

Connect Loveland

Vision, Goals and Objectives Final Draft

October 2019



Connect Loveland: Vision, Goals, and Objectives

The following document outlines a draft vision along with a set of proposed goals and objectives for the Connect Loveland Transportation Master Plan. Goals and corresponding objectives have been divided into topic areas that will ultimately represent different sections of Connect Loveland.

Many elements in this draft are adopted from previous planning efforts in Loveland and some pieces have been drafted specifically for Connect Loveland, based on more recent changes in the rapidly evolving transportation landscape and Loveland's growing population. Input from the Connect Loveland Stakeholder Committee (CLSC) and other Loveland stakeholders were critical for determining the final shape these critical planning elements take.

To help provide a framework for this document, please refer to the following definitions:

Vision:

Thinking about the future with wisdom and/or imagination. Something to be pursued, **the end result.**

Goals:

The desired end result of any number of efforts. A goal **defines the direction and destination**, changes the direction of the City toward the end result.

Objectives:

All about the tactics. Objectives are **action items** to get from where we are to where we want to be. A goal defines the direction and destination, but the road to get there is accomplished by a series of objectives.

Connect Loveland Vision

Loveland's multimodal transportation network will be safe, accessible, regionally connected, and user-friendly, providing reliable and convenient access to everyday destinations for all ages and abilities.

Topic Areas

The goals and objectives have been organized by 10 topic areas, which are as follows:

1. Multimodal Connectivity
2. Aligning Transportation and Land Use and Development
3. Trails/Recreation
4. Environment
5. Health and Safety
6. Policies and Programs
7. Implementation/Funding
8. Equitable Access
9. Regional Coordination
10. Innovation

1. Multimodal Connectivity

Bicycle Goal:

Create a safe and connected bicycle network that is reliable and accessible for community members across a range of bicycling interests, skills, and abilities.

Pedestrian Goal:

Create a low stress network of pedestrian facilities that are accessible and efficient for community members of all ages and abilities.

Bicycle Objectives

Connect Loveland New Objectives

- Create a layered network of bicycle facilities that adheres to local, state and national design standards.
- Create bicycle level of service guidelines to evaluate facilities based on their directness, continuity, intersection crossings, visual interest, amenities, and security.
- Provide safe intersection crossings for people on bicycles.
- Provide bicycle connectivity to everyday destinations (i.e., work, school, transit, retail, parks, activity centers and public activities) so that people have travel options.

Connect Loveland Objectives Adopted from Previous Planning Efforts

- Prioritize the completion of missing segments of the low stress bicycle network.
- Coordinate the provision of bicycle facilities among various City departments, local governments, state and federal agencies, and special districts, as appropriate.
- Coordinate with the school district to prioritize safe biking routes to schools.
- Provide infrastructure to make bicycling convenient and viable for all types of trips and for all ages, abilities, and income levels, with an emphasis on bridging first/last mile gaps.

Pedestrian Objectives:

Connect Loveland New Objectives

- Create a layered network of pedestrian facilities that adheres to local, state and national design standards.
- Create pedestrian level of service guidelines to evaluate facilities based on their directness, continuity, street crossings (at intersections?), visual interest, amenities, and security.
- Provide safe intersection crossings for people walking.
- Provide pedestrian connectivity to everyday destinations (i.e., work, school, transit, retail, parks, activity centers and public activities) so that people have travel options.

Connect Loveland Objectives Adopted from Previous Planning Efforts

- Evaluate the established street levels of service standards to ensure that they meet the needs of the community and do not hamper walkability and quality neighborhood design.
- Create a walkable environment in commercial (retail) and office locations by designing pedestrian access that is safe, direct, and comfortable.
- Prioritize the completion of missing segments of the low stress pedestrian network.
- Coordinate the provision of pedestrian facilities among various City departments, local governments, state and federal agencies, and special districts as appropriate.
- Work with the school district to prioritize safe walking routes to schools.
- Provide infrastructure to make walking convenient and viable for all types of trips and for all ages, abilities, and income levels, with an emphasis on bridging first/last mile gaps.

Transit – Goal:

Enhance the transit system to provide an equitable, reliable, convenient and user-friendly travel option.

Transit – Objectives:

Connect Loveland New Objectives

- Improve transit stops and transfer centers to enhance customer experience and safety.
- Pilot innovative mobility options like on-demand transportation or micro-transit, for connecting communities where wider transit coverage is difficult to achieve.
- Implement an integrated fare payment and trip planning application to connect COLT, the regional transit system, and first/last mile solutions.

Connect Loveland Objectives Adopted from Previous Planning Efforts

- Expand the City's public transit system will be expanded in phases to provide integrated, high-frequency, productivity-based transit service along major transportation corridors, feeding regional transit service and connecting major district destinations, consistent with adopted transit plans.
- Provide adequate funding to expand transit into a more convenient and attractive travel option.
- Encourage higher density development in strategic locations along corridors that are or could be served by frequent transit.

Driving – Goal:

Ensure driving is a reliable option.

Driving – Objectives:

Connect Loveland New Objectives

- Where possible, create separate travel facilities for bicyclists, pedestrians, and vehicle/truck routes. Where modes need to share corridors, ensure treatment types proven to enhance safety are selected for each user.
- Ensure travel time reliability and roadway optimization through improvements like traffic signal retiming and implementing Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) technologies.

Connect Loveland Objectives Adopted from Previous Planning Efforts

- Maintain the overall ease of travel as the city grows.
- Provide a connected street network that meets the future needs of the community.
- Use the 2019 Congestion Management Process (CMP) to actively reduce congestion. CMP strategies include Transportation Demand Management and Incident Management programs.
- Close gaps on transportation corridors to help multimodal travelers overcome barriers like waterways, railroads, and I-25.

2. Aligning Transportation and Land Use and Development

Goal:

Ensure transportation and land use decisions are mutually supportive in order to reduce per capita vehicle miles traveled.

Objectives:

Connect Loveland New Objectives

- Coordinate with City of Loveland Development Services to ensure any land use plan revisions, prioritize density where well connected, multimodal transportation options exist or are planned.
- When planning improvements and expansions of the transit network, ensure projects are prioritized in sections of Loveland that are planned for high-density residential or mixed-use.
- Coordinate with City of Loveland Development Services to ensure development standards require that new commercial and residential developments incorporate bicycle, pedestrian, transit, and off-site improvements that support completing the modal networks defined in Connect Loveland.

Connect Loveland Objectives Adopted from Previous Planning Efforts

- Coordinate bicycle and pedestrian planning and implementation with other infrastructure projects and land use decisions. Specifically, ensure coordination between land use decisions and the implementation of Connect Loveland.
- Require well-connected streets, pedestrian-friendly block sizes, sidewalks, bike facilities, and connections to existing neighborhoods in new developments and redevelopment areas.

3. Trails and Recreation

Goal:

Ensure that the City's Recreation Trail system serves as both a recreation amenity and a core component of the larger mobility network for people of all ages and abilities.

Objectives:

Connect Loveland New Objectives

- Participate in the update to the 2014 Parks and Recreation Master Plan to ensure the trail network is integrated with the on-street bicycle and pedestrian networks.
- Identify and determine solutions to barriers and safety concerns for Recreation Trail connectivity and access, including improvements to the City's on-street networks for bicyclists and pedestrians.
- Collaborate with City of Loveland Parks and Recreation Department to seek opportunities for providing additional trail right of way near new developments.
- Improve on-street connections to the Recreation Trail.

Connect Loveland Objectives Adopted from Previous Planning Efforts

- Close key gaps in the local and regional trail system, prioritizing access to the Recreation Trail from key destinations, like schools, shopping, parks, recreation centers, and open spaces.
- Emphasize trail access for users inside the City's Growth Management Area. Future connections to regional or statewide trail systems will be done in cooperation with public and private entities.
- Trails will be designed and developed to reflect the character of surrounding corridors, parks, or open lands. The Recreation Trail system will be designed as an off-street, non-motorized, urban recreation trail system that offers bicycle and pedestrian separation where possible.
- Trailheads will be developed where feasible, with priority for locations that are more easily accessible by transit, walking, or biking. New community parks or open lands will include trailheads where these sites connect to the trail system.
- Acquire parkways or greenways for trail development.

4. Environment

Goal:

Develop a multimodal transportation system that protects the City's natural and built environments.

Objectives:

Connect Loveland New Objectives

- Prioritize transportation policies and projects that have positive outcomes for environmental resiliency and sustainability, and that support the well-being of future generations.
- Play a key role in meeting and exceeding the NFRMPO region's air quality goals by reducing vehicle-miles traveled.
- Ensure new transportation projects complement the management of open lands, minimize wildlife disturbances and provide multimodal access to recreation areas.
- Grow a transportation system that conserves energy and resources by creating reliable walking, biking, and transit networks, while reducing the share of trips taken in single-occupancy vehicles.
- Add infrastructure to support transportation modes that are energy efficient and/or environmentally friendly.

5. Health and Safety

Goal:

Support the physical, social, and mental health of Loveland's community members by developing a safe and connected multimodal transportation network.

Objectives:

Connect Loveland New Objectives

- Encourage active modes of transportation by using national best practices and safety standards for bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure improvements.
- Make using active transportation comfortable through providing a variety of pedestrian amenities such as wayfinding, shade, and benches.
- Create safe and comfortable multimodal connections to the City's Recreation Trail, Recreation Center(s), and Open Lands/Natural Areas.

Connect Loveland Objectives Adopted from Previous Planning Efforts

- Implement educational and outreach programs to promote active living and increase bike and pedestrian safety.
- Enforce existing codes and ordinances that require property owners to maintain their sidewalks in good condition.
- Work towards eliminating all traffic-related fatalities and severe injuries by adopting a Vision Zero policy.
- Prioritize pedestrian and cyclist safety when making land use and capital improvement decisions.
- Site new community facilities (such as schools, health services, libraries, and recreational sites) in a way that maximizes mobility options for accessing those amenities.
- Promote traffic calming on local streets through elements such as street trees, detached sidewalks, and other features that reduce traffic speeds while increasing pedestrians' and cyclists' comfort and safety.
- In collaboration with City of Loveland Development Services, promote land use decisions that locate stores offering healthy foods alongside easy-to-access destinations for all community members.
- Ensure the transit, bicycle, and pedestrian network offers connections to health care service providers.

6. Policies and Programs

Goal:

Policies and programs will be developed to reduce vehicle-miles traveled, improve safety, encourage the use of active forms of transportation and reduce single-occupancy vehicle trips.

Objectives:

Connect Loveland New Objectives

- Engage a Transportation Demand Management (TDM) coordinator to help institutionalize TDM programs city-wide by educating area employers on the benefits of TDM.
- Evaluate the feasibility of mandating TDM programs in the future.
- Support motor vehicle, transit, bicycle and pedestrian safety, awareness, and encouragement through education programs for all levels and abilities for bicyclists, pedestrians and motorists.
- Promote the appropriate use of traffic and code enforcement.

- Encourage participation in active modes of transportation through a variety of programs including community events, partnering with schools and employers, and educational materials.
- Research, development, adopt and implement a Local Road Safety Plan in conjunction with other City divisions and departments.
- Implement policies outlined in the 2019 Downtown Parking Plan.

Connect Loveland Objectives Adopted from Previous Planning Efforts

- Encourage and support voluntary employer-based TDM programs in the short term. Engage in coordinated regional TDM marketing and education campaigns with neighboring communities to ensure workers commuting to and from Loveland have access to non-driving travel options.

7. Implementation/Funding

Goal:

Implement Connect Loveland through a strategy that recognizes current funding realities and limitations while prioritizing projects based on relevant criteria, such as equity, cost-effectiveness, available funding, community values, and health outcomes.

Objectives:

Connect Loveland New Objectives

- Establish a viable and reliable source of funding to fully implement Connect Loveland.
- Create trackable performance metrics for all modes.
- Demonstrate accountability by monitoring performance metrics for each mode and reporting performance to the community annually.
- Integrate multimodal infrastructure improvements and maintenance with ongoing capital improvement projects such as pavement rehabilitation projects.

Connect Loveland Objectives Adopted from Previous Planning Efforts

- Balance constructing new infrastructure with maintenance, operations activities, cost, and investment in other modes.
- Maintain transportation infrastructure and facilities to minimize the need for replacement or rehabilitation.
- Consider a range of different funding sources and leveraging opportunities including proactively pursuing grants and state and federal funding available through the NFRMPO, Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and Federal Transit Administration (FTA), and by exploring collaborations like Public-Private Partnerships.

8. Equitable Access and Mobility

Goals:

Prioritize transportation infrastructure and networks to meet the needs of populations with limited transportation options and focus on areas and that are currently underserved with transportation options.

Objectives:

Connect Loveland New Objectives

- Ensure recommended projects are informed by comprehensive, neighborhood-level outreach efforts that include meaningful engagement of populations underserved by the current multimodal transportation network.
- Identify dedicated funding for paratransit and non-emergency medical transportation that increase mobility options for older adults and people with disabilities.
- Prioritize transportation projects that bring transit, bicycle, and pedestrian infrastructure into neighborhoods that currently lack mode choice.
- Prior to construction/during CIP planning, develop criteria that will be used to evaluate the benefits and impacts of transportation projects to assess whether vulnerable communities are disproportionately affected or excluded from benefiting from the project.

9. Regional Coordination

Goal:

Loveland will continue to support and collaborate with regional partners to develop a seamless regional multimodal transportation system.

Objectives:

Connect Loveland New Objectives

- Partner with county, region, and state-wide agencies on regional transit, non-motorized corridors, and roadway/transportation projects, policies, and programs.
- Designate a City of Loveland representative to support and engage with the NoCo Bike and Pedestrian Collaborative.

Connect Loveland Objectives Adopted from Previous Planning Efforts

- Anticipate the revenues available to the area through the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) requirements and seek partnerships for pursuing those funds.
- Participate in the North Front Range Metropolitan Planning Organization's (NFRMPO) and CDOT's plans to implement regional transportation projects on major corridors like I-25, US-34, US-287, and SH-402.
- Recommend mitigation measures on congested corridors as required in the Congestion Management Process (CMP).
- Work cooperatively with regional partners to identify opportunities to provide interregional transit connectivity along the Front Range.

10. Innovation

Goal:

Loveland will build tomorrow's transportation network by constantly exploring and investing in proven technologies that facilitate improved mobility.

Objectives:

Connect Loveland New Objectives

- Ensure City design standards and local policies are flexible and compatible with emerging technologies.
- Ensure Loveland's transportation data is featured on applications that improve access to non-driving modes through features such as transit fare payment or on-demand transportation.
- Plan for infrastructure that will support connected and autonomous vehicles.
- Leverage City resources to facilitate shared mobility options.
- Establish a role within the Public Works Department that tracks innovation initiatives and ensures new technologies, like autonomous vehicles, are incorporated into transportation planning.
- Adopt policies that manage anticipated travel behavior changes due to autonomous vehicles. These could include coordinating with service providers to create first/last-mile connections to transit, prioritizing vehicles shared or operated as a fleet, and by disincentivizing zero-occupancy vehicles.