



## CITY OF BOULDER

### Planning and Development Services

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### Ideas from youth in Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan (BVCP) update May 2, 2011

We want to thank the teams and individuals who provided ideas and comments for the comprehensive plan process. We were inspired and energized by your participation – because the things we put into motion now will make the city what you want it to be in the future.

Many of the recommendations regarding sustainable urban form<sup>1</sup> that are desired by young people are common to the needs of all. The discussions with youth helped the planners see areas of the city through a different lens and challenge ourselves to ensure that the areas we are planning will be great places for everyone.

### **Examples of how youth ideas translated into policy<sup>2</sup> language**

| <b>Youth Ideas</b>   | <b>Translation into Policy (roughly)</b>  |
|--|---|
| “Have places close together”<br>“Youth need / like places that are easy to get to”   | Daily needs are within easy access from home, work or school without driving a car.   |
| “Easy and safe to walk and bike”<br>“Good transit is really important”   | An integrated multimodal system with abundant, convenient and pleasant ways to get around on foot, by bike and by local and regional transit service.   |
| “Use color - color changes people”<br>“Diverse vegetation: trees, shrubs and flowers”  | Create a public realm that is beautiful, well-used and enriched with art, trees and landscaping.  |
| “Use materials that last”  | The city will improve regulations ensuring energy and resource efficiency in new construction, remodels and renovation projects and will establish energy efficiency requirements for existing buildings. |
| “Gardens and park space are important”<br>“Parks are important gathering places and it is important for them to be well developed” | Ensure there are opportunities for people to connect to nature and natural systems.   |
| “Places and activities that are affordable”<br>“Retail geared toward youth is important.”  | A diversity of employment, housing types, sizes and prices, and other uses to meet the  |

<sup>1</sup> “sustainable urban form” means designing a community that is environmentally friendly and is compact, connected, complete, inclusive and attractive.

<sup>2</sup> a “policy” is a plan that is followed by a government or business.

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|---|--|
| They don't think there are very many affordable places to shop” | needs of a diverse community.  |
| “A city that is inclusive”                                      | Welcoming, accessible public gathering spaces for interaction among people of all ages, walks of life and levels of ability. |

Perhaps you'll see that we didn't capture your creative ideas perfectly in policy language. Some things aren't really in our control in development or redevelopment but they are still important. You said things way better than we can in a broad policy document. This doesn't mean we didn't hear your ideas or get what you were trying to say. We really appreciated the spirit in which you considered how to make your community better and what you wanted to see in the future. We heard you and are committed to ensuring that as we work on this and other projects - the needs of youth will be considered and incorporated into what comes to be.

Thanks again for your ideas. The city staff and the city council members appreciate hearing from you. If you would like to look at the draft plan you can find it at [www.bouldervalleycompplan.net](http://www.bouldervalleycompplan.net). We will keep challenging you to help us with planning projects because we value your voice. It is your city. Your views matter.

Many thanks to the young people who participated in events to provide input into Boulder's comprehensive plan update. Events included: Shaping Sustainability Workshop; Meetings with YSI and YOAB to provide their views on what they like about Boulder and what they would like to see change; and the 2010 Growing Up Boulder Annual Event.

Warm regards,

David Driskell,  
 Executive Director of Community Planning & Sustainability  
 & Boulder's Planning Staff