



# Community Planning & Permitting

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Website: [www.bouldercounty.org/transportation/multimodal](http://www.bouldercounty.org/transportation/multimodal)

DATE: July 28, 2022

TO: Boulder County Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Kathleen Bracke, Deputy Director, Community Planning & Permitting –  
Transportation Planning  
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CC: Jana Petersen, County Administrator  
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RE: Public Hearing for Boulder County Ballot Item to Extend 0.1%  
Countywide Transportation Sales Tax

## Action Requested:

As part of the Boulder County Public Hearing on August 4, 2022, staff is recommending that the Boulder County Commissioners adopt Resolution 2022-048, describing a proposal to extend the existing 0.10% countywide transportation sales and use tax for the purpose of continuing to fund transportation needs; and Resolution 2022-049, approving a ballot title for the November 8, 2022 general election to extend the existing 0.10% countywide transportation sales and use tax for the purpose of continuing to fund transportation needs.

## Background:

Since 2001, the current Boulder County transportation sales tax funding has been used for basic multimodal transportation improvements throughout the county including over 97 miles of paved road shoulders, 13 intersection safety improvements, 23 miles of regional trails, nine transit routes and support programs, plus six new pedestrian underpasses. These transportation investments connect cities and towns throughout the county, and reflect community-driven projects, programs, and services based on the input from the Consortium of Cities as well as on-going public input from residents and businesses. The county has also leveraged these local County sales tax funds to secure additional state and federal transportation funding.

Boulder County's current 0.1% countywide transportation sales tax sunsets on June 30, 2024. Over the last several months, Boulder County staff from multiple departments have

been exploring options for continuing this transportation sales tax beyond 2024 in order to implement the projects and programs from the Boulder County Transportation Master Plan. This exploration process has included technical, financial, and environmental analysis of various potential sales tax levels to continue funding multimodal transportation system improvements as identified in Boulder County's 2020 [Transportation Master Plan](#) (TMP).

In addition, Boulder County representatives have attended meetings with local jurisdictions and community stakeholders to share information on potential funding options and seek input to help frame recommendations. In addition, Boulder County conducted a 2022 [Public Opinion Survey](#) to gauge voters' support on several potential sales tax funding levels for extending the transportation sales tax. The results of the public survey show that approximately 69% of the respondents would support an extension of the current 0.1% transportation sales tax.

Extension of the current transportation sales tax funding will allow Boulder County to continue to provide safe, sustainable, affordable, and equitable transportation options for people throughout the county, connecting people with neighboring communities as well as with the broader Denver metro area and the Front Range region.

This proposed extension provides opportunities to leverage regional, state and federal grant opportunities and multi-agency partnerships. For example, typical transportation grant funding applications provide 80% of the project funds needed to complete a project from state and/or federal sources, which allows Boulder County to contribute the 20% local matching dollars. As a recent example from earlier in 2022, Boulder County was able to combine approximately \$400,000 dollars in local county funds with funding from other agency partners to leverage over \$14 million dollars in federal funding for the CO119 highway corridor. Continuing to have local county funds available to pursue state and federal funding is particularly critical at this time given the new state transportation funds available through Senate Bill 21-260 as well as the new federal Infrastructure Bill.

Check-ins with the countywide Consortium of Cities, agency partners, and other similar processes with local communities, plus on-going public engagement will help to ensure that the priorities for investing these critical transportation funds will reflect the public goals and county's dynamic mobility needs over time.

If the current transportation sales tax funding is not extended beyond mid-2024, most of the existing multimodal transportation projects, plus existing transit services, trails, and mobility programs, will cease and the county's focus will need to be dialed back to focus on basic maintenance of existing county roads.

#### Staff Recommendation

Staff is recommending the County Commissioners set the attached ballot language for the November 8, 2022 election and adopt resolutions 2022-048 and 2022-049 to ask voters to approve extending the current 0.1% sales tax level for on-going multimodal transportation improvements, including funding for county-wide roadway safety and resilience projects, public transit, regional trails and commuter bikeways, regional multimodal corridors, and mobility programs as outlined in the county's overarching 2020 [TMP](#) and 2022 [Mobility &](#)

[Access for All Ages and Abilities Plan](#). The proposed investment list for 2024-2039 is included as Exhibit A.

More detailed information is available on the Boulder County [website](#). Boulder County staff appreciates the consideration by the BOCC for this important potential ballot item to extend the existing transportation sales tax at the 0.1% level.

## **Exhibit A**

Boulder County Transportation Sales Tax Program  
List of Proposed Projects with Project Descriptions

## Boulder County Transportation Sales Tax Program

### List of Proposed Projects with Project Descriptions

		Project Cost	Lev.	Sales Tax ↓
MULTIMODAL SAFETY & RESILIENCY PROJECTS		(\$,000)		(\$,000)
1	<b>South Boulder Road Reconstruction – Boulder to Louisville</b> Includes safety improvements at Cherryvale; asphalt paving from Manhattan to Cherryvale; new underpass for city trail; new fencing; and pedestrian facilities.	\$ 14,100	10%	\$ 12,700
2	<b>Mountain Road Safety &amp; Repairs (Lee Hill, Sugarloaf, Sunshine)</b> Safety improvements and repairs to Sugarloaf Road, Lee Hill Drive and Sunshine Canyon. Includes sections of uphill shoulder, upgraded guardrail, new pavement and striping.	\$ 9,800	0%	\$ 9,800
3	<b>Niwot Road Shoulders – 79th Street to US 287</b> Reconstruct Niwot Road to improve shoulder width and multiuse path from 79th Street out to the US 287 park-n-Ride.	\$ 8,100	0%	\$ 8,100
4	<b>Eldora Ski Road Reconstruction – CR 130 to Eldora Ski Area</b> Reconstruct road to reduce erosion damage and road stability. Reconstruct the majority of road, replace guardrail and widen sections of uphill shoulder.	\$ 5,800	0%	\$ 5,800
5	<b>Highway 66 Improvements – Main to Hover (Longmont)</b> Multimodal improvements to 1.5 miles of CO 66 from Main Street (US287) to Hover Street including multiuse path. Provides County support for CDOT / City partnership.	\$ 15,200	80%	\$ 3,050
6	<b>120th Street Bridge Replacement over Coal Creek (Lafayette)</b> Replace current three span bridge with larger structure to pass the 100-year event, restore creek and allow for improved multimodal access.	\$ 11,800	75%	\$ 2,950
7	<b>East County Line Rd Buffered Shoulders – Hwy 66 to 17th Ave (Longmont)</b> Widen East County Line Road from Highway 66 to 17th Street in the City of Longmont. Add buffered bike lanes and a multiuse path along the west side of the road.	\$ 11,600	75%	\$ 2,900
8	<b>61st Street / Valmont Road Intersection Safety Improvements</b> Reconstruct intersection to improve user safety. Fix intersection geometry and add auxiliary turn lanes for all users on 61st and bicyclists on Valmont.	\$ 2,700	0%	\$ 2,700
9	<b>95th Street Buffered Shoulders – Yellowstone to Larimer County</b> Reconstruct 95th Street between Yellowstone Road and the county line to include seven-foot paved shoulders on both 95th and Yellowstone.	\$ 2,300	0%	\$ 2,300
10	<b>Isabelle Road Shoulders – 95th Street to US 287</b> Reconstruct road with five-foot paved shoulder from 95th Street to US 287 to provide a continuous facility between Boulder and Erie.	\$ 2,300	0%	\$ 2,300
11	<b>East County Line Rd Shoulders – Pike to Niwot Road</b> Provide buffered shoulders from St Vrain Creek to Oxford Road and 5-foot shoulders from Oxford to Niwot Road. Roundabouts at Oxford, WCR 16.5 and Niwot Road.	\$ 4,300	50%	\$ 2,150
12	<b>79th Street Shoulders – Hwy 52 to Lookout Road</b> Reconstruct road to add 4' shoulder in each direction between Lookout Road and Highway 52.	\$ 1,900	0%	\$ 1,900
13	<b>East County Line Rd Safety &amp; Resiliency – Hwy 52 to Coal Creek (Erie)</b> Replace two bridges over Coal Creek and reconstruct two miles of County Line Road in the Town of Erie to improve safety and resiliency against large flood events.	\$ 8,200	80%	\$ 1,650
14	<b>Vision Zero Program Implementation Program</b> Funding to implement ongoing safety improvement recommendations from the County's Vision Zero Action Plan.	\$ 750	0%	\$ 750
15	<b>McCaslin / Marshall Intersection Safety Improvements (Superior)</b> Assist town with bicycle and pedestrian safety improvements at signalized intersection.	\$ 1,000	90%	\$ 100

## Boulder County Transportation Sales Tax Program

### List of Proposed Projects with Project Descriptions

PROJECT LIST (CONT.)		Project Cost	Lev.	Sales Tax ↓
<b>REGIONAL CORRIDORS</b>				
16	<b>Colorado 119 Bus Rapid Transit and Commuter Bikeway</b> Local funding to incentivize partial implementation of new bus rapid transit, multiuse path / bikeway and intersection safety improvements along CO 119 from Boulder to Longmont. Estimated cost of all improvements is \$388 million.	\$ 106,000	95%	\$ 5,300
17	<b>Colorado 7 Bus Rapid Transit, Commuter Bikeways and Intersection Safety</b> Local funding to incentivize partial implementation of new bus rapid transit, multiuse path / bikeway and intersection safety improvements along CO 7 from Boulder to Broomfield. Estimated cost of all improvements is \$435 million.	\$ 20,000	90%	\$ 2,000
18	<b>Colorado 42 Multimodal Corridor and Safety Improvements</b> Local funding to assist with implementation of multimodal improvements along the CO 42 corridor, including new path between Hecla and Short. Estimated cost of all improvements is \$136 million.	\$ 20,000	90%	\$ 2,000
19	<b>US 287 Bus Rapid Transit, Intersection Safety and Commuter Bikeway</b> Local funding to incentivize partial implementation of new bus rapid transit, multiuse path / bikeway and intersection safety improvements along US 287 from Boulder to Longmont. Estimated cost of all improvements is \$560 million.	\$ 10,000	90%	\$ 1,000
20	<b>South Boulder Road Planning Study - Lafayette to Boulder</b> Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) study to identify recommendations for Bus Rapid Transit, Commuter Bikeway, roadway system management improvements, and safety improvements.	\$ 1,000	50%	\$ 500
<b>REGIONAL TRAILS &amp; BIKEWAY PROJECTS</b>				
21	<b>Boulder-to-Erie Regional Trail (BERT)</b> Trail between Erie and Boulder within or near the old UP rail corridor currently owned by RTD.	\$ 9,500	60%	\$ 3,800
22	<b>North Foothills / US 36 Multiuse Path /Bikeway</b> New multiuse path / bikeway along the US36 corridor north of Boulder connecting Boulder to Highway 66 and Lyons.	\$ 30,000	90%	\$ 3,000
23	<b>Longmont-to-Boulder Trail – Jay Road / Spine Road Multiuse Path</b> New multiuse path along Jay Road and Spine Road to complete a missing link in the Longmont-to-Boulder Regional Trail between Boulder and Gunbarrel.	\$ 2,400	25%	\$ 1,800
24	<b>75th Street Trail Connection – Boulder-to-Erie regional trail to Jay Road</b> Trail connection along 75th Street linking Gunbarrel community with the Heatherwood-Walden Trail, Walden Ponds and Sawhill Ponds trails.	\$ 1,700	0%	\$ 1,700
25	<b>St. Vrain Greenway Trail – Longmont to Lyons</b> Construct missing links in the St Vrain Greenway regional trail between Longmont and Lyons as per the 2004 Master Plan.	\$ 7,800	80%	\$ 1,550
26	<b>US36 Bikeway Connections (Superior &amp; Louisville)</b> Construct new multiuse path connections under McCaslin Boulevard at Tract H, a new path along McCaslin at Calmente, and a new bikeway connection to Dyer Road.	\$ 6,000	75%	\$ 1,500
27	<b>County Road 130 Trail to Nederland High School</b> Soft surface trail connection between Nederland and the Nederland Middle-Senior High School along CR130. Also accesses backside of West Magnolia USFS trail system.	\$ 2,000	50%	\$ 1,000
28	<b>Boulder Canyon Trail Enhancements</b> Provide aesthetic treatments to CDOT-constructed trail to improve functionality, safety and use. Includes construction of a new pedestrian bridge to city trailhead.	\$ 1,200	25%	\$ 900

**Boulder County Transportation Sales Tax Program**  
**List of Proposed Projects with Project Descriptions**

<b>PROJECT LIST (CONT.)</b>		<b>Project Cost</b>	<b>Lev.</b>	<b>Sales Tax ↓</b>
29	<b>Highway 66 Bikeway – Lyons to 95th Street</b> Bikeway connections parallel to Highway 66. Will provide links between future frontage roads by new construction / road improvement projects.	\$ 5,400	90%	\$ 550
30	<b>Lafayette-to-Boulder Bike/Ped Connection Plan</b> Planning study for future east-west bicycle and pedestrian connection between Lafayette and Boulder.	\$ 600	50%	\$ 300
<b>LOCAL TRANSIT SERVICES &amp; SUPPORT PROJECTS</b>				
31	<b>East County On-Demand Transit Service (Lafayette, Erie, Louisville, Superior)</b> Fare-free on-demand transit service for southeast boulder county communities.	\$ 9,800	50%	\$ 4,900
32	<b>Ride-free Lafayette</b> Fare-free on-demand transit service in Lafayette area	\$ 7,700	50%	\$ 3,850
33	<b>FLEX service – Fort Collins to Boulder via Longmont</b> Inter-agency transit service between Ft Collins and Boulder.	\$ 18,800	80%	\$ 3,750
34	<b>Gunbarrel On-Demand Transit Service</b> On-demand transit service in the Gunbarrel area.	\$ 7,500	90%	\$ 750
35	<b>Lyons to Boulder Peak-Period Transit</b> Partnership with RTD to provide peak-hour service between Lyons and Boulder.	\$ 1,500	50%	\$ 750
36	<b>Lyons to Longmont On-Demand Transit Service</b> Limited/on-demand service to and from Lyons to Longmont.	\$ 1,500	50%	\$ 750
37	<b>Gold Hill Climb</b> Fare-free commuter transit service between Gold Hill, Salina and Boulder.	\$ 1,500	50%	\$ 750
38	<b>Mountain Area On-Demand Transit Service</b> On-demand transit service for mountain communities.	\$ 1,200	50%	\$ 600
<b>TRANSPORTATION MOBILITY PROGRAMS</b>				
39	<b>Community Transportation Partnerships</b> Matching grant support for community-based mobility programs to leverage federal funding sources for community transportation service providers to improve accessibility for vulnerable and underserved populations, as per the County's human services plan.	\$ 13,500	80%	\$ 2,700
40	<b>Transit Education and Equitable TDM Support</b> Transit pass support, travel training and education services for large employers, school districts and housing authority clients, as per County's coordinated human services plan.	\$ 1,900	0%	\$ 1,900
41	<b>Active Transportation Education Programs</b> School-based multimodal and active transportation education. Includes safe-routes to school programs and public engagement on equitable transportation outcomes, as per the County's coordinated human services plan.	\$ 800	0%	\$ 800
	<i>Total Mobility / Safety / Resiliency (15 projects, 55%)</i>	\$ 99,850		\$ 59,200
	<i>Regional Corridors (5 projects, 10%)</i>	\$ 157,000		\$ 10,800
	<i>Regional Trails &amp; Bikeways (10 projects, 15%)</i>	\$ 66,600		\$ 16,100
	<i>Local Transit Support (8 projects, 15%)</i>	\$ 49,500		\$ 16,100
	<i>Mobility Programs (3 projects, 5%)</i>	\$ 2,700		\$ 5,400
	<i>Program Administration (11%)</i>	\$ 13,300		\$ 13,300
<b>TOTAL PROGRAM (41 PROJECTS)</b>		<b>\$ 388,950</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>\$ 120,900</b>