Initiatives Department on a new urban soil management initiative being launched and managed by EcoCycle. In this program, 300-400 local residents are being recruited to gather soil samples from their own properties to assess the effects of different soil improvement techniques residents may implement. The process will be designed to raise community awareness and ecological literacy regarding the role and importance of soil health and provide potentially useful data on the effects of a range of different treatments. The results of this process will help inform soil stewardship and conservation program and education efforts being offered by several community organizations. OSMP and Climate Initiatives will work with EcoCycle to coordinate dissemination of information that help grow broader community awareness and understanding about the importance of soil stewardship as part of the city's climate and resilience goals and objectives.



NEXT STEPS

In 2019, OSMP staff will continue to work on both the Carbon Farming project, the Soils Inventory project, and the Soil Revolution Conference. Staff will also finalize the incorporation of soil health into its upcoming Master Plan and continue supporting citywide collaborations on carbon. Three other soil science research projects in 2019 will further extend our understanding of soil health:

1. OSMP has co-funded an area farmer to launch the Citizen Science Soil Health Project. This project works with farmers from Boulder, including six tenants on OSMP agricultural lands, to study soil health and encourage the use of new techniques in regenerative agriculture. The foundational component of this project is the coordinated collection and analysis of soil samples before and after novel soil-building techniques are applied.
2. OSMP staff is acting as a technical advisor on a \$24,800 grant received from western Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) to investigate whether providing annual soil health testing, education and team building will lead to broader adoption of practices which improve soil health. This three-year project will attempt to overcome some of the known barriers to implementation of soil building practices in Boulder County and provide a framework for greater farmer-to-farmer learning.
3. OSMP has funded a study of nitrogen deposition into soils and its impacts on the spread of non-native plants, particularly tall oatgrass, a non-native species that is rapidly spreading on OSMP lands.

**CITY OF BOULDER
BOULDER, COLORADO
BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS MEETING MINUTES**

Name of Board/ Commission: Library Commission	
Date of Meeting: February 6, 2019 at the Main Boulder Public Library, 1001 Arapahoe Ave.	
Contact information preparing summary: Celia Seaton, 303-441-3106	
Commission members present: Joni Teter, Juana Gomez, Joel Koenig, Jane Sykes Wilson, Tim O’Shea Commission members not present: None	
<p>Library staff present: David Farnan, Director of Library & Arts Jennifer Phares, Deputy Library Director Celia Seaton, Administrative Specialist Aimee Schumm, eServices Manager</p> <p>City staff present: None</p> <p>Members of the public present: None.</p>	
Type of Meeting: Regular	
Agenda Item 1: Call to order and approval of agenda	[0:00:11 Audio min.]
The meeting was called to order and Teter asked if there were any changes to the agenda. Teter noted the addition of an item under the Library Commission update to discuss agenda for the 2019 Commission Retreat. See handouts . There was a nod of approval from the commission for this amended agenda.	
Agenda Item 2: Public comment	[0:00:44 Audio min.]
None.	
Agenda Item 3: Consent agenda	[0:00:48 Audio min.]
<p>a. Approval of January 9, 2019 Meeting Minutes: O’Shea noted needed edit on the date for the next meeting. Gomez noted two edits, one regarding her input on the public comment format and one regarding the February 28, 2019 meeting date planned for Alpine Balsam. Gomez moved to approve these amended minutes, O’Shea seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.</p>	
Agenda Item 4: Library Policy Update	[0:02:21 Audio min.]
<p>a. Public Hearing: draft Computer Use and Internet Safety Policy – since the policy was last reviewed in 2017, there have been additional filters to the wireless internet. Schumm noted that the library is fully compliant with the Federal Children’s Internet Protection Act (CIPA), meaning potential eligibility for the FCC’s E-rate funding. This funding would be more necessary in the event of districting when the library might not be getting its internet service through the City. Teter asked for an explanation of E-rate. Schumm clarified that it is a government subsidy for hardware, fiber, etc. - up to 90% discount for those who qualify, many schools take advantage of it. This year, it didn’t appear advantageous considering the low rates already obtained through the City. O’Shea asked about the City’s charge for internet and Aimee replied that it is a minimal charge determined by bandwidth. Schumm noted that in a district scenario, she might research the possibility of “piggybacking” off BVSD – partnerships are encouraged with E-rate. Staff welcomed commission questions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • P. 7 at the bottom – Koenig asked for clarification about the juveniles without a library card getting a guest pass to use the computers – does a guardian supervise? Aimee said that is recommended if there is a need but not enforced. • Schumm explained that the filter is set on server level through Cisco, based on categories reviewed by the leadership team (e.g., dark web, pornography). Teter suggested an additional line “if you want more information about the kinds of sites the library filters, contact...” to direct those who are curious about the filter categories. O’Shea asked about filter levels through ConnectBoulder and the actual library computers. Schumm: these are filtered to the same degree. She would like to have filtering be controlled at the patron station as opposed to needing to submit IT HelpDesk ticket. A patron can only log into a PC appropriate for their age (determined by “patron type” in the library card code). • En Español links: Gomez asked about the source of the “terrible” translation she found through following website link, volunteering herself to edit grammar. Phares noted that there are translators used 	

by the City who could also be recruited to assist. Teter: this falls in alignment with the master plan goals for further outreach to Latinx community.

- P. 8 – O’Shea questioned whether there have there been complaints about juvenile access to the systems. Farnan noted that he has heard parental complaints about websites that are mostly gaming and dating sites, not illegal sites. O’Shea voiced his comfort with the wording. O’Shea moved to accept the policy as adjusted (adding the direction to more information about the filtering system), Koenig seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.
- b. Review preliminary changes to the library rules of conduct and examples of rules prohibiting use of abusive and derogatory language – Phares explained that the documents provided are “first blush” for commission review. Teter remembered from the last conversation that the reason that we could not enforce was due to not having the right language, and this necessitated creating a rule and not a policy, “so we’re in rule land.” The commission agreed. Teter noted confusion with the present organization of the rules. Would it make sense to call out disruptive behavior separately? Phares remembered that the disruptive piece was the overview since it is overarching “blanket” that can be used for most situations. Farnan clarified that general is often better than specific when defending a suspension. CAO recommended removing references to things that were too broad and couldn’t be applied in the law, eschewing overgeneralizations. Farnan noted his understanding that it is a subjective decision to place an item in the rules or the overview. Koenig asked if this draft incorporates staff input and Phares replied just leadership team so far. After commission input, she will review with staff and CAO; a draft will return for commission review in March. Sykes Wilson recommended “bullying” language inclusion. Teter suggested including “gestures” and “intimidating” from the Lafayette examples. She leans toward paragraph format as opposed to the list, as this seems to have more emphasis. The commission agreed. Phares noted she will also bring an updated suspension form in March.
- Teter asked about the “terms of use” referenced in the second rule – she recommended adding this to the list of definitions.
 - Gomez- regarding the service animal policy, definition, and licensing requirements; Phares noted just ADA accepted animals which includes dogs and ponies. Staff explained that it can only ask what service the animal provides. If reasonable answer, and the animal is not disruptive, that is fine. If they do not have a reasonable answer, they are told that they are welcome but their animal is not. If the animal is not controlled, the person has to leave. Sykes Wilson asked about Seeds; reply – same as rest of library.
 - O’Shea suggested explicitly noting marijuana consumption alongside the presently noted “tobacco products” under 5. Teter recommended revisiting this piece with CAO to better frame the boundary.
 - Right of appeal – Koenig asked whether library staff takes part in the appeal process? Farnan: yes. Initially goes through civic court (with potential appeal then to the County although that has not occurred in recent memory).
 - Gomez noted another problematic translation en Español under the Unattended Children Policy. Phares will get new translations made once the language has been finalized.

Agenda Item 5: Library Commission Update

[0:43:23 Audio min.]

a. Items from Commission

i. Discuss agenda for the March 9, 2019 Library Commission Retreat

- Teter suggested some agenda and business items by email (see [handouts](#)): 1) suggestion for discussion from CAO addressing boundaries that commissioners should keep in mind when working on the funding campaign, 2) discussion of whether there are any active projects that would be impacted by a shift to a library district (and what those impacts might be), and 3) library’s strengths and weaknesses among different user groups within the patron base and the broader community. Phares drafted a version of the retreat agenda for review. See [handouts](#). Teter clarified that item 7 was meant to refer to any positive or negative impacts to active projects, not “shift in priorities” Gomez asked whether staff feedback will be received for item 8; Phares replied yes. Would you have proposals? Reply: no, just identifying the strengths and weaknesses. Resolving weaknesses could be a later session. Gomez has a suggestion to add issue of “public input,” format of public comment so that all commissioners are on the same page with this piece that may become more routine with the upcoming projects. Phares noted that in the past, there has been a 3-minute allowance whereby secretary keeps the time and interrupts the public as needed. Previously, the chair has said that commission can choose or not to address the item later in the meeting. Often comments will pertain to the agenda. All questions and comments should be directed toward the commission. Teter noted the balance of engaging people and having a meaningful conversation. She recommended not having a commission meeting be the first time that the public is viewing something. She invited any further feedback by email.

- ii. Commissioner update on outreach to stakeholders – summarized in the commission memo by Teter (see [packet](#)).
- iii. Community education activities – Plan A/Plan B discussion
Staff’s ideas about what should be on the A/B list and how to better personalize these statistics (stories, anecdotes, pictures) to make these relatively abstract concepts real for community members. Teter noted connection to previous discussion of strengths and weaknesses; this as a “city library product” that would be on the funding webpage (potentially also “fodder for the campaign.”) Phares indicated her intention to add an item on security at all facilities to an updated draft – Teter suggested including in March packet. Although planning for additional security at the eventual NoBo branch, Phares noted that the branches don’t currently have security – their issues are similar but much more infrequent. Farnan stated that Carnegie doesn’t have a need for additional security presence. Gomez highlighted discussion of a mobile unit (bookmobile). Teter noted that in the event of a ballot measure by petition whereby county commissioners do a resolution, funding would be specified – in that context, this list will be an important piece.
- iv. Retreat Planning

- b. Boulder Library Foundation update – Teter reported that tomorrow’s meeting will continue funding request discussion. O’Shea noted ongoing effort to develop fundraising plan alongside marketing plan. Year-end letter was a success, garnering donations of ~\$18,000 so far. Sykes Wilson will be taking over O’Shea’s spot on BLF. Gomez asked if Teter is planning to stay on BLF; she replied that it is unlikely due to concentration on the upcoming campaign. Gomez queried whether a capital campaign for NoBo branch will be at cross purposes with the districting campaign; O’Shea explained that there is still some “TBD” on this integration. Teter suggested that Gomez and Koenig discuss taking on the other commission representative seat. Last meeting saw an approved RFP for the website designer; 2 responses being considered in tomorrow’s meeting. Leslie Blaser has taken on the position of administrative support as BLF staff.
- c. City project representative update
 - i. EcoDistricts
 - ii. Civic Area East Bookend
 - iii. Alpine Balsam – Gomez noted 2/28 meeting.
Gomez noted the August REFORMA meeting planned at the library; she will reach out to Seaton to reserve the space.
- d. Responses to patron emails from the Library Commission – in the [packet](#).

Agenda Item 6: Library and Arts Director’s Report

[1:17:16 Audio min.]

- a. Report on outcome of City Council retreat
- b. Update on library polling project – Teter requested Monday’s meeting notes to be included in March packet for tracking. Two council members recommended more time to be comfortable with the questions and to receive comments. Phone survey projected now for late March or early April with the online version running concurrently.
- c. Revised commission meeting plan – Phares will send out this week.
- d. 2019 budget increases and branch program goals – Koenig questioned the dropped patronage at GRB and Farnan replied that he would like to drill down a bit deeper to figure out the numbers. There is an aging of the population that frequents GRB.
- e. User map expanded area/city
Farnan noted that he is comfortable with the numbers indicating patron base outside the city. Main argument is matching funding base with patron base. Teter noted upcoming Valentine’s Day meeting with Kim Seter.

Agenda Item 7: Adjournment

[1:30:15 Audio min.]

Farnan invited any suggestions to help recruit library commission applicants. There being no further business to come before the commission at this time, the meeting was adjourned.

Date, time, and location of next meeting:

The next Library Commission meeting will be at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, April 3, 2019, at the Meadows Branch Library, 4800 Baseline Road, Boulder, CO 80303.

Commissioner O'Shea approved these minutes on April 3, 2019; and Celia Seaton attested to it.

**CITY OF BOULDER
BOULDER, COLORADO
BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS MEETING MINUTES**

Name of Board/ Commission: Library Commission	
Date of Meeting: March 9, 2019 at Open Space and Mountain Parks HUB at 2520 55 th St., Boulder	
Contact information preparing summary: Jennifer Phares, 303-441-4394	
Commission members present: Joni Teter, Juana Gomez, Joel Koenig, Jane Sykes Wilson, Tim O’Shea	
<p>Library staff present: David Farnan, Director of Library & Arts Jennifer Phares, Deputy Library Director</p> <p>City staff present: David Gehr, Chief Deputy City Attorney</p> <p>Members of the public present: Michael Carcaise</p>	
Type of Meeting: Annual Retreat	
Agenda Item 1: Call to order and approval of agenda	[0:00:00 Audio min.]
The meeting was called to order and Teter asked if there were any changes to the agenda. Teter proposed that the commission discuss agenda item 11, second bullet and table agreement until another meeting.	
Agenda Item 2: Public comment	[0:01:09 Audio min.]
None.	
Agenda Item 3: Resolution saluting Kevin Kaufman	[0:01:17 Audio min.]
O’Shea motioned to approve the resolution. Gomez seconded. The motion passed unanimously.	
Agenda Item 4: Guidance on boundaries around campaigning, and library business vs. campaign business for library commissioners	[0:01:51 Audio min.]
<p>Gehr presented three documents for reference (See handouts) to the commission. Gehr and the commissioners discussed the Fair Campaign Practices Act, the local rules for elections, and the commission’s questions. Commission was advised that reporting on their discussions/meetings about the library funding issue and campaign planning for the public is good practice and acceptable. Staff and commission were advised to create a plan for communicating what is happening and a standard talking points sheet with balanced information.</p> <p>Regarding the commissioner’s roles and a question about if the commission members are more like council or more like staff, Gehr referenced the Guiding Principles for Interaction Among Council, Boards, Commissions and City Staff. The commission is not like either council or staff. Documents of the authority for the Library Commission define it as advisory to council. Boards and commissions usually ask council to make a resolution. The Boulder Revised Code is silent about the authority of boards and commissions making resolutions.</p> <p>Commission asked for some examples of how commissioners might get staff into trouble or cause them to become subject to discipline regarding their assistance or participation in campaign work. Asking staff to do things that are advocacy-based is problematic. Recommended that commissioners be disciplined and ask themselves what the motivation is for asking staff to do something and stay away from advocacy-based requests.</p> <p>There is annual training for staff in preparation of campaign season. Gehr referenced the Participation in Election Campaigns memo as the City’s expectations for employees. Farnan said the staff have received the library funding information page and the memo on participation in election campaigns.</p> <p>Commission asked, as librarians, how staff members respond to members of the public who have questions about the campaign. Staff can do the things they normally do like give patrons information they have requested and be within the Fair Campaign Practices Law. As a practice, librarians do not provide advice or their own opinions on the information provided to patrons.</p> <p>There was discussion about what rules apply if the library district/funding is a city ballot item vs. a county ballot item. If it is a county ballot item then state rules apply. The current library district campaign committee is a state issue committee.</p>	

Gehr advised the campaign begins when the petition is at issue i.e. the approving body takes its final action on it.

There was discussion about the taxpayers own the assets (library facilities) and the City is the steward of those assets.

Agenda Item 5: Commission discussion of the petition drive and the talking points and scheduling of one-on-one meetings with City Council members. [1:09:15 Audio min.]

Gomez updated the commission on the preparation of the petition for establishment of the Boulder Library District. The commissioners discussed the structure and finer points of the draft petition document. They discussed the mill rate selected and what the tax revenues it would generate would cover in terms of library finance needs. The commission discussed scheduling one-on-one meetings with City Council and the talking points document for those meetings (See [handouts](#) for talking points).

Agenda Item 6: Matters from the Library Director [1:49:39 Audio min.]

- a. North Boulder branch library project update and BLF fundraiser events closure request.
Farnan and Gomez shared highlights from the community engagement session held at the Main Library on Friday, March 8, 2019. The commission discussed the BLF capital campaign for the north Boulder branch library and how it can be coordinated with the library funding election campaign. Farnan asked for the commission's approval of closing the north side of the Main Library for the BLF fundraising event. Teter motioned to approve closing the Canyon Gallery and the bridge on Thursday, May 9, 2019 beginning at 4 p.m. for the BLF fundraising event to kick off the capital campaign for the north Boulder branch library. Gomez seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

- b. Main Library restroom renovation project update: discuss draft FAQ/talking points and supplemental budget request.

Farnan reviewed the reasons for the project budget increase and asked for the commission's favorable recommendation to allocate \$125,000 in additional funds from the Old Library Fund reserve for the project. Gomez spoke about the design and the artwork plan (See [handout](#) for floor plan). Farnan provided information about the arts selection process. Koenig motioned that the commission make a favorable recommendation for allocating \$125,000 in additional funds from the Old Library Fund reserve for the Main Library Restroom Renovation project. Gomez seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The commissioners offered several suggestions for focusing the FAQ on the benefits of the project, that it has been a long-term unmet need, and that it will provide patrons with options.

- c. Background on Library Polling Project (oral update will be provided during the meeting).

Teter updated the commission that the project team came to consensus on the poll questions. Farnan and the commissioners discussed the survey methodology. The results of the poll and online survey will be shared with council and the commission in the May 7, 2019 City Council Agenda Packet.

Agenda Item 7: Policy review [2:30:05 Audio min.]

- a. Review and agree to changes to the Library Rules of Conduct prior to public review process
Farnan, Phares and the commissioners discussed what the staff reaction was to the changes and changes related to violating the rules over the phone. O'Shea motioned to approve the changes to the Library Rules of Conduct. Koenig seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- b. Review examples of inclusivity statements/policies and provide direction to staff
Farnan and the commission discussed work the city may be doing on an inclusivity statement/policy. The commission asked to schedule discussion of an inclusivity policy during policy review cycle in the next few years given the work load for the staff and commission during the next two years. Commission offered changes to the current welcome statement.

Agenda Item 8: Appreciation of Library Commissioner Joni Teter for her service to the library [3:59:19 Audio min]

This item occurred as the last item on the agenda. Farnan and commissioners expressed their gratitude and thanks Commissioner Teter for her service to the commission, the library, and the community.

Agenda Item 9: Photo of 2018 Library Commission for the library annual report [No audio]

This item occurred as the next to the last item on the agenda.

Agenda Item 10: Library planning [3:21:35 Audio min.]

- a. Considerations for library projects if a library district is formed
Information was provided to help the commission understand what is on the work plan and rolling out from the Master Plan for the rest of the year and the impact if a library district is formed. The big items that staff may have to focus on during a transition to a library district are the Boulder Municipal Employees Association Bargaining Unit agreement, services and project contracts, and setting up internal services or negotiation their provision by the City. There was discussion about the commission's workload might also shift from policy making to board formation.
- b. Strengths/weaknesses in relation to serving user groups
Commission discussed staff's definition of the user groups and their preliminary evaluation of the library's strengths and weakness related to serving those user groups. They requested this information because it provided more detail than the Master Plan and may indicate how/where resources need to be shifted to meet different needs. From a campaign perspective, this may inform how the campaign committee messages the different groups. The commission requested that the staff group continues to work on this document and presents it at future meeting when completed.
- c. Projects/ initiatives coming in the 2nd half of 2019
Commissioners asked questions about the projects on the list.
- d. 2020 budget priorities based on unfunded Master Plan goals
The commissioners asked questions about the items on the list. Commission advised staff that additional staffing for the Carnegie Library for Local History to expand its hours open to the public should be included among future priorities based on the public input received during the 2019 city budget development process.

Agenda Item 11: Matters from the Library Commission

[3:48:38 Audio min.]

- a. Check in on representatives and officers' duties including meeting preparation process and the schedule for the Library Commission monthly memo for the meeting packet
Commissioners discussed the agenda setting and meeting preparation process and office and role changes in advance of the appointment at the April 3, 2019 Library Commission meeting.
- b. Discuss and agree upon format and parameters for public input during Library Commission meetings
Commissioners O'Shea and Gomez will draft guidelines for public participation for commission's consideration at the April 3, 2019 Library Commission meeting.

Agenda Item 12: Adjournment

[3:058:02 Audio min.]

Date, time, and location of next meeting:

The next Library Commission meeting will be at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, April 3, 2019, at the Meadows Branch Library, 4800 Baseline Road, Boulder, CO 80303.

Commissioner O'Shea approved these minutes on April 4, 2019; and Celia Seaton attested to it.

**CITY OF BOULDER
BOULDER, COLORADO
BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS MEETING
MINUTES**

Name of Board/ Commission: Transportation Advisory Board	
Date of Meeting: January 14, 2019	
Contact Information Preparing Summary: Meredith Schleske 303.441.3204	
Board Members Present: Jennifer Nicoll, Chair; Johnny Drozdek; Tila Duhaime; Mark McIntyre; Bill Rigler Board Members Absent:	
Staff Present: Kathleen Bracke, Interim Co-Director of Public Works for Transportation Bill Cowern, Interim Co-Director of Public Works for Transportation David Kemp, Senior Transportation Planner Michelle Melonakis, Transportation Operation Engineer Ryan Noles, Transportation Planner Chris Hagelin, Senior Transportation Planner Amy Lewin, Senior Transportation Planner Noreen Walsh, Senior Transportation Planner Gerrit Slatter, Principal Transportation Projects Engineer Jean Sanson, Senior Transportation Manager Randall Rutsch, Senior Transportation Manager Callie Hanson, Transportation Maintenance Manager Allison Crump, Employee Transportation Coordinator Meredith Schleske, Board Secretary	
Other Presenters: Clark Rider, CU Boulder Sustainable Transportation Specialist Tiffany Timmons-Regan, Boulder Google Campus Facility Manager EJ Klock-McCook, Rocky Mountain Institute Manager Jenny Gerson, Senior Director Sustainability and Strategy, Zayo Group	
Type of Meeting: Advisory/ Regular	
Agenda Item 1: Call to Order	[6:30 p.m.]
Agenda Item 2: Approval of minutes from December 2018 Motion: approve minutes from December 2018 as presented.	[6:32 p.m.]
Motion: Nicoll Second: Duhaime 5:0:0 Motion Passes	
Agenda Item 3: Public Participation - there was none	[6:35 p.m.]

Agenda Item 4: Public Hearing and Staff briefing on the proposed year 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) sub-regional submittal process – Part 2 of 3 [6:35 p.m.]

Noreen Walsh made the report to the board.

Executive Summary: This item provides the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) with a set of proposed projects for potential submittal to the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) for the 2020-2023 Transportation Improvements Program (TIP) Boulder County sub-regional project selection process. Staff is following the process used by the TAB in preparing the last several TIP submittals and outlined in the December 10, 2018 TAB memo. At the January 14 TAB meeting, the Board is being asked to consider this list of potential submittals for consistency with policy direction of the Transportation Master Plan, funding priority projects for the city within our budget capacity and maximizing the leveraged funding available through the TIP process based on the DRCOG criteria.

Prior to the TAB meeting, the city hosted a public open house in the lobby of the Municipal Building from 5:00 – 6:30 pm. TAB members attended the open house and the TAB meeting included a public hearing to provide community members with the opportunity to share comments with the board. Due to this public open house, the TAB meeting began at 6:30 p.m.

Based on the input received from the community and TAB in January, staff will review and revise the project list and return to TAB in February to seek a formal recommendation from the board to share with City Council at their February 19, 2019 meeting. Based on council direction, staff will submit the final set of project applications to Boulder County and DRCOG on February 27, 2019.

TAB Action Requested: The board is asked to review and comment on the suggested list of projects for additional development and preliminary scoring.

TAB Clarifying Questions

- Questions regarding whether projects are yet ranked, which are more likely to be approved by DRCOG process, if there was a dollar limit for projects submitted, why Vision Zero wasn't mentioned in each project, why HOP extensions were named specifically as "HOP", whether bundling projects would increase likelihood of approval.
- Comment that "shoring up" infrastructure may not be effective to manage all forms of movement in particular areas.
- Suggestion made to explain why the project is only focusing on south side of Scott Carpenter Park in the application - seems like very limited scope, possible encouragement for motorists to ignore other at-level modes.
- Request for cost estimate with final recommendations.

Public Participation - none

TAB Feedback

- Comments to focus on getting the money, ensure that application conforms to grantor criteria, call out selection criteria pertinent to audience, clarify intent of HOP extensions service area.
- Questions regarding flexibility to adjust the project after approval, selection criteria.
- Recommendation to note Transportation Master Plan (TMP) objectives.
- Concern expressed to counter objections that certain projects may encourage more cars into Boulder.

Agenda Item 7A. Other Matters - Prioritization of road and multi-use path snow removal [7:18 p.m.]

Callie Hayden made the report to the board.

TAB Discussion

- Question asked if there is bike lane data similar to street data, such as interactive plow map. Clarification requested that if street is plowed, bike lane will be also.
- Comment on staffing levels, other treatments, grooving concrete, residual ice on paths, possibility of spot treating ice patches.
- Suggestion to be more visible to public with known problem areas, budget, service level expectations, affirmative posture/communication on anticipated snow events, educate public that cyclists have right to full use of road lane. Encouraged more use of social media before and during storms.
- Question regarding prioritization criteria.
- Appreciation expressed for presentation.

Agenda Item 5: Private Sector Transportation Innovations and Collaborations

[7:48 p.m.]

Speakers introduced by Chris Hagelin and Bill Rigler.

Purpose of Discussion: Learn how local employers are introducing and implementing transportation-related innovations and which are helping meet the City's transportation goals as they relate to single-occupancy vehicles (SOVs), congestion, carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions, parking, etc. Provide examples that other employers may want to emulate.

Questions to Presenters:

- What activities you have undertaken and why (i.e.--was this an employee-led process, or it was because your company has more drivers than available parking spots, or is it in line with corporate sustainability goals, etc.);
- what the situation was like before and after;
- feedback from employees and neighboring businesses or residents, etc.;
- involvement or participation in related programs with the City of Boulder;
- and, based on your experience, please do consider whether you have recommendations for other businesses or organizations in your space that would be helpful information.

TAB Clarifying Questions

- Questions about CU-Boulder students, types of buses used, parking pass usage/waiting list, Google cash-out data, usage rate of provided EcoPasses, communications with RTD.

Public Participation

- Masyn Moyer, 1559 Orchard Avenue, Chair Housing Advisory Board (HAB) – noted alliance opportunities between advisory boards, overview of HAB.

TAB Feedback

- Comment on excellence of presentations and employee programs, appreciation expressed, requested contact information, observation noted that many employees satellite-park at shopping area, opportunity to rethink parking strategy noted.
- Inquiry about speakers' recommendations to others, key learnings.
- Question about how TAB can spread the information to the community.
- Observation that RTD is able to obtain Neighborhood EcoPass data supporting 2019 fee raises; conjecture whether they have business eco-pass usage data.

Agenda Item 6: Monthly Updates

[9:05 p.m.]

Monthly Updates

- Safe Streets Boulder – Vision Zero (VZ) Implementation
 - a. Highlight topic: Engineering: Vision Zero Capital Project Update
Ryan Noles made the report to the board.

Question for TAB: Does TAB have any questions or comments regarding project schedule, conceptual designs or community engagement?

TAB Comments

- Question about whether left turn is currently allowed from southbound 29th Street to eastbound Baseline, comment that proposed raised crosswalk should make eastbound multi-use path traffic safer. Asked if setback option has been dismissed, what type of users are on that path, questions about anticipated safety and construction.
- Comment that the 28th Street and Colorado Avenue location had the highest incidence of collisions.

Public Participation

- Brent Halsey, 2145 Floral Drive – proposed Broadway and Rayleigh project provides nothing to deter cars going fast.
- Charles Brock, 717 Everett Drive – Broadway is a federal highway; government intentionally changed pedestrian path that used to go further south and had no conflicts.
- Stephen Haydel, 1935 Pearl Street – rethink Broadway/narrow lanes, plenty of room to move bike crossing further to the south.

- 2018-19 Transportation Master Plan (TMP) Update
[9:48 p.m.]
 - a. Highlight topic: System Performance/Transportation Master Plan (TMP) Objectives Overview
Jean Sanson made the report to the board.

Questions for TAB:

1. Does TAB have feedback and suggestions on the draft TMP Objectives?
2. Does TAB have guidance on the 2019 TMP planning horizon year?

TAB Comments

- Suggestion to consider Rayback Collective or Oscar Blues as open house venue.
- Comment that mode share proposed change is immaterial; it should be noted where are we now.
- Question about how we are capturing what we want to see in terms of Uber/Lyft etc. and how we're counting that.
- Questions about travel time and changes over time, whether using a specific year is appropriate and or should be applied to all objectives, if it is still relevant, if they have been prioritized. Comment that this objective requires further discussion.
- Comment that "children" should be re-termed, perhaps to "minors".
- Questions whether 80% share of residents in complete neighborhoods is still the objective, about outreach with Planning Board, request to be updated regarding those meetings, suggestion to present this information to other boards individually. Suggestion to quantify tradeoff/cost of accelerating 2019 TMP planning horizon year versus extending the target date.
- Suggestions that TAB needs to offer up challenges for council consideration, 2030 would generate action, objectives should be concise and measurable, have clarity. Support for more action now with 2030 target, question about impact of "going backwards" or accelerating currently tracked goals, caution to set up for success.
- Questions and comments about holding the current time horizon from the 2014 TMP instead of letting this push out as is usually done.
- Request to develop a look at the trade-offs if we were to try to accelerate (2030) or agree to more time (2040 or longer).
- Comment that national and local companies' innovations are rapid and anticipation could possibly be woven into TMP, such as electric vehicle (EV) adoption.
- Support expressed for TAB workshops to do deeper dive on TMP topics, follow up by a poll.
- Concern expressed about levels of service, need for speed management maintaining travel time, maintaining reliability and predictability. Suggestion as upcoming workshop topic.

Public Participation:

- Charles Brock, 717 Everett Drive – as long as we have an expectation that travel time will not change, other goals will not be achieved. Concern regarding bicycle mode share – metrics need to be defined clearly, used consistently.
- Brent Halsey, 2145 Floral Drive – reiterates above. Goals were set in 1996, need more progress, need to ask for more money.

Agenda Item 7: Matters

[11:00 p.m.]

- **Matters from the Staff/ Non-Agenda**
 - Regional studies update (Bracke)
 - Corridor Planning
 - SH119 Multimodal Corridor Planning/Regional Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Study (Bracke) – RTD meeting February 4th at Boulder County. RTD survey is still open; feedback is encouraged. Commuter bikeway should not get lost in the conversation. Portions of SH119 project recommended for funding by DRCOG regional TIP grant.
 - SH7 Multimodal Corridor Planning/Regional BRT Study – progressing, recommended for funding by DRCOG regional TIP grant

- Other Matters
 - Prioritization of road and multi-use path snow removal (Hayden) moved to earlier in meeting.

- **Matters from the Board** [11:03 p.m.]
 - Updates re: collaboration with other city boards – Rigler will contact David Ensign for PB update.
 - Vision Zero Community Working Group (Nicoll, Duhaime) – Rigler will replace Nicoll as the TAB representative.
 - Pedestrian Advisory Committee (Duhaime, Nicoll) – walking tour last month, meeting next week. Ensign is interested in participating.
 - TMP Funding Community Working Group (McIntyre, Drozdek) – confirm date.
 - Open Board Comment
 - Feedback from Commuting Solutions Legislative Breakfast, January 9th – great event, Bracke is Chair. Topic was how do we pivot away from non-passage of 110. Attendees included CDOT, RTD, Metro Denver, contractor; new State House and State Senate transportation chairs addressed the group.

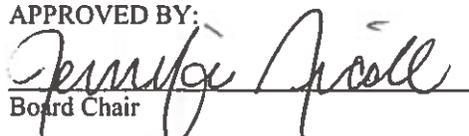
- Agenda Item 8: Future Schedule Discussion** [11:13 p.m.]
- TAB Working Session – Neighborhood Speed Management Program (NSMP) Guidelines review, update, January 25th, 4 – 6 p.m., Boulder Creek Room, Main Library
 - Bicycle Colorado “Moving People Forward 2019, February 7th, 8 a.m. – 6 p.m., Denver
 - Alpine-Balsam Area Plan Joint Board Workshop & Update, February 28th, 5:45 - 8 p.m. Council Chambers – Nicoll will attend.
 - City of Boulder & Boulder County TMP public open house, March 21, details TBD
 - Neighborhood Eco Pass Summit – details to follow, topic is, “What can we do to help your neighborhood?” RTD needs to hear directly from community.
 - Add advanced discussion regarding Capital Improvements Program (CIP)/start process earlier in year.
 - NSMP workshop – advance material, revised complex projects list, agenda, guidelines.

Agenda Item 9: Adjournment [11:20 p.m.]

There being no further business to come before the board at this time, by motion regularly adopted, the meeting was adjourned at 11:20 p.m.

Motion: moved to adjourn: Duhaime Second: McIntyre
Motion passes 5:0:0

Date, Time, and Location of Next Meeting:
 The next meeting will be a regular meeting on Monday, February 11, 2019 in the Council Chambers, 2nd floor of the Municipal Building, at 6:00 p.m.; unless otherwise decided by staff and the Board.

APPROVED BY:

 Board Chair

 3/26/19

 Date

ATTESTED:

 Board Secretary

 3/26/19

 Date