

LEGACY LAFAYETTE

LAUNCH PARTY

JUNE 20, 2019

KEY TAKEAWAYS / NOTES FROM DISCUSSIONS WITH ATTENDEES

KEY TAKEAWAYS

Takeaways - Economics and Land Uses:

- Desire to explore ways to increase the base of higher quality jobs in Lafayette, so that more people can live and work in the same town.
- Desire to explore ways to attract businesses that would create wealth in Lafayette
- Support for ways to encourage small businesses
- Support for co-working spaces, space for telecommuters
- Desire for more entertainment uses and restaurants
- Desire to reimagine the Baseline corridor
- Mixed views of the need for greater density and infill development.
- Support for economic diversity, serving all people in Lafayette
- Desire to make sure infrastructure is in place before additional developments move forward

Takeaways – Housing:

- Explore ways to avoid gentrification
- Explore different ways to make housing more affordable, including for young people, and for lower income people, including mobile home park residents
- Explore different housing styles and sizes, and develop housing that is architecturally attractive
- Focus on senior housing, including seniors living at home and facilities geared to senior housing
- Explore ways to maintain the quality of existing housing in the community

Takeaways – Arts and Culture:

- Support spaces for artists and art-oriented businesses
- Integrate art into streetscape and open space / park design
- Create more venues for theater, and more venues and entertainment options in general
- Support music and the arts year round.

Takeaways – Parks and Open Space:

- Keep open spaces natural and wild, and support wildlife
- Maintain existing parks
- Better connect areas of parks and open spaces
- Explore ways to have more dog parks

Takeaways – Transportation and Mobility:

- Need to enhance the quality and frequency of transit serving Lafayette and connecting to the rest of the region
- Need to install more bike lanes and sidewalks to connect neighborhoods to parks and open space and to connect different areas of Lafayette, filling in the overall network.
- Need safer crossing for bikes and pedestrians, including grade separated, especially on 287 and Baseline corridors.
- Need improvements to the 287 corridor
- Need more bike lanes in general
- Too much traffic, need to consider car sharing
- Need to make sure multi-modal works for people at all times, not just for pleasure rides or walks. (This includes multi-modal in order to commute).

Takeaways- Climate, Resiliency, Sustainability

- Desire to build off of the ethos of sustainability in the community and be sure that it is reflected as a priority in the Comprehensive Plan including the interconnected nature across the plan elements
- Concerns about how to sustainably grow and develop while retaining a sense of place
- Address the changing nature of the energy system and how to support the transition to solar and other clean energy options
- Open space and trails are a community asset that should be maintained and strengthened
- Address housing affordability and accessibility for all ages
- Address co-benefits of sustainable development (e.g., xeriscaping, planting more trees, multimodal transportation, etc.)

ECONOMICS AND LAND USES – Detailed Notes

- Need to keep commercial rental rates low in order to attract businesses
- Need more entertainment and diversity of restaurants
- Need businesses that create wealth. What high tech businesses could Lafayette attract?
- Why is the retail vacancy rate higher here in Lafayette? We don't need more commercial space if we can't rent out what we already have.
- Desire to keep big box away from Old Town and Public Road
- Gentrification is a big concern
- Need a mixture of high and medium density
- Need to avoid densification of existing plans
- Need to maximize open space and minimize density
- More facilities to encourage telecommuting would be nice
- Need quality businesses, not more Kohls
- Develop the opportunity parcels into retail, food and beverage
- Need a bookstore and more practical businesses in Old Town.
- Don't let development outpace infrastructure and services
- Don't grow anymore
- Running out of land to build on
- Open to exploring tax incentives to get companies to have employees live closer to where they work
- Need more support for small businesses
- Explore having shared offices for entrepreneurs and local small businesses
- Keep the box stores on 287.
- Need to attract more high tech employees
- Need to support more 'green' businesses
- Need more restaurants, including family style restaurants
- A few comments opposing having more mega churches
- Explore how to support the sharing economy
- Need a local economy that will support low income residents as well as non-English speakers
- Be careful about handing out incentives for businesses
- Don't get bigger, get better
- Need to redevelop the Baseline corridor
- Consider having more mixed use within industrial areas.
- Keep Lafayette economically diverse and promote local businesses
- Explore having medium to high density development, near amenities
- The community will need to shift to redevelopment over time

- Avoid gentrification in order to maintain the diversity of the community
- Need more white collar jobs
- Need to be able to live and work in the same town
- Need a bookstore and a variety of restaurants
- Some concern about the Enterprise Zones and Opportunity Zones shown on the maps, especially as to how they could be applied to properties that are already developed, or that could or should be designated as open space.
- On the Existing Conditions map, there were notes that some areas within the current Urban Growth Area have now been annexed by Erie and therefore should be amended on the map.
- Note that the UGA could be expanded to the northwest to accommodate future growth.

Demographics – Detailed Notes

- What is the national average for educational attainment (bachelor's degree, etc.) compared to Lafayette?
- Need clarification on "at-risk" population data
- Questions regarding what the ultimate build-out of Lafayette will be
- One person wanted to see a different graphic that would depict the rate of growth
- Need to recognize the needs of the neuro-disabled community (Asperger's, autistic, etc.), including need for nature-oriented development and supported services that would actually decrease the need for other services (police, etc.) down the road
- What is the data year associated with the jobs to housing number?
- The 18 to 24 age group speaks more English, same with people over age 65
- How has the distribution of incomes by household changed over time?
- The population of Lafayette has always been diverse. One person said the statement at the city's entrance is a little offensive.

HOUSING – Detailed Notes

- Lafayette is becoming less of a bedroom community. It would be good to see more of a mix of housing
- Need to keep housing affordable
- Gentrification of housing is a big concern
- Explore funding for mobile home residents to purchase their lots
- Affordable housing has been neglected
- Need a variety of housing options
- Need tiny homes

- Need to maintain the trailer parks and provide for smaller homes
- Consolidate residential and commercial areas where open, walkable space is a priority.
- Need low income senior housing
- Need more patio homes, but not townhomes yet
- The cost of housing and property taxes contributes to a decrease in diversity
- The at-risk population is declining due to the lack of affordable housing. Multiple people asked about this.
- Don't put seniors by themselves. It is good to locate senior housing near grocery stores and other amenities.
- Need mixed housing that retains a rural feel
- Add housing only if public transportation and infrastructure are improved
- Concern that Waneka property will be all housing..need places for kids and animals
- Need to explore a continuing care retirement facility
- Need to look at impact of housing on traffic
- Need more affordable housing for young people
- Need more housing for people who are working in Lafayette
- Need variety of housing styles
- Need more tiny homes
- Need sustainable housing practices
- Rezone to allow more ADUs. Need more affordable and multi-family units. Engage in partnerships with Boulder County.
- Don't let low income housing disappear
- Need to make it easier for seniors to age in their homes.
- Need housing for diverse incomes and options for first time home buyers
- Co-sharing of coop housing would be good.
- Need to address predatory mobile home park owners
- Grants for older housing, grants to fix older homes.
- Need great homes with great architecture.
- Integrate affordable housing with all developments, rather than segregating affordable housing options.

ART AND CULTURE – Detailed Notes

- Need to maintain historic integrity of Old Town
- Explore having a task force on education
- Don't like the current Senior Center. It has no amenities and closes early. It is closed on the evenings and weekends.

- Need to add on to the rec center
- It would be good to have more pottery painting classes
- Explore having an arts complex like Arvada has
- Need more arts and music
- Maintain the history of the community
- Need sustainable events, but also need the funds to do so
- Art, culture, honoring diversity and heritage
- Need a teen center
- Need music year round
- Need a movie theater or art cinema
- Need to support the artistic community
- Explore having art on the street, and within open spaces and along trails
- Need affordable studio spaces
- Pursue having an arts, recreation, and intellectually centered community
- Lafayette needs a big venue.

PARKS AND OPEN SPACE – Detailed Notes

- Retain open spaces and consider wild life.
- Need “clean” creek corridors
- Need more dog parks
- Health and wellness stats are shocking.
- Keep the open spaces wild. Don’t manicure everything and maintain wildlife
- Keep some of the parks natural.
- Need fields for kids sports
- Need to enforce leash laws.
- Need to maintain existing parks
- Make sure to leave enough open space and green areas.
- The Coal Creek corridor is vulnerable to the impacts of surrounding development
- Need to connect open space areas

MOBILITY AND TRANSPORTATION (including trails) – Detailed Notes:

Transit, RTD Service

- Desire for later transit service between Lafayette and Boulder
 - Current schedule is limiting

- DASH route takes too long between Lafayette and Boulder
 - Has an express route even been considered?
- New rider to RTD had an excellent experience! Would ride again.
- Need better regional transportation in general.
- Need to have a long term plan for transportation
- Does Lafayette have any designated pick up spots for Uber and other shared riding facilities?
- Need to make sure public transportation is provided to every new housing development
- Accessing the airport from Lafayette is difficult
 - Would like to see a transit service to the 36 and Flatiron Park-n-Ride
 - Or, better yet, a SkyRide from Lafayette
- Could the City run a local shuttle?
 - Non-RTD
 - Connect the main city amenities like downtown, rec center, senior center, library, city offices, RTD lot, and RTD stops on 36
- Could the City cover the cost of RTD passes for residents? Like Longmont did?
 - Community ecoPass option – ballot measured failed
- As residents age, some sort of local call-n-ride will be needed. A call-n-ride like Louisville has would be good.
- Need more transportation options for an aging population, overall.
- Need bus lanes on Public Road.
- Need safer bus stops and more bus benches
- Route 225 is not convenient with service every half hour; needs to be more frequent
- Would like a bus stop at 287 and Southpoint Drive
- Does VIA serve Lafayette?
- Need more rush hour buses
- Would like service between Lafayette (Longmont) and Denver on Sundays
- Desire for better weekend bus service (x4)
- Resident on SH 7 welcomes the idea of the BRT
- Bus prices have increased too much; cheaper (and quicker) to drive to destinations, like Boulder, when we go for errands; no more incentive
- Create the small connections from the bus stops on US 287 to the trail/sidepath (west side)
 - People jump the ditch and it'd be an easy fix!

Bicycle and Pedestrian

- Crusher fine trails are difficult on a road bike; would prefer paved
- Difficult to access the library by walking or biking

- Need a safer crossing of US 287 and of SH 7 near the library and the King Soopers
- Will not cross from near Waneka to library with kids
- Generally appreciate and like the improvements the City has made for biking and walking in the last couple of years
- Could the City make stop signs a yield condition for bikes?
 - State policy allows each local agency to decide their policy
 - Like to legalize the rolling stop for bikes
- Sidewalks gaps along Baseline Road are desperately needed to be completed (x2)
 - Walk from downtown to King Soopers does not feel safe
- Pedestrian and biking underpasses needed throughout the City
 - A resident recently completed a study/report with recommendations
- Love the trails around/connecting to Waneka Reservoir
- Please expand the regional bike path connections; expedite the plans!
- More signage (wayfinding) is needed for biking
- Between Indian Peaks and downtown is difficult by bike
- A safe, direct bike route between Lafayette and Boulder is needed for commuters
 - Arapahoe Road would be ideal
 - Needs to be separated or even a detached facility
- Public Road from roundabout into downtown is difficult by bike; bike lane ends into a turn lane
- I would bike to work in Louisville but there aren't great facilities from downtown
- Biking to Boulder is not direct (x2)
- No direct connection between S Boulder Road and Emma Street east of Public Road
- Need shoulders on Empire Road
- I'd walk and bike to take connect to transit but if I can't safely cross the road, I end up driving
 - Biggest barrier is safe crossings
- Could the City look into dockless bikes? Either attracting a company or running a local system
- Crossing of 95th is challenging
 - Yield to pedestrian signs don't work (no compliance)
 - In general, more desire for more bike paths connecting different open spaces.
 - Need more bike paths connecting to Public Road
 - Desire to increase sidewalks and shoulder facilities
 - Need a sidewalk going down the side of 287
 - The trail at Rathbone needs attention
 - Need more connecting trails; interconnecting trails is very important, to provide for longer trips.
 - Need to plan for multi-modal to be not just for fun, but to serve commuting and all needs.

- Need to connect sidewalks to trails throughout town.
- Need to fill in sidewalk gaps
- More trail separated trail crossings (of 287, Baseline, others) would be great
- Bike movement within travel lanes is not safe
- Need to repair cracks, bumps, holes along existing bike lanes
- Need charging stations for electric bikes
- Explore providing free bikes to the public?
- Need wider sidewalks and softer surfaces
- Need better bike lanes and sidewalks on Baseline from 287 to Public.
- Need bike facilities for families along Public Road

Public Road Improvements

- Public Road is treacherous and difficult on a bike
- Need to identify a primary/direct north/south on-street route for bikes that isn't Public Road
 - Or dedicate a buffered space on Public Road for bikes
- Enjoy the all-way stops and the wider sidewalks along Public Road (x2)
 - Feel like a minority saying this
 - Do more in the city for walking and biking just like this!
- The curb bumpouts and bike lanes do not work together

Roadway

- Speed limit on Baseline Road is way too high; people go quicker than 30 MPH through town
- Would like to see improvements to US 287 as it completely divides Lafayette
 - Consider Keystone Boulevard in Carmel, Indiana as an example
- The center turn lane of Emma Street jobs and is not aligned now because of the bikes
- Speed limit on Empire Road is way too high
- 120th Street needs shoulders or a sidepath
- Bring back the stop lights at Spaulding Street and Public Road
- Make sure the city keeps up with road maintenance

Other, Miscellaneous Transportation-Related Comments

- Adding more condos off of 287 will only increase traffic
- Has the City every considered providing a City sponsored car share?
 - Could have dedicated parking spots downtown, at the library, at the RTD lot, etc.

- Or, look to attract a carshare company to the City
- Many residents travel to Boulder for medical appointments
- Look into what type of jobs residents are leaving Lafayette for and attract those type of jobs to the City
- Transportation has improved in the last 8 years
- Too many cars on the road, especially during rush hour
- Is there an app to match drivers willing to carpool with one another?
 - Seems like a lot of people are going to the same places like downtown Boulder and Denver

CLIMATE, RESILIENCY, SUSTAINABILITY – Detailed Notes

What Lafayette assets are most vulnerable or at-risk to natural and other hazards?

- Water (there will be less water in 20 years than there is now)
- Open space is overrun by prairie dogs
- Housing and its lack of affordability
- Affordability
- Vulnerable populations

What ideas do you have to enhance resiliency in Lafayette? What ideas do you have to encourage sustainability in the long-term for Lafayette?

- Strong Economy
 - Encourage local development vs. big box retail
 - Support urban agriculture
 - Promote more people living and working in Lafayette (less of a bedroom community)
 - Support and incentivize green, clean businesses
 - Need to be more sustainable in matters of economics
 - Telecommuting program/options
- Environmental Stewardship
 - Help form a more sustainable Lafayette
 - Lafayette has been lagging on environmental stewardship
 - Make sustainability a core feature of the plan and support it
 - Need to turn verbalization into on the ground action
 - Need to establish City of Lafayette to lead by example on sustainability
 - Water conservation is key
 - Climate
 - Commit to the Paris Climate Plan
 - Climate migration impacts
 - Get to carbon positive (beyond carbon neutrality)

- Incentivize families to be prepared for disasters/disruptions
- Concerned about: extreme heat, tornado, high winds
- Energy
 - Update and exceed energy requirements rules/code beyond standards
 - Need to be clear with respect to energy goals
 - Need to establish Lafayette as a leader in energy, waste, and sustainability
 - Solar gardens
 - More solar/sustainable solutions to the town's energy use
 - Electrify buildings to transition to solar energy
 - More on-site solar installations by residents and businesses
 - Solar required on all new residential and commercial construction
 - Provisions for solar on new builds
 - Grid resilience
 - Make the energy roadmap available online
 - Clarify if energy goals include transportation (renewable energy goals include only building energy use or what is currently tied to a utility meter)
 - Allow more solar panels
 - Support a municipal electric fleet
 - Energy efficiency must come first before pursuing renewable energy
- Waste
 - Help HOAs do more
 - Waste reduction of primary importance
 - Composting and recycling requirements for all residents and businesses
 - Support sustainable events
 - Not everyone needs to have home composting, especially seniors
- Water
 - Development supporting xeriscaping and water-wise regulations
 - Need to explore various low water applications
 - Retain water onsite
 - Keep open space wild vs. manicured
 - Convert high water use public spaces/park areas that aren't well utilized for play and convert to low water use landscapes
 - Green infrastructure and infrastructure upgrades (primarily stormwater)
- Natural Environment
 - Underpasses made poorly and retain water for too long – flooding concerns
 - Flood mitigation in new development
 - Too much building without looking at impact and the environment
 - Plant more trees
 - Include more native landscapes

- Green space and wildlife buffer
 - Consider wildlife when considering development
 - Encourage bees/pollinators
 - Promote community gardening
 - Limit the amount of pesticides used
 - More open space on remaining undeveloped land and increase open space density
 - Plant more native plants
- Community Character
 - Counteract urban sprawl via more dense housing and diversity of housing types
 - Affordable housing (for all ages)
 - Encourage low water use landscapes
 - Plan for aging in place
 - Lower density development
 - Limit the size of homes
 - Maintain integrity of historical aspect of Old Town
 - Encourage sustainable development
 - Limit development
 - Limit population growth
 - Love the ethos of sustainability in the community and would like that to stay
 - Greater distances from oil and gas wells
 - Regional collaboration on growth
 - Protect a community buffer from encroaching, growing communities
- Connected Community
 - Slow down development so as not to outpace infrastructure upgrades and emergency services
 - Maintain open space with trails
 - Connecting trails
 - Multimodal transportation options available
 - Walkable
 - Regional transportation connections
 - Build neighborhoods to minimize traveling via mixed use
 - Need better publicity of sustainability efforts
 - Address accessibility for all citizens
 - Offer training workshops on self-sufficiency in the face of a hazard event
 - Support general education and awareness of hazards and mitigation/adaptation efforts (e.g., how to prepare for a tornado; recycling/composting)
 - Citizens are all the first responders – need a way to help families prepare

INFRASTRUCTURE – Detailed Notes:

- Concern about older infrastructure in the community
- Make sure new housing is supported by infrastructure in place
- Maintain existing roads and streets in Lafayette