

November 30, 2018

To: Denver Right Planning Team:

Thank you for the opportunity for Congress Park Neighbors, Inc. to comment as a Registered Neighborhood Organization and for the extension that was granted to us.

Congress Park Neighbors boundaries are: north to south, E. Colfax to 6th Ave and west to east York St to Colorado Blvd.

In order for us to present accurate comments we felt it necessary to conduct a small survey to gauge interest and involvement in the Denverright process from our residents. The survey has provided us with interesting and valuable information.

Although we as a group actively promoted Denverright meetings and project information, our survey revealed that of the persons completing the questionnaire over 60% were familiar with the Denverright project but only 16% attended any of the outreach meetings. It is our hope that with the continuation of the process that more of our residents will learn and actively participate in the project.

Our questionnaire asked if our neighbors lived within a 10 minute walk to a park or parkway (*Game Plan page 94 strategy 3.5*) and 93% of those answering that question replied that they did and 56% utilized the park in both a passive (walking and picnicking) and recreational way.

We asked if the respondents lived within a ¼ mile of a bus running every 15 minute. Of those answering the question, 91% answered yes. We also asked if their selection of a residence was dependent on this factor and 66% replied yes. However when responding if bus use was frequent, 66% replied no and cited various reasons ie inconvenience and reliability. The majority of bus stops within Congress Park boundaries are un-sheltered which further discourages regular bus use. *Denver Moves Transit Appendix B-157*

When asked about the proposal to diversify housing choice through the expansion of accessory dwelling units throughout all residential areas 57% believed that it would not enhance the living experience in Congress Park.

A common thread that ran through comments on the survey was safety. Over and over again our respondents cited traffic and speeding concerns in our neighborhood. They request more traffic calming techniques and clearly posted speed signs. *Denver Moves Transit D-8*

Congress Park Neighbors is fortunate to have a very active Safe Streets committee. Their comments provided here, summarizes many items discussed at their safe streets meetings and we concur.

Congress Park is very supportive of many of the initiatives outlined in Blueprint Denver. The themes such as urban design, climate, and pedestrian focused streets are very exciting to see highlighted and Congress Park hopes to see those themes put into action. One theme that is becoming increasingly important to residents that wasn't directly outlined is safety - safety from crime, safety from traffic, safety from pollutants, etc. As the city grows we are seeing more conflicts in Congress Park with above

issues. The following comments relate primarily to street safety and preserving the pedestrian village and neighborhood that we live in. Walkability is a large issue across our neighborhood as we have 4 major arterials as boundaries (Colorado, 6th, York, Colfax) and 4 major arterials running through the neighborhood (8th, 13th, 14th, Josephine). The arterials running through the neighborhood create physical and mental barriers and pose major safety issues to residents. People are attracted to our neighborhood due to its pedestrian scale and it is becoming increasingly difficult to safely move within and outside of the neighborhood due to decreased traffic safety and street design with a focus on moving cars. Congress Park would like to maintain the walkability of streets such as 7th and 12th and improve the safety of interior streets 8th, Josephine, 13th, 14th as well as our neighborhood boundary streets. The same safety issues we are outlining today were outlined in our 1995 neighborhood plan and very little has changed. Please help us actually implement these safety improvement changes that are very needed and desired. Congress Park wants to preserve the walkability that brought us all to the neighborhood in the first place.

- Chapter 2: We would love to see a measurement of improving street safety (page 26). For example “By X date the City of Denver will have no traffic fatalities”. Other safety improvements we would like to see are converting 1 ways to 2 ways, narrowing of lanes in residential neighborhoods with curb extensions and protected bike lanes, pedestrian treatments, adding painted crosswalks, etc. with a priority given to the safety of residential arterials.
- Chapter 3: We are supportive of the concept of regulation but unsure how that plays out. There was a lot missing as it relates to transportation plans and action items. That was disappointing as Denver has traditionally had car culture and it is essential to Congress Park that the pedestrian be given the priority. We are very supportive of the focus on walking and rolling above other modes as outlined in chapter 3. Could you add more details on page 81 (sub-point 3) on specifics such as adding painted crosswalks, speed tables, and other pedestrian enhancements. On page 81 it would be great to mention Vision Zero and discuss a recommendation for lowering speeds across the City to a 25 mph maximum and 20 on all local streets. In order to prioritize walking and rolling, people need to feel safe to cross the street. On page 90 we are in agreement that protecting our tree canopy is very important.
- Chapter 5: On page 134 and 139 we would like a mention of converting 1 ways back to 2 ways. Congress Park gets the brunt of a lot of the “residential arterials” running through the neighborhood and it is especially out of context when surrounded by single family homes. 8th, 6th, 14th, and 13th are designed to move cars fast to the detriment of the neighborhood and the safety of its residents. These streets will continue to create safety issues for our residents if not addressed soon. On page 143 and 213 there needs to be specific design recommendations for residential arterials that ensure the safety of the residents and their children living along those streets. Can you add more design requirements that would help improve the safety of the pedestrian?

Pedestrian safety and walkability is critically important to Congress Park. Given the unbalanced amount of arterial streets dividing our neighborhood there needs to be priority given to design treatments on residential arterials.

Thank you for all the work you are doing to make the City of Denver and our neighborhoods a better place to live.

Sincerely,

Tom Conis

President, Congress Park Neighbors, Inc

cc: Jill Jennings Golich, Caryn Champine, Blueprint Denver, Councilman Wayne New, Congress Park Neighbors Board of Directors