

# SOUTHEAST STRONG



A COMMUNITY PLAN FOR NEIGHBORHOODS

DRAFT 10/8/2024





# DEDICATION

This plan is not the beginning. It's built upon a foundation laid by the tireless and passionate work of Southeast Colorado Springs residents, businesses, and organizations. This plan is a reflection of their persistence and strength. This plan is a dedication to the collaborative partnerships formed and a commitment to work hand in hand into the next era for Southeast.

Southeast Colorado Springs has a strong sense of community and recognition of past practices reflected in a challenging built environment; however, out of these past circumstances, an extraordinary and enthusiastic grassroots movement to stimulate change arose.

# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

## STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Yolanda Avila – City Council District 4 Representative, Chair  
Julie Ramirez – Citizen, Business Representative, Vice Chair  
Joyce Salazar – RISE Coalition  
Pastor Ben Anderson – Solid Rock Community Development Corporation  
Dr. Wendy Birhanzel – Harrison School District 2  
Janet H. Brugger – Colorado Springs Black Chamber of Commerce  
Matt Craddock – Craddock Commercial  
Susan Davies - TOPS  
Elizabeth Dukes – Peterson Air Force Base  
Reggie Graham – Former City Planning Commissioner  
Patience Kabwasa – Food to Power School District 2  
Marla Luckey – El Paso County Public Health  
Heather McBroom - The Thrive Network  
Laura Nelson – Apartment Association of Southern Colorado  
Pam Shockley-Zalabak – Colorado Springs Business Journal / The Independent  
Sara Vaas and Kelly Bull – CONO (Council of Neighborhood Organizations)

Special Thanks to Jessi Bustamante and Allen Beauchamp

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# SOUTHEAST STRONG

A COMMUNITY PLAN FOR SIX SOUTHEAST NEIGHBORHOODS

# INTRODUCTION

## PLANCOS AND THE NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING PROGRAM

Coordinated by the Planning Department, the Neighborhood Planning Program can advocate for community goals alongside civic organizations, support grant funding, and help prioritize other city programs.

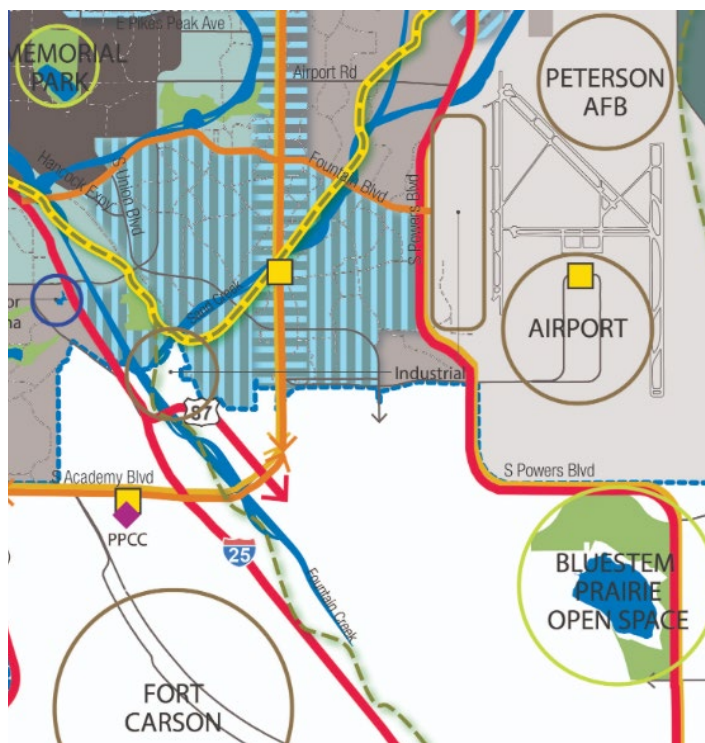
PlanCOS, the City of Colorado Springs' comprehensive plan, emphasizes the need for a neighborhood planning program. As stated in PlanCOS, "Everybody is in a Neighborhood," and the plan purposefully moves us in the direction of enhanced neighborhood identity, planning support, and livability. PlanCOS further states that "Individual neighborhood plans will focus attention on the ideas and goals of each neighborhood and the overall community plan.

PlanCOS neighborhoods are considered macro-level geography; the neighborhood planning program emphasizes communities based on shared geography, assets, and needs.

By collaboratively partnering with local organizations and their communities to establish a vision and goals for future generations, a neighborhood/community plan has been developed.

## PLANNING AREA

This plan, in this case, is bounded by Martin Luther King Bypass/US 24 and Fountain Boulevard to the north, Powers Boulevard to the east, Milton E. Proby Parkway and the city boundary to the south, and Interstate 25 to the west.



PlanCOS Vision Map - A focus on the Southeast Strong area, as an activity center for reinvestment and community hub planning

## COUNCILMEMBER AVILA

Chair of the Southeast Strong Steering Committee -

"Don't think of the plan as a document full of things that aren't getting done and get discouraged. Think of it as a large piece of succession/legacy planning - The plan is a tool to help everyone in the whole community know what the data points to, the priorities being at any given time, so when each organization has their time to advocate, city department leaders and council etc. are hearing a consistent and insistent message. When we all help shoulder the burden, we all have a lighter lift."



# PARTNERS

## COMMUNITY PARTNERS

RISE Southeast  
The Thrive Network  
Solid Rock CDC  
Harrison School District 2  
CONO  
Care and Share and Pikes Peak United way  
Pikes Peak United Way  
Faith based community  
Pikes Peak Small Business Development Center  
SCORE Southern Colorado  
Family Success Center  
Boys and Girls Club  
Colorado Springs Senior Center  
Pikes Peak Workforce Center  
Pikes Peak Library District  
Pikes Peak Workforce Center  
Colorado Springs Housing and Building Assoc.  
Pikes Peak State College  
Centro de la familia  
(For more information on some partners p.36)

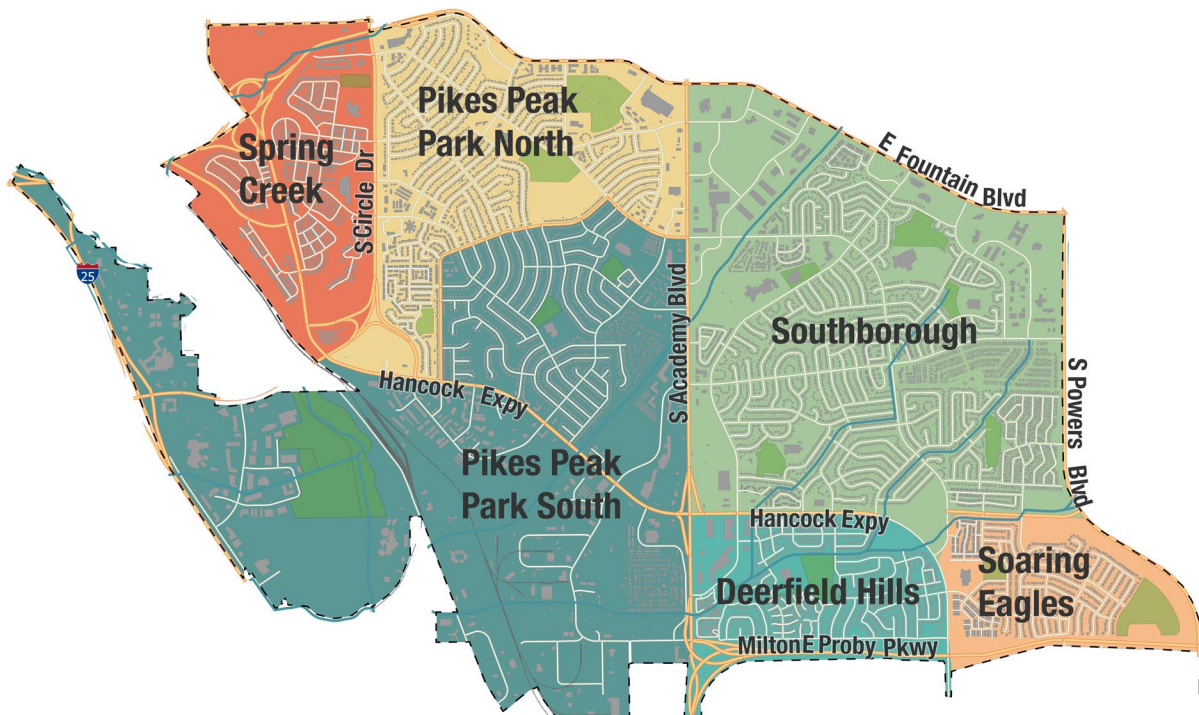
## CITY, COUNTY, STATE PARTNERS

Office of the Mayor  
City Long Range Planning and Land Use Review  
City Housing and Community Vitality  
City Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services  
City of Colorado Springs Public Works  
Colorado Springs Utilities  
City Engineering and City Traffic Engineering  
City Office of Accessibility  
City Neighborhood Services  
City Human Resources Department  
City Economic Development Department and City Small Business Development  
Colorado Springs Urban Renewal Authority  
El Paso County and the State of Colorado  
Mountain Metro  
City Council  
El Paso County Health  
DOLA and State of Colorado  
City Police Department  
Peak Vista

Community, City, County, and State partners strong assets. The organizations supporting their residents are identified throughout this plan and in the implementation table in Appendix B.

The City of Colorado Springs recognizes that these community partners listed are not a complete list of groups working in the Southeast and the support they provide to their community and the City as a whole.

MAP 1: NEIGHBORHOODS WITHIN SOUTHEAST STRONG AREA PLAN



# COMMUNITY

This is a draft, and this section will update with continued public engagement events and communication during the public engagement period in 2024.

## SURVEY OF SURVEYS

The description of the surveys related to the Southeast area by ZIP codes 80910 and 80916 can be found in the Appendix C along with the citywide areas of planning need matrix.

## STEERING COMMITTEE MEETINGS (2021-2024)

The initiative to develop a plan began with a steering committee of Southeast stakeholders and individuals from various City departments. After discussions about the community's needs over four years, it was recommended that the listed priorities be reviewed by the community. So far, there have been eight Steering Committee meetings.

## INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

This section includes an analysis of existing conditions, supporting materials, assessments, and statistical and demographic profiles of the area. The sources of the profile data used in the plan are primarily from the U.S. Census and can be found in the Health Assessment in Appendix A.

## STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS

Residents and organizations who live, work, play, and care about Southeast are being and will continue to be interviewed about their priorities.

## PUBLIC EVENTS

Community events were attended to gather information, inform participants about the process, seek input, listen to concerns, and celebrate interest in the Southeast.

## APPROVAL PROCESS

After the public survey closes, responses will be sorted by zip code and reviewed by the Southeast Strong steering committee and the City's departments. A final draft of the plan will then be presented to the City Planning Commission and the City Council, where the plan will seek adoption.



*A resident perspective map of residential neighborhoods in the Southeast*



*Councilmember Avila speaking at the Panorama Park opening*

# ENGAGEMENT



Local artist mural at Stompin' Groundz, a community hub for the Southeast - location of public meetings. Credit: Brayan Montes-Terrazas @Yamz.world



Community input of the Southeast Strong area on a map



Trunk or Treat event at Mission Trace for Southeast Strong Plan



# HOW TO USE THE PLAN

The Southeast Strong Plan consists of six **BIG IDEA** statements or chapters that establish the **COMMUNITY VISION** statements in the plan.

To accomplish the community's unified vision for the area, each big idea is associated with community priorities, goals, and strategies that have been reviewed by the community, city departments, partner agencies, the Plan's Steering Committee, and community organizations.

The implementation of the plan will guide the community's vision, advocate for its needs, track and review progress, and provide a framework for other City Council-adopted community plans to measure success. The methods to accomplish the BIG IDEAS are defined as follows:

- **Community and City Priorities** – the primary goals (primary goals are adaptable, see implementation on page 15)
- **Goals**– steps to accomplish priorities
- **Strategies** – a list of solution for achieving the goals

When a City department, partner agency, or community organization has been identified, collaboration with the Planning Department will help fulfill what is outlined in this Plan. If any City division, department, or outside supporting partner changes its name or becomes inactive, the closest equivalent division, department, or organization can provide support.

Many community organizations have been doing excellent work in Southeast, and this plan aims to advocate for and highlight those efforts. City departments are investing—and will continue to invest—in the Southeast, including but not limited to partnering with nonprofits, supporting grant research and other funding avenues, upgrading public works infrastructure, utilizing updated mixed-use zoning, improving transportation, analyzing parks and trails needs, supporting small

businesses, increasing access to health services, addressing safety, and celebrating diverse cultures throughout the area.

Actions in this plan, particularly in the chapter on transportation, are considered progress already in place through existing plans or projects, and monitoring will continue as a method of support in Southeast. These directives have been reviewed by specific City departments, partner agencies, or community organizations.

## THIS PLAN IS A TOOL

This plan will serve as a tool for connecting and leveraging partner resources, while fostering collaboration with City departments. The focus is on meeting the needs of the community and the six neighborhoods, with a commitment to equity and inclusion.



*Affordable housing construction at South Murray Boulevard*

## **ORIGIN OF THE NAME SOUTHEAST STRONG PLAN**

RISE Southeast - Resilient, Inspired, Strong, and Engaged - graciously gifted the name Southeast Strong Community Plan.

## **WHAT IS THE CITY'S ROLE AND WHAT IS NOT THE CITY'S ROLE**

The City's role is to advocate for, take action on, fund, and prioritize community priorities, goals, and strategies through partnerships with the City of Colorado Springs government.

-Align updates to the Southeast Strong Plan with local non-profits' strategic plans and the City's Strategic Plan.

-City departments are and will continue to invest in the Southeast by partnering with non-profits, supporting grant research and other funding opportunities, upgrading public works infrastructure, utilizing updated mixed-use zoning, improving transportation, analyzing parks and trails needs, supporting small businesses, addressing safety, and celebrating the region's diverse culture.

What is not the City's role?

The City does not manage school district strategic plans or privately held property, among other responsibilities outside its purview.

## **HOW WILL CITY STAFF USE THE PLAN**

City staff will work with applicants and stakeholders to review development proposals in the Southeast Strong planning area. They will provide decision-makers with information about how these proposals align with the plan's vision and goals.

## **HOW DO BUSINESSES AND DEVELOPERS USE THE PLAN**

Businesses and developers will use the plan as a guide to achieving the community's vision, helping them grow, adapt, and implement their development and business plans in alignment with community goals.

## **HOW WILL ELECTED A OFFICIALS USE THE PLAN**

Elected officials will use this plan to position the Southeast for the future by ensuring accountability within City departments and making informed decisions that align with the plan's goals.

Our City Council representative will play a key role in advocating for the Southeast and guiding the plan's strategies and priorities for both the community and the City.

## **HOW WILL NON-PROFITS USE THE PLAN**

Non-profits will use this plan to collaborate with the City, advocate for the Southeast in grant requests, identify community needs, and incorporate these elements into their strategic planning sessions focused on the Southeast Strong area.

## **HOW DOES THE COMMUNITY USE THIS PLAN**

This plan serves as a tool for advocating for the Southeast Strong planning area. It was developed to help residents and stakeholders be more proactive in addressing the specific needs and goals of the community. Community members can use the plan to advocate for the vision and goals by referring to it during public meetings and ensuring continued accountability.

In addition, one way to ensure City departments always have community representation is by volunteering on various City boards, commissions, and committees.

## **DID YOU KNOW?**

General information related the community, non-profit organizations, and City resources.

## THE SOUTHEAST COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSESSMENT 2021-2023

The Southeast Community Plan: Healthy People and Places Assessment, originally created in 2021 and updated in 2023, analyzed the Southeast Strong planning area and associated health inequities within Colorado Springs to demonstrate if it surpassed or fell behind other areas of the City. As stated in the Assessment, “the well-being and socioeconomic health of the study area lag behind those of the city as a whole; however, the distribution of health impacts related to the built environment is generally even between the community and the City, apart from a few areas that have either much higher or much lower equity. The Assessment focuses on “Healthy People” and “Healthy Access”, including analysis of the socioeconomic breakdown of the Plan area, access to and quality of food, availability and access to parks, condition of infrastructure, and life expectancy. More specifically, the primary findings of the report, largely related to the built environment, included the following –

- Bicycle and pedestrian networks are fairly well-connected, but do not feel safe.
- Grocery store access is not evenly distributed throughout the Plan area.
- South Academy has a high concentration of fast food.
- Users find trail connections to be difficult to access to the Area’s parks.
- The urban heat island effect is higher in the Plan area when compared to the rest of Colorado Springs due to the lack of vegetation.

A primary goal of this plan is to offer tools to those within the Southeast Strong Plan area to collaborate with City Departments and associated community agencies to provide potential solutions for what was identified in the assessment. The assessment is referenced throughout this Plan.

## EL PASO COUNTY COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT REPORT 2023

Southeast Colorado Springs faces significant challenges related to poverty and health inequities. This region has a history of disinvestment, limited civic representation, and poor transportation nodes and links all have some contribution to higher poverty rates and lower life expectancy compared to other parts of the city. Residents also struggle with access to healthy food options, as highlighted in the 2018 Urban Land Institute report, which noted a higher percentage of minority households, lower median incomes, and elevated vacancy rates in businesses and residences. Additionally, the assessment revealed further disparities, including uneven grocery store access, a prevalence of fast-food outlets, and limited safe access to parks, exacerbating the region’s socioeconomic struggles.

The **RISE Coalition** aims to foster resident-led change in southeast Colorado Springs, envisioning a vibrant community where everyone can thrive. By engaging local leaders, RISE enhances five key areas: cultural, social, built, human, and financial capital. Their initiatives have secured millions in funding for local projects, including the Southeast Women, Infants and Children Clinic, which improves access to services for residents lacking transportation. Notably, RISE collaborated with the City of Colorado Spring and several organizations to renovate Panorama Park, marking the largest park renovation in the city’s history. Officially opened in August 2022, the park features playgrounds, an event lawn, a bike park, climbing boulders, fitness stations, a splash pad, and community art.

**Solid Rock** remains committed to serving the most under-served communities in southeast Colorado Springs, particularly those experiencing poverty. Their approach emphasizes strategic and collaborative investments in community transformation, aiming to support and empower local residents.

# IMPLEMENTATION

## CITY COMMITMENT

The City of Colorado Springs' commitment: Shape and sustain a built environment and economy that supports healthy living and reflects the uniqueness, strength, and power of the Southeast community.

## NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNER

A primary goal of this Plan is to offer tools to those within the Southeast Strong area to collaborate with City departments and associated community organizations to provide potential solutions.

A Neighborhood Planner will:

**Advocate:** Sit at the resident leaders' tables, listen, respond, support, and collaborate with city departments and associated community collectives and non-profits

**Seek Grants and Funding:** Research and identify relevant grants and funding sources working with the city grant writers

**Identify needs:** Identifying community needs, resources, and problems

**Represent neighborhoods in developing plans:** Include neighborhoods in plans for public space, such as parks, bike paths, and housing communities

**Research:** Research social, cultural, economic, and environmental conditions

**Coordinate:** Coordinate public forums and meetings with local authorities, government official, and non-profits and community collectives

**Review:** Review and provide guidance on existing planning documents

**Draft:** Draft progress and measures reports and major updates

**Map and analyze:** Map land areas and resources

**Monitor:** Monitor and predict development and development trends and track progress on neighborhood and community plans

**Permit review:** Coordinate updates to the permitting process

**Ensure compliance:** Monitor and advocate for the southeast built and natural environment

## PARTNERS AND IMPLEMENTATION

What will the Southeast Strong planning area look like in 20 years? The area is seeing their built environment change and the implementation of this Plan will guide the area for generations to come. A list of community partners can be found on page 9 and in the implementation table in Appendix B. Implementation will require action - monitoring strategies and informing progress and measures reporting while continually collaborating with the community, partners, City, County, and the State.

Regular updates to the Steering Committee, residents, the City's Southeast Strong Plan web page focusing on annual reporting and a five-year refresh cycle.

The Neighborhood Planner will research funding to accomplish the Plan's goals ongoing. Continual engagement and partnerships with the Southeast Strong community will drive the Plan's community priorities in the forward direction.

## PROGRESS AND MEASURES

Annual progress and measures reports will be provided to the community and partners, City departments will weigh in on progress on the related priorities, goals, and strategies in this plan ensuring accountability.

A five-year refresh will account for the 2030 decennial US Census data availability when reporting and measuring the Southeast Strong area to monitor indicators of change.

## ADAPTABLE PLAN

This plan will be monitored and updated. Primary community priorities will be evaluated during implementation and can be considered ongoing.

The community priorities will be monitored and updated within the refresh cycle.



**BIG IDEAS**  
From  
**COMMUNITY VISIONS**



# BIG IDEAS

The identity of the Southeast Strong planning area is characterized by the history and culture of both the people who live and work here and the built environment. Reflecting and celebrating the areas diverse culture and strong legacy pride provides focus on the Southeast as a destination of culture and economy.

The Big Ideas include:



**REFLECT AND  
CELEBRATE OUR  
DIVERSE CULTURE**



**GROW AND SUPPORT  
OUR BUSINESSES,  
ENTREPRENEURS, AND  
HOUSING**



**LIVE BETTER,  
LIVE LONGER**



**SUPPORT OUR  
SAFETY**



**CREATE SPECIAL  
PLACES & COMMUNITY  
HUBS**



**UPGRADE HOW WE  
MOVE**

# COMMUNITY

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## REFLECT AND CELEBRATE OUR DIVERSE CULTURE



Celebrate and support our rich culture throughout all big ideas in this plan. The diverse cultural, racial, and ethnic background of the Southeast Strong planning area culminates in a vibrant area that is keenly aware of their individual and collective story.

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## LIVE BETTER, LIVE LONGER



The Southeast Strong planning area will be a place where residents and visitors alike feel safe and welcome to enjoy parks and trails throughout the neighborhoods. Residents will have more options for where to access their groceries, recreation, and health care.

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## CREATE SPECIAL PLACES & COMMUNITY HUBS



Spaces will exist throughout the Southeast Strong area neighborhoods that are valuable and accessible to the residents who live there, inclusive of all age categories and abilities. There will be a variety of forms that these spaces come in ranging from parks to community centers to private event and cultural centers. These spaces will provide opportunities for residents to host events, exercise, study, and socialize. The Southeast Strong area will be a regional destination for cultural celebration and tourism. Hospitality hubs will include places to stay, eat, and visit. Attractions will display the cultural output of local creatives for residents and visitors to experience.

# VISION



## GROW AND SUPPORT OUR BUSINESSES, ENTREPRENEURS, AND HOUSING

Southeast Strong area residents and business owners will have the option to live and work within the planning area to reduce the amount of time it takes for residents to travel to work. Patrons for all over will frequent local businesses and enjoy their services at nearby vibrant public gathering spaces. A range of housing options will be available to residents, workers, business owners, and entrepreneurs.



## SUPPORT OUR SAFETY

Emphasize strategic and collaborative investments in our community aiming to support and empower Southeast Strong area residents to feel and be safe. A safe Southeast Strong area is one where residents and visitors feel safe to carry about their day-to-day activities. To discourage crime, development should incorporate measures that prevent the potential for unsafe situations and criminal activity.



## UPGRADE HOW WE MOVE

A complete and convenient multimodal transportation network that provides mobility choices to all residents. Regular maintenance and a improvements to this complete transportation network, accessible to all residents, with a focus on improving safety with smart design.



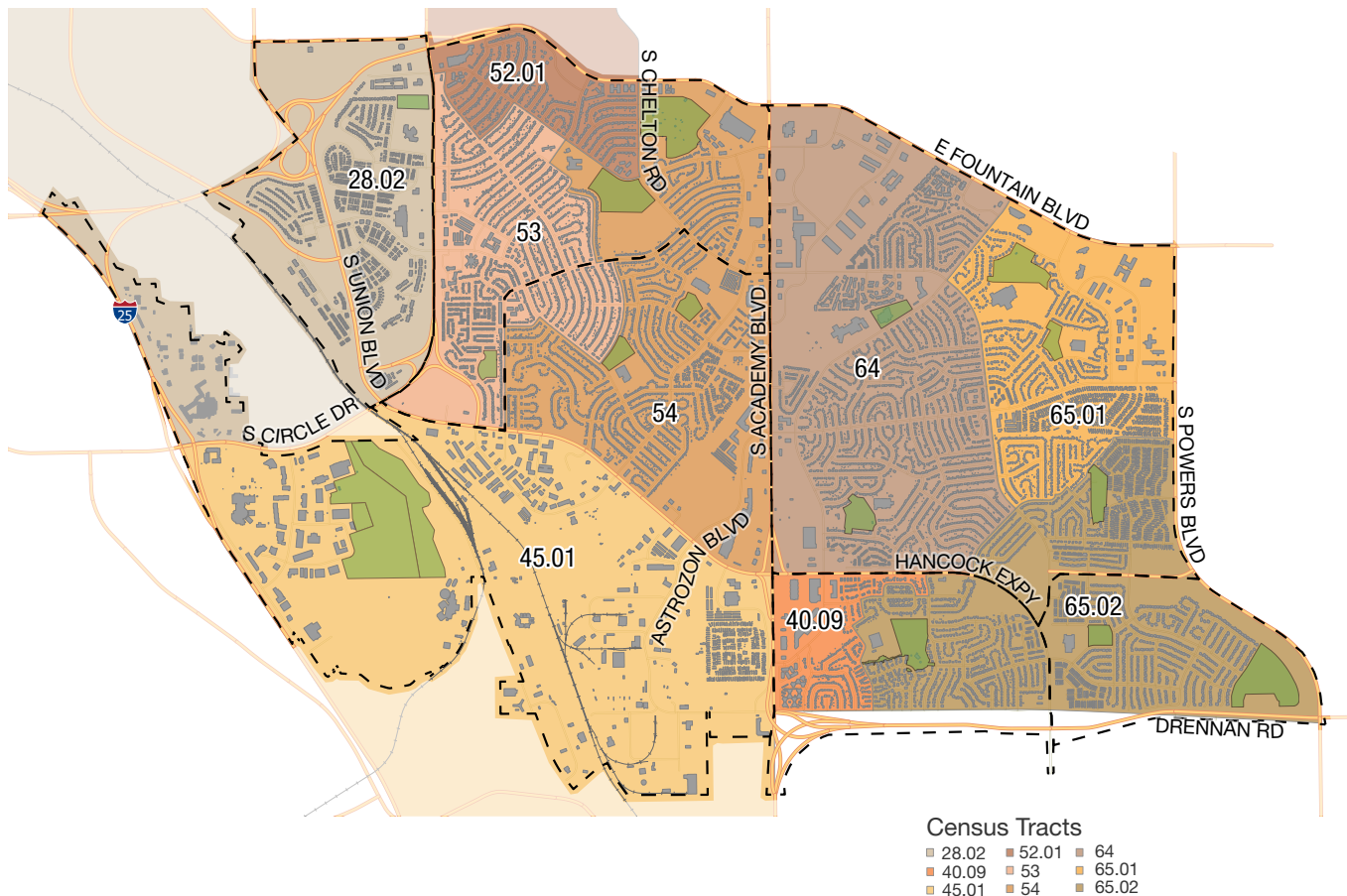
This chapter is chapter one and is the heart of the community's vision for the future, the celebration of culture is woven throughout all chapters or big ideas in this Plan.

## COMMUNITY VISION FOR CULTURE

The six Southeast Strong area neighborhoods strive to be destinations for a cultural experience in Southern Colorado. Communities that take pride in their culture and heritage feature strong networks where people can connect by walking with their neighbors, gathering in accessible public spaces, and communicating about shared values and identity. To accomplish this big idea and assist with furthering the 2020 City Council-adopted Public Arts Master Plan, the history and depth of Southeast Strong area will be promoted through opportunities such as community-led public art projects that promote community pride and identification of public and private spaces fostering this goal.



MAP 2: SOUTHEAST STRONG PLAN AREA CENSUS TRACTS



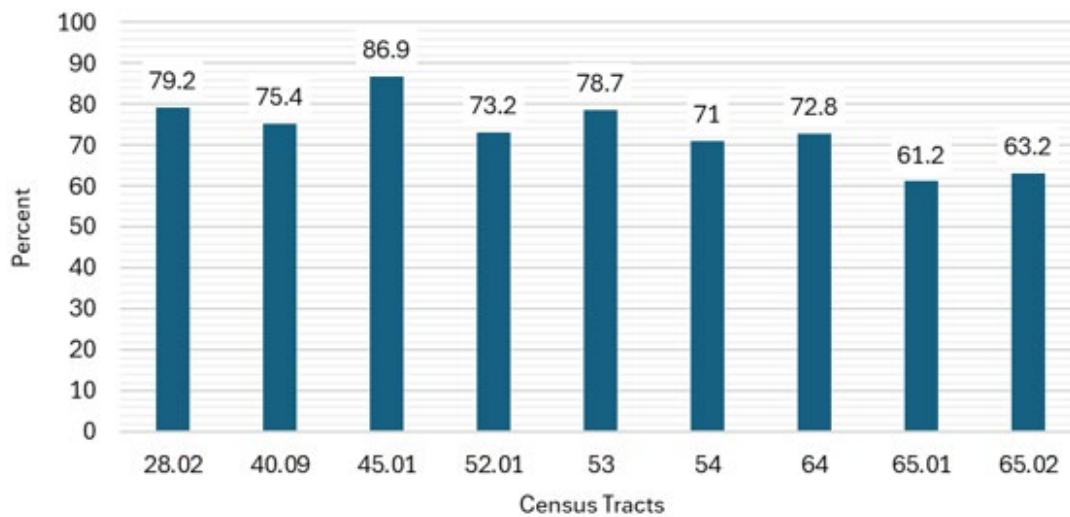
## COMMUNITY CULTURE PRIORITIES

1. Beginning with this plan, translate city documents into multiple languages including Spanish which is the second most represented language in the Southeast. Further efforts related to culture encouraged by this plan should support a diversity of media so that all groups within the community can participate and be represented.
2. Sustain City partnerships with RISE Southeast, Solid Rock CDC, Thrive Network, resident lead organizations, the Youth Advisory Committee, School District 2, Sand Creek Library, Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum, local educational institutions, and Deerfield Hills Community Center, and RISE on storytelling and community-building opportunities.

*(Partners – RISE, City of Colorado Springs Parks Recreation and Cultural Services Department, Pikes Peak State College, Harrison School District 2, Pikes Peak Library District)*

3. Establish a long-term temporary use permit process through the city's land use review department to elevate community hubs to support events and programming including festivals and educational events celebrating diverse cultures and experiences.

FIGURE 1: SOUTHEAST STRONG PLAN AREA RESIDENTS WHO USE ENGLISH AS A PRIMARY LANGUAGE AT HOME



Source: Census.gov, American Community Survey (ACS) 2022 5-Year Estimate

The data shown in Figure 1 illustrates the percentage of Southeast Strong Plan area residents who may benefit from multilingual City documents.

Demographic information from the Census Bureau has been shared throughout this document in the form of four Figures. Data is based off Census tracts within the Southeast Strong area and the location of the tracts can be referenced in Map 2. Please note this map can be referenced for all Figures throughout the Plan.



## CULTURE THROUGHOUT

In this Plan, the heritage of the Southeast Strong area is intended to be highlighted and prioritized in all goals and strategies. The extremely successful redevelopment of Panorama Park in 2022 is a testament to the collaborative work of City Departments, grant sponsors, and community agencies, namely Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department, RISE Southeast Colorado Springs, and the Trust for Public Land. For many of these Opportunities, the Trust for Public Land (TPL) has desires to continue their partnership with Colorado Springs and continue to enhance the Southeast.

### CULTURE GOAL C1

Recognize culture and history through public art, park design, and city improvements (such as sidewalks and benches) and provide identification for unnamed spaces to create a sense of place for community members. *(Partner – City of Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department)*

#### STRATEGY C1-1.A

Work with Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum and other related agencies to encourage storytelling and preserve historical elements of Southeast Strong area culture and structures, such as the tile art mural at Panorama Park. *(Partner – City of Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department)*

#### STRATEGY C1-1.B

Support diversity of history and culture through inclusive arts and cultural offerings at Deerfield Hills Community Center and Sand Creek Library that are accessible to non-English speaking

residents, seniors, and visually- and hearing-impaired populations. *(Partners – City of Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department, Pikes Peak Library District)*

#### STRATEGY C1-1.C

Support the development of culinary centers that include pop-up restaurants, cooking classes, culinary experiences, and other culinary retail products. This includes messaging food-related uses that are permitted in the Unified Development Code (UDC) through community partners, such as Food to Power, to highlight potential opportunities.

#### STRATEGY C1-1.D

Allow Temporary Use Permits for food halls in industrial areas as a supporting use, particularly halls that have a stated mission to assist local up-and-coming restaurateurs in establishing a business.



**DID YOU KNOW?**

**In 2024, the City of Colorado Springs Public Works Department and CONO established the Neighborhood Signage Program to support conveying information, offer directions, and enhance aesthetics of a neighborhood. Check out <https://www.cscono.org/neighborhoodsigns>.**

## PUBLIC ART GOAL C2

Public art supports the expression of the values of individuals and, collectively, a community. The Southeast Strong area offers recommendations for supporting public art as one approach for improving street safety, providing tourism, and combating social isolation.

### STRATEGY C2-2.A

Support the Gateway Signage Program to define neighborhoods with input from individual residents, neighborhood groups, local students, and other partner agencies on design. Encourage colors, symbolism, and concepts that are meaningful to the respective neighborhood. *(Partners – City of Colorado Springs Public Works Department, CONO)*

### STRATEGY C2-2.B

Encourage the inclusion of public art in each new development project based on the new opportunities for meeting architectural design requirements. Engage artists early in the project design process to achieve integration between art and architecture. *(Partners – City of Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department)*

### STRATEGY C2-2.C

Collaborate with area community members and the City of Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services Department, and Traffic Engineering Division to include art in public spaces such as sidewalks, street medians, parks, and community centers.

*(Partners – City of Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services and Public Works Departments)*

## DID YOU KNOW?

**The Public Art Commission is a City Council-appointed advisory board that evaluates, advocates, and facilitates public art for the City of Colorado Springs.**

### STRATEGY C2 -2.D

Encourage art installations on South Academy Boulevard and other major roadway reconstruction projects in scopes of work. *(Partners – City of Colorado Springs Public Works Department)*

**One of PlanCOS' several key strategies is to "complete, update, and implement public art plans and to consider arts and culture in other city plans." The Public Art Master Plan, adopted by City Council in 2020, hopes to support the accomplishment of this strategy.**

## DID YOU KNOW?





## COMMUNITY VISION FOR HEALTH

The Southeast Strong area will be a place where residents and visitors alike feel welcome to enjoy parks and trails throughout the neighborhoods. Residents will have options for where to access their groceries, recreation, and health care. These improvements to quality of life will improve health determinants for each of the six neighborhoods. The Southeast Community Plan: Healthy People and Places Assessment identified gaps and opportunities related to the well-being and socioeconomic health of the area. The recommendations in this Big Idea support a healthy lifestyle from access to quality food to a better outdoor experience.

## COMMUNITY HEALTH PRIORITIES

1. Continue the 2020 City Council-adopted Urban Forestry Management Plan and prioritize new plantings in neighborhoods focusing on the west side of the planning area, as well as along the west side of Astrozon Boulevard. Pursuant to Objective C.1.2 of the Southeast Community Plan Healthy People and Places Assessment.

2. Partner with community and environmental groups to host regular "clean-up" events along City trails and creeks and in City parks. *(Partner – City of Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department, City of Colorado Springs Neighborhood Services, CONO).*
3. Include Van Diest and the unnamed park in Spring Creek neighborhoods in the City's Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services master planning process.

### URBAN FOREST GOAL H1

Support the USDA-approved 'Colorado Springs – Urban Forest Improvements' grant that was awarded in 2023 for the Southeast Strong area. *(Partner – City of Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department).*

#### STRATEGY H1-1.A

Using the USDA grant as inspiration, develop a grant program to install new trees in the Southeast Strong area, such as a tree voucher program. *(Partners – Colorado Springs Utilities, City of Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department, DOLA)*

#### STRATEGY H1 -1.B

Encourage new development to utilize the City of Colorado Springs Unified Development Code (UDC), add landscape code, to support more environmentally friendly development and landscape practice, including opportunities for:

- Subsection 7.4.202.A 'Sustainability and Resilient Development Incentive' which encourages light colored hardscaping, covered parking, and cool or vegetated roofs.
- Discouraging variances within private developments that seek reductions in landscaping.

**Community and civic organizations are good resources to refer to for assistance with neighborhood clean-ups. CONO and other neighborhood organizations provide resources such as roll-off dumpsters.**

**DID YOU KNOW?**

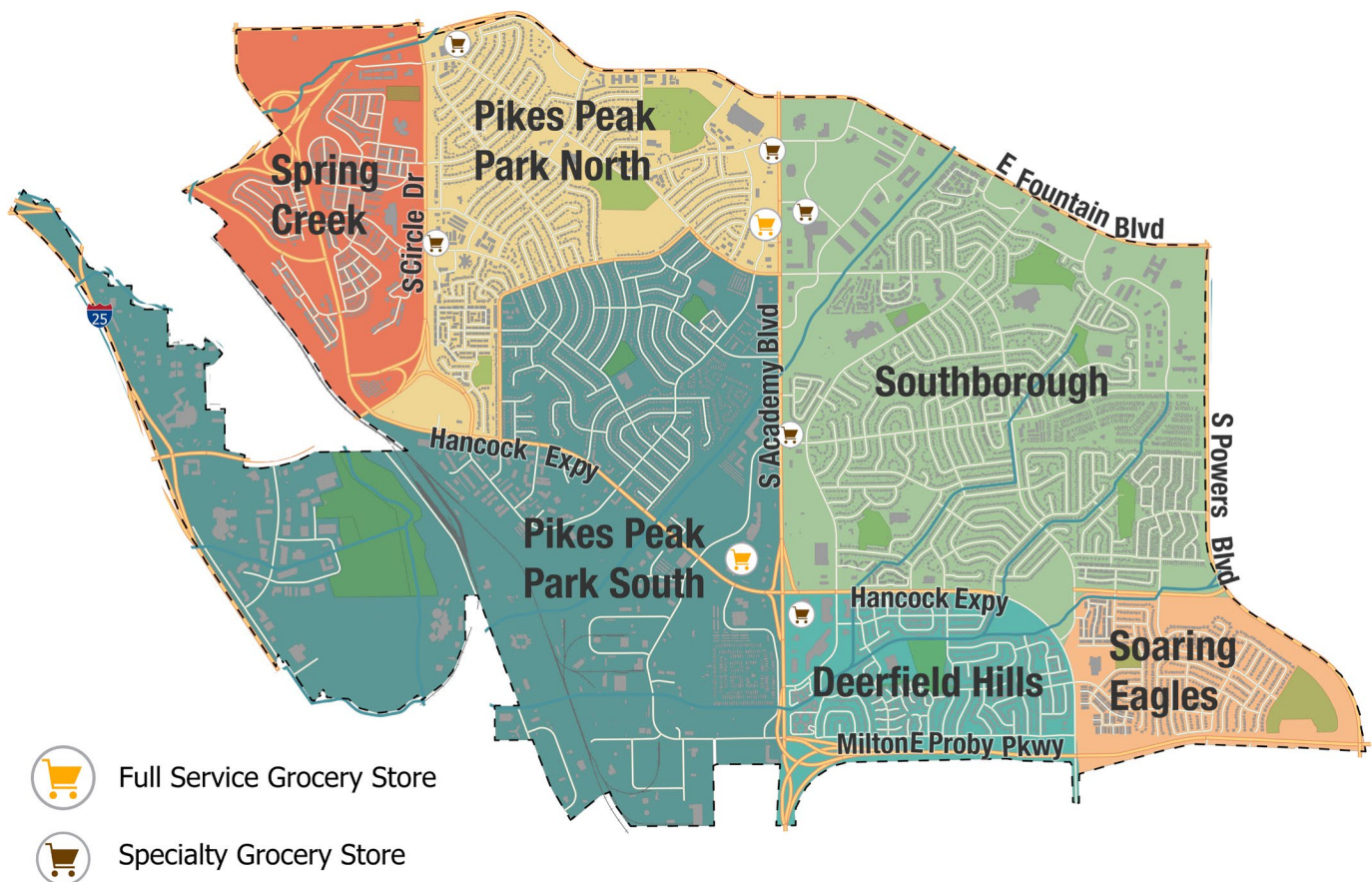


## HEALTHY FOODS

A key component to a healthy lifestyle is access to healthy or nutrient-dense foods. The recommendations in this section are intended to encourage a wide variety of grocery options in the Southeast that may help to and support availability of high-quality food options.

Area non-profits and faith-based organizations are critical partners in the Southeast area supporting access to food.

MAP 3: GROCERY STORES WITHIN SOUTHEAST STRONG PLAN AREA



The Southeast Strong Plan Area has Full Service and Specialty grocery stores along two main corridors: S. Academy Blvd. and S. Circle Dr.



## HEALTH GOAL H2

Support development of long-term solutions to food insecurity and increase access to health food and food choices.

### STRATEGY H2-1.A

Partner with local organizations to support permitting food pantries, mobile markets, and community fridges. Support the existing network resources for residents in navigating where they can find fresh foods.

### STRATEGY H2-1.B

Support and partner with non-profits and faith based organizations managing food pantries and mobile markets. Advocate for Solid Rock CDC's Community Food Center and non-profits by helping identify funding resources.

### STRATEGY H2-1.C

Provide supportive printed materials for farmers markets managers at the permitting stage in the planning process.

### STRATEGY H2-1.D

Advertise new urban agriculture options that are permitted through the City of Colorado Springs Unified Development Code (UDC) including food cultivation to encourage self-reliance, production, and consumption of nutrient-dense food.

## PARKS, TRAILS, LANDSCAPE, AND OPEN SPACES

The Southeast Strong area has opportunities for residents to capitalize on a greater outdoor experience. The recommendations in this section address opportunities for a higher quality of user experience for both infrastructure and amenities. Grant fund should be active pursued with the Trust for Public Lands, as an example, funding from ARPA was applied to upgrading the irrigation systems at Evergreen Cemetery and Valley Hi golf course located near the planning area, supporting green spaces, the urban tree canopy, along with improved irrigation systems. This upgrade to the irrigation systems intends not only to support a landscape redesign but to address water conservation in these large open areas. An effort to submit for Audubon Certification is underway for the Valley Hi golf course to further protect the environment.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

**Solid Rock CDC has a community food center and provides a free farmer's market in the summer and monthly drive-through food distribution programs.**

<https://www.solidrockcdc.com/community-food-center>

**Care and Share's website provides information on partner food pantries, mobile markets, and neighborhood markets. You can find these resources on a map in your location. <https://careandshare.org/findfood/>**

**DID YOU KNOW?**

### HEALTH AND PARKS GOAL H3

Advocate for parks and trail improvements and upgrades in the area working with the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department.

#### STRATEGY H3-1.A

Continue the study of existing city parks within the area to determine if amenities are underutilized and the potential for upgraded design to better match needs. Renovations of existing park spaces to meet community needs, address outdated

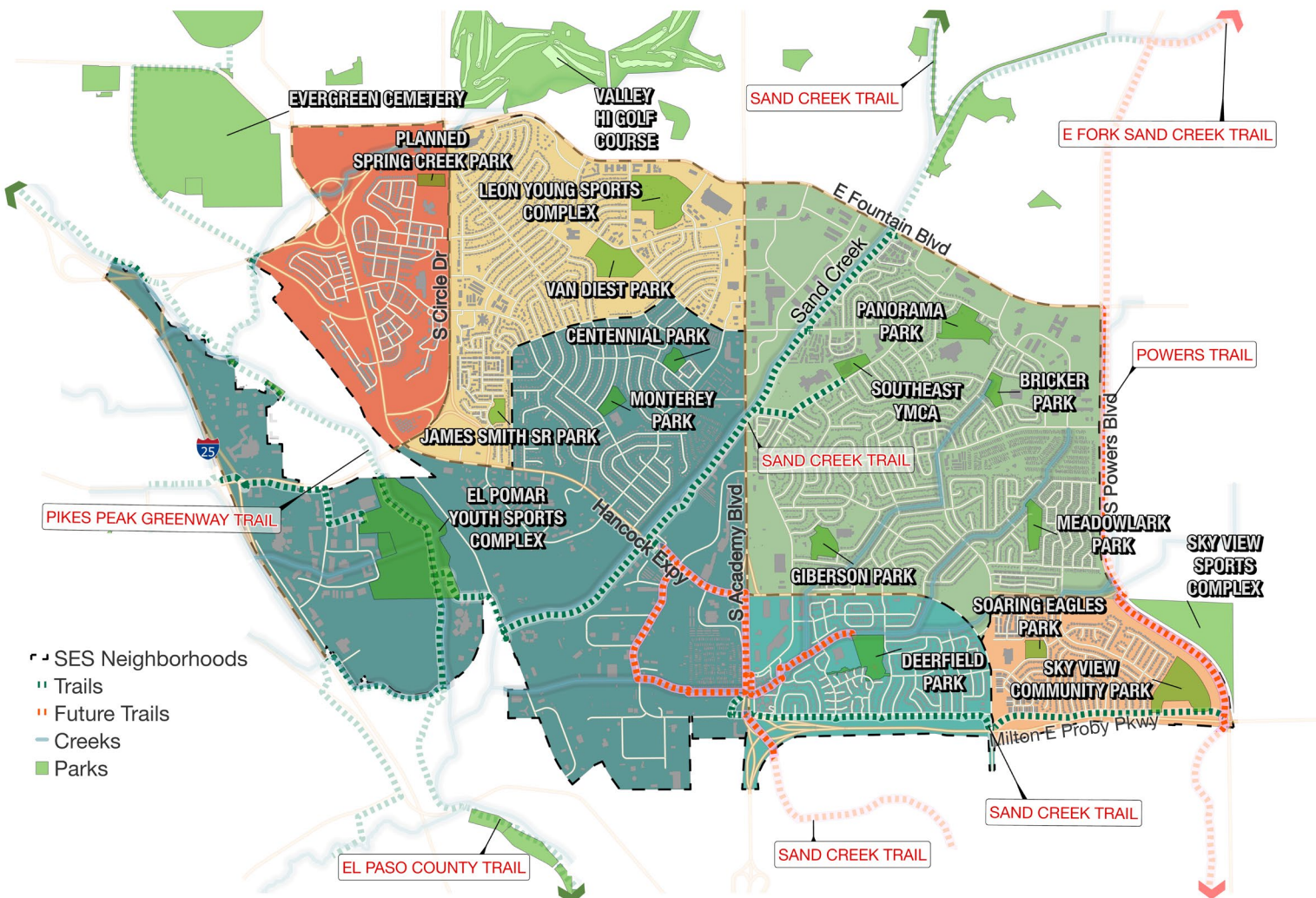
equipment, improve accessibility, address maintenance needs, and improve safety. (*Partners - City of Colorado Springs Office of Accessibility*)

#### STRATEGY H3-1.B

Advocate for Sand Creek as a linear park and continue to perform maintenance and improve Sand Creek Trail connections in the area including:

- From Airport Road to Platte Avenue providing regional connectivity;
- Connections to Homestead Trail north of Airport Road;

MAP 4: CURRENT AND FUTURE TRAILS WITHIN SOUTHEAST STRONG PLAN AREA



The Sand Creek Trail runs through the Southeast Strong Plan Area. Planned trails traverse the Area to connect users to other neighborhoods and regions.



# LIVE BETTER, LIVE LONGER

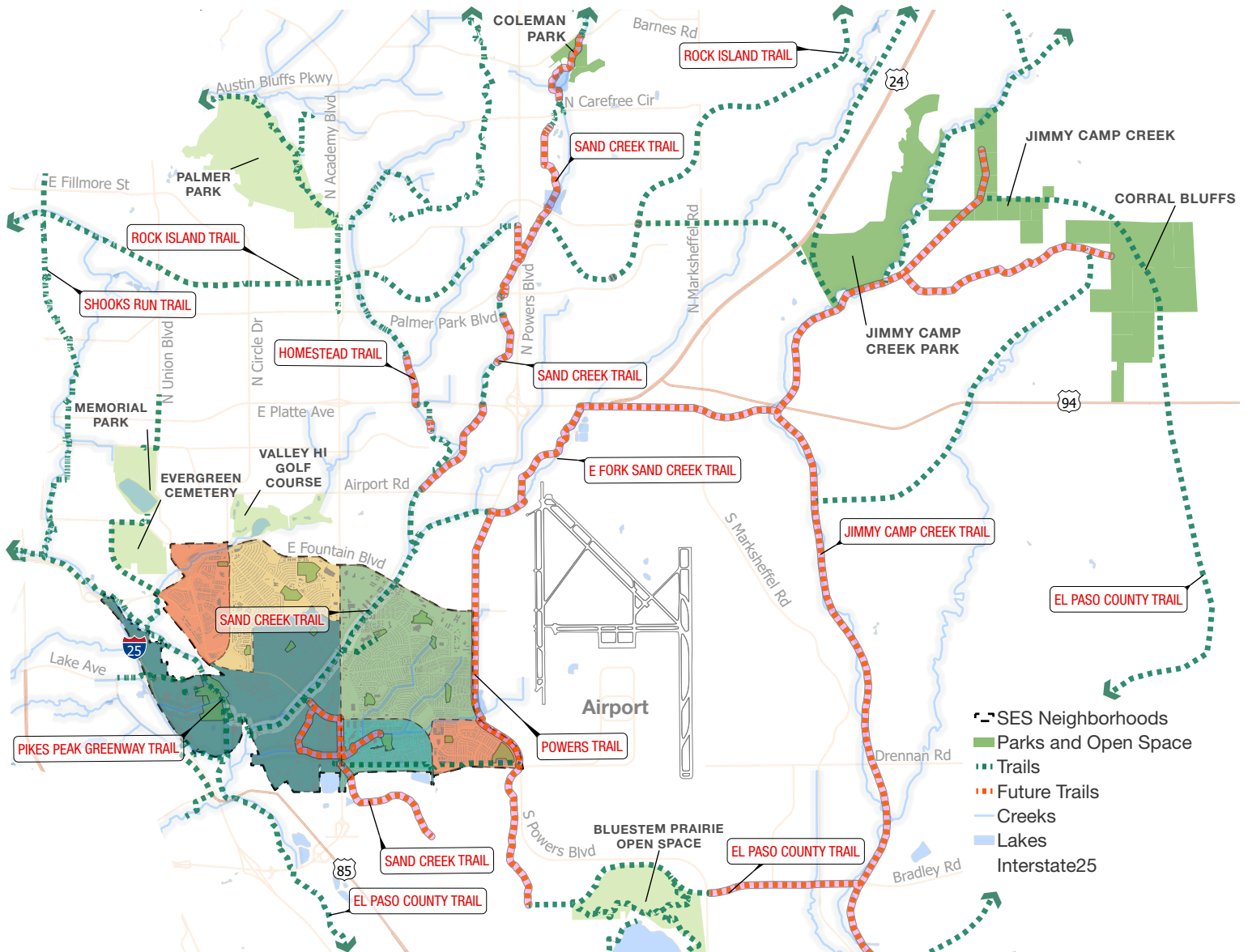
- Locations between Palmer Park Boulevard and Barnes Road;
- Future access to Coleman Park; and
- Continuation of the East Fork Sand Creek Trail east of Powers Boulevard to Space Village Ave and eastward, specifically at the dead end where connectivity opportunities are needed.

## STRATEGY H3-1.C

Identify connections immediately outside of this planning area boundaries to support more regional connectivity and multi-modal transportation options, including:

- Future connectivity to Jimmy Camp Creek and Corral Bluffs;
- Build out of the Powers Trail, planned along Powers Boulevard from Airport Road into County.

MAP 5: CURRENT AND FUTURE TRAILS AROUND SOUTHEAST STRONG PLAN AREA



**STRATEGY H3-1.D**

Work with Traffic Engineering to improve safety and connectivity to the trail system from sidewalks and bike lanes.

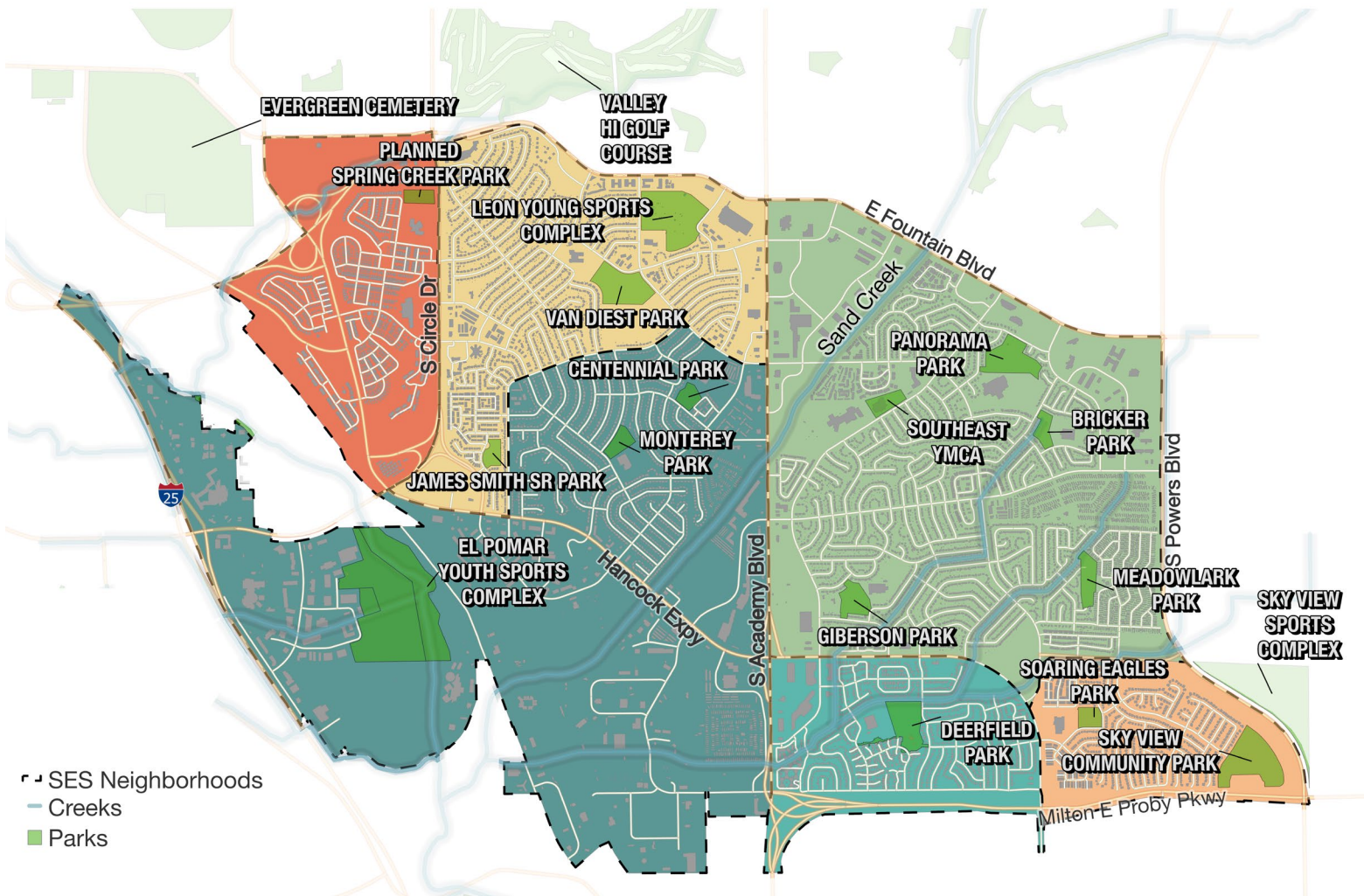
**STRATEGY H4-1.A**

Support a partnership between local elementary schools and higher education institutions to integrate a garden and ecology program for youth. *(Partner – City of Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department)*

**HEALTH GOAL H4**

Advocate for partnerships at City parks with organizations whose programming is for education, exercise, and other healthy lifestyle choices.

MAP 6: PARKS WITHIN SOUTHEAST STRONG PLAN AREA



Southeast Strong Plan Area has parks within each of the six neighborhoods adding up to fourteen parks total.



## HEALTHY PEOPLE AND PLACES

Healthy People and Places Assessment, "well-being includes metrics relating to individual morbidity and mortality. Morbidity refers to diseases, disability, or poor health, while mortality refers to a measure of death in a population." While measures to support the well-being of the Southeast Strong Plan area can be found throughout the plan, this section specifically focuses on the availability of facilities within the area as well as programming.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

The City of Colorado Springs and El Paso County Public Health have a free resource for public health and mental health. This powerful tool is on the City's website at <https://coloradosprings.gov/PikesPeakRising>

### WELL-BEING GOAL H5

Identify gaps in healthcare locations.

#### STRATEGY H5-1.A

Widely broadcast the City of Colorado Springs and El Paso County Health Pikes Peak Rising public health and mental health resources to the Southeast Strong community.

#### STRATEGY H5-1.B

Partner with Mountain Metro and Public Works Departments to offer transportation services to healthcare locations, particularly from areas that lack healthcare facilities.

#### STRATEGY H5-1.C

Partner with Peak Vista and other social and well-being services that are available in the Southeast Strong area.



Panorama Park bicycle infrastructure

*Pikes Peak Rising is customizable and you can save your favorite resources. <https://coloradosprings.gov/PikesPeakRising>*

**DID YOU KNOW?**

**LIVE BETTER GOAL H6**

Beautify the Southeast Strong area public spaces.

**STRATEGY H6-1.A**

To support a more pedestrian-friendly experience by removing or requiring removal of overgrown vegetation interfering with sidewalks through Neighborhood Services efforts.

**STRATEGY H6- 1.B**

Partner with Colorado Springs Utilities and Sand Creek Library to provide educational information programs that provide guidance on best landscaping practices and incentives for homeowners. *(Partners – Colorado Springs Utilities, Pikes Peak Library District)*



Panorama Park event PPLD booth



Van Diest Park aerial image



# CREATE SPECIAL PLACES & COMMUNITY HUBS

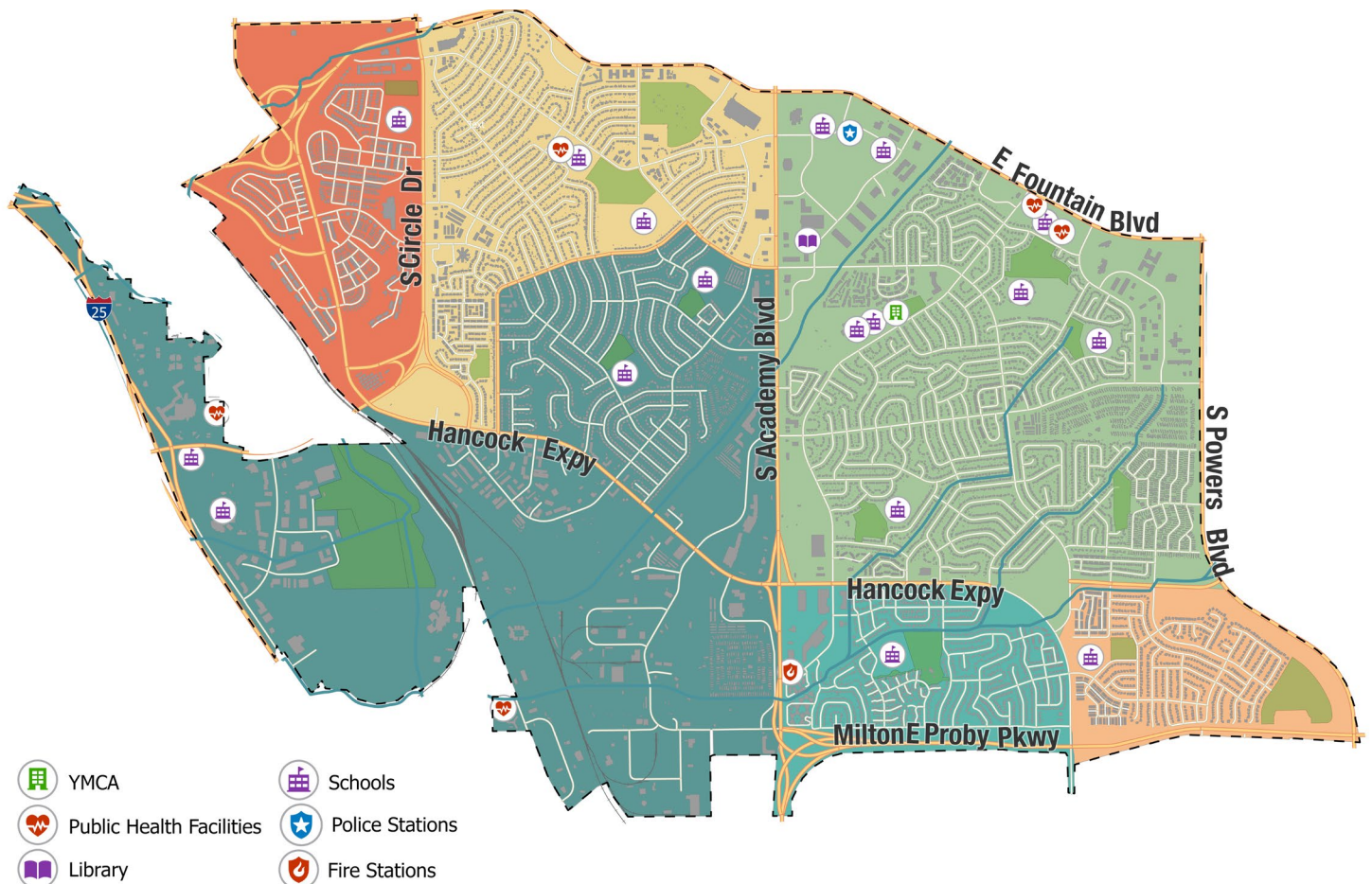
## COMMUNITY VISION FOR PLACE

Southeast Strong area is seeing progress on a community hub and third spaces such as local coffee shops are popping up. Yet, residents must often travel outside their neighborhoods to find other unique spaces, entertainment, and other cultural venues. Community space, third spaces, community hubs where gatherings and cultural activities can flourish, in safe and inclusive ways, is the cornerstone. Spaces will exist throughout the Southeast Strong area neighborhoods that are valuable and accessible to the residents who live there, inclusive of all age categories and abilities.

There will be a variety of forms that these spaces come in ranging from parks to community centers to private event and cultural centers. These spaces will provide opportunities for residents to host events, exercise, study, and socialize. The Southeast Strong area will be a regional destination for cultural celebration and tourism. Hospitality hubs will include places to stay, eat, and visit. Attractions will display on the cultural output of local area creatives for visitors to experience.

PlanCOS states "collaborate with the community, service providers, and stakeholders to plan a small business-supportive community hub in the

MAP 7: NOTABLE FACILITIES WITHIN SOUTHEAST STRONG PLAN AREA



The Southeast Strong Plan Area has an array of public and private spaces that may serve as gathering spaces for residents, business owners, and more.



southeast part of the City." Through not only this Big Idea but also Big Idea 4 'Grow and Support our Businesses, Entrepreneurs, and Housing', steps to accomplish this can begin.

## STATE AND REGULATORY PRIORITIES

The age and conditions of facilities within the area and the need for accessibility upgrades, future planning efforts for new development as well as existing facility upgrades are supported by city departments. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) outlines Federal design and programming requirements for public facilities that allow for users of all abilities safe access. In the event a site is identified for upgrades, priority factors and considerations, in no order, are as follows:

- Due Process: does the ability to participate in the program, service, or activity affect one's rights – as in court or government?
- Public Use: are there high pedestrian traffic or use counts – as in a community park vs a neighborhood park?
- Uniqueness of the program, service, or activity: is there only one – as in a museum?
- Geographic Placement of the program, service, or activity: is the program, service, or activity distributed around the city – as in swimming pools?
- Wide range/multiple of programs, services, or activities: are there many different things going on for multiple age ranges and abilities?
- Disability Request: has someone with a disability made a reasonable accommodation or program modification request?
- Disability Specific: does the program, service, or activity exist primarily for people with disabilities or does the program, service, or activity have

statistically high participation rates by people with disabilities?

In addition, the Department of Justice has specified a priority system for the order of importance to be applied towards redevelopment of facilities:

- Priority 1 – Entrance to Facilities, including parking and accessible route from public right-of-way to the front door.
- Priority 2 – Accessible programs, services, and activities.
- Priority 3 – Accessible restrooms.
- Priority 4 – Telecommunications and drinking fountains.

Similar to the previously mentioned PlanCOS strategy, the ADA upgrades should be applied to other Southeast Strong plan big ideas.

### DID YOU KNOW?

**The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), signed on July 26, 1990, is the world's first comprehensive civil rights law for people with disabilities.**



# CREATE SPECIAL PLACES & COMMUNITY HUBS

## COMMUNITY PLACES PRIORITIES

1. Support and facilitate partnerships between Deerfield Hills Community Center and community organizations for youth, adult, and senior programming, with highlighted focuses on mental and physical health.
2. Through collaboration with City Departments and community agencies, support the accomplishment to create a small business-supportive economically prosperous community.
3. Prioritize and support the Southeast Strong area Community Hub at Chelton Crossing.

## COMMUNITY LOCAL SPACES

### CITY SPACES GOAL P1

Support the Deerfield Hills Community Center as a community hub for children and families. (Partner – City of Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department)

#### STRATEGY P1-1.A

Support future development plans to expand facilities and capacity. (Partner – City of Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department)

#### STRATEGY P1-1.B

Support community events by partnering with Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department.

#### STRATEGY P1-1.C

Continue to hold neighborhood meetings associated with City initiatives and Land Use Review in the Southeast Strong area.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Colorado Springs has several public community centers that are often used for hosting events, Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services Department programs summer camps, adult services, and City-hosted public meetings. Deerfield Hills Community Center, located in the Southeast Strong area, is a part of this network.

### LOCAL SPACES GOAL P2

Create and sustain temporary and permanent community gathering spaces. (Partners – City of Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services and Public Works Departments)

#### STRATEGY P2-1.A

Partner with City Departments and agencies to create activity on sidewalks and public places through expanded seating options, creative lighting, public art installations, and other interactive streetscaping elements.

### SAFE SPACES GOAL P3

Identify and utilize resources, including but not limited to, existing grant funding, non-profits, or public facilities available for those within the Southeast Strong area and collaborate with community agencies to determine gaps and opportunities to provide spaces for residents of all ages and abilities.

### STRATEGY P3-1.A

Remove barriers to safe, comfortable spaces, such as at transportation hubs and include multiple languages.

### STRATEGY P3-1.B

Speak with caretakers on gaps in childcare to determine locations and programming that support safe spaces for children before and after school.

### STRATEGY P3-1.C

Work with senior citizens in the area to understand the gaps in access to socialization and integrate perspectives into discussions on locations and design of gathering spaces.



Chelton Crossing at Chelton Rd. and Jet Wing Dr.

## REGIONAL HUBS AND TOURISM

The Southeast area has a rich culture that can be used to entice regional guests to each of the neighborhoods. Regional hubs are specific places that tourists may visit to enjoy all that the community has to offer.

### STORY TELLING GOAL P5

Partner with City Departments to highlight the culture of the Southeast Strong area.

### STRATEGY P5-1.A

Partner with Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum on hosting pop-up exhibits featuring public art and storytelling events in local venues, such as the Sand Creek Library to further the 2020 City Council-adopted Public Arts Master Plan.  
(Partners – City of Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services and Pikes Peak Library District)

### DID YOU KNOW?

Daily Dose 719 is an award-winning platform aiming to give a voice to marginalized communities, from docuseries to podcasts, the stories of the Southeast area are produced, shared, and celebrated in the community. <https://www.dailydose719.com/home>

### DID YOU KNOW?

The Colorado Equity Compass navigator has stories and resources on the Southeast area. <https://coequitycompass.netlify.app/partner-communities/southeast-colorado-springs/>



# GROW AND SUPPORT OUR BUSINESSES, ENTREPRENEURS, AND HOUSING

## COMMUNITY VISION FOR ECONOMY AND HOUSING

Southeast Strong area residents and business owners will have the option to live and work within the planning area to reduce the amount of time it takes for residents to travel to work, as shown in Figure 2. Patrons for all over will frequent local businesses and enjoy their services at nearby vibrant public gathering spaces. A range of housing options will be available to business owners and entrepreneurs. A thriving community sustains the local economy and keeps dollars within the neighborhood to contribute to residents, community centers, schools, festivals, and more. Job opportunities and vocational training begin in nearby educational institutions and create a pipeline into innovative and exciting industries.

Recent successes in economic development and urban renewal adjacent to the Southeast Strong area continue to support and expand the local economy. Peak Innovation Park is attracting large investments providing quality jobs and community spaces for both local and regional residents and workers. The 2022 Colorado Springs Municipal Airport Master Plan outlines and guides development for growth and sustainability over a 20-year planning period. These two large initiatives are creating a hub for economic development driving tourism, recreation, office development, and industrial uses and serve as opportunities for increasing the attractiveness and viability of Southeast Colorado Springs.

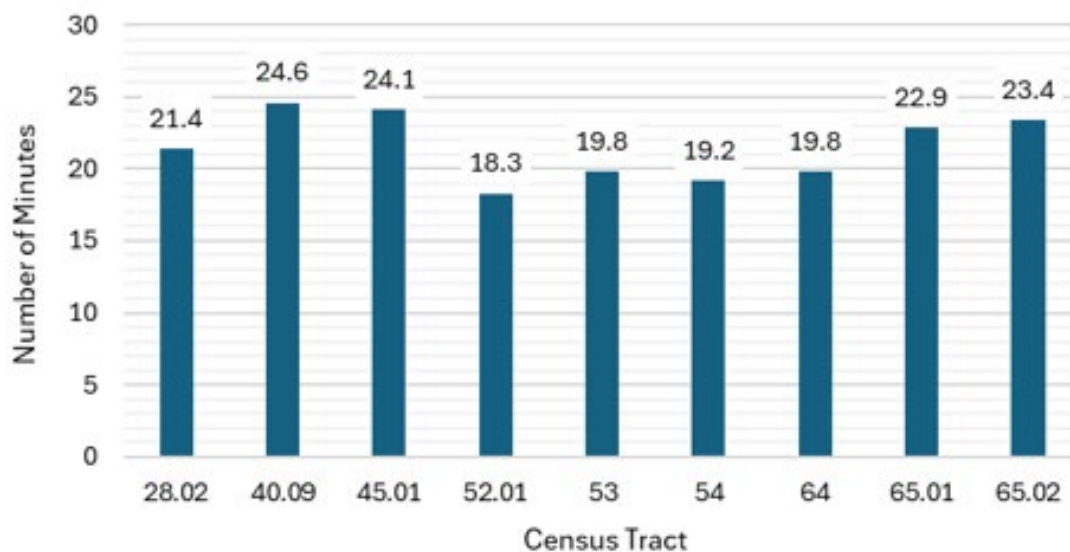


*New attainable housing on Chelton Rd.*



*Village at Solid Rock affordable housing*

FIGURE 2: SOUTHEAST STRONG PLAN AREA TRAVEL TIME TO WORK



Source: Census.gov, American Community Survey (ACS) 2022 5-Year Estimate

## SMALL BUSINESS & COMMUNITY CULTURAL RETAIL

Many vital commercial corridors and neighborhood hubs serve both the Southeast Strong area residents and those from nearby neighborhoods. Notably, neighborhood nodes, often situated near churches and schools or along corridors, when development occurred in a even more auto-centric time, hold a substantial number of small, community-owned businesses that provide valuable services and employment opportunities. These establishments are highly valued by the community. In the Southeast Strong area commercial centers can be tucked into aging strip malls developed before active landscape codes. However, they still face numerous challenges, such as escalating rents and difficulty in hiring staff, which put them at risk of closure or relocation. This concern is particularly poignant for some of the

longstanding Southeast Strong area businesses, which have witnessed displacement over the past decades and fear further losses. The following recommendations present policies and programs aimed at preserving existing businesses while exploring avenues to attract new ones that cater to everyday household needs.





# GROW AND SUPPORT OUR BUSINESSES, AND ENTREPRENEURS

## COMMUNITY AND CITY PRIORITIES

1. Partner with Southeast Strong area businesses and civic organizations to develop a marketing package and assist with new business development/redevelopment to help attract neighborhood residents and customers to individual businesses and help locally-owned businesses locate in the districts, hire and retain quality employees, and integrate into the community. *(Partners – City of Colorado Springs Economic Development Department, RISE Southeast, Solid Rock CDC, Pikes Peak Workforce Center, and Pikes Peak Small Business Development Center)*
2. Collaborate with Colorado Springs Utilities to create standards for water wise streetscapes to address the heat island effect as referenced in the Southeast Community Plan Healthy People and Places Assessment within transportation systems and create a more pedestrian-friendly environment within neighborhood commercial areas. *(Partner – Colorado Springs Utilities)*
3. Support the Urban Renewal Authority's implementation of a Façade Improvement Program to assist property owners with exterior building or site enhancement.
4. Provide cultural competency training for City staff for improved service to the culturally diverse business population. *(Partner – City of Colorado Springs Human Resources Department)*

## SMALL BUSINESS GOAL E1

Provide and assist with resources for funding options to small businesses to help with coming into zoning compliance with code requirements such as landscape and site maintenance. *(Partner – City of Colorado Springs Economic Development Department)*

### STRATEGY E1-1A

Support a Southeast Strong planning area network for small businesses that aims to build capacity among the areas' various commercial nodes and corridors within the area. A small business alliance could include a membership component aiming to:

- Provide information on issues of concern to small businesses;
- Assist with marketing goods and services to area residents;
- Connect businesses to services offered by the City of Colorado Springs;
- Build organizational capacity to help identify and create funding options such as special districts;
- Create opportunities to support marginalized business owners and entrepreneurs.

The Thrive Network empowers residents to start their own small businesses by teaching those in under resourced communities. <https://thethrivenetworks.org>

**DID YOU KNOW?**



Small business

### STRATEGY E1-1.B

Support, uplift, and partner with non-profit and local organizations, such as RISE Southeast, The Thrive Networks, SCORE, and Pikes Peak Small Business Development Center to provide technical and legal assistance at a local, convenient location that may include:

- Business planning,
- Succession or transition planning,
- Lease negotiations,
- Maintenance fees,
- Predatory lending,
- Property taxes and other challenges faced by small business owners.

*(Partner – City of Colorado Springs Economic Development Department, Thrive Networks, Pikes Peak Small Business Development Center, SCORE)*

### STRATEGY E1-1.C

Provide business owners information on opportunities for sources of capital, such as grant programs for upgrading or expanding retail space, storefront improvements, business signage upgrades, and building rehabilitation. *(Partner – City of Colorado Springs Economic Development Department, Colorado Springs Utilities, El Paso County, State of Colorado)*

### STRATEGY E1-1.D

Connect businesses to agencies that can assist and support sustainable practices, including, but not limited to:

- Education on the benefits of opportunities such as adding solar panels or recycled building materials during project design and establishing waste reduction programs that promote composting and recycling.
- Provide resources on how to successfully establish landscapes with native plantings and xeric principles. *(Partner – Colorado Springs Utilities)*

### STRATEGY H1-1.E

Distribute information on opportunities to acquire a building space or property, by utilizing programs such as the Small Business Administration's 504 Loan Program, mobilizing community development organizations, such as Community Development Corporations (CDCs), to acquire commercial property through community land trusts, and exploring programs such as right of first refusal. *(Partner – City of Colorado Springs Economic Development Department)*

**DID YOU KNOW?**

**The City of Colorado Springs Small Business Development website provides resources and tools such as COS Business Navigator, COS Open for Business road map, and Permit Partner to name a few.**  
<https://coloradosprings.gov/smallbiz>



# GROW AND SUPPORT OUR BUSINESSES, AND ENTREPRENEURS

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GOAL E2

Attract new businesses and retailers to help meet the needs of Southeast Strong area residents. *(Partners – City of Colorado Springs Economic Development Department, Colorado Springs Urban Renewal Authority)*

**The Colorado Springs Urban Renewal Authority (CSURA) promotes projects that supply public benefit, provide quality sustainable places, create jobs, promote public art, offer affordable housing, and raise the standard of development in Colorado Springs. These projects are achievable through the coordinated partnerships of private and public entities, civic leaders, financial institutions, and the use of tax increment financing. The objective of CSURA is to facilitate development of balanced, sustainable environments where people live, work, and come together as a community.**

**DID YOU KNOW?**

### STRATEGY E2-1.B

Promote the utilization of small business initiative programs, such as tax credit programs including business personal property and Enterprise Zones, that have the potential to support entrepreneurs. *(Partner – El Paso County Office of Economic Development)*

### STRATEGY E2-1.C

In developed areas that meet the State Statute definition of “blight”, support opportunities for vacant property conversion(s) allowing for new businesses that creatively use former tenant spaces to help spur redevelopment. *(Partner – Colorado Springs Urban Renewal Authority)*

### STRATEGY E2-1.D

Collaborate with the Urban Renewal Authority to establish procedures similar to the current Rapid Response application process for taxing entities that may support new development and redevelopment. *(Partner – Colorado Springs Urban Renewal Authority)*

### STRATEGY E2-1.D

Support the Urban Renewal Authority's implementation of a Façade Improvement Program to assist property owners with exterior building or site enhancement. *(Partner – Colorado Springs Urban Renewal Authority)*

### STRATEGY E2-1.E

Support retail and craft manufacturing in industrial areas, particularly between Harrison High School and El Pomar Youth Sports Park. *(Partners – Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services, Harrison School District 2)*

### STRATEGY E2-1.A

Assist business organizations in developing small business incubators for property owners and entrepreneurs, particularly in existing vacant and underutilized buildings, as a test market for new retail and services. Successful incubator tenants should then be encouraged to move to permanent storefront locations within the area with assistance from local organizations. *(Partner – City of Colorado Springs Economic Development Department)*



The Colorado Springs Urban Renewal Authority (CSURA) provides financial support to fund blight studies (condition studies) in conjunction with developers.

**DID YOU KNOW?**



Small business

### CULTURAL BUSINESSES GOAL E3

Support and develop new initiatives and community-minded ownership models that have a goal of maintaining a variety of local and culturally significant businesses in the area.

#### STRATEGY Y E3-1.A

Identify and provide support to preserve culturally and/or historically relevant businesses including marginalized groups, through business assistance, property ownership, and other innovative efforts. (Partners - Pikes Peak Small Business Development Center, Solid Rock CDC)

#### STRATEGY E3-1.B

As new development or redevelopment occurs in the Southeast Strong Plan Area, partner with community agencies to develop strategies and tools to help existing businesses stay in the area. (Partner - City of Colorado Springs Economic Development Department)



SCORE Southern Colorado helps small businesses with mentoring, workshops, and resources. <https://www.score.org/southerncolorado>

**DID YOU KNOW?**

**DID YOU KNOW?**

The Pikes Peak Small Business Development Center provides training, consulting, and information for small businesses. <https://pikespeaksbdc.org>



# GROW AND SUPPORT OUR BUSINESSES, AND ENTREPRENEURS

## PRESERVING & GROWING PRIMARY EMPLOYERS

Unique to the City of Colorado Springs are the amount of industrial manufacturing and logistics jobs, including industrial and warehousing in Pikes Peak Park South. Additionally, Peak Innovation Park, located east of the planning area, and the Airport Business Park are employment sectors potentially serving the area. Access to quality jobs and education is key to achieving PlanCOS vision for a more inclusive city where all residents have equitable access to quality education, jobs, and services. Education and training programs are critical to ensure the Southeast Strong area has job growth and residents have increased access to higher wage jobs.

By supporting Harrison School District 2 (D2) and other entities providing job training for career growth within strategic sectors having partnerships with D2, local businesses, and workforce partners will help ensure that area residents benefit from future jobs opportunities.

### **PRESERVE AND GROW JOBS GOAL E4**

Preserve existing industrial jobs and create new job opportunities that can benefit neighborhood residents and the regional economy.

#### **STRATEGY E4-1.A**

In collaboration with major employers within the Southeast Strong area, support creation of vocational job training, apprenticeship program, and the careers in construction program at D2 area high schools and other apprenticeship and job training programs. (*Partners – City of Colorado Springs Economic Department Dept, Harrison School District 2, Pikes Peak Workforce Center, Colorado Springs Housing and Building Association*)

#### **STRATEGY E4-1.B**

Where the potential for involuntary displacement is identified, evaluate, and implement methods to mitigate business displacement, such as incentives, property ownership and/or other assistance to existing businesses to preserve jobs in the area.

#### **STRATEGY E4-1.C**

Identify industrial businesses that may be considered as being cultural and/or historic destinations and anchors and explore incentives, marketing support and/or economic development tools to retain them.

#### **STRATEGY E4-1.D**

Support local and regional high-value manufacturing places and consider forming high-value manufacturing districts as additional needs are identified such as additional regulatory relief, and a mobility network that facilitates truck traffic and access to major highways.

#### **STRATEGY E4-1.E**

Support new job growth in manufacturing through new and existing local and regional economic development resources such as shared makers spaces, incubators, or the Enterprise Zone program.

#### **STRATEGY E4-1.F**

As buildings, uses, and supporting technology evolve, consider utilization of special districts and/or other economic development tools to help finance the modernization or expansion of needed infrastructure. For localized infrastructure upgrades, consider general improvement and/or metropolitan districts. For broader district-wide improvements and marketing support, a business improvement district(s).

## EDUCATION AND CAREER GOAL E5

Partner with local school districts, community organizations, and other major area employers in connecting Southeast Strong area residents to new career opportunities.

### STRATEGY E5-1.A

Through career exploration and career exposure opportunities, workforce training and continuing education. Provide educational opportunities at community centers, libraries, Pikes Peak State College, and other public facilities by connecting residents to scholarships and other programs to improve access to learning.

### STRATEGY E5-1.B

Promote partnerships with Harrison School District 2 and other education institutions located in the area neighborhoods.

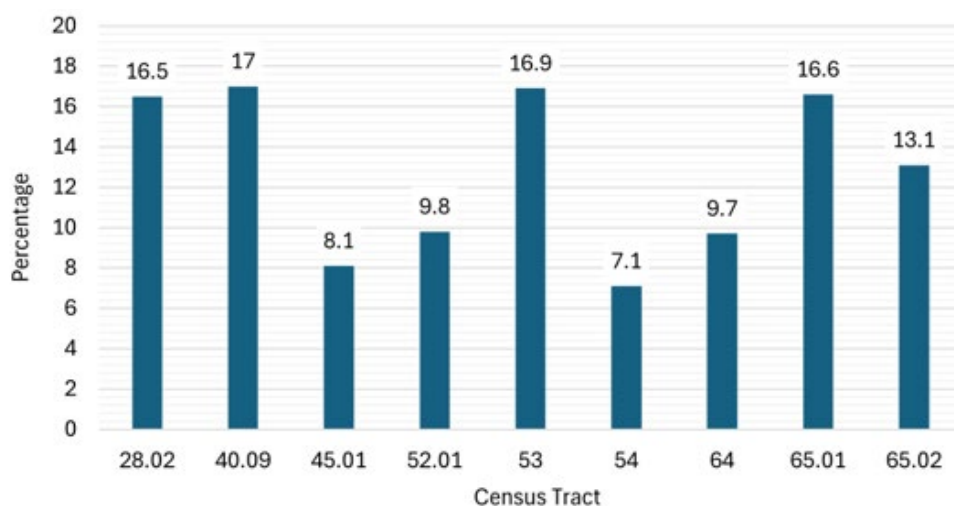
### STRATEGY E5-1.C

Increase upskilling and reskilling opportunities for adults in area through adult and higher education and technical training.

### STRATEGY E5-1.D

Collaborate with Pikes Peak State College and major employers within the industrial areas to create new and support existing vocational job training and/or apprenticeship programs. This could be accomplished through the support of local and regional workforce development and training organizations. Encourage local hiring of area residents, particularly for city-supportive projects that offer employment opportunities.

FIGURE 3: SOUTHEAST STRONG PLAN AREA POPULATION WITH A BACHELOR'S DEGREE



Source: Census.gov, American Community Survey (ACS) 2022 5-Year Estimate

Figure 3 shows the percentage of area residents who have a bachelor's degree, which may be an indicator of accessibility to learning.



# GROW AND SUPPORT OUR HOUSING

## AFFORDABLE HOUSING & WEALTH BUILDING

The most common measure of housing affordability assesses the burden that housing costs put on a household. If a household pays more than 30% of their gross income in rent and utilities or on mortgage payments, utilities, property taxes and insurance they are considered to be "cost-burdened" and susceptible to displacement should housing costs increase. The higher the cost burden, the greater the vulnerability. Cost burden can lead to financial stress and limited access to basic necessities such as medical care, nutritious food, and transportation. For children in particular, housing stability significantly affects educational development and in turn lifelong earning potential. For seniors, stable housing ensures a safe and supportive environment for aging in place, maintaining social connections and accessing necessary healthcare services. In addition, affordability does not just refer to subsidized housing for people at extremely low-income levels: it also affects an increasingly wide spectrum of working households across the City. Figure 4 shows the percentage of Southeast Strong Plan area residents who are living below the poverty line and may be cost-burdened.

Supporting the development of affordable and attainable housing in the form of both rental and homeownership opportunities will support financial stability and wealth building over time. The following recommendations provide policies and programs to enable these neighborhoods to maintain and improve housing into the future. Additional citywide recommendations and programs can be applied to this area from the City's Housing and Community Vitality Department.

### DID YOU KNOW?

**Affordable housing is subject to restrictions in the form of long-term rent limits, or, in the case of for-sale housing, initial sale to a low- to moderate-income household.**

**Affordable housing or housing affordability is any housing that does not require more than 30% of household income to secure.**

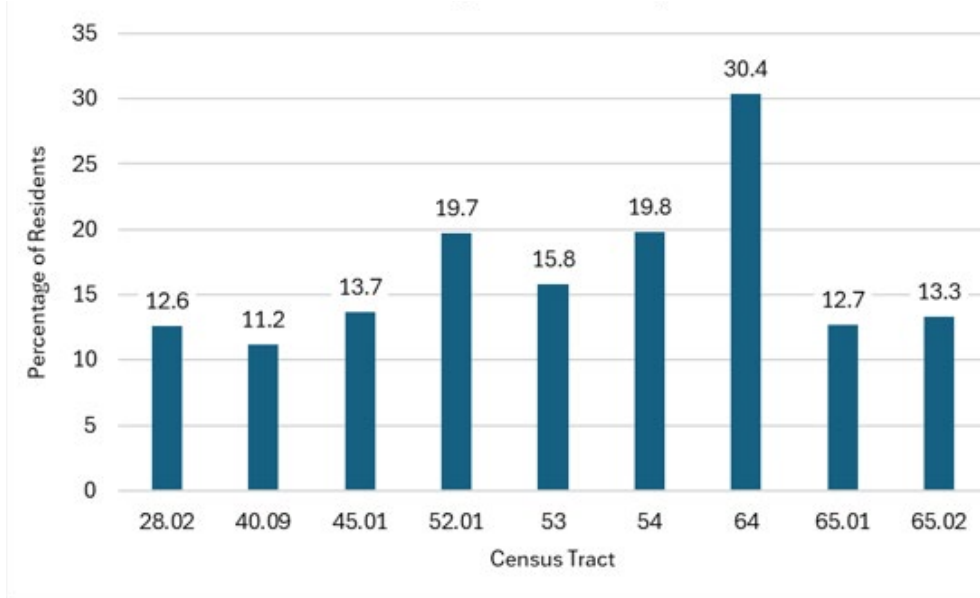
**Attainable housing is housing that is affordable to moderate income households.**

## COMMUNITY PRIORITIES

1. Support the preservation of existing affordable housing in the Southeast by providing below-market loans to existing affordable multi-family rental properties in need of minor rehabilitation, and by continuing to fund owner-occupied housing rehabilitation for low- to moderate-income homeowners.
2. Collaborate with developers to tailor proposed affordable housing construction to meet identified needs of the Southeast. For example, encourage dedication of space in proposed designs for needs such as childcare facilities or food pantries.
3. Consider all housing needs for existing and future residents and use the housing needs assessment to determine missing housing types.

*(Partner - City of Colorado Springs Housing and Community Vitality Department) - in all goals and strategies*

FIGURE 4: SOUTHEAST STRONG PLAN AREA POVERTY STATUS



Source: Census.gov, American Community Survey (ACS) 2022 5-Year Estimates

## HOUSING GOAL HS1

Foster the growth of affordable and diverse housing options, especially those in proximity to transit, essential services, and amenities, to address a range of living situations. Figure 5 illustrates the range in average household sizes within the Plan Area.

### STRATEGY HS1-1.A

Ensure affordable rental housing aligns with community needs, including:

- Permanent Supportive Housing for stability of our most vulnerable, lowest-income residents.
- Diverse housing options for various household types, such as families, multi-generational living, aging in place, residents with disabilities, and those requiring supportive services.
- Rental options that match the quality and compatibility of market-rate housing in the area.

### STRATEGY HS1-1.B

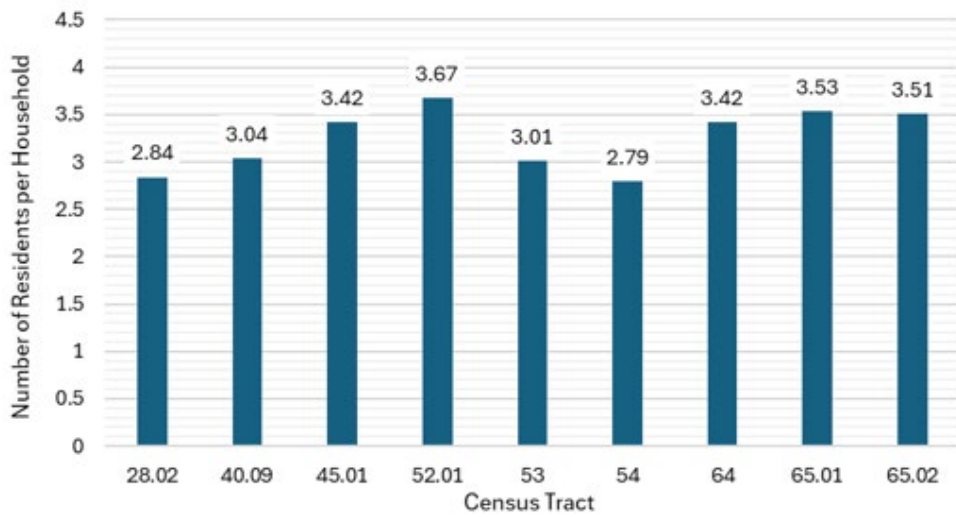
Continue to support the allocation of Private Activity Bonds (PAB) and Federal Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funds by the City for construction and rehabilitation of affordable multi-family housing projects. Pursue innovative funding sources for affordable housing development, such as Prop 123 funding, philanthropic funders, or other revenue-generating programs.





# GROW AND SUPPORT OUR HOUSING

FIGURE 5: THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE LIVING PER HOUSEHOLD IN EACH SOUTHEAST STRONG PLAN AREA'S US CENSUS TRACTS



Source: Census.gov, American Community Survey (ACS) 2022 5-Year Estimate



### STRATEGY HS1-1.C

Ease the process of financing and building ADUs (Accessory Dwelling Units) for homeowners by streamlining the permitting process, partnering with local lenders to expand traditional financing tools, and providing education to homeowners on the responsibilities of serving as a landlord.

### STRATEGY HS1-1.D

Support the use of various models to provide affordable homeownership options to residents.

## PRESERVE HOUSING GOAL HS2

Preserve existing affordable housing inventory for current and future homeowners and renters.

### STRATEGY HS2-1.A

Support property tax exemptions, energy and accessibility support, and foreclosure prevention for low-income and/or senior homeowners. Maintain and enhance the quality of older homes through programs designed to rehabilitate homes in disrepair or without critical accessibility features, so that our most vulnerable residents can comfortably and safely age in place.

### STRATEGY HS2-1.B

Continue the successes of pandemic-era rental assistance programs by building capacity in the non-profit community to administer displacement and eviction prevention programs for residents most at risk of displacement, including senior citizens. This outreach aims to explore additional assistance programs and options to mitigate displacement.



*Southeast area housing*

## DID YOU KNOW?

### What makes housing affordable?

Housing affordability is measured as a percentage of total household income spent on housing. Housing is considered affordable if a household spends no more than 30% of their gross income on rent + utilities, or if the homeowners spend no more than 30% on their mortgage principal, interest, taxes, and insurance (PITI), association fees and lot fees, + utilities.



# GROW AND SUPPORT OUR BUSINESSES, ENTREPRENEURS, AND HOUSING

## GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS

AMI – Area Median Income  
BID – Business Improvement District  
CDC – Community Development Corporation  
HUD – Housing and Urban Development  
PAB – Private Activity Bond  
URA – Urban Renewal Authority

## GLOSSARY OF COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Several partners have been named in this big idea, but what do they all do?

### **COLORADO SPRINGS SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER**

The Pikes Peak Small Business Development Center offers small business consulting and training that maximizes the economic potential of entrepreneurs. Their mission is to help existing and new businesses grow and prosper with the goal of helping emerging and existing entrepreneurs gain control of their business operations. They provide free guidance and counseling in all aspects of funding and developing small business. We strive to help grow and start businesses. While they cannot eliminate risk, they work to minimize it by helping clients write comprehensive business plans, conduct financial forecasts, strategize marketing tactics, apply for funding, and improve operations.

<https://pikespeaksbdc.org/>

### **PIKES PEAK WORKFORCE CENTER**

The Pikes Peak Workforce Center provides a wide variety of free services to assist registered job seekers, provides skills training to help residents achieve success, and offers resources to connect to future employers.

<https://ppwfc.org/>

### **RISE SOUTHEAST COLORADO SPRINGS**

RISE | Southeast is an initiative developed and led by resilient, inspired, strong, and engaged residents of 80910 and 80916. In 2016, El Paso County Public Health was the recipient of El Pomar Foundation's Possibilities grant and El Pomar made a seven-year commitment to help fund RISE | Southeast an initiative aimed to enhance southeast Colorado Springs from within through resident led change.

<https://risesoutheast.com>

### **SCORE**

SCORE's (Service Corps of Retired Executives) mission is to foster vibrant small business communities through mentoring and education.

<https://www.score.org/southerncolorado>

### **SOLID ROCK COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (CDC)**

Solid Rock CDC seeks to support a revitalized Southeast Colorado Springs that becomes a destination area for living, business development through innovative community collaboration through housing diversity advocacy and development, small business support, facilitation of healthy community connections, and being policy advocates within the community and State.

<https://www.solidrockcdc.com>

### **THRIVE NETWORK**

The Thrive Networks' goal is to eliminate economic barriers by providing people in communities with tools to activate and launch their own success, primarily through entrepreneurship. They achieve this goal through teaching those within communities to see their problems as economic opportunities, and providing a framework to launch small businesses to address those needs.

<https://thethrivenetworks.org>







## CITY AND COMMUNITY VISION FOR SAFETY

A safe Southeast Strong area is one where residents and visitors feel safe to carry about their day-to-day activities. To discourage crime activity, the development of a site should incorporate measures that prevent the potential for unsafe situations and criminal activity.

CPTED, or Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design, is a theory that can be utilized by designers of the built environment such as architects, landscape architects, city planners, and law enforcement that encourages smarter design to reduce crime and to create a sense of safety. This concept focuses on how the physical environment impacts our day-to-day activities with the goal of ensuring safe interaction with the development around us in part through positive human behavior. CPTED is a tool to be considered in a site's design using five strategies, which include:

- Natural Access Control – focuses on access points to a property.
- Territoriality – establishes safe boundaries for a property and welcomes users.
- Natural Observation – property users can safely observe the property, such as through property lighting.
- Legitimate Activity Support – expands on the "Eyes on the Street" theory which incorporates users as monitors of the environment.
- Image and Maintenance – encourages property maintenance, showing an area is active with users and safe from hazards.

## CITY AND COMMUNITY PRIORITIES

- 1.** Through the development review process, ensure there are clear sightlines and visibility in public spaces, reducing potential hiding spots for criminal activity. *(Partner – City of Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services and Police Departments)*
  - Designing for this natural observation means providing opportunity and comfort for legitimate users of the space to engage in their normal activities.
  - A key factor is the use of uniform lighting standards for illumination of parking lots, urban trails, and building entrances.
- 2.** Keep the area well-maintained to show that property is cared for and watched over. This may include maintaining landscaping, ensuring that lighting is functioning, and supporting education programs for property owners to help identify opportunities for improvement as it applies to safety. *(Partner – City of Colorado Springs Police Department, City of Colorado Springs Neighborhood Services Division)*
- 3.** Expand the Neighborhood Watch Program and educate residents on assisting with observation. *(Partner – City of Colorado Springs Police Department, CONO)*

### SAND CREEK TRAIL SAFETY GOAL S1

Implement the Trails and Open Space Coalition's safety recommendations improvements on Sand Creek Trail.

#### STRATEGY S1-1.A

The Sand Creek Trail in the planning area should be considered for designation as a linear park with safety lighting and benches every .5 miles continuing the efforts of TOPS.

## COMMUNITY SAFETY

### SAFETY GOAL S2

Use signage, landscaping, and architectural features to define ownership of which areas are public and private.

#### STRATEGY S2-1.A

- In commercial areas, such as Mission Trace Shopping Center, the use of private space as public space may increase a sense of safety.
- Site design may define these areas through landscaping, grade changes, or non-opaque walls and fences.

#### STRATEGY S2-1.B

Educate property owners on the importance and effectiveness of protective measures such as locks, alarms, and security cameras.

#### STRATEGY S2-1.C

Opacity limits on outdoor fencing, walls, and other visual barriers.

- Fencing, railing walls, or other built barriers that divide outdoor areas should be discouraged from being constructed in a manner that results in a complete visual barrier.
- Landscaping buffers must be designed to not create a visual barrier or "hiding" spaces.

**CPTED is one of four Crime Prevention Programs in the CSPD Crime Prevention Unit which also includes Neighborhood Watch, community presentations, and reporting crimes and concerns.**

**DID YOU KNOW?**

**DID YOU KNOW?**

The "eyes on the street" theory suggests that the presence of people in public spaces can help prevent crime and create safe environments.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

Colorado Springs Police Department received from the Colorado Division of Criminal Justice a grant to install safety measures at Memorial Park including lighting and security cameras.





# UPGRADE HOW WE MOVE

## CITY VISION FOR MOBILITY

The Southeast Strong planning area is uniquely located at the crossroads of major regional commercial and industrial centers such as Colorado Springs Airport. Major thoroughfares provide access to, from, and through each of the six neighborhoods. Locally, residents desire transportation options that balance efficiency and availability of options. A comprehensive transit network connects residents to the many zoning uses as shown in Map 8 and to key destinations such as medical services, job centers, and food and entertainment options. South Academy Boulevard, Hancock Expressway, and South Circle Drive have been transformed into multimodal transit streets, and a network of local buses and bike and pedestrian-friendly infrastructure offer safe connections between commercial centers and residential areas.

Based on the findings in the Southeast Community Plan: Healthy People and Places Assessment (Appendix A) and stakeholder comments, this Big Idea supports the expansion of safe, reliable access within the area, multimodal transportation options without impeding efficiency of the most used forms of travel, and maintenance of existing infrastructure. This undertaking is supported by City-initiated plans including ConnectCOS, adopted by City Council in 2023, and the 2050 Regional Transit Plan & Specialized Transportation Plan that is expected to be completed in 2025.

The 2050 Regional Transit Plan & Specialized Transportation Plan intends to identify improvement and enhancements to the existing Mountain Metro transit system. This could include the expansion of services to be more frequent, new routes, and enhanced infrastructure. As work is still in progress, continued support will be provided and Southeast Strong area residents will be included in the public process. It should be noted that the partner for this Big Idea is the City of Colorado Springs Public Works Department.

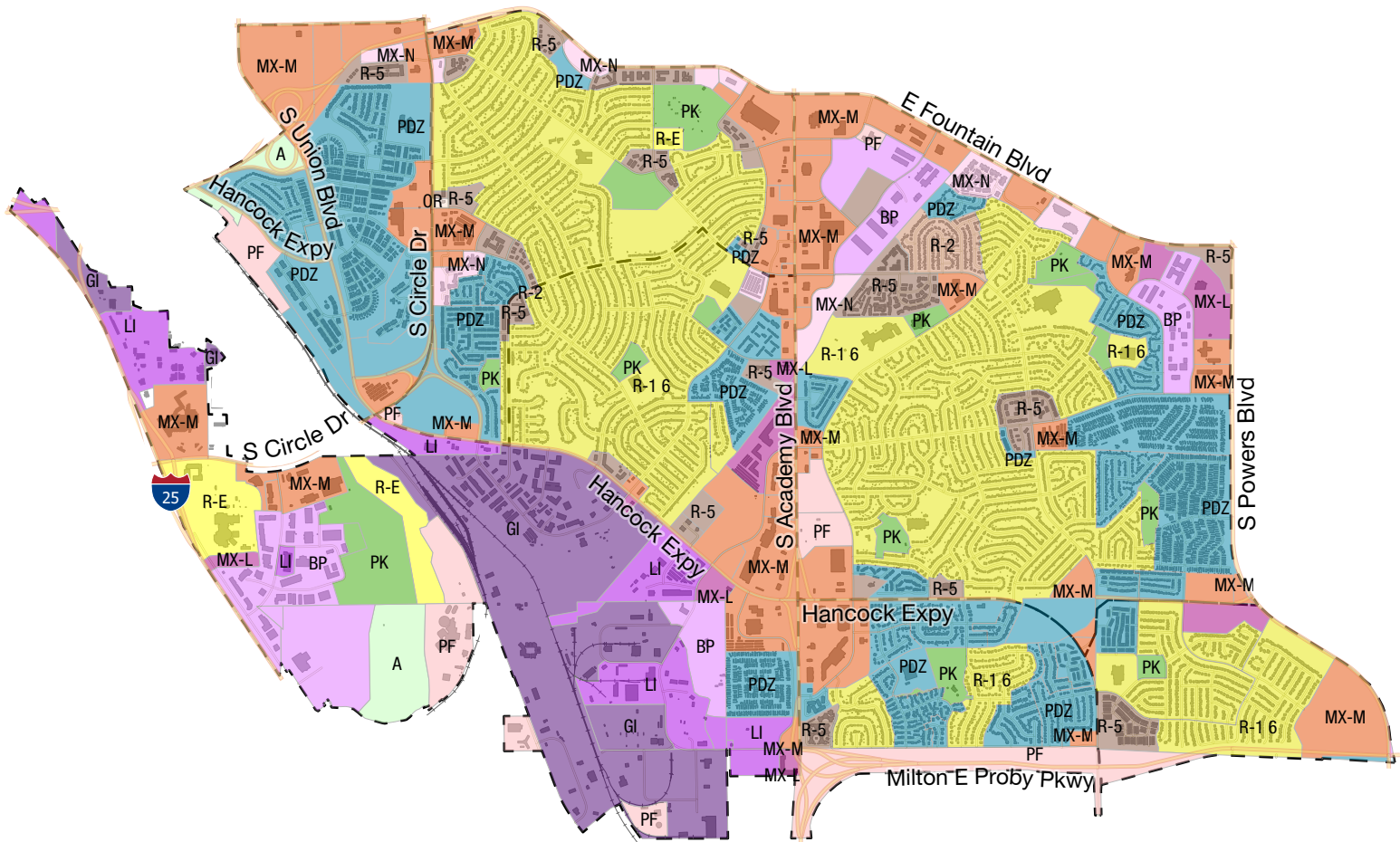
## COMMUNITY PRIORITIES

1. Update transit centers and stops to be a safe and comfortable experience.
2. Expand services to be more frequent, new routes, and enhanced infrastructure.
3. Improve safety at dangerous intersections with lighting and pedestrian refuges.



Sand Creek trail wayfinding

MAP 8: ZONE DISTRICTS WITHIN SOUTHEAST STRONG PLAN AREA



- |  |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|
| <span style="color: #90EE90;">■</span> A: Agriculture                | <span style="color: #8B4513;">■</span> R-2: Two-Family        | <span style="color: #8B4513;">■</span> MX-M: Mixed-Use Medium Scale       | <span style="color: #483D8B;">■</span> OR: Office Residential               |
| <span style="color: #FFFF00;">■</span> R-E: Single-Family - Estate   | <span style="color: #8B4513;">■</span> R-5: Multi-Family High | <span style="color: #8B4513;">■</span> MX-L: Mixed-Use Large Scale        | <span style="color: #800080;">■</span> BP: Business Park (Planned District) |
| <span style="color: #90EE90;">■</span> R-1 6: Single-Family - Medium | <span style="color: #3CB371;">■</span> PK: Public Parks       | <span style="color: #800080;">■</span> MX-N: Mixed-Use Neighborhood Scale | <span style="color: #800080;">■</span> LI: Light Industrial                 |
| <span style="color: #90EE90;">■</span> R-1 9: Single-Family - Large  | <span style="color: #800080;">■</span> PF: Public Facilities  | <span style="color: #008080;">■</span> PDZ: Planned Development Zone      | <span style="color: #483D8B;">■</span> GI: General Industrial               |

The variety of zone districts within the Southeast Strong Plan Area presents an opportunity for a connected and efficient transportation system.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

**ConnectCOS established goals of creating a transportation system that is safe, equitable, sustainable, reliable, accessible, and connected.**



## STREET TYPES

The various street types in the Southeast Strong planning area influence how residents travel through and across neighborhoods. Pikes Peak Rural Transportation Authority (PPRA), the City's General Fund budget, and ballot item 2C help to address physical infrastructure ailments such as potholes or broken and missing sidewalks. In addition to physical deterioration, the design of roadways may discourage multimodal transportation uses by creating uncomfortable bicycle or pedestrian experiences. PlanCOS and ConnectCOS outline a complete multimodal transportation network that provides mobility choices to all residents. This complete network offers residents the ability to choose how they access jobs, education, residential, commercial, and entertainment destinations. Based on ConnectCOS, residents who use the multi-modal transportation network generally opt for one of the following modes of travel:

- Drive alone,
- Carpool,
- Work from home; therefore, no transportation,
- Walk,
- Utilize a taxi or rideshare service,
- Motorcycle or other,
- Public Transportation, and
- Bike.

## CRITICAL CORRIDORS

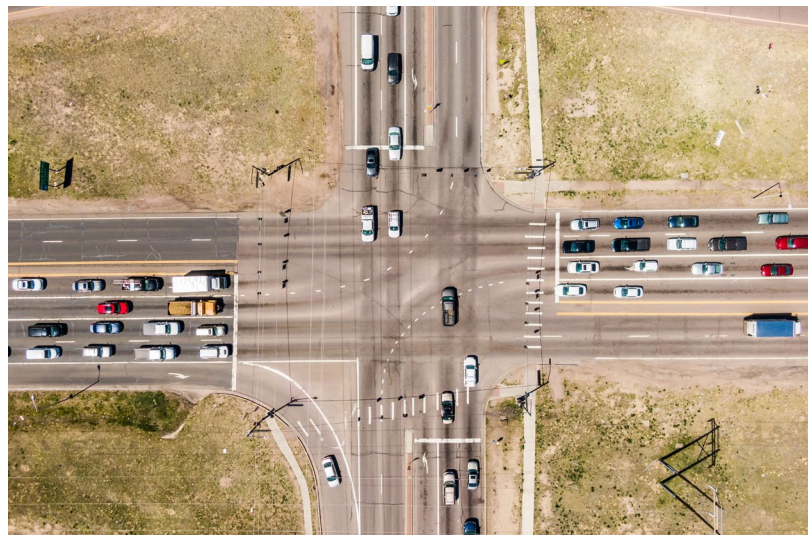
The Southeast Strong planning area sits at the intersections of several regional thoroughfares. These thoroughfares transport thousands of vehicles daily to link residential neighborhoods to commercial centers. They were often constructed in a transportation vision that prioritized single-occupancy vehicles. Several of these thoroughfares, such as the MLK Bypass/Fountain Boulevard, have disconnected communities and pushed residents farther away from economic opportunity. They continue to stand as physical reminders of historical damage, but they also serve as opportunities to create new and better conditions for the community to flourish.

### POWERS BOULEVARD CITY ACTION

Work with Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) on future Powers Boulevard improvements to ensure that projects include bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure that provide connectivity across and adjacent to Powers Boulevard.

### MLK BYPASS/FOUNTAIN BOULEVARD

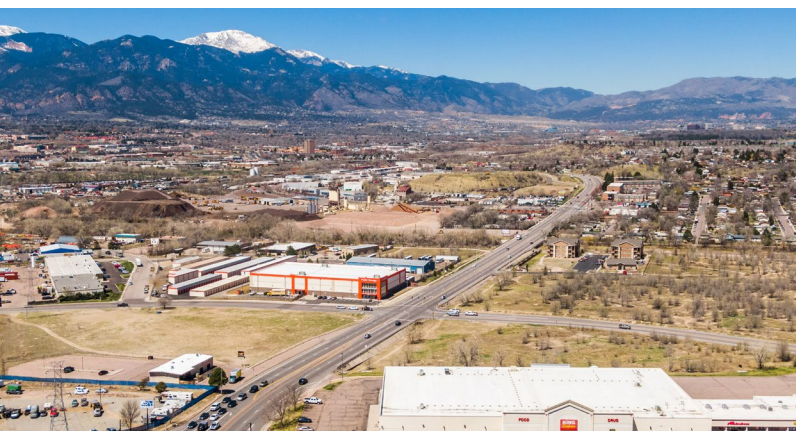
Study and implement improved and new protected bicycle infrastructure from South Union Boulevard to Circle Drive. Protected bicycle infrastructure could include a physical separation from vehicle traffic or a multi-use sidewalk adjacent to the corridor.



## CONNECTED CORRIDORS

Many of the commercial corridors within the Southeast Strong planning area are situated on major arterials, such as South Academy Boulevard. These major arterials reflect decades of planning for single-occupancy vehicles without adequate infrastructure to support other modes of transportation such as walking and biking. Economic vibrancy and community pride rely on the efficiency and overall user experience of these roads. The vision of this big idea recognizes the existing dependence on single-occupancy vehicle travel while planning for a more connected, multimodal transportation corridor.

Connected corridors are classified as principal arterials in the City's Major Thoroughfare Plan, found in ConnectCOS. *(Partner – City of Colorado Springs Public Works Department)*



**Appendix A of ConnectCOS includes a project list which includes many projects for completion around Colorado Springs, including Southeast neighborhood safety and Active Transportation projects.**

**DID YOU KNOW?**

## EXPRESSWAY CITY ACTION

Action 1 – Conduct a transportation corridor study to determine safety, traffic operations, multi-modal enhancements, and functionality of the roadway from Union Boulevard to Chelton Road.

Action 2 – Enhance bike infrastructure from Monterey Road to the Sand Creek trail crossing.

Action 3 – Implement lane reallocation for bike lanes between Chelton Road and Powers Boulevard.

Action 4 – Study the feasibility of converting the Chelton intersection to a roundabout intersection.

Action 5 – Complete connection of Hancock Expressway from Clarendon Drive to Chelton Road.

Action 6 – Install 10-foot shared use path along the southside of Hancock Expressway from the Sand Creek trail crossing to the 10-foot shared use path on Academy Boulevard.

## SOUTH ACADEMY BOULEVARD CITY ACTION

Action 1 – Continue the enhancements included in the Academy Boulevard Improvements Project.

Action 2 – Enhance and implement pedestrian facilities, including additional crossings to close long, inconvenient gaps between signalized intersections, and 10-foot share use path.

Action 3 – Complete Enhanced Transit Feasibility Study and implement recommendations.



## NEIGHBORHOOD LINKS CITY ACTION

Neighborhood links are the roads that serve local needs. These roads are often one or two lanes in each direction that connect residential neighborhoods to the larger thoroughfares and corridors. Neighborhood links are an opportunity to build on the City's existing multi-modal infrastructure without effecting efficiency on heavier-trafficked roads. Neighborhood links in the Southeast Strong planning area include:

- Aeroplaza Drive;
- Astrozon Boulevard;
- Capulin Drive;
- Carmel Drive;
- Chelton Road;
- Delta Drive;
- Janitell Road;
- Jet Wing Drive;
- Monterey Road;
- Murray Boulevard, and
- Verde Drive.

Neighborhood links are classified as minor arterials in the City's Major Thoroughfare Plan, found in ConnectCOS, adopted by City Council in 2023. (Partner – City of Colorado Springs Public Works Department)



S. Academy Blvd.



E. Fountain Blvd.

### DID YOU KNOW?

The City of Colorado Springs' 2C Road Improvement is a voter-approved sales tax, serving as the main source for rebuilding and improving the condition of our existing roadway infrastructure in Colorado Springs. To see what roads have been paved since 2016 and what is proposed into 2027, visit <https://coloradosprings.gov/2c>.



### **BICYCLE INFRASTRUCTURE GOAL T1**

Study and implement lane reallocation projects to improve safety.

#### **STRATEGY T1-1.A**

To advance the implementation of the City's Bike Master Plan continue planned projects:

- Chelton Road from Mallard Drive to Hancock Expressway.
- Murray Boulevard from Platte Avenue and Chelton Road.

### **SAFER INTERSECTIONS GOAL T2**

Study and implement safer intersections.

#### **STRATEGY T2-1.A**

Implement identifying signal modifications and traffic control modifications such as roundabouts.

### **NON-MOTORIZED SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS**

Infrastructure upgrades in the Southeast Strong planning area are intended to address safety concerns and user comfort. Lack of controlled mid-block pedestrian crossings, missing sidewalk connections, excessive speeding on streets, and needed modernized facilities. This section, focusing primarily on the non-motorized experience. Creatively opportunities to install safety improvements should be considered.

*(Partner – City of Colorado Springs Public Works Department)*

### **ROAD SAFETY GOAL T3**

Create and implement strategies for slowing vehicles speeds on roads in the immediate vicinity of schools, healthcare centers, libraries, commercial areas, and parks and other recreational centers.

### **PEDESTRIAN SAFETY GOAL T4**

Implement a connected, functional, comfortable, and safe pedestrian network.

#### **STRATEGY T4-1.A**

Implement sidewalk improvements and fill in sidewalk gaps along South Academy Boulevard, Fountain Boulevard, and South Circle Drive, and Hancock Expressway using PPRTA, grant, or developer funding as opportunities arise.

#### **STRATEGY T4-1.B**

Evaluate new crossing locations along major arterials such as South Academy Boulevard, Fountain Boulevard, and Hancock Expressway to close long, inconvenient gaps between signalized intersections.

#### **STRATEGY T4-1.C**

Install missing sidewalk connections particularly to access area parks and trails, adjacent to high-trafficked routes, and to connect neighborhoods and businesses to transit stops. *(Partners – City of Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department, and Public Works)*

#### **STRATEGY T4-1.D**

Determine new segments of shared use paths (e.g. 10-foot sidewalks) to provide trail-to-trail connections, trail-to-park connections, and park-to-park connections using PPRTA funding or other funding opportunities as they arise.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

**The Pikes Peak Rural Transportation Authority (PPRTA) successfully passed a ballot initiative in November 2022 to support a one-cent sales tax increase to support transportation capital improvements for a period of 10 years.**



# UPGRADE HOW WE MOVE

## CROSSING SAFETY GOAL T3

Explore the feasibility of and implement additional high-visibility and controlled bicycle and pedestrian crossings that traverse significant obstacles such as highways, creeks, or railroads.

## REDUCE CRASHES GOAL T4

Implement design ideas that promote overall pedestrian safety and comfort. Study and implement ways to reduce pedestrian-related crashes.

### STRATEGY T4-1.A

Use signal timing strategies and detection technologies to implement safety enhancements at signalized intersections.

### STRATEGY T4-1.B

Implement pedestrian infrastructure enhancements such as wider sidewalks, curb bulb-outs, pedestrian refuge islands, and pedestrian activated crossing controls such as Rapid Rectangular Flashing Beacons (RRFBs) and pedestrian signals.

### STRATEGY T4-1.C

Collaborate with residents of the planning area to prioritize completing missing links and improve quality of sidewalks in the immediate vicinity of schools, healthcare centers, libraries, commercial areas, and parks and other recreational centers.

## BIKE PLANNING GOAL T5

Implement and upgrade the City's Bike Master Plan for bikeway infrastructure.

### STRATEGY T5-1.A

Create bicycle facilities that are designed to prioritize safety and comfort.

### STRATEGY T5-1.B

Consider options that involve closing residential street segments to vehicular traffic flow while still ensuring continued household and business access.

**PPRTA funding allows for adapting the needs of the community for transportation projects, such as sidewalk and trail enhancements, bridge maintenance, and on-street bicycle infrastructure improvements.**

**DID YOU KNOW?**



*Celton Rd. new crosswalk and pedestrian signalization*

## TRANSIT

The City's transit system and the supporting multi-modal infrastructure allows someone to navigate through the area safely and conveniently without a vehicle. *(Partner – City of Colorado Springs Public Works Department)*

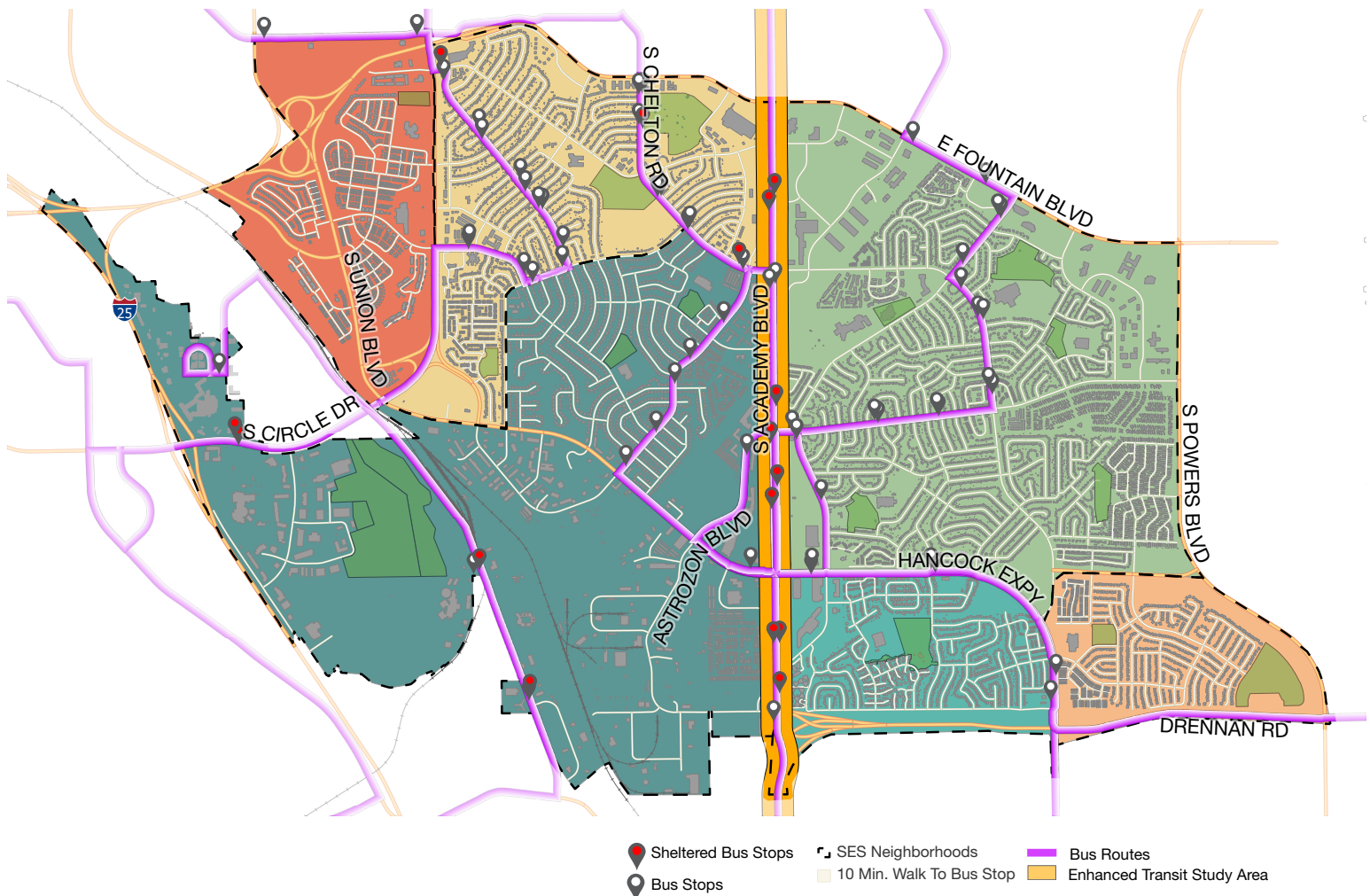
### TRANSIT GOAL T6

Implement transit system enhancements.

#### STRATEGY T6-1.A

Implement enhancements to the existing transit system identified in the 2050 Regional Transit Plan & Specialized Transportation Plan to improve user experience. Enhancements should initially focus on increasing the frequency of routes to 15 minutes and increasing the span of service to include longer weekday and weekend operating hours. *(Partners – City of Colorado Springs Public Works, Mountain Metro Transit)*

MAP 9: TRANSIT WITHIN SOUTHEAST STRONG PLAN AREA



There are many sheltered bus stops along S. Academy Blvd.; however, the majority of bus stops otherwise are unsheltered.



# UPGRADE HOW WE MOVE

## STRATEGY T6-1.B

Work with Mountain Metro Transit to implement Innovate Mobility Zones in southeast Colorado Springs to complement the existing transit network. *(Partners – City of Colorado Springs Public Works, Mountain Metro, Mountain Metro Transit)*

## STRATEGY T6-1.C

Study and implement the recommendations of the enhanced transit study for the South Academy Boulevard corridor. *(Partners – City of Colorado Springs Public Works)*

## STRATEGY T6-1.D

Implement infrastructure improvements at bus stops including bus shelters, seating, sidewalk connections, landscaping where appropriate, and micro-mobility stations. *(Partners – City of Colorado Springs Public Works, Mountain Metro, Mountain Metro Transit)*

## STRATEGY T6-1.E

Work with local partners to include beautification at bus stops through public art. *(Partners – City of Colorado Springs Public Works, Mountain Metro, Mountain Metro Transit)*

You can report Code Enforcement complaints and potholes on the GoCOS! app or City website <https://coloradosprings.gov/gocos>

**DID YOU KNOW?**



Mountain Metro Bus



Sand Creek Trail wayfinding to Sand Creek Library and Downtown



# APPENDICES

Appendix A – Southeast Community Plan: Healthy People and Places Assessment \_\_\_\_\_  
Appendix B – Southeast Strong Plan Implementation Table \_\_\_\_\_  
Appendix C – Survey of Surveys and Planning Need Matrix \_\_\_\_\_

