



**HEALTHY
COMMUNITIES
COALITION**
OF EAGLE COUNTY
LIVE PLAY EAT FEEL HEALTHY HERE



PLAN4Health
An American Planning Association Project



Eagle County

*Healthy Eating and Active Living
Master Plan Policy Scan*



Eagle County Plan4Health Policy Scan

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The Plan4Health project is designed to leverage planners' roles as collaborators and conveners to improve health outcomes and influence healthy community design in the built environment. Plan4Health is launching in neighborhoods, cities, and counties across the United States, funding work at the intersection of planning and public health. Anchored by American Planning Association (APA) chapters and American Public Health Association (APHA) affiliate members, Plan4Health supports creative partnerships to build sustainable, cross-sector coalitions. Each coalition participating in the Plan4Health grant is committed to increasing access to healthy opportunities through nutrition or physical activity. And, each coalition is dedicated to meeting the needs of residents where they live, work, or play.

The Healthy Communities Coalition (Coalition) of Eagle County was awarded the Plan4Health grant in late 2015. The Coalition is comprised of multidisciplinary professionals and community members committed to fostering health among all residents in Eagle County. Since its inception in 2012, the Coalition has worked together to implement several evidence-based strategies to increase opportunities for healthy eating and active living (HEAL) for all. The Coalition's Plan4Health project was born out of prioritization of the built environment to affect sustainable and equitable change to support healthy eating and active living. The built environment is defined as settings designed, created, modified and maintained by humans (e.g. roads, schools, neighborhoods, transit systems, etc.). Creating a healthy built environment means communities are designed in a way that enables people to live, learn, work, play, and age in place and allow them to thrive by being in a safe, healthy, environment to reach their full potential.

Eagle River Valley municipalities are already working to assure healthy community design. The Plan4Health grant project has provided the opportunity for the Coalition to conduct a policy scan of municipal master plans for policies that support healthy eating and active living. This project enables the Coalition to understand how healthy community design has been prioritized in master plan and strategic plan policy language along with other adopted municipal plans, to encourage future policies that support healthy community design efforts, and enables communities to be recognized for their existing efforts.



HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COALITION OF EAGLE COUNTY

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OUR VISION

By 2020, Eagle County will be a community that promotes and fosters a healthy environment for all.

OUR MISSION

The Healthy Communities Coalition facilitates and empowers the community into action for lifelong wellness through healthy eating and active living.



APPROACH:

The Plan4Health Policy Scan is a project of the Healthy Communities Coalition of Eagle County. The area of study includes: Towns of Avon, Eagle, Gypsum, Minturn, Red Cliff, Vail and unincorporated Eagle County. The Healthy Communities Coalition sought the permission and input of each listed municipality for this Policy Scan project. This Policy Scan covers topics of relevance to the Plan4Health project including: Healthy Food Access, Active Transportation and Public Transit, Community Design and Land Use, which were defined and vetted by the Healthy Communities Coalition. The Plan4Health policy scan will also highlight: initiatives, programs, resolutions, community engagement, and major accomplishments.



The Policy Scan includes a review of all recent or currently utilized:

- Comprehensive plans
- Community and Subarea Plans
- Transportation/Trails/Transit Plans
- Parks and Recreation Plans
- Strategic Plans

Other relevant community-based planning documents have also been included (see Table 1 below). Secondly, interviews were conducted with key staff within each jurisdiction to collect information on a sample of relevant programs and initiatives as well as information regarding policies that may be in process, but have not yet been approved.

POLICY DOCUMENTS REVIEWED

TABLE 1

Jurisdiction	Documents Reviewed
Eagle County	Eagle County Open Space Plan (1979) Eagle County Overall Comprehensive Plan (2006) Eagle County Strategic Plan (2015) Eagle River Watershed Plan (2015) Eagle-Vail Business Center Master Plan (2014) Eagle Valley Regional Trails Plan (2001) Mid Valley Trails Plan (2006) Sub Area Plans, Dotsero Area Community Plan (2012) Wolcott Area Community Plan (2009)

SCAN NOTES:

Told to scan the NWCCOG - Services Section which addresses water quality and quantity topics that addresses equity and environmental justice. We were unable to locate this section.

HEALTHY FOOD ACCESS POLICIES:

The information contained in this section is the exact policy language from each planning document listed below. Listing this policy language is intended to remind the jurisdictions of healthy eating and food access policies currently in place. Healthy food access can be defined as the availability and access to fresh, healthy, or locally sourced food. The policy language below reflects healthy food access in Eagle County through themes of: Encouragement of locally organized Farmers Markets, Rural area preservation, and access to hunting or fishing areas. Eagle County has a strong ranching and agricultural tradition alongside a tradition of both hunting and fishing creating opportunities for locally sourced, fresh food. Commentary around particular policies may be found below listed in italics. Policies oriented towards aging populations are listed with a double asterisk (**).



EAGLE COUNTY OVERALL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN (2006)

3.3.5 Other Industries (p.41)

- I. The important contribution to the local economy from hunting should be recognized and incorporated into the decision making process when appropriate.

DOTSERO AREA COMMUNITY PLAN (2012)

IV. Land Use-

- Policy LU1a (p.34): Land uses should serve residents, commuters, visitors and recreational users in the Dotsero planning area as a priority.

Recommended strategies:

- 3) Promote recreational services, facilities, activities and management programs designed to preserve or enhance the quality of rafting, fishing, camping, hunting, sightseeing, biking, snowmobiling and other activities associated with streams, rivers, roads, trails, campgrounds and public lands accessed through the Dotsero area.

- Policy LU1b (p.35): Consider less traditional business ventures based on demonstrated need and/or contribution to the character of the community and the diversity of the regional economy.

Recommended strategies:

- 6) Promote specialty businesses and light industrial uses of a nature, scale and design appropriate to the area, such as but not limited to:
 - Retail sales of rafting, kayaking, fishing, biking and hunting equipment

EAGLE-VAIL BUSINESS CENTER MASTER PLAN (2014)

- Policy 2.3 (p.28) Encourage social and cultural events that showcase the unique assemblage of businesses in the area.

Recommended Strategies:

- A. Encourage locally organized farmers markets, art shows, music festivals and other compatible social and cultural events.

EAGLE COUNTY STRATEGIC PLAN (2015)

Eagle County Vision (p.8)

Principle G Diverse, Resilient Economy

8. Farm and ranch based businesses with “farm to table” and local food production opportunities

EAGLE RIVER WATERSHED PLAN (2013)

- Objective 6.1: Provide safe and appropriate recreational access to streams, rivers and lakes. (p.116, 117)
- 6. Provide adequate parking and safe pedestrian routes at boat ramps and popular fishing access points.
- 12. Consider the construction of ramps and other improvements that would allow river visitation and fishing by physically handicapped recreationalists.

A good example of policy language focused on health equity.



ACTIVE AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION POLICIES:

The information contained in this section is the exact policy language from each planning document listed below. Listing this policy language is intended to remind the jurisdictions of active and public transportation policies currently in place. Active and public transportation can be defined as walking, biking or other physically active means of travelling and mobility. Public transportation is also included as a factor in active living as it often begins and ends with a walking or biking trip. The policy language below reflects active and public transportation policies in Eagle County through themes of: Developed areas in Eagle County should be served by multiple modes of transportation including efficient mass transportation systems. Additional themes include: Support the construction of the Eagle County Regional Trail on an alignment that maximizes safety while providing the highest quality user experiences available. A critical theme that emerged in the scan is that Eagle County will promote accessible, useable transportation options including public transit, trails, and alternative fuel vehicles while continuing to promote opportunities for healthy lifestyles and personal wellness. Eagle County has done significant work in the past in both active transportation and public transportation policy. Commentary around particular policies may be found below listed in italics. Policies oriented towards aging populations are listed with a double asterisk (**).

EAGLE COUNTY OVERALL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN (2006)

3.5 Infrastructure & Services (p.75)

- Goal: Eagle County's infrastructure and community services support all present and future community needs and encourage efficient travel, healthy lifestyles, a stable economy and the preservation of environmental quality.

3.5.2 Efficient Transportation (p.76)

- a. Developed areas in Eagle County should be served by multiple modes of transportation.
- b. Pedestrian paths should be safe, well-designed, well maintained and appropriately networked within and between communities.

An important policy for Planners to focus on while performing development review.

- c. Residential neighborhoods should include an appropriate mix of community services and community centered retail spaces that can be accessed by alternative modes of transportation.
- d. Bike paths should be safe, well designed, well maintained and appropriately connected within and between communities.
- g. Eagle County should be adequately and efficiently served by mass transportation systems and facilities.



ACTIVE AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION POLICIES:

DOTSERO AREA COMMUNITY PLAN (2012)(CONTINUED)

II. Natural Resources and Environmental Quality (p.29)

- Policy NR1h: Promote energy efficiency and the use of alternative energy systems.

Recommended strategies:

- 3) Incorporate public transit and multimodal connectivity features and facilities in developed areas.

III. Design, Appearance and Character (p.30-32)

- Policy D1b (p.30): Support land uses, improvements and community activities that enhance the appearance, identity and character of the area.

Recommended strategies:

- 2) Encourage specialty businesses that would enhance the identity and character of the Dotsero community, such as:

- Businesses that serve recreational uses and activities.

- Policy D2b (p.32): Assure safe and efficient access, and create/maintain multi-modal transit options in the Dotsero area

Recommended strategies:

- 2) Promote amenities in the built environment such as paved paths, parks, sidewalks, benches, bike racks, signs, landscaping, etc., that encourage walking and biking as alternatives to the use of personal automobiles.

- 3) Promote the appropriate routing and timely construction of the ECO Regional Trail through the area. Assure internal connections to the regional trail from all developed sites.

Making the connections listed above can sometimes be held up with access permits and other red tape, it is critical for developers who want to make private connections to the ECO Regional Trail to begin their access permit process with CDOT or any other governing bodies for the trail early.

- 4) Anticipate the need for multimodal access to public transportation from all developed areas. Provide bus stops, trails, park and rides and other public transit facilities in designs for commercial and residential areas.

- 5) Work collaboratively to develop and implement a comprehensive public signage and wayfinding system.

- 6) Support efforts to connect regional transit systems between Eagle and Garfield Counties.

Consider additional policy language to not only connect regional transit systems but to advocate for new transit routes or connections through the NWCCOG Regional Transit Coalition.



ACTIVE AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION POLICIES:

DOTSERO AREA COMMUNITY PLAN (2012)(CONTINUED)

IV. Land Use (p.34-36)

- Policy LU1a (p.34): Land uses should serve residents, commuters, visitors and recreational users in the Dotsero planning area as a priority.

Recommended strategies:

- 3) Promote recreational services, facilities, activities and management programs designed to preserve or enhance the quality of rafting, fishing, camping, hunting, sightseeing, biking, snowmobiling and other activities associated with streams, rivers, roads, trails, campgrounds and public lands accessed through the Dotsero area.
 - 8) Maintain the Ute Trail trailhead, and support efforts where appropriate to create access points to public lands south of the Eagle River and east of the Colorado River.
- Policy LU1b (p.35): Consider less traditional business ventures based on demonstrated need and/or contribution to the character of the community and the diversity of the regional economy.

Recommended strategies:

- 6) Promote specialty businesses and light industrial uses of a nature, scale and design appropriate to the area, such as but not limited to:
 - Recreational clothing/equipment manufacturing
 - Retail sales of rafting, kayaking, fishing, biking and hunting equipment
 - Services that support recreation, ranching, agriculture and equestrian uses
- Policy LU2b (p.35-36): Ensure land use proposals are appropriately positioned on the landscape, provide adequate public amenities and address concerns for long-term energy and transit efficiency.

Recommended strategies:

- 2) Include provision for adequate public parks, transit stops, pedestrian routes, gathering areas and indoor meeting spaces in the development review process.
- 4) Anticipate the need for multimodal access to all destinations and integrate transit oriented development strategies as practicable.

The policies listed above integrate community design language with active transportation language and are listed in both sections of this policy scan.

V. Public Infrastructure and Services (p.37-39)

- Policy IS1a (p.37): Provide safe and adequate roads, driveways, sidewalks and trails in the Dotsero area.

Recommended strategies:

- 1) Adhere to county road, sidewalk, trail and driveway standards. Preclude development of a nature or in a location that cannot be accessed by roads and/or driveways that conform to Eagle County standards.
 - 3) Develop and implement a comprehensive pedestrian and bike access plan for the Dotsero area.
 - 5) Promote efficient multi-modal travel connectivity between Dotsero and other parts of Eagle County and Garfield County. Support the construction of a park-and-ride in the event that public transit serves the area.
- Policy IS1e (p.38-39): Ensure adequate provision for schools, public parks, community centers, libraries, government offices, and other civic facilities and amenities in the Dotsero area, as determined appropriate and/or necessary.

Recommended strategies:

- 2) Set aside space through the development approval process for schools, parks, trails, meeting areas and other civic facilities and amenities as determined appropriate and necessary.



ACTIVE AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION POLICIES:

EAGLE-VAIL BUSINESS CENTER MASTER PLAN (2014)(CONTINUED)

- Policy 1.3 (p.26) Ensure land use compatibility and avoid land use conflicts

Recommended Strategies:

G. Work to enhance visual quality and recreational experiences in the area, Consider the views and experiences that will be available to those using paved trails, sidewalks, playgrounds, parks, and natural areas.

Goal 3: (p.28) Destinations in the Eagle-Vail Business Center are easy to find and access. Driveways are properly configured, parking is adequate, and delivery systems are efficient and well configured. Trails, sidewalk, crosswalks and signs promote walking and biking, and public transit stops are strategically integrated into the overall access plan.

- Policy 3.3 (p.29) Encourage safe internal and external bike and pedestrian connectivity improvements.

Recommended Strategies:

A. Work with property owners, ECO Transit and other stakeholders to develop a Pedestrian Connectivity Plan for the entire Eagle Vail Business Center.

B. Identify and work to correct situations where sidewalk or path segments are missing between adjacent retail/commercial destinations, and between public transit stops and business buildings.

C. Provide landscaping, street furniture, signs, lighting and other improvements to enhance pedestrian activity and movement.

D. Encourage the installation of safe cross-highway pedestrian facilities at key locations and/or in association with public transit stops along US Highway 6.

E. Promote the completion of the Eagle Valley Regional Trail through the area, and the connection to that trail by local sidewalks and paths.

F. Encourage clear demarcation and signage of bike lanes on the shoulders of US Highway 6.

G. Provide covered bike racks for retail/commercial business and transit stops.

- Policy 3.4 (p.29-30) Promote access by public transportation

Recommended Strategies:

A. Support projects that would enhance access to the business center by those using public transportation.

B. Provide visible, well-designed bus stops with adequate turn-out areas along Highway 6.

C. Ensure sidewalks and paths are developed to provide connectivity to retail/commercial sites from bus stop locations.

- Policy 3.5 (p.30) Encourage effective signage systems in the Eagle-Vail Business District

Recommended Strategies:

A. Coordinate with CDOT to provide adequate directional, instructional, cautionary and wayfinding signage within the US Highway 6 right-of-way.

- Policy 4.1 Support designs and projects that provide public access at appropriate locations along the Eagle River corridor.

Recommended Strategies:

B. Support the construction of the Eagle County Regional Trail on an alignment that maximizes safety while providing the highest quality user experiences available. Consider an alignment near the river corridor where feasible and practicable.

C. Support the creation of public paths and easements from the US Highway 6 to the southern edge of the river bank. Provide pocket parks or overlooks and seating areas in select locations along the river bank.

D. Limit the number of access points to the water edge from the top of the southern bank to those necessary to support dispersed river activities like fishing and photography. Ensure an appropriate and stable platform for any trails constructed to the river's edge.

F. Work to develop a maintenance and management program for trails, parks and other river access facilities that would be administered by a qualified local agency or entity.

- Policy 4.2 (p.30-31) Apply best management strategies related to trail design, site restoration, vegetation protection and storm water management in areas adjacent to or within the Eagle River corridor.



ACTIVE AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION POLICIES:

WOLCOTT AREA COMMUNITY PLAN (2009)

3. Character and Appearance (p.19)

- Goal 3.1 Pedestrian Scale, Pedestrian Experience Development in the Wolcott Planning Area is scaled and designed to promote walking and to create comfortable, inviting pedestrian environments.
- Policy 3.1.1 (p.19) Design population centers to be compact and walkable, providing safe and comfortable pedestrian access to all destinations.
- Policy 3.1.4 (p.19) Require an orientation of buildings, roads, parking lots and other cultural amenities within population centers and residential neighborhoods that focuses on pedestrian access and an enhanced pedestrian experience.

5. Land Use (p.21-23)

Residential Uses

**Policy 5.1.8 (p.22) Residential units should be within walking distance of businesses, public transportation hubs and other local amenities and services

- Lodging Uses
- Policy 5.1.13 (p.22) Locate lodging facilities within walking distance of local services

7. Economic Development (p.23)

- Policy 7.1.2 (p.23) Consider connectivity to and the services provided by the communities of Avon, Edwards, Eagle and Gypsum (now and in the foreseeable future) when planning for economic development in Wolcott.

An example of language focused on connectivity as it relates to economic development.

8. Access and Circulation (p.24)

- Goal 8.1 (p.24) Transit Oriented Design Development in Wolcott promotes a sustainable future by encouraging the use of mass transit and personal modes of transportation other than the automobile.
- Policy 8.1.1 (p.24) Require compact and/or clustered development to promote walking, biking and the use of public transportation systems.
- Policy 8.1.2 (p.24) Require efficient connectivity between all destinations by a multi-purpose sidewalk, trail and street system.
- Policy 8.1.4 (p.24) Strongly encourage the development and operation of regional and local feeder public transportation systems that are appropriately designed and easily accessible to all residents and visitors.
- Policy 8.1.5 (p.24) Provide an appropriate location for the Eagle Valley Regional Trail to and through the Wolcott area. Require efficient connection to the Regional Trail system by all development.

Ensure proper permissions can be obtained for privately built trails to access the ECO Regional Trail, gaining access to a major regional trail can sometimes be more time consuming than expected.

- Goal 8.2 Community Oriented Design (p.24) Transportation systems and facilities are designed to accommodate local needs, enhance the quality of life of local residents and minimize negative impacts to the quality of natural resources and the environment.
- Policy 8.2.2 (p.24) Require road, transit and pedestrian access systems in Wolcott to be designed to anticipate future needs and traffic volumes. Guide development to assure operation at Level of Service (LOS) C or better at all road intersections.

Avoid policy that sets benchmarks related to Level of Service (LOS) as outcomes can result in unnecessarily wide streets that function to move traffic as fast and at as high of a volume as possible.

- Policy 8.2.3 (p.24) Require a safe interface between pedestrian, bike and vehicular modes of transportation.

This policy language could be strengthened by citing design elements that contribute to these "safe" interfaces.



ACTIVE AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION POLICIES:

WOLCOTT AREA COMMUNITY PLAN (2009)

9. Open Space and Recreation (p.25)

- Policy 9.1.2 Create an interconnected network of open lands, incorporating views, agricultural lands, public lands, wildlife habitat, riparian habitats and other sensitive lands, hazard areas, community buffer areas, stands of significant vegetation, parks and trail and transportation corridors.
- Policy 9.2.1 (p.25) Provide an appropriate and adequate mix of active and passive recreational opportunities in close proximity to population centers.
- Policy 9.2.2 (p.25) Require public access to all recreational facilities.

EAGLE COUNTY STRATEGIC PLAN (2015)

Eagle County Vision (p.7)

- Principle E Environmental Stewardship

6. Accessible, useable transportation options including public transit, trails, alternative fuel vehicles

Goal 2 Eagle County is a Great Place to Live for All (p.20)

Objectives

6. Expand trail connectivity

10. Connect communities through a variety of transportation systems

Value To Residents

4. Trail system for recreation and community use

6. Opportunities for healthy lifestyles and personal wellness

8. Choices of transportation modes

EAGLE RIVER WATERSHED PLAN (2013)

Objective 6.1: Provide safe and appropriate recreational access to streams, rivers and lakes. (p.116, 117)

Well-designed access points on the Eagle River and its tributary streams are necessary to accommodate the variety of recreational activities enjoyed by residents and visitors to Eagle County. Access sites should be located and designed to assure functionality, and to guarantee the long term protection of natural ecosystems and environments within the basin. Plans for new access points, or improvements to existing sites, should follow a basin-wide low impact recreational strategy, employing basic design criteria consistent with recommendations of the 2006 Eagle River Recreation Enhancement Plan and the intents and purposes of this Watershed Plan.

8. Design and maintain all access sites to avoid impacts to riparian areas and water quality. Minimize impacts from channel work and bank stability projects by employing appropriate de-watering, sediment control and revegetation strategies. Avoid footpath alignments along rivers and streams that negatively impact sensitive wetlands or riparian habitats.
9. Where appropriate, encourage the creation of access easements or lease arrangements for walking access across private properties.

This is an important policy statement, although it can sometimes be difficult to implement policy like this, it is critical that Planners continue to look for access opportunities on a local and regional scale.

10. Design road bridge embankments to accommodate foot passage by recreationalists (and wildlife).
11. Design recreational trails to avoid unnecessary impacts to riparian corridors (consult the Eagle County Regional Trails Plan for design criteria). Where practical and appropriate, create river and stream access points that connect to the paved recreational trail systems.



COMMUNITY DESIGN AND LAND USE POLICIES:

The information contained in this section is the exact policy language from each planning document listed below. Listing this policy language is intended to remind the jurisdictions of community design and land use policies currently in place. Community design and land use can be defined as urban design and land use policies that support healthy eating and active living through a focus on creating interconnected walkable neighborhoods, affordable housing, parks, open space, community gathering spaces, and accessibility for people of all ages. The policy language below reflects community design and land use policies in Eagle County through themes of:

- Clustered development in rural areas to preserve open space and agricultural land.
- Development of a variety of housing types focused on affordable and attainable housing for locals.
- Preservation and public dedication of the Eagle River riparian corridor.
- Support land uses, improvements and community activities that enhance the appearance, identity and character of the area.
- Promote the use of alternative energy, and assure energy efficient design and construction.
- Promote a compact transit and multi-modal access oriented development footprint.

A critical theme that emerged in the scan is that housing needs are clearly identified, and housing types are appropriately balanced to meet all community needs, appropriately located to reduce long distance commutes, and appropriately managed to assure long term affordability for Eagle County's workforce. Eagle County will likely need to expand on the theme of accommodating aging populations for community design policies in the future. Commentary around particular policies may be found below listed in italics. Policies oriented towards aging populations are listed with a double asterisk (**).

EAGLE COUNTY OVERALL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN (2006)

3.2.4 Development (p.24, 25)

- e. Urban and suburban type growth should be appropriately designed and should be located within or immediately contiguous to existing towns and community centers.
- f. New communities proposed for unincorporated areas of the County should be subject to a thorough and rigorous set of development criteria.
- g. Redevelopment and/or revitalization of currently underdeveloped, outdated, rundown, or otherwise dysfunctional areas should be encouraged.
- h. Open corridors between towns and community centers should be preserved.
- i. A cluster style of development should be encouraged, especially in areas where cultural, environmental or scenic resources are at risk.
- j. Development should be fully responsible for the mitigation of development related impacts upon both the natural and built environment.

3.2.5 Community & Character (p.27)

- k. Local communities should establish unique venues, attractions and design standards directed toward enhancing individual community character and developing a sense of place.

3.3.4 Commercial Development (p.38)

- f. Commercial uses should be appropriately scaled and should be located within towns and community centers.

3.4 Housing (p.58)

Goals:

- **1) Housing is available and affordable for no less than 70% of Eagle County's workforce.
- **2) Housing needs are clearly identified, and housing types are appropriately balanced to meet all community needs, appropriately located to reduce long distance commutes, and appropriately managed to assure long term affordability for Eagle County's workforce.



COMMUNITY DESIGN AND LAND USE POLICIES:

EAGLE COUNTY OVERALL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN (2006)

3.4.2 Jobs to Housing Balance (p.58)

- a. Affordable workforce housing should be located near job centers.
- **3.4.3 Unlimited Housing Demands: (p.61)
- b. Housing projects created through public/private partnerships should result in affordable, price capped units that are restricted to Eagle County residents and/or employees.
- c. Programs to increase home ownership by local workers in Eagle County should be supported. d. Efforts to increase the stock of affordable rental units for local workers should be supported. e. Adequate housing options for Senior Citizens should be available.

Strengthen this policy language by changing the word Adequate to Affordable.

- f. The stock of existing workforce housing should be preserved.
- g. Well designed mobile home subdivisions, modular home subdivisions, and mobile home parks should be encouraged where appropriate.
- h. Demographics related to housing needs should be closely monitored and the resulting data incorporated into the decision making process.
- i. Workforce housing projects should incorporate quality design standards and programs for long term maintenance.
- j. Land use planning should promote an appropriate amount of workforce housing.
- k. Accessory Dwelling Units should be allowed within appropriate zone districts.
- **3.4.4 Limited Housing Supply (p.63)
- l. Efforts by involved entities to reduce land costs, housing construction costs and carrying costs should be supported.

3.4.5 Development Stakes (p.64)

- m. Efforts by employers to address their own employee housing needs should be supported. Development should share responsibility for fulfilling Eagle County's workforce housing needs.

3.4.6 Comprehensive Workforce Housing Approach (p.65)

- o. Local governments should be encouraged to accommodate 100% of their workforce housing needs, and to contribute to improving regional jobs-to-workforce attainable housing imbalances. p. Efforts to find solutions for workforce housing imbalances should involve both community and industry representatives.

Strengthen this policy language by including senior housing into the Comprehensive Approach as well.

3.5 Infrastructure & Services (p.75)

Goal: Eagle County's infrastructure and community services support all present and future community needs and encourage efficient travel, healthy lifestyles, a stable economy and the preservation of environmental quality.

3.6.5 River Recreation (p.116)

- i. Water-related recreation should be encouraged where appropriate at a level that will not damage related resources, ecosystems and environments.

3.8.4 Public Lands & Open Space (p.148)

- e. A variety of approaches should be utilized to preserve land as open space.
- f. Open space should be able to serve different needs in different applications.
- g. Appropriate access should be provided to public lands and rivers.

3.9 Environmental Quality (p.160)

Goals:

- 1) Air quality, ambient noise levels and the quality of the night sky in Eagle County are preserved at levels appropriate to a modern mountain community.
- 2) Eagle County is recognized as a leader in promoting energy efficiency and conservation.



COMMUNITY DESIGN AND LAND USE POLICIES:

DOTSERO AREA COMMUNITY PLAN (2012)

III. Design, Appearance and Character

- Policy D1b (p.30): Support land uses, improvements and community activities that enhance the appearance, identity and character of the area.

Recommended strategies:

- 1) Promote a compact transit and multi-modal access oriented development footprint. Position all residential and retail uses within a ½ mile walkability circle, centered on each of the two I-70 half diamond interchanges.
- 2) Group retail uses to the greatest degree possible to promote pedestrian access and one-stop shopping.
- 4) Create appropriately sized and amenitized public parks for residential neighborhoods local businesses and I-70 commuters. Consider the benefits of a centrally located community park and sports field.
- 5) Include provisions for access, setbacks, parking, delivery systems, pedestrian amenities, connectivity, safety, and public signage in locally created and implemented design guidelines.

Great example of policy language focused on the creation of a walkable mixed use town center in Dotsero. Consider adding policy language focused on diverse housing opportunities and the inclusion of affordable housing.

- Policy D2a (p.32): Promote the use of alternative energy, and assure energy efficient design and construction in the Dotsero area.
- 4) Utilize the County's Sustainable Community Index or similar tools in the evaluation of all development proposals.

IV. Land Use

- Policy LU1a (p.34-35): Land uses should serve residents, commuters, visitors and recreational users in the Dotsero planning area as a priority.

Recommended strategies:

- 5) Employ ADA accessibility standards to enhance access to recreational sites wherever practical and appropriate.
- 6) Provide appropriately amenitized parks and playgrounds for both local residents and I-70 commuters.
- 10) Consider the benefits of new live-work housing arrangements, but otherwise limit workforce housing to that which has already been approved in the area.

Consider removing limits on the construction of workforce housing, or use a phased approach to managing the expansion of workforce housing.

- **11) In the event that additional housing is found to be appropriate, promote a mix of housing types and price points.
- 13) Support open space acquisitions that preserve lands of conservation value.
- Policy LU2b (p.35-36): Ensure land use proposals are appropriately positioned on the landscape, provide adequate public amenities and address concerns for long-term energy and transit efficiency.

Recommended strategies:

- 5) Utilize the County's Sustainable Community Index or other similar tools in the evaluation of development proposals.
- 6) Promote adherence to the County's Efficient Building Codes (ECO-Build), incorporating energy efficient strategies, methodologies and materials in the design and construction of new buildings.



COMMUNITY DESIGN AND LAND USE POLICIES:

EAGLE-VAIL BUSINESS CENTER MASTER PLAN (2014)(CONTINUED)

- Policy 1.2 (p.26) Support zoning and land use approvals that result in a desirable mix of uses and services within the Business Center.

Recommended Strategies:

- B. Consider the benefit of residential units within or adjacent to commercial buildings, and encourage the creation of affordable workforce housing opportunities.

To broaden the reach of this policy simply change “affordable workforce housing” with “affordable housing”.

- Policy 2.2 (p.27-28) Support efforts to improve the visual quality and image of the Business Center

Recommended Strategies:

- F. Develop and implement sign guidelines to improve visual quality, way-finding and the image of the Business Center.
- J. Consider the visual experiences of pedestrians and cyclists in the area, develop design guideline standards to assure attractive and inviting spaces and amenities.

WOLCOTT AREA COMMUNITY PLAN (2009)

3. Character and Appearance (p.19)

- Goal 3.1 Pedestrian Scale, Pedestrian Experience Development in the Wolcott Planning Area is scaled and designed to promote walking and to create comfortable, inviting pedestrian environments.
- Policy 3.1.1 (p.19) Design population centers to be compact and walkable, providing safe and comfortable pedestrian access to all destinations.
- Policy 3.1.2 (p.19) Consolidate retail and commercial development within population centers, and carefully design parking areas to promote pedestrian travel and one stop shopping.
- Policy 3.1.3 (p.19) Require open areas within population centers that are appropriately sized and sited to support social gathering, public events, and the display of public art.
- Policy 3.1.4 (p.19) Require an orientation of buildings, roads, parking lots and other cultural amenities within population centers and residential neighborhoods that focuses on pedestrian access and an enhanced pedestrian experience.

5. Land Use (p.21-24)

Lodging Uses

- Policy 5.1.15 (p.22)
Encourage meeting rooms, workout rooms, pools and other spaces within lodges that could be shared to supplement community needs.

Civic and Institutional Uses

- Policy 5.1.20 Site civic and institutional uses to be within comfortable walking distance of residential neighborhoods and local businesses, lodging, etc.

6. Housing

- Policy 6.1.1 (p.23) Provide a combination of rental and for-sale affordable housing units for local permanent residents that exceeds the minimum requirements of Eagle County's Housing Guidelines.
- Policy 6.1.3 (p.23) Integrate and coordinate plans for creating workforce housing in Wolcott with related regional housing efforts.
- Policy 6.1.4 (p.23) Limit the approval of new free market homes to those associated with projects that create new workforce housing units.

Both of the policies listed above could be strengthened by the inclusion of senior and affordable housing language paired with workforce housing.

***Policy 6.1.5 (p.23) Where adequate infrastructure exists, require Accessory Dwelling Units with all single family homes.*

8. Access and Circulation

- Policy 8.2.4 (p.24) Site and design roads, parking areas and trails to enhance sense of place and community character.
- Policy 8.2.5 (p.25) Strongly encourage clustering in rural areas to reduce the extent of transportation related infrastructure.
- Policy 8.2.6 (p.25) Adequately address impacts to visual quality, wildlife, water quality and sensitive lands when planning trails, bridges, roads and parking lots.



COMMUNITY DESIGN AND LAND USE POLICIES:

EAGLE COUNTY STRATEGIC PLAN (2015)

Goal 2 Eagle County is a Great Place to Live for All (p.20)

Objectives

- **3. Encourage more affordable housing choices, including types and price levels
- 9. Create communities with a sense of place

Value To Residents

- **2. Affordable and quality housing available to all
- 6. Opportunities for healthy lifestyles and personal wellness

Goal 3 Eagle County Protects the Natural Environment (p.21)

Objectives

- 3. Concentrate development in populated areas guided by smart growth principles
- 4. Preserve community buffers and open spaces

EAGLE RIVER WATERSHED PLAN (2013)

• Objective 6.1: Provide safe and appropriate recreational access to streams, rivers and lakes. (p.116, 117)

Well-designed access points on the Eagle River and its tributary streams are necessary to accommodate the variety of recreational activities enjoyed by residents and visitors to Eagle County. Access sites should be located and designed to assure functionality, and to guarantee the long term protection of natural ecosystems and environments within the basin. Plans for new access points, or improvements to existing sites, should follow a basin-wide low impact recreational strategy, employing basic design criteria consistent with recommendations of the 2006 Eagle River Recreation Enhancement Plan and the intents and purposes of this Watershed Plan.

1. Establish a collaborative program to evaluate conditions and implement improvement and/or maintenance projects for all existing public access points.
2. Where determined necessary and appropriate, create new public access points.
4. Encourage the establishment of well-maintained higher use access sites at the beginning/end of defined river and stream "reaches", and work to avoid concentrated access impacts at locations in between.
5. Where compatible, promote the installation of new and appropriately engineered and amenitized whitewater parks.

A great example of a community design policy that promotes active living.

6. Provide adequate parking and safe pedestrian routes at boat ramps and popular fishing access points.
- **12. Consider the construction of ramps and other improvements that would allow river visitation and fishing by physically handicapped recreationalists.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT POLICIES:

The information contained in this section is the exact policy language from each planning document listed below. Listing this policy language is intended to remind the jurisdictions of community engagement policies currently in place. Community Engagement can be defined as policies that support two-way communication between local government agencies and citizens. The two-way process of community engagement allows for multiple avenues for a local agency to inform citizens of meetings, news, upcoming decisions, plans, and processes while allowing for multiple avenues for citizens to give feedback or to feel and see that they are part of the plan or process. Many jurisdictions do not currently have policy language around community engagement. Commentary around particular policies may be found below listed in italics. Policies oriented towards aging populations are listed with a double asterisk (**).

No policies were found in Eagle County relating to community engagement



INITIATIVES, PROGRAMS, AND RESOLUTIONS:

- Currently, Eagle County is creating a Healthy Community Index.
- Eagle County started a pilot project called the Neighborhood Partnership Program to give CIP dollars to local neighborhood projects including trails and sidewalks.
- An Eagle County worksite wellness policy exists.

MAJOR HEALTHY EATING AND ACTIVE LIVING ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Healthy Food Access - Accomplishments

- Eagle County provides space for community gardens. .
- Community Development has developed a nexus saying that kids with access to green space do on average a percentage better in school than those without access to green space. Our Eagle County attorneys do believe that parks and playgrounds get wrapped into a public benefit.
- Eagle County has large ranches, local gardens, greenhouses, some farm to table occurs including local butchering.
- Right to Farm and Ranch Resolution passed in the Colorado State Legislature.
- Sustainable Community Index is going to be replaced by the Healthy Community Index.
- Most produce in Eagle County comes from Grand Junction and Palisade
- Farmers Markets exist in Minturn, Edwards, Vail, and Avon.
- Eagle-Vail community gardens utilize existing spaces.
- New PUD's get a community garden by right.
- Eagle County encourages community gardens in the correct locations.
- Draft landscaping regs promote edible landscaping. Also encourages the use of rooftop areas for gardening.

Active Transportation and Public Transit - Accomplishments

- Eagle County is currently finalizing a Climate Action Plan.
- Eagle County strongly supports multi-modal options, however often come up against terrain issues. ECoTransit serves the valley well, however there are still unserved areas. Eagle County would like to implement more circulator service eventually.
- Eagle County is retrofitting sidewalks into areas that have been underserved for example Edwards was built without sidewalks.
- A portion of the ECO tax goes towards regional trails.
- Eagle County does not have an on-street bike plan or system. However, Eagle County does build paved shoulders where possible. Eagle County has also worked with CDOT to pave shoulders.
- Eagle County Transportation is working on a WeCycle Bike sharing (in the Roaring Fork Valley)
- The Eagle County government office has a bike library

Community Design and Land Use - Accomplishments

- Eagle County has progressive policies that promote smart growth.
- Eagle County supports LEED and LEED-ND
- Eagle County has an EcoBuild program that addresses building efficiencies through a points system.
- Design Guidelines exist in the Town of Edwards.
- Conservation Subdivision - exists in the land use regs, this allows for increased density on the property while preserving surrounding open space.

Community Engagement - Accomplishments

- Informally, every land use applicant is told to go talk to their neighbors.
- Master Planning typically includes at least two community meetings.
- Some struggles with outreach to latino, spanish speaking, and low income. However, Social Service and the Human Services Department has typically done this outreach.



FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES

Future opportunities based on best practices and evidence-based strategies for healthy eating and active living.

Healthy Food Access:

- Expansion of healthy food access policy language in future planning efforts. Some examples include: Including food access and health goals into comprehensive plans or subarea plans. Including food access goals such as proximity to food retail in development checklists or HIA's. Monitoring the balance of healthy to less healthy stores. Conduct a community food assessment (CFA) or food system assessment (FSA).
- Food retail options could be increased by: expediting the permitting process for grocery development in priority areas, identification of potential sites for new grocery, offer density bonuses for new grocery retail, allow for mobile produce markets/carts, reduce parking requirements for grocery retail.
- Eagle County is strategically positioned as a potential hub of fresh local food from both the western slope and the San Luis Valley. Eagle County can attract and possibly incentivize farmers and food producers in both of these regions to participate in local farmers markets, and/or make their local food available in Eagle County grocery stores.
- Fishing and hunting mean access to local food. Promote policy language focused on promoting hunting and fishing as local fresh food access.
- Eagle County should consider the balance of sustainability to public health protection. For example we do not want farmers selling Raw Goat Milk, or unpasteurized milk. Other issues can arise such as untrained local food prep or procedures, or misinformation regarding the contents of locally produced food products.

Active Transportation and Public Transit:

- Work with CDOT officials to ensure proper permissions can be obtained for privately built trails to access the ECO Regional Trail if within I-70, US-6 CDOT Right-Of-Way or UP Right-of-Way.
- Consider policy language or development requirements that require medium or large subdivisions and developments to submit transit accessibility plans as part of their development application.
- Create policy language to ensure that all current and future park-n-rides have trail access and are incorporated into existing and future wayfinding signage strategies.
- Consider expanding the number of bike sharing sites in Eagle County, using the WeCycle system.
- Consider updating the Eagle Valley Regional Trails Plan to include a detailed assessment of missing links and proposals for local sidewalk and trail connections. These proposals will likely need to be broken out into subareas to address this level of detail.
- Continue to work with ECO Transit and the NWCCOG Regional Transit Coalition to plan, advocate an implement an expanded regional transit network, advocate for new regional transit routes and service including community circulator service.
- Take into consideration the advent of electric bikes and the trend towards increased use of e-bikes on multi use non-motorized paths. Perhaps the most progressive policies on e-bikes have been adopted by the City of Boulder.

E-Bike rules in the City of Boulder:

- e-bikes are allowed on the trail system;
- must comply with the 15 mph speed limit on multi-use paths;
- keep right, pass left;
- give an audible alert before passing; and
- bike lights are required and reflective clothing is advised for nighttime use.

More information on e-bikes can be found here:

<https://bouldercolorado.gov/goboulder/electric-assisted-bikes-policy-review>

- Take into consideration that when designing transportation networks to accommodate a specific level of service in community centers, outcomes can result in unnecessarily wide streets that function to move traffic as fast and at as high of a volume as possible. A result of this Level Of Service (LOS) based approach is diminished quality of the pedestrian and bicycle environment. Consider abandoning the pursuit of a high LOS to favor a high quality urban transportation design with a vibrant sense of place at a pedestrian scale. Even at LOS D, E, or F traffic will still move and eventually clear after peak periods.
- Consider lowering parking minimums in Eagle County, especially for developments that have shared parking facilities, or provide spaces for car share, bicycle parking, or transit amenities. Consider providing incentives for developers to share parking lots or structures. Consider policies that set parking maximums to prevent developers from providing too much parking. Consider the creation of regional and local Parking Management Plans that identify opportunities for shared parking, paid parking, or parking lot reclamation. Develop a set of parking criteria that can be used to review developments.
- Consider developing transportation and mode share goals for Eagle County.



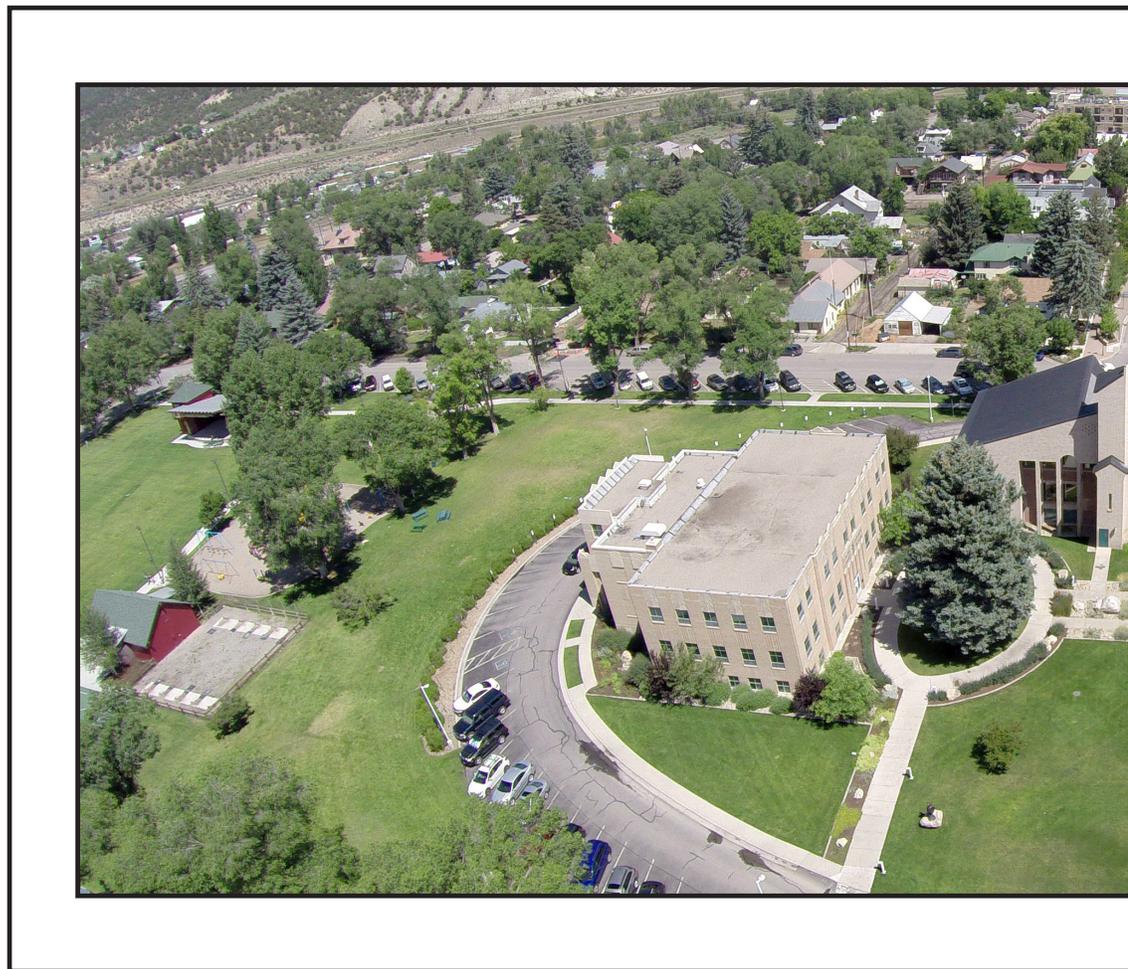
FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES (CONTINUED)

Community Design and Land Use:

- Locate affordable housing or employee housing in Eagle County to be within walking or biking distance of major population and employment centers. Ensure transit accessibility to affordable or employee housing as well.
- Policies focused on aging populations can be beneficial for the entire community, as policies benefitting aging populations tend to also benefit the disabled, low-income, children, and traditionally overlooked populations. Policy language could be adopted that encourages not only diverse housing options for the elderly, but universal community design guidelines and considerations for the elderly. Urban design features such as ramps, handrails, handicapped parking spaces, upgraded traffic signals, pedestrian refuge islands, and signalized crosswalks with pedestrian push buttons are a few examples.

Community Engagement:

- To increase the amount of latino feedback and involvement consider designating a latino outreach liaison, possibly advertise planning efforts and meetings on a latino radio station as well. Eagle County would have to identify an interpreter to provide spanish translation of announcements, documents and webpages.
- Recommendation: Create an easy to remember URL for citizens to review and provide comment on planning efforts/documents.
- When conducting public outreach during planning processes consider going out to the public rather than making the public come to meetings or open houses which can suffer from low attendance. This could mean setting up information tables with staff at grocery stores, schools, parks, and other community gathering areas. Encourage developers to go out to the public and conduct their own public outreach to their neighbors near the proposed development, prior to the formal development process.



THANK YOU!

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- Open Plan Consultants, LLC was the subcontractor hired to conduct the policy scan whose previous experience with policy scans and expertise in healthy eating and active living were critical.

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**HEALTHY
COMMUNITIES
COALITION**
OF EAGLE COUNTY

LIVE PLAY EAT FEEL HEALTHY HERE

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