



Neighborhood Planning Initiative

Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation

September 14, 2019

Today's Presentation

1. Denver's Planning Framework: Citywide Plans & Small Area Plans
2. Neighborhood Planning Initiative (NPI) Overview & Timeline
3. Public Engagement Approach
4. Lessons Learned and Next Steps



Why Plan?

Create a shared vision that addresses the diverse needs and concerns of the community



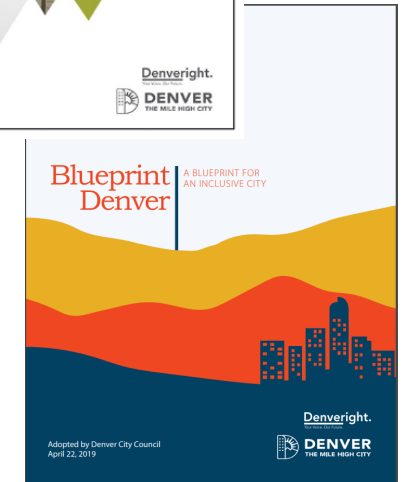
What Do Plans Do?

Plans inform how things should evolve in the future for the benefit of the community

- Engage people in a dialog about the future
- Define a vision and recommend strategies to achieve it
- Inform decision-making (public & private)

Citywide Planning

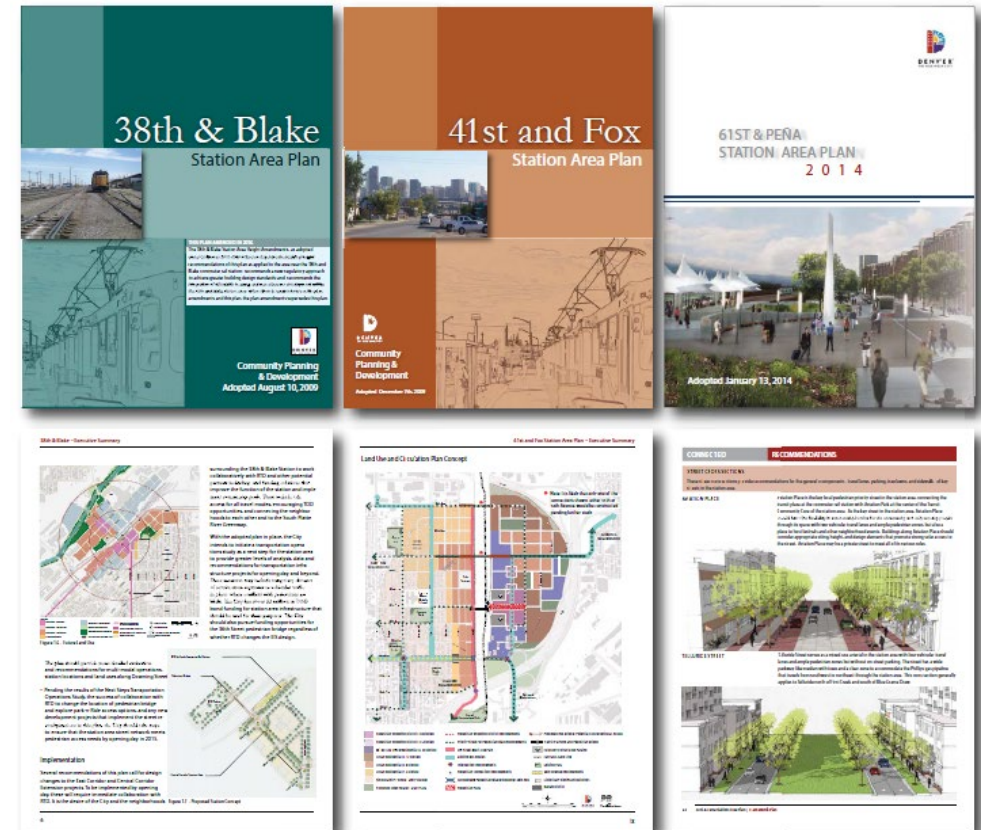
- Sets broad policies and recommendations that apply citywide
- Many citywide plans focus on a single topic:
 - Parks & Recreation Game Plan
 - Denver Moves: Pedestrians and Trails
 - Denver Moves: Transit
- Comprehensive Plan and Blueprint Denver provide citywide planning guidance



Denverright.
Your Voice. Our Future.

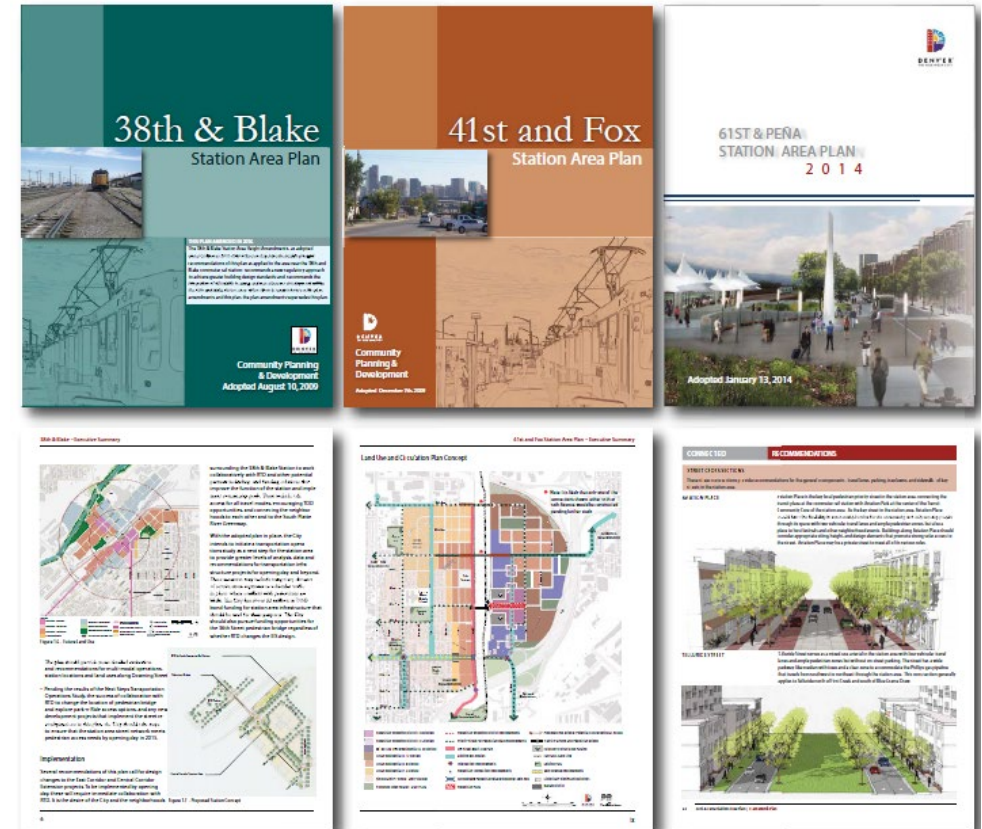
Neighborhood & Small Area Plans

- Detailed recommendations that apply only to specific areas
 - Ex: neighborhoods, corridors, transit station areas
- Address many topics and show how systems inter-relate
- Adopted as supplements to (and must be consistent with) the Comprehensive Plan



Neighborhood & Small Area Plans

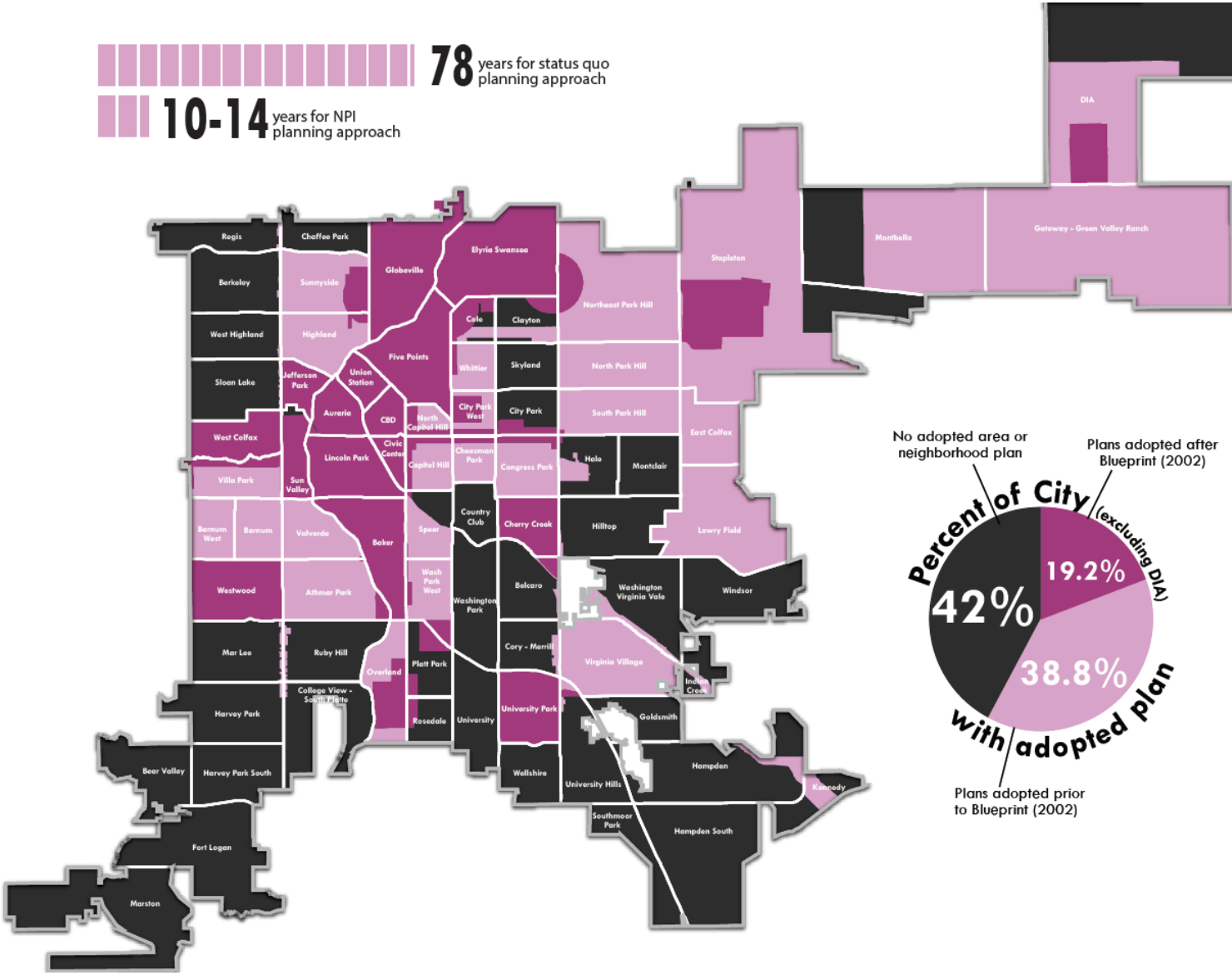
- Update Blueprint Denver mapping
- Can't contradict citywide goals, but can identify customized strategies for achieving them
- Provide detailed guidance for rezonings & other policy decisions
- Recommend capital projects and facilities
- Identify implementation strategies

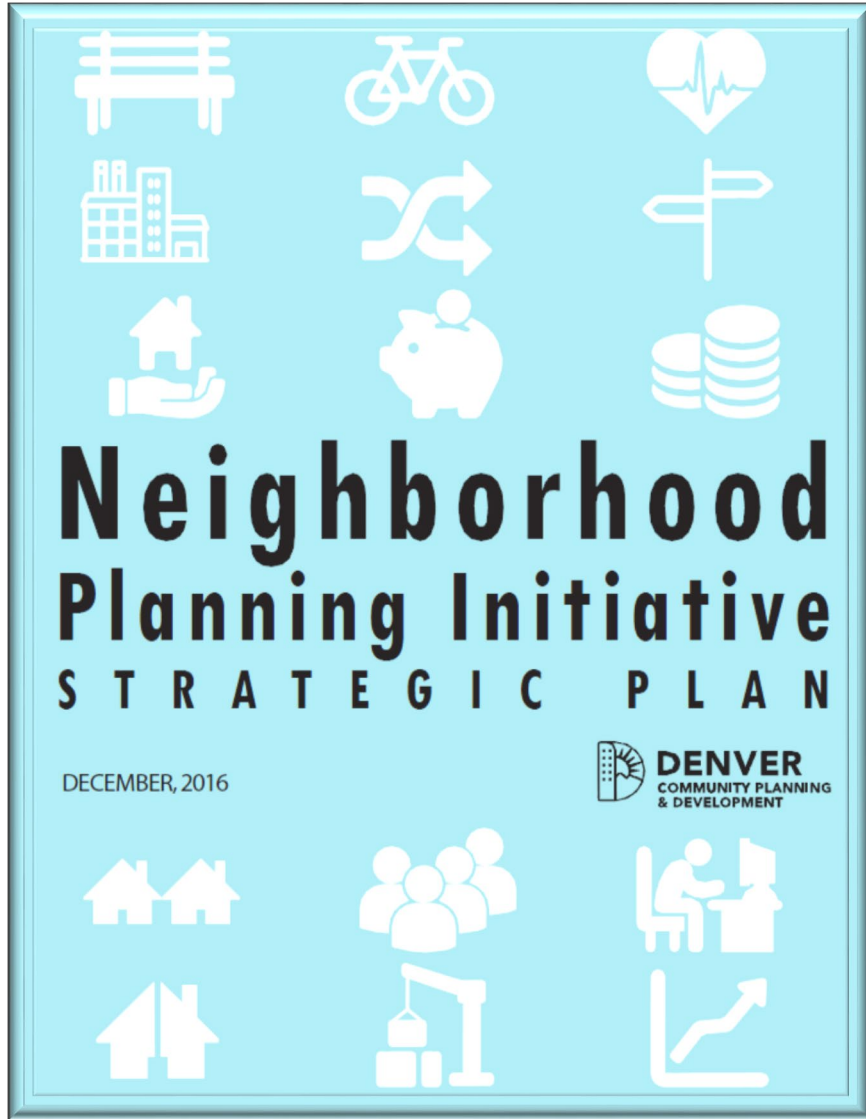


Small Area Plan Coverage in 2016

78 years for status quo planning approach

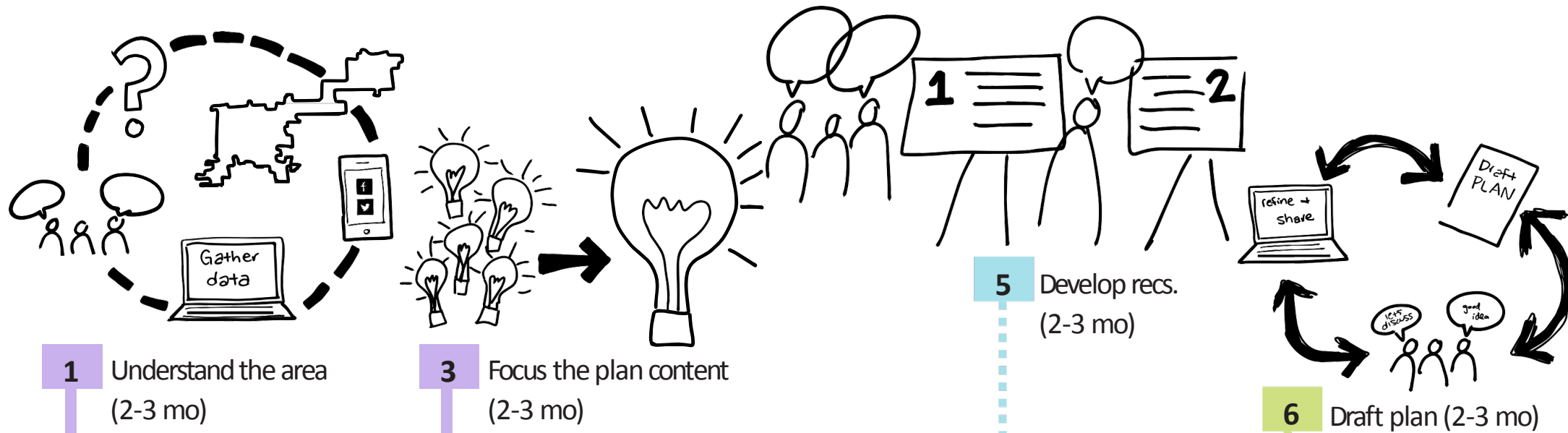
10-14 years for NPI planning approach





The NPI Approach: Get more plans done sooner

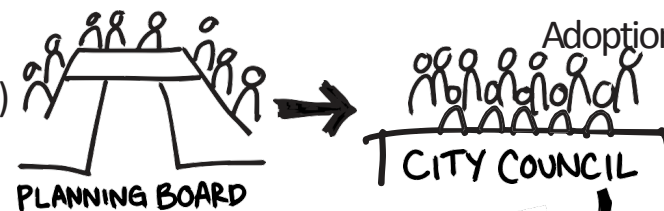
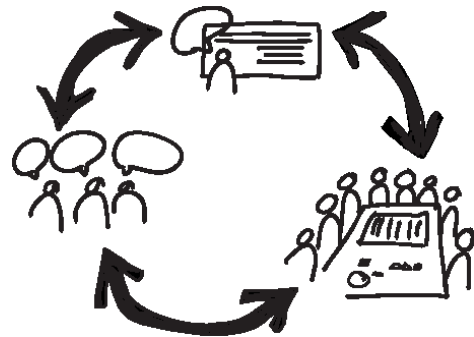
1. Group Neighborhoods Together
 - 19 areas, up to 6 neighborhoods per area
2. Multiple Plans in Process
 - 3 at a time
3. Standardized Timeline for Each Plan
 - 18-24 month process
4. Standardized Plan Content
 - Always topics + high priority issues
5. Ongoing/Rolling Process
 - New plans kickoff as others are completed



STEPS IN THE PLANNING PROCESS:



Study, learn, explore **4** (6-8 mo)

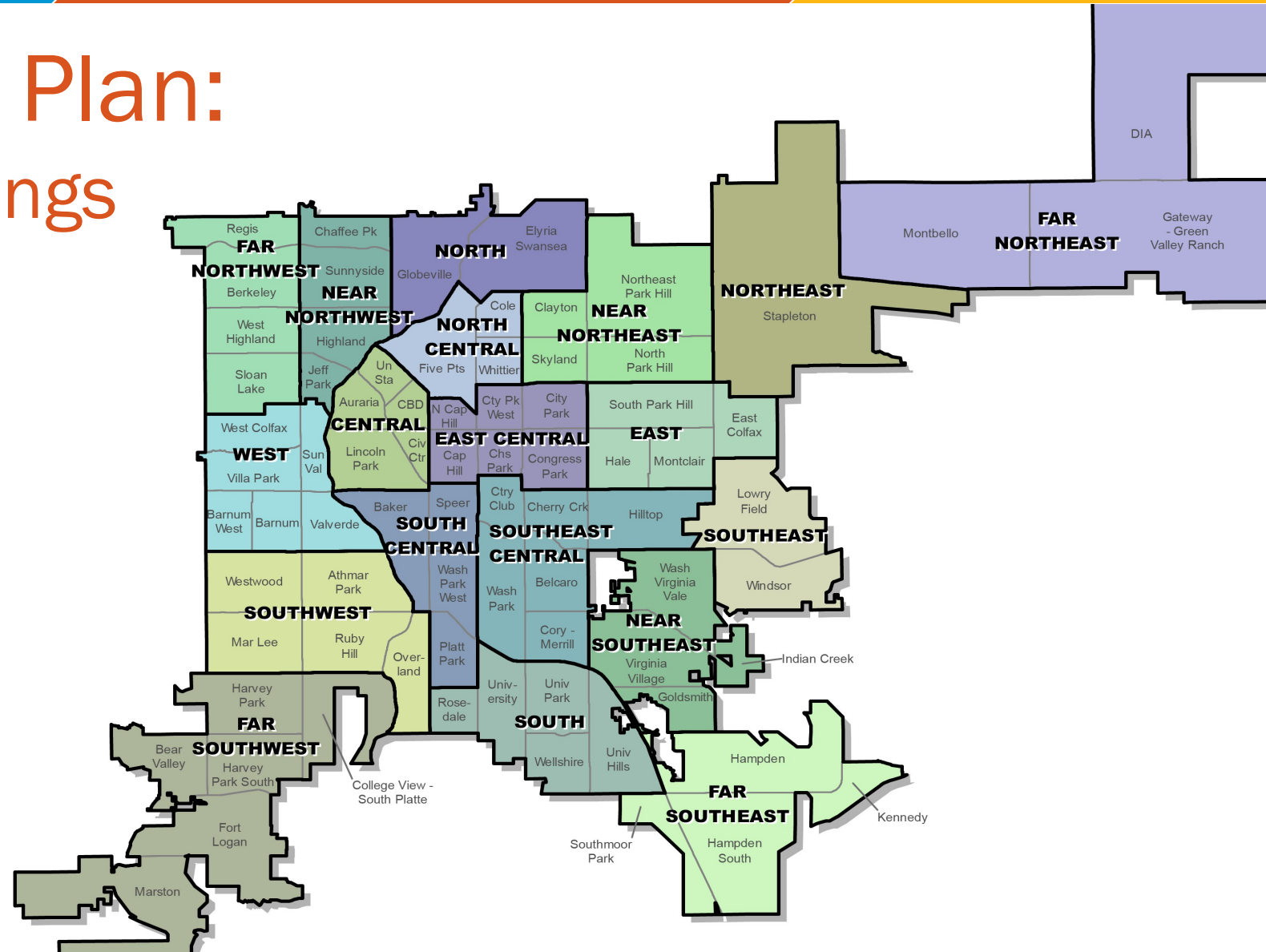


Adoption **7** (2 mo)

ADOPTED!



NPI Strategic Plan: Plan Area Groupings



NPI Strategic Plan:

Indicators of Planning Need

Livability



PARKS & OPEN SPACE



WALK/BIKE-ABILITY



HEALTH INDEX

Investment



UNDERUTILIZATION



PERMIT ACTIVITY



SALES TAX

Policy & Regulation



NEW VS. OLD CODE



AREAS OF CHANGE



LU/ZONING MISMATCH

Economy



COST BURDEN



MEDIAN INCOME



POVERTY

Demo-graphics



HOUSEHOLDS

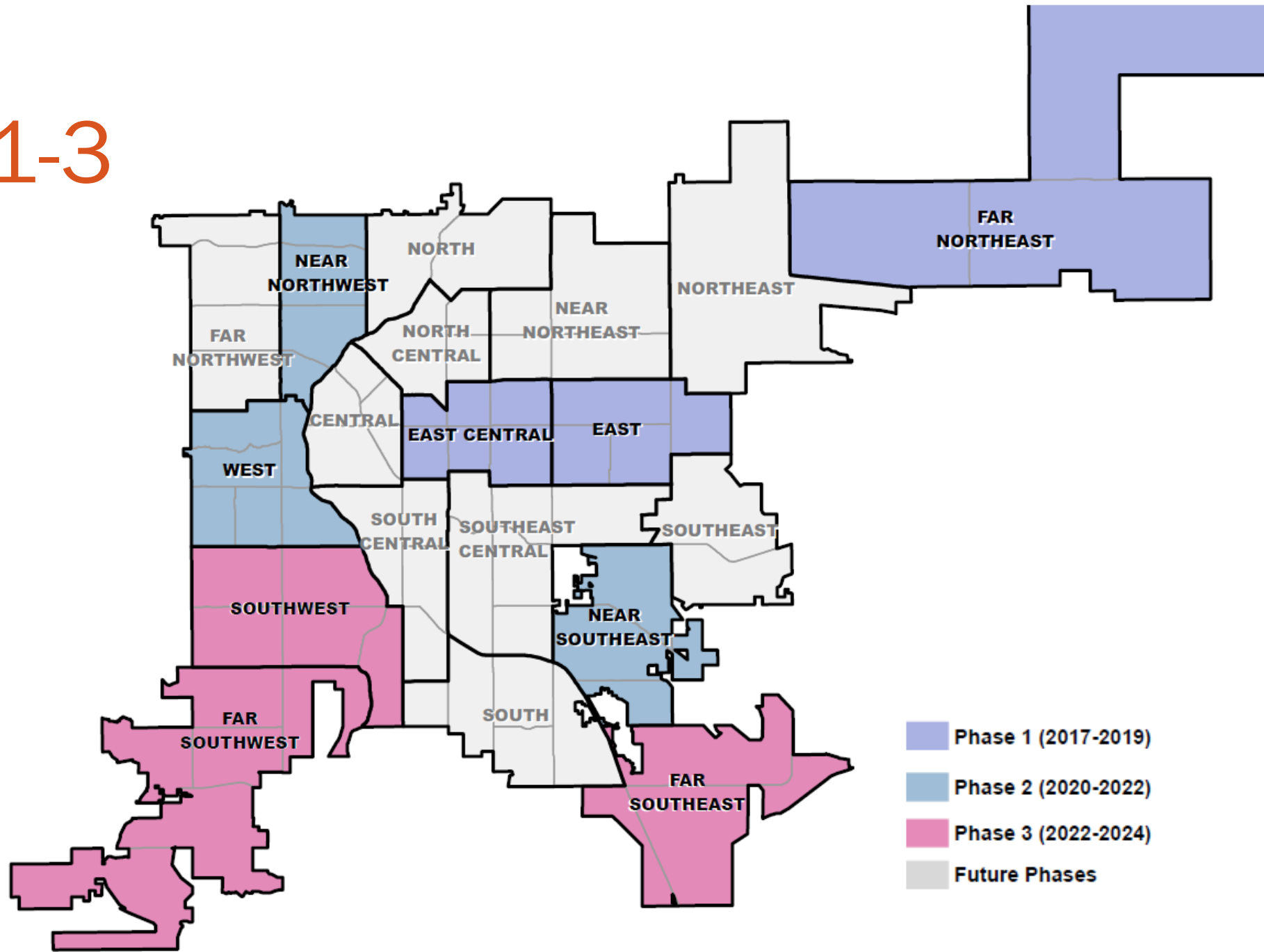


POPULATION



JOBS

NPI Phases 1-3



Timeline: NPI Phases 1-3



2017

- June- Launch Far Northeast Plan
- July- Launch East & East Central Plans

2018

- In-Process: Far Northeast, East, East Central

2019

- June- Adopted Far Northeast Plan
- Oct- Launch West Plan

2020

- Q1 (est.) - East & East Central Plans to City Council
- Q2- Launch Near Northwest & Near Southeast Plans

2021

- Q1- West Plan to City Council
- Q2- Launch Far Southeast Plan
- Q4- Near Northwest and Near Southeast Plans to City Council
- Q4- Run Data Indicators for NPI Phase 4

2022

- Q1- Launch Southwest and Far Southwest Plans

Community Engagement Approach

- Provide many ways to engage in the planning process
- Goal is to reach as wide a range of voices as possible
 - Age, socio-economic, race, ethnicity, business, etc.
- Steering Committee engages in plan development at a detailed level and helps expand outreach
- Partnerships are critical to getting the word out
 - RNOs, Community Organizations, Council Offices, Local Media
- Feedback loops allow people to see how their input is shaping the plan

Community Engagement Methods



- Online- Surveys, “Online Equivalent” for Public Meetings



- Targeted- Existing Meetings, Street Team, Field Tours



- Community Workshops- Visioning, Design Charrette, Open House



- Focus Groups- Topic Experts, Advocates, Under-represented groups



- Steering Committee- RNOs, Businesses, Non-Profits

Public Engagement Statistics

Far Northeast (complete)

- 5 Public Meetings/Workshops
- 20 Steering Committee Meetings
- 5 Online Surveys
- 50+ Events Attended by Staff
- 91 Social Media Postings

East+East Central (ongoing: numbers will increase)

- 12 Public Meetings/Workshops
- 45 Steering Committee Meetings
- 17 Focus Groups
- 6 Online Surveys
- 100+ Events Attended by Staff
- 80+ Social Media Postings



NPI Lessons Learned So Far (Big Picture)...

- Restructure the 18-24 month planning process
 - Shorten the initial phases (existing conditions, visioning)
 - Lengthen the options/alternatives and drafting phases
 - Draft content sooner—longer public review phase
- Process needs to be nimble and adaptable
 - Every plan/area is different
- Effective outreach still rooted in relationships and in-person communication
- Improve use of social media platforms for constructive dialog

Community Input on East & East Central Draft Plan Recommendations

May-July Community Workshops and Online Surveys

- 33 recommendations: all have majority support
- 26 of 33 recommendations over 70% support
- Divided responses on Height/Density Incentive recommendations – especially in the East Area

In Response to East/East Central Feedback...

- Shifting Focus of October Workshops
 - Options and trade-offs for height and density
- Attending additional RNO and other neighborhood meetings
- Slowing Down the Process
 - New Target Adoption Date= March 2020

What's Next?

- West Public Kickoff Meeting
Saturday, October 5 9:30-11:30am
Newlon Elementary
- East Central Community Workshop
Mid October- Details TBD
- East Community Workshop
Tuesday, October 29 6:00-8:00pm
Johnson & Wales Academic Center

Questions?

Resource Slides

Neighborhood Toolkits



Community Planning and Development

Community Planning and Development / Planning and Design / Neighborhood Planning / Neighborhood Toolkits

Neighborhood Toolkits

The Neighborhood Planning Initiative Strategic Plan (PDF) sets out a framework to provide an area plan for every neighborhood in Denver in 10 to 14 years, with three areas of the city undergoing a planning process at a time. As the initiative makes its way through the city, neighborhoods that want to get a head start on the planning process can lay the groundwork by taking advantage of the resources below.

These toolkits provide ways to connect to existing city resources as well as self-guided activities, some of which are intended for groups or organizations. None of the activities are required for a successful planning process, and completing the activities won't mean your neighborhood will be scheduled for a plan sooner. The activities will help you begin to think about your neighborhood and its strengths and weaknesses and help you to identify and articulate your ideas and priorities before planning begins. Completing these activities will also provide insight into the area's opportunities and issues and what community members envision, all of which can inform a neighborhood plan.



Learn More

Existing Resources for your Neighborhood	+
Planning 101	+
Denver 311	+
PocketGov	+

Take Action

Get Organized	+
Create a Photo Vision Book	+
Collect an Oral/Visual History	+
Host a Community Discussion	+

Submit your Findings/Ideas

If you or your organization have completed any of the "Take Action" items and would like to submit your information to city planners ahead of the start of the planning process in your neighborhood, click on the link below to fill out the submission form.

[» Submission Form](#)

What is a Steering Committee?

A small group (about 20) of representative stakeholders who engage in the planning process at a level of detail that is not possible with the general public.



What Do Steering Committees Do?

- Represent a diverse set of community interests
- Advise on planning process, outreach, and public meetings
- Help communicate information to other groups
- Help develop and refine plan content and ideas
- Make a recommendation to planning board and city council on the final plan



How is the Steering Committee Selected?

CPD staff work with city councilmembers to identify people who:

- Are stakeholders within the planning area
- Represent larger groups
- Represent diverse interests, perspectives and areas of expertise
- Represent community diversity



Expectations for Steering Committee Members

- Attend 2-hour monthly meetings
- Complete work assignments outside of meetings
- Represent and communicate with larger groups
- Be a constructive participant and committed to building consensus



How Do Steering Committee Meetings Work?

- All meetings are open to the public
- Steering committee chair
 - Works with staff to set agendas
 - Runs the meeting
- Group operates on consensus
- Meeting summaries
 - Reviewed and endorsed by the committee
 - Posted to the project web page

Three Types of Small Area Plans

Plan Amendments

- Use when a neighborhood or NPI plan is already in place
- Targeted fixes
- Examples:
 - 38th & Blake Height Amendment
 - Downtown Area Plan Amendment (CPV-Auraria)

Master Plans

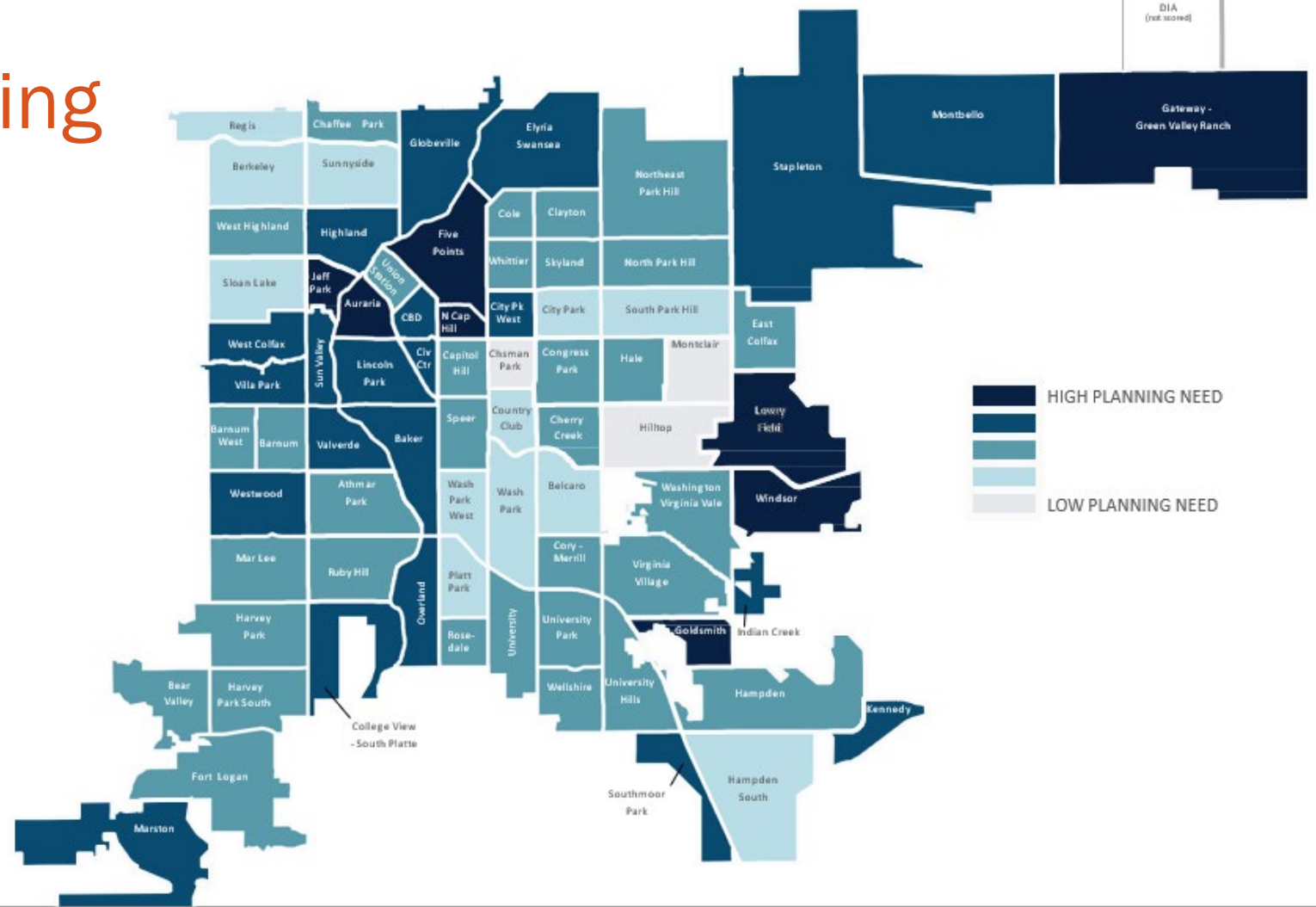
- Areas smaller than neighborhoods, but still large and complex
- Area requires a comprehensive approach
- Examples:
 - Stadium District (Mile High Stadium)
 - Loretto Heights

NPI Area Plans

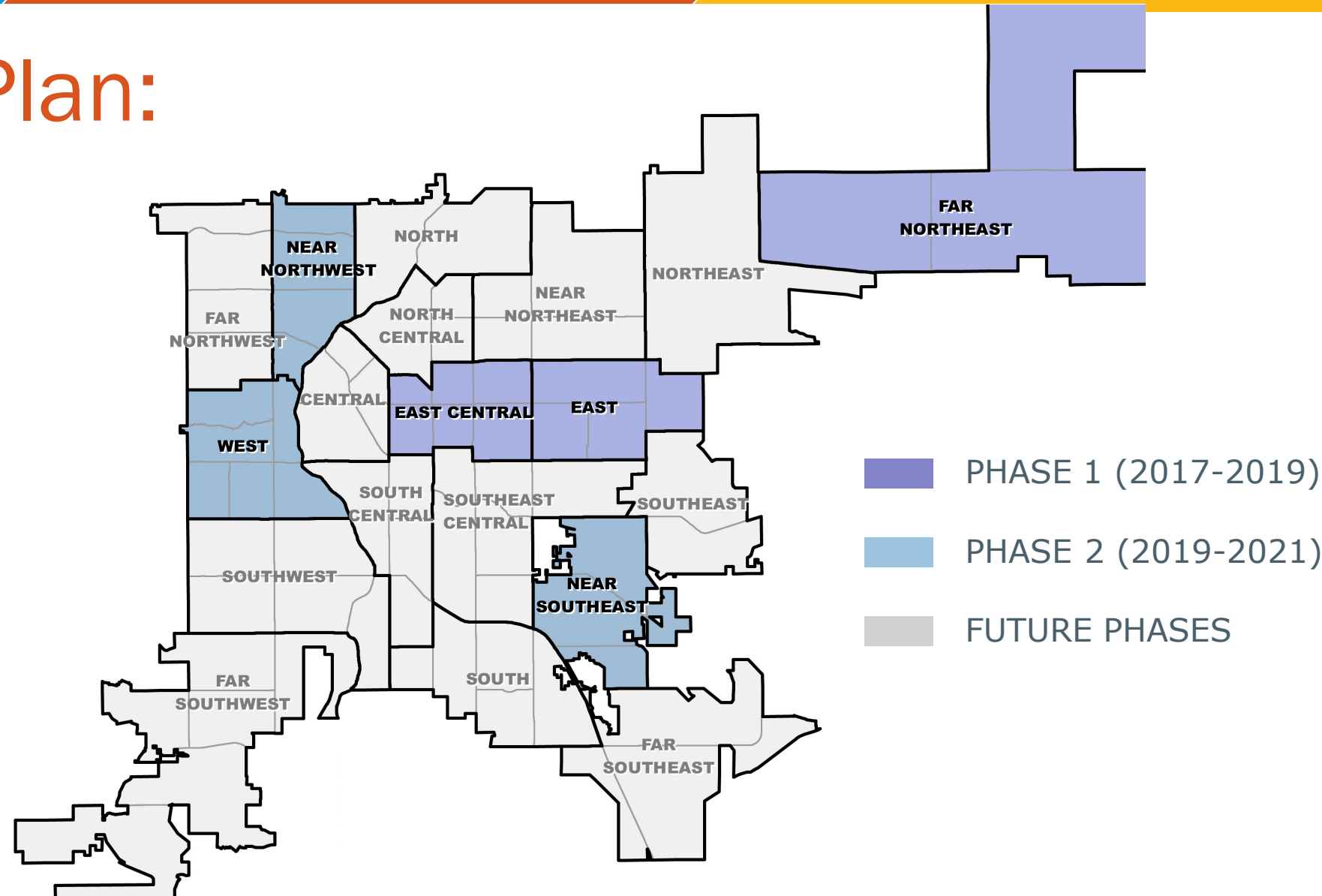
- Groups of neighborhoods
- 100% coverage of the city over time
- Examples:
 - Far Northeast Area Plan
 - East Area Plan
 - East Central Area Plan

NPI Strategic Plan:

Indicators of Planning Need (2016)



NPI Strategic Plan: Phases 1 & 2



Updating the Indicators of Planning Need

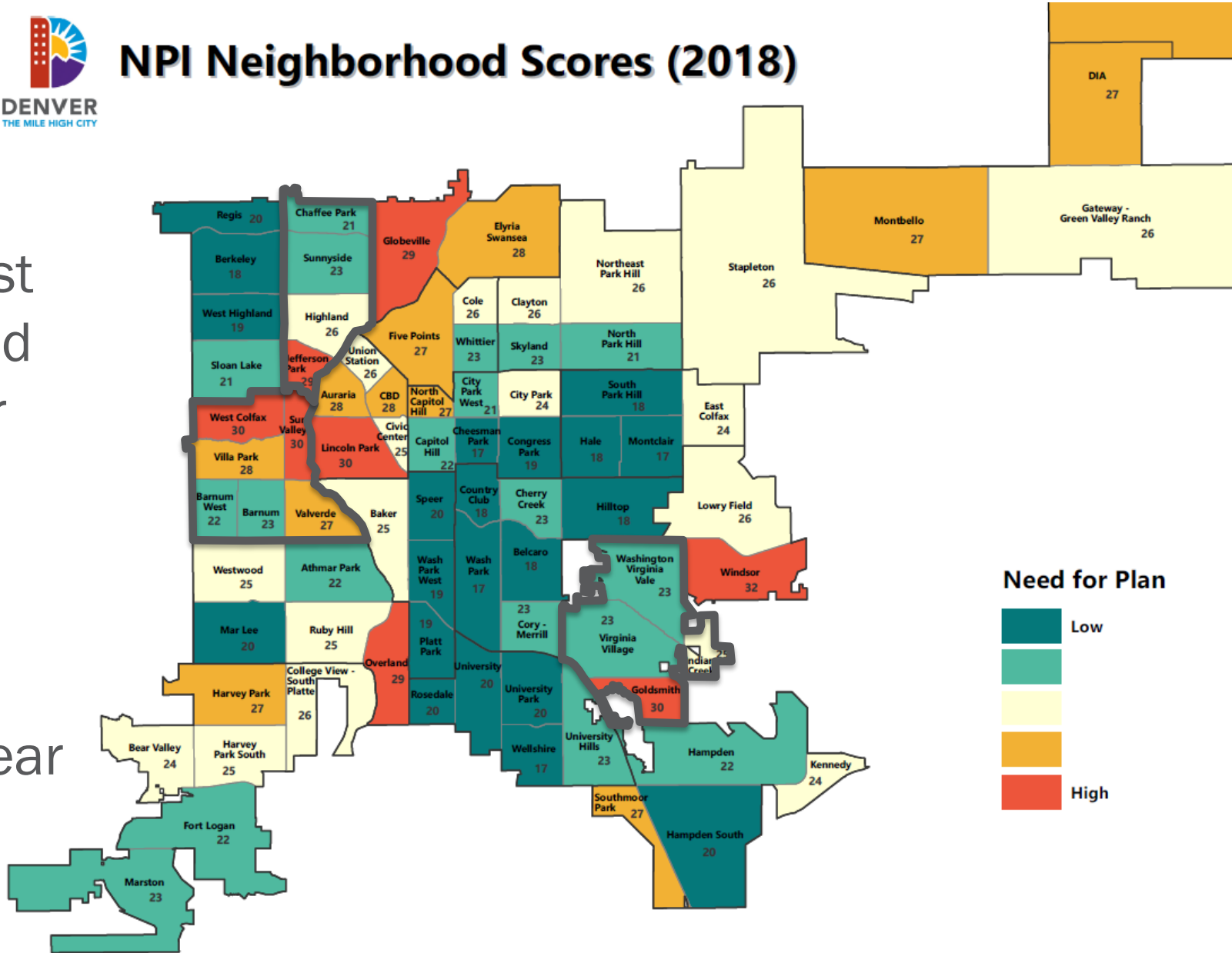
- Same analysis as NPI Strategic Plan
- Uses most recent data available
- Informs future phases of NPI
 - Phase 2- Order of previously announced plans
 - Phase 3- Areas receiving plans next

NPI Neighborhood Scores (2018)

NPI Phase 2:
Neighborhoods in the West
grouping show higher need
than in Near Northwest or
Near Southeast

Phase 2 Order:

1. West
2. Near Northwest, Near
Southeast



Status of Current & Recent Plans

Far Northeast

- May 2017 Steering Committee Kickoff
- June 2017 Public Kickoff
- June 2019 Adopted

East and East Central

- July 2017 Steering Committee Kickoff
- Feb 2018 Public Kickoff Meeting Series
- March 2020 Anticipated Adoption

West

- Sept 2019 Steering Committee Kickoff
- Oct 2019 Public Kickoff
- Q1 2021 Anticipated Adoption