



PUEBLO COUNTY

C O L O R A D O

Planning and Development Department

MEMORANDUM

TO: Pueblo County Planning Commission

FROM: Carmen Howard *CTH*

DATE: January 21, 2022

SUBJECT: Comprehensive Plan CPA No. 2022-001
Pueblo County Department of Planning and Development (Applicant)

PURPOSE

Applicant requests adoption of the 2022 Pueblo Regional Comprehensive Plan (The Plan) in partnership with the City of Pueblo, Pueblo West, the Towns of Boone and Rye, and the unincorporated communities in Pueblo County. Colorado law establishes that a comprehensive plan is an **advisory document** to guide zoning and other land use decisions. Plan approval, per [C.R.S. 30-28-106](#), is the responsibility of the Planning Commission. This document is a major update of The Plan adopted July 25, 2002. The Plan responds to shifting population and demographic trends, a diversifying economy, and the evolving needs of unincorporated areas. The Plan articulates a shared vision and goals for the region, defines where and how the region wants to grow, and establishes a coordinated strategy for implementation.

DISCUSSION

The Pueblo Regional Comprehensive Plan process kicked off in late 2020 after retaining Clarion and Associates as a consultant to the project. Comprehensive plans cover a wide range of topics--most typically land use, transportation, housing, natural resources, utilities, parks and open space, and many others. In Colorado, municipalities are required to address recreation and tourism, and to have a plan to guide annexation within three miles of their boundary, but otherwise have the flexibility to address the topics that are most important to the local community. This iteration of the Regional Comprehensive Plan

establishes goals for and provides policy guidance on a much wider range of issues than its 2002 predecessor, which focused predominantly on land use considerations.

This expanded policy focus reflects a shift in what's important to Pueblo County residents and the broader community of interests, but also of emerging trends in comprehensive plans that emphasize the needs of people as much as place. This iteration of the Plan also places an expanded focus on the critical role of water in Pueblo County's future. The incorporation of a water "element" emerged from the support of the Sonoran Institute and from ongoing efforts to enhance collaboration among regional stakeholders--Pueblo County, the City of Pueblo, Pueblo West, the seven water districts in the region, agricultural and conservation interests, and others--on water-related issues. This focus also reflects growing awareness and concern about the cascading effects of climate change on communities throughout the West, but especially in arid climates like Pueblo County. The Regional Comprehensive Plan was informed by dozens of related plans and studies developed by municipalities, service providers, and other organizations.

A variety of stakeholder and community input opportunities were provided during each phase of the process to encourage broad participation and representation from different geographies and stakeholder groups within Pueblo County. Due to limitations on in-person gatherings as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, virtual and online engagement tools were necessary for much of the process. Input opportunities were advertised broadly through established social media feeds and other communication channels maintained by Pueblo County, the City of Pueblo, and Pueblo West, as well as through radio, newspaper, and TV coverage. Community and stakeholder input received throughout the process was used to inform the preparation of interim work products and ultimately shape the issues and opportunities highlighted in the Plan.

The Plan adoption process will start with the Pueblo County Planning Commission Hearing for approval of the Plan on January 26, 2022 with the Pueblo County Board of County Commissioner's adoption of the Plan to follow on February 15, 2022.

Here is the link to the adoption draft: <https://www.puebloregionalplan.com/copy-of-documents>.

c: Marci Day, Assistant Pueblo County Attorney
Sabina Genesio, Pueblo County Manager
Darcie White, Clarion Associates
Scott Hobson, Pueblo City Community Development
Tyler Purvis, Pueblo West Metropolitan District, Community Development
Department