

MOMENTUM

e-news



December 12, 2016

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2017

As 2016 comes to an end, and the new year approaches, we are busily planning our projects for 2017. And it is shaping up to be another busy year! We'd like to take this as an opportunity to extend our heartfelt greetings for the season and thank you all for your involvement and support over the year. 2016 has been a great year.

2016 Highlighted Accomplishments

- Multimodal Transportation Plan update along with a full public process (plan adoption in January 2017)
- Completed Needham Connect I Safe Routes to School infrastructure project
- Launched new website and mobile application for the Way to Go! Club
- Completed ADA Transition Plan for transit stops and 0.2 miles of sidewalk leading up to each stop
- Organized successful Clean Commute Week
- Organized successful Winter Bike to Work Day



2016 Departmental Awards

- Durango Transit - 2016 Federal Transit Administration Outstanding Service Award for Rural Agencies.
- Amber Blake - 2016 Association of Commuter Transportation, 40 under 40.
- Multimodal - 2016-2020 Gold-Level Bicycle Friendly Community Status.
- Sustainability - 2016 EPEAT Purchasing Award.

2017 Planned Infrastructure Projects

The City is currently in the process of implementing several projects which include the following:

- **Needham Connect II Safe Routes to School Design & Construction.** This Safe Routes to School Project will include design and engineering for the Complete Street from Cottonwood Drive to Clovis Drive including sidewalks and bicycle facilities. Beginning in early 2017, design and engineering will be underway for the Needham Connect II project which were awarded a \$506,140 Safe Routes to School grant and a \$690,240 Transportation Alternatives grant. Design and engineering to be completed by December 2017, construction to be completed by December 2018.
- **Feasibility and Traffic Study for Crossings of Camino Del Rio, connectivity to Downtown and improved mobility.** This project will conduct a feasibility analysis and traffic study to examine mobility and movement in and across the Camino del Rio Corridor from 8th to 15th Street. Vehicular, bicycle and pedestrian movement and connections from East 3rd Avenue to Camino del Rio along 14th and 15th Street will be studied for connectivity, flow, and safety.
- **College Drive and 8th Avenue Road Diet Design.** This project will include the design and engineering of a road diet (reconfigure 4 traffic lanes to 3 lanes) for College Drive from Main Avenue to East 8th Avenue and for East 8th Avenue from Highway 3 to College Drive.

DRAFT OF MULTIMODAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN GOES TO COUNCIL!

Thank you for participating in the Multimodal Transportation Plan update this year! Without YOU this plan update would not have been possible.

The public comment period for the draft plan closed on October 31. The final draft of the plan will be taken to City Council during a Study Session on Tuesday, December 13.

- 2016 Multimodal Transportation Plan DRAFT
- Appendix A. Land Use and Development Code, Chapter 4
 - Appendix B. Parking Demand Maps
 - Appendix C. Glossary of Terms
 - Appendix D. ADA Transition Plan
 - Appendix E. North Main Avenue Corridor Mobility Study

The public process for the 2016 Plan Update began with a kick-off meeting followed by 12 other well-attended public meetings (highest attendance was 63 people at the May 23rd meeting).

The public process for the plan also included targeted outreach in an effort to engage all facets of our community. During public meetings, attendees were encouraged to openly give input and be a part of the project prioritization process.

Overall the 2016 meetings had over 800 total attendees and solicited over 450 unique public comments. In addition, a Virtual City Hall survey was used during the month of June 2016 to collect additional public input. The survey garnered 207 visitors and 159 responses.



CAMINO DEL RIO AND NORTH MAIN AVENUE TO GET FACELIFT

During the spring and early summer (March through May) of 2017, CDOT will be performing preventative maintenance on the concrete pavement that was installed in the early 1990s along Camino del Rio and North Main Avenue from the US Highway 160/550 Continuous Flow Intersection (CFI) to Animas View Drive.

Concrete pavement has a useful service life of 30 years (which is 5 years away) before reconstruction of the roadway becomes necessary. While well used, the existing concrete pavement is in relatively good condition for its age, and the intent of the preventative maintenance is to pro-long the useful service life of the concrete pavement. The preventative maintenance includes replacing and patching damaged concrete pavement, restoring the surface skid resistance and roadway smoothness through micro-grinding, re-sealing joints and re-stripping. The work is within the current curb to curb widths of the existing roadway.

Project highlights:

- Work will occur day and night Monday through Saturday. The anticipated completion date is May 19, 2017.



- CDOT intends to have the project substantially completed prior to Memorial day weekend and the Iron Horse Bicycle Race.
- CDOT will be replacing old non-bicycle friendly inlet grates with a type that will accommodate bicycle traffic.
- New pavement markings will reduce lane departure crashes as well as pedestrian and bicycle crashes (new bike lanes will be added to the roadway).
- Bike lanes and associated pavement markings will be similar to those used on the CFI project.
- Regrinding the concrete pavement surface will eliminate any conflicting pavement marking grooves that might confuse traffic.
- Regrinding the surface will provide more surface friction which shorten stopping distances, especially in winter.



WAY TO GO! TOGETHER TO LAUNCH IN THE NEW YEAR



Employees from Vantiv pose during a Business Commuter Challenge.

The City of Durango developed the [Way to Go! Club](#) in 2014 as a way to encourage and incentivize the use of active and sustainable transportation. As Way to Go! Club members log their miles, they earn points to be redeemed as currency in the Reward Store for prizes.

Not only are members becoming more active, saving money on transportation costs, reducing traffic congestion and living healthier lives, but they are being rewarded for it! The program has been wildly successful and currently has 800 members who saved a collective 520 tons of CO2 emissions in 2016.

In 2017, the Way to Go! Club is expanding in order to offer tailored commuter programs for local businesses and organizations. Encouraging active and sustainable transportation in the workplace leads to better health, fewer sick days, increased morale, lower healthcare costs and more productive staff

across the community. The City is launching **Way to Go! Together** in January and will offer the following services free of charge to local business:

- Surveys to gauge transportation and mobility needs of your organization
- Individualized commute plan for your employees
- Incentives and recognition for exemplary programs
- Website platform to create an organizational profile and track employees' CO2 savings
- Monthly Momentum newsletters
- Commuter challenges
- Training opportunities regarding benefits of active transportation
- Quarterly face-to-face meetings with other team leaders across the community

Way to Go! Together will allow team leaders to create their own organizational profiles and personalized incentive programs on the Way to Go! Club website. Each employee will have their own free Way to Go! Club account, accruing points and redeeming prizes as they choose. Team leaders can keep track of their organization's collective trips made, miles traveled, mode traveled, CO2 emissions saved, and time spent on active transportation. City Staff will work with each team leader to develop tailored transportation options on the cornerstone of active transportation. All of these services will be free to the organization.

The purpose of Way to Go! Together is to enhance workplace wellness and to promote a healthy community in Durango one organization at a time by encouraging access to physical activity through active transportation (walking, biking and public transportation). While the Way to Go! Club for individual members has proven to be an incredibly successful tool for encouraging people to choose active lifestyles over single-occupant vehicles, Way to Go! Together will allow the City of Durango to reach a larger audience and effect workplace wellness throughout the community.

GOLD, AGAIN!



In mid-November, the City of Durango applied for and was re-awarded Gold-Level Bicycle Friendly Community (BFC) designation from the League of American Bicyclists. Durango was part of the largest application round in the BFC program's 13 year history. In total, 140 communities applied for recognition, a 62 percent increase from the previous largest round of applicants.

The gold-level BFC recognition reinforces Durango's commitment to improving conditions for bicycling through investment in bicycling promotion, education programs, infrastructure and pro-bicycling policies. The BFC program provides a benchmark for communities to evaluate these conditions and policies, while highlighting areas for improvement.

10 BUILDING BLOCKS OF A BICYCLE FRIENDLY COMMUNITY

	Average Platinum	Durango
Arterial Streets with Bike Lanes	78%	82%
Total Bicycle Network Mileage to Total Road Network Mileage	45%	317%
Public Education Outreach	EXCELLENT	EXCELLENT
% of Schools Offering Bicycling Education	60%	VERY GOOD
Bike Month and Bike to Work Events	EXCELLENT	EXCELLENT
Active Bicycle Advocacy Group	YES	YES
Active Bicycle Advisory Committee	YES	AT LEAST MONTHLY
Bicycle-Friendly Laws & Ordinances	VERY GOOD	VERY GOOD
Bike Plan is Current and is Being Implemented	YES	YES
Bike Program Staff to Population	PER 20K	PER 6 K

RoadX Bicycle and Pedestrian Challenge

The Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Transportation has announced a state wide challenge to help improve bicycle and pedestrian safety in Colorado.



November 7, 2016

Dear bicycle and pedestrian advocacy partners:

As you're aware, approximately 500 Coloradans die in road accidents every year; and bicyclists and pedestrians account for 12% of these tragic fatalities. In our work Towards Zero Deaths, I'm excited to announce that the Colorado Department of Transportation is launching the RoadX Bicycle and Pedestrian Challenge. This effort is designed to address the unique safety needs of bicyclists and pedestrians.

The RoadX Bicycle and Pedestrian Challenge is a partnership with the Colorado Innovation Network (COIN)'s Imagine Colorado

in an endeavor to utilize innovative technology to improve the state's transportation system. This Challenge is asking entrepreneurs, idea makers, communities and others to develop inventive technological solutions to protect bicyclists and pedestrians in Colorado. A total of \$500,000 will be awarded to winners of the Challenge.

Here's how it works:

The RoadX Bicycle and Pedestrian Challenge is open to all Coloradans over the age of 18 who want to submit ideas either individually or in teams. The Challenge consists of two tracks designed to not only solicit great ideas, but also actionable concepts.

Track One, Idea-thon:

- Encourages participants to submit a groundbreaking technological idea to improve bicycling and pedestrian safety
- Up to five winners will be chosen with a prize of \$10,000 each.

Track Two, Do-athon:

- Prompts Coloradans to enter a unique and implementable idea and deploy the technology within eight months.
- Up to five finalists will be chosen and each will receive \$75,000 to build proof of concept.
- The team that deploys the best working technology over eight months will receive \$150,000 to continue the program. The runner up will receive \$50,000 and third place will receive \$25,000.

The call for proposals opened in November and all entries must be submitted through Imagine Colorado via [this link](#). Proposals may be submitted in English or Spanish. All proposals are due February 27, 2017. Finalists will be selected on March 31, 2017. To learn more about RoadX, visit <https://www.codot.gov/programs/roadx>.

We're looking forward to seeing Colorado's most innovative ideas and helping transform Colorado's transportation system into one of the safest and most reliable for all users. I encourage you to share this information with others and to participate in this creative Challenge.

Sincerely,

Shailen P. Bhatt
Executive Director
Colorado Department of Transportation

DECEMBER COMMUTER OF THE MONTH

Erin Taylor chooses Durango Transit to get to work at Vantiv and to get around town on the weekend.

Erin says: "Some people can't believe I don't drive my car, but for me Durango Transit is convenient and services all the



but for the Durango Transit is convenient and services all the places I need to get to. Riding the bus gives me the chance to catch up on podcasts and music. Durango Transit keeps getting better and easier - the new covered transit stop near my apartment keeps me out of the weather."

If you or someone you know would make a great Commuter of the Month, please email your nomination to GetAroundDurango@durangogov.org.



IN TRANSIT NEWS

UPCOMING FREE TRANSIT DAYS

On Free Transit Days, ride Durango Transit for FREE all day long thanks to our sponsors!

Tuesday, December 27
Methodist Thrift Store

[See the Rider's Guide here!](#)



Free Transit Day Sponsorship provides an excellent opportunity for your business to give back to the community.

By sponsoring a Free Transit Day, your business will provide fare-free transit service to the public, which is also a great advertising tool for your business.

For information on sponsoring a Free Transit Day, call (970) 375-4945 or [click here](#).

IN PARKING NEWS



Parking officers shovel sidewalks after a snow storm last year

25 CENTS COULD SAVE YOU \$25

Parking revenues are a primary source of revenue that currently funds Durango Transit operations. During City Council's all-day budget workshop on October 14, Council elected to balance the 2017 Transportation Services Fund budget by increasing parking tickets. The additional revenue the City will collect from the increased dollar amount will create enough revenue to keep Durango Transit service fully operational in 2017.

On December 6, City Council adopted a number of changes to the parking ordinance. ALL parking fines are increasing in January. The most common fine is an expired meter, where the initial fine will go from \$12 to \$25. The meter rates are not increasing, so please pay your meter and put that extra quarter in to save yourself \$25.

Some of the other changes include:

- Citations will increase only **one time** on the thirtieth day after the fine. For those who normally pay their expired meter citations after 30 days, the fully escalated amount will be \$2 more.
- If you forget to pay your citation, you will still be notified you by mail after 10 days, so please make sure your address is current with the DMB, where the Parking Division finds the owner of the ticketed vehicle.

Remember that the Parking Division has parking permits available at the Transit Center for \$30/month for all of the Municipal lots. Since there is limited parking space downtown, please remember that the vehicle needs to fit within the lines of the space on the street. If your vehicle is too large for one space, it is okay to take two parallel spaces as long as both meters are fed.

IN SUSTAINABILITY NEWS

City Welcomes New Sustainability Coordinator

Help the City of Durango extend a warm welcome to the new Sustainability Coordinator, Imogen Ainsworth!

Originally from London, Imogen has worked in sustainability and renewable energy, both in the UK and US, since 2013. After completing an undergraduate degree in Environmental Geography at the University of Bristol in the Southwest of England, she first moved to the US in 2011 when she was offered an athletic scholarship and the opportunity to pursue a Master's degree in Geography and Environmental Management at the University of New Mexico. For the past few years, she has been working at Bristol City Council and the non-profit Repowering London in the UK. Her projects there emphasized sustainable energy.

She says: "I am very excited to have moved here permanently and to be a part of such a great team as I build on all the work done to-date and continue to develop the City's sustainability program both internally and in the wider community."

Welcome, Imogen!



WHAT WE ARE READING

Polka dots help pedestrians reclaim space in Austin

One of the busiest intersections in Austin, Texas has gotten a makeover. [Read more.](#)

Commuters reduce their crash risk by more than 90 percent when taking public transit instead of driving

The most effective life-saving traffic safety tool for a commuter and a community may be the daily metro transit pass. [Read more.](#)

From Amsterdam to Arlington, comparing commutes

I laugh at myself now, thinking of how I always opted for my bike instead of the updated subway in Amsterdam, now that I ride metro during my daily commute to and from Arlington. [Read more](#)

New study quantifies benefits cycling offers Colorado

A new study release by multiple state agencies found that bicycling contributes significantly to Colorado's economy (\$1.6 billion in 2015), and that almost half of the state's adults rode a bicycle in the past year, making Colorado one of the most active states in the nation. [Read more.](#)

Like Millennials, more older Americans steering away from driving

A growing number of Americans are driving less and getting rid of their cars. [Read more.](#)

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