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Arapahoe County kicks off development of a Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan to improve mobility

Project Team is seeking input and ideas to help form vision and plan

LITTLETON, CO – Arapahoe County is launching a process to develop a comprehensive Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan to improve walking and biking in the County.

The master plan will identify a comprehensive system of on-street and trail facilities that safely connect neighborhoods and destinations, and encourages walking and bicycling for travel and recreation.

The plan will cover both incorporated and unincorporated Arapahoe County and will be developed in close coordination with all local municipalities. The final plan will serve as a guide for constructing bicycle and pedestrian network improvements over time.

The planning process began in May and the master plan will be developed throughout the year with anticipated adoption by the Arapahoe County Board of County Commissioners in April 2017.

“During this time, our team will inventory and analyze existing bicycle and walking facilities, develop a network of bicycle and pedestrian trails that safely connect neighborhoods and activity centers; create design guidelines and ensure the bicycle and pedestrian trail network throughout Arapahoe County provides the necessary connections for people to use for both recreational enjoyment, as well as a means of transportation from home to work, school and other means,” said Commissioner Rod Bockenfeld, who represents District 3 and serves as liaison to the County’s Open Space and Intergovernmental Relations Department.

“We hope residents will participate in the planning process and provide the feedback necessary to develop a robust and thorough plan to build and improve our trail network that also will help reduce conflicts between automobiles, pedestrians and bicyclists.”

The bicycle pedestrian master planning process does not impact the Board of County Commissioners' decision to prohibit the closure of Quincy Avenue in eastern Arapahoe County for athletic events.

For the plan to be successful, it is critical Arapahoe County hears from the community about their vision for biking and walking in the county; and to understand the gaps and needs in the existing bicycle and pedestrian network. A number of opportunities will be available throughout 2016 for the public to provide feedback, suggestions and ideas.

The project's kick-off event is a countywide Telephone Town Hall that will focus on biking and walking throughout Arapahoe County. The Telephone Town Hall begins at 7 p.m., June 21. To participate call 1-888-409-5380 or visit <http://bit.ly/ACTownHall> to participate via the webcast. Visit <http://www.arapahoegov.com/index.aspx?NID=1581> for more information or to pre-register and we will contact you directly.

You can also provide input at one of the County's two Bike-to-Work Day stations sponsored by Arapahoe County June 22.

On Bike-to-Work Day, Arapahoe County will distribute project information and the public will have the opportunity to complete a survey to provide their feedback. Those who complete the survey at either of the Bike-to-Work Day stations June 22 will be eligible to win a Garmin Edge. Bike-to-Work Day Stations will be located at:

- Wabash Trailhead – Mile Marker 9.2 on the Cherry Creek Trail
- Riverside Downs on the Mary Carter Greenway (2600 W. Belleview Avenue)

The project team also will be available at a variety of upcoming events to collect community feedback, such as the Arapahoe County Fair, July 28-31 and Pop-Up Trail Days held throughout the summer. After the initial public outreach, additional public meetings will be held to identify community values and to solicit input on the draft bicycle and pedestrian network developed throughout the process.

Visit www.arapahobikeped.com to learn more about the project or to join the project mailing list to provide your input. The website includes an interactive map-based tool that enables residents to tell us their suggestions, as well as to pinpoint specific key locations for improvements.

Whether you visit with the project team at community events or engage online, we hope you will participate in the process so your opinions and ideas help inform the future of these amazing amenities throughout Arapahoe County.

For more information about the Arapahoe County Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan, please contact the County's Project Manager Ray Winn, Arapahoe County Open Spaces, at rwinn@arapahoegov.com or 720-874-6551.

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