

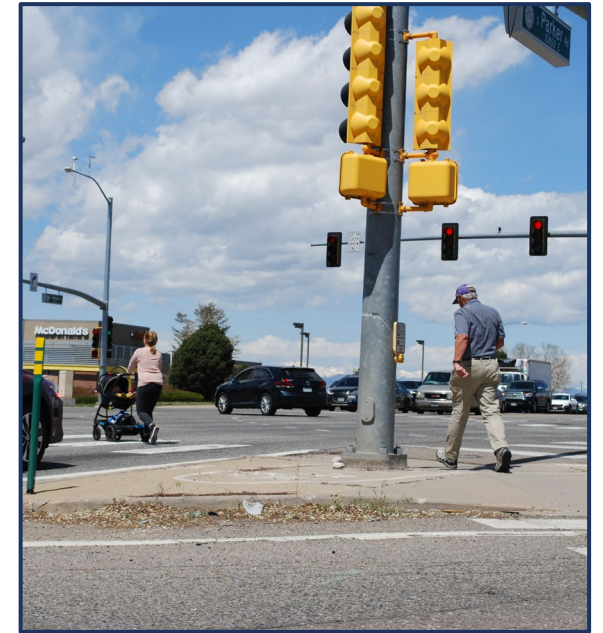


Parker Road Corridor Improvements Recommendations

Denver Regional Council of Governments
Regional Transportation Committee

February 18, 2025

Project Overview



www.arapahoegov.com/parkercorridor

Project Corridor

- Approximately six miles along Parker Road, between Mississippi and Hampden Avenues
- Colorado State Highway 83 (CO 83)
- Through and adjacent to:
 - ✦ Unincorporated Arapahoe County
 - ✦ City of Aurora
 - ✦ City and County of Denver
- Project funding (DRCOG TIP):
 - ✦ Federal
 - ✦ Arapahoe County
 - ✦ City of Aurora



Purpose of Improvements

The purpose of the recommended transportation improvements from this evaluation is to **improve safety** for all users, **enhance multimodal connectivity**, and **improve the travel experience for people walking, bicycling, using mobility devices, and riding transit** along or across Parker Road between Hampden Avenue and Mississippi Avenue. The transportation improvements will complement existing and planned community surroundings with design and operational context.

Need for Improvements

Transportation improvements are needed to address:

- Safety

- ✦ Vehicular and multimodal (crashes and safety concerns)

- Multimodal Connectivity

- ✦ Pedestrian, bicyclist, and transit (focusing on key areas for community resources and enhanced connections)

- Multimodal Travel Experience

- ✦ Feelings of comfort and safety, plus convenience

Project Goals

The goals of the recommended transportation projects are to:

- Minimize environmental impacts as practicable
- **Maintain or improve vehicular traffic operations**
- Proactively support adjacent development patterns
- **Serve regional mobility and local accessibility for all modes**
- Support local and regional planning efforts
- Utilize technology advances supporting a highly functional multimodal corridor
- **Incorporate feedback received through public outreach**
- Preserve economic viability of the corridor by minimizing impacts to businesses

Public and Agency Engagement

General Public Input

- Virtual town hall April 2023
 - ✦ Introduced the project, gathered input regarding existing issues and desired improvements
- In-person open house and interactive online experience June/July 2024
 - ✦ Presented draft recommendations

Community Focus Group

- 2 meetings held during alternatives development and evaluation
- Gathered input from the perspective of residents and corridor travelers of all modes

Agency Coordination

- Arapahoe County, CDOT, City of Aurora, City and County of Denver, RTD, DRCOG
- 4 PAC meetings
- 7 Technical Advisory Committee meetings

Alternatives Development & Evaluation Process



Alternatives Evaluation Process

Reasonable and Feasible Concepts

LEVEL 1 SCREENING
(Evaluate improvement concepts versus Corridor Vision and the Purpose and Need qualitatively with available data)

Level of detail and analysis gets more refined through the process

Location-Specific Options

LEVEL 2 EVALUATION
(Evaluate benefits and consequences of options with criteria based on the Corridor Vision and the Purpose and Need)

Menu of Projects by Area/ Location

RECOMMENDATIONS

PROJECT DEFINITION AND COSTS

We Are Here

PHASING AND PRIORITIZATION
(Implementation Plan)

Alternatives Evaluation

- **Level 1 Concepts**

- ✦ 16 categories of high-level improvement concepts considered

- **Level 2 Options**

- ✦ 50 improvement options (location-specific)

- **Recommendations**

- ✦ 36 options Recommended - Considered for defined and prioritized projects
- ✦ 3 options Needing Further Study - Need future study beyond this evaluation
- ✦ 11 options Not Recommended - Not considered further by this evaluation

Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)

Parker Road (CO 83) identified as a BRT corridor by multiple agencies (RTD, City and County of Denver, DRCOG)

- Future BRT along Speer/Leetsdale/Parker Road
 - ✦ Downtown Denver (Civic Center Station) to Nine Mile Station
- A future BRT study will identify:
 - ✦ Operation of BRT
 - ✦ Stations
 - ✦ Costs and Next Steps

The Parker Road Corridor Improvements evaluation considered how improvement options would benefit or impact implementation of future BRT

Project Development



Project Development

- Recommended options were combined into 16 potential projects based on:
 - ✦ Location
 - ✦ Connected elements/operations
 - ✦ Manageable size
 - ✦ Logical construction project limits

Project Prioritization & Timeframe

- Projects assigned an overall priority (Higher, Medium, Less)
 - ✦ Purpose and Need and Goals (safety, multimodal connectivity, multimodal experience)
 - ✦ Timing and Effectiveness (ease of implementation, traffic operations impacts, magnitude of cost)
- Potential timeframe for construction/implementation
 - ✦ Short term = less than 5 years
 - ✦ Mid-term = 5 to 10 years
 - ✦ Long-term = more than 10 years
- Potential project timeframes focused on ease of implementation and cost

Potential Funding Sources

Example funding sources:

- **Multimodal:** DRCOG TIP, USDOT Multimodal Project Discretionary, CDOT TAP
- **Safety:** CDOT HSIP, CDOT FASTER Safety, CDOT Safer Main Streets, Safe Routes to School
- **Arapahoe County Open Spaces:** Grant and Shareback Programs
- **Operations:** DRCOG TIP, CDOT Bottleneck Reduction, CMAQ
- **Community:** CDOT Revitalizing Main Streets, DRCOG Innovative Mobility, DRCOG Livable Centers
- **Developer-funded**
- **Climate:** CDOT Innovative Mobility
- **Technology:** CDOT Innovative Mobility, Charge Ahead Colorado

Advancing Design

Remaining contract budget allocated to move some projects forward

- Providing more info for agency partners to move forward with funding and implementation
- Advancing analysis and conceptual design of four selected projects:
 - ✦ Shared Use Path – Mississippi to Peoria
 - ✦ Peoria Intersection Area
 - ✦ Mexico Controlled Pedestrian Crossing
 - ✦ Florida Intersection Area

Projects - Priorities & Timeframes



Higher Priority Projects

- **Ulster Pedestrian Improvements (Short-term)**
 - ✦ New controlled pedestrian crossing and access limitations with crosswalk improvements
- **Florida Improvements (Short-term)**
 - ✦ Intersection corner and left turn modifications, signal improvements, bike facilities
- **Mexico Controlled Pedestrian Crossing (Short-term)**
 - ✦ New controlled pedestrian crossing (access to new Arapahoe County Sand Lily Park)
- **Jewell Controlled Pedestrian Crossing (Short-term)**
 - ✦ New controlled pedestrian crossing
- **Havana through Yale Improvements (Mid-term)**
 - ✦ Intersection corner modifications, signal improvements, raised median, bike facilities
- **Dartmouth/Cornell to Peoria Improvements (Mid-term)**
 - ✦ Intersection corner modifications, added left turn lane, signal improvements, raised median, new controlled pedestrian crossing

Medium Priority Projects

- Shared Use Path – Mississippi to Peoria (Short/mid-term)
 - ✦ Continuous shared use path on both sides of Parker Rd with signage and striping improvements
- Transit Improvements (Short-term)
 - ✦ Adjustments to 83D and 83L routes and transit signal priority at signals
- Mississippi Intersection Improvements (Short-term)
 - ✦ Right turn signalization for crossing and access limitations
- Dartmouth and Cornell Bike Lanes (Short-term)
 - ✦ New bike lanes on Dartmouth and Cornell (Cherry Creek Trail to I-225 path)
- Peoria Intersection Improvements (Mid-term)
 - ✦ Intersection corner modifications, signal improvements

Less Priority Projects

- These are not low priority, only lesser priority than the other projects, comparatively
- Dayton to Iliff Improvements (Long-term)
 - ✦ Intersection corner modifications, added left turn lane, signal improvements, raised median
- Northbound I-225 On Ramp Improvements (Long-term)
 - ✦ Added ramp lane to ramp meter, crossing improvements
- Hampden Off Ramp Pedestrian Improvements (Mid-term)
 - ✦ Crossing improvements
- Dam and Vaughn Pedestrian Improvements (Short-term)
 - ✦ Intersection corner modifications
- Corridor EV Charging Stations (Mid-term)
 - ✦ Four locations: Florida, Havana, Dartmouth, Nine Mile Station

Next Steps



Upcoming Steps

- Document priorities and timeframes in implementation plan
- Project report to be posted on public-facing web page
- Stakeholder presentations
 - ✦ Arapahoe County Board of County Commissioners
 - ✦ DRCOG Board and/or Committees
 - ✦ Aurora Transportation, Airports & Public Works Policy Committee
 - ✦ Aurora City Council
- Advancing analysis/conceptual design of select projects