The Boulder Experience

**Welcome to "The Boulder Experience"**

5th Annual New Partners for Smart Growth Conference
January 26, 2006

About Boulder
This tour takes you to the eighth largest city in Colorado (population 94,673), the Boulder County seat, and home to the CU Buffaloes. Boulder is located 35 miles northwest of Denver, at an elevation of 5,430 feet.

Government preservation of open space around Boulder began with Congress approving the allocation of 1,800 acres of mountain backdrop/watershed extending from South Boulder Creek to Sunshine Canyon in 1899. Since then, Boulder has adopted a policy of controlled urban expansion similar to what is now known as Smart Growth and New Urbanism. Key efforts have included acquiring open space, regulating building heights to preserve mountain views, a residential growth management ordinance, historic preservation code, and a master plan dictating future zoning, transportation and urban planning decisions.

Wide sidewalks and crosswalks exist throughout Boulder, making it extremely walkable for pedestrians. Additionally, over 120 miles of hiking trails start just at the edge of town. The League of American Bicyclists has awarded Boulder its prestigious Bicycle Friendly Community designation at the Gold Level. GO Boulder also has teamed up with the community to promote Walk and Bike Week, a fun tradition which encourages the use of alternative modes of transportation.

The culture of Boulder, both as a college town and as a center of environmentalism, has contributed to the size of the public transit system. GO Boulder - a collaboration between RTD, the City and the University of Colorado - provides an extensive high-frequency bus system of brightly decorated vehicles. Many residents and businesses pay for transit not by the ride, but by the year, under a program called "Eco Pass." Under the same program, entire neighborhoods buy group bus passes, and all University students are issued bus passes as part of their school ID, paid for by student fees.

Downtown Boulder is the heart of it all - a thriving mixed-use environment that contains the shopping destination of Pearl Street Mall, which hosts a variety of restaurants, bars and boutique stores.

Tour Details
The walking tour of Downtown Boulder will end with small group break-outs. Everyone needs to head to Canyon and Broadway at 12:15 to pick up their box lunch and begin boarding the bus. Lunches will be available in the lobby of Lee Real Estate, 1800 Broadway in One Boulder Plaza.

Your bus will depart for Denver at 12:30 (arriving on 13th and Canyon). Or, you may stay on, enjoy the afternoon in Boulder, and catch the RTD B Route or BXpress back to Denver's Market Street Station (schedule at right). From there, you can take the Free Mall Ride shuttle back to the Adam’s Mark.

**Tour Leader Contact Info:**

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Boulder, CO 80301
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Cris Jones
Transportation Planner
GO Boulder
City of Boulder
1738 Broadway
Boulder, CO 80302
www.ci.boulder.co.us/goboulder
Phone: 303-441-3266
cell: 720-261-1084

**Boulder-Denver RTD Service**

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**Tour Notes**

- Bus-only lanes on frontage road, with slip ramp onto 28th Street.
- Transit "Super Stops" incorporating work by local artists.
- Future BRT service.
- Proposed back-in parking along Broadway.
- Parking structures incorporated into new developments.
- Five public garages, plus on-street meters for short and long-term needs.
- Urban design practices integrate parking infrastructure.
- Vertically-structured Parking Deck includes Admin, Main, Embrace, TMD and event coordination.
- Parked funds many diverse district initiatives and economic goals.
- Broadway serves the city’s three paid parking districts: Downtown, University Hill Business District and the University of Colorado.
- Four RTD park-n-Rides are located along the corridor.

**Transport Service**

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**Parking Management**

- Mixed-use residential zoning has prompted redevelopment along the reconstructed segments of 28th Street.
- New developments along the north end of Broadway have embraced mixed-use concepts resulting in the creation of new neighborhoods and business districts in a former low-density commercial district.

**Housing & Mixed-Use Developments**

- Mixed-use residential developments have brought residents to downtown.
- One Boulder Plaza, 5th & Canyon: The Lofts, The Ice Rink and commercial properties.
- 15th and Pearl Mixed-Use Structure: parking, retail and office space.
- St. Julien, 900 Walnut: Hotel & Spa with public parking garage.
- Maxim Place, 902 Pearl: Retail with apartments, townhouses and offices.

**Bicycle Facilities**

- Parallel on-street bike lanes and off-road path accommodate all user types and offer good transition between facilities.
- Bike facilities connect to east-west facilities on Baseline, Boulder Creek, Arapahoe and Pearl.
- Boulder Creek Greenway path traverses the heart of downtown civic park and connects to north-south bike facilities at 9th, 13th, 17th Streets.
- 13th Street contra-flow bike lane.
- Shared Lane markings along Mall loop streets.
- Enhanced pedestrian crossings on Canyon Blvd.
- Broadway path separates bike and foot users and connects to east-west on-street bike facilities at University, Pleasant, Baseline and Table Mesa.
- Warning signs advise turning motorists to watch for bikes.
- Raised right-turn by-pass island prioritizes bike/pedestrian crossing at intersections.

**Pedestrian Environment**

- Wide detached sidewalks.
- Pedestrian underpasses connect student housing to CU-Boulder campus.
- Raised intersection at College Undersquare prioritizes pedestrian crossing.
- Pedestrian scale buildings and landscaping.
- Countdown pedestrian crossing signals.
- Narrow streets with slow traffic, on-street parking, wider sidewalks, enhanced street crossings and pedestrian-friendly land uses create an overall Pedestrian Supportive environment.
- Pedestrian-actuated crossing signals.
- Underpass at College Avenue connects CU-Boulder and The Hill business district.
- Enhanced pedestrian crossing treatments between CU and The Hill at three intersections.
- Detached sidewalks.
- Counted pedestrian crossing signals.

**Complete Streets**

- 28th street is transforming into a complete street with unique transportation, safety, visual and economic enhancements.
- Functional art is incorporated into several components.
- Drought-resistant plantings and drought-tolerant trees.
- New landscaping requires no mowing and little maintenance.
**The Boulder Experience**

**Site #1** 28th Street ............... 9:30-10:30

**Site #2** Pearl Street Mall ....... 10:45-11:30

**Break-Outs .................. 11:30-12:15**
- Bicycle & Pedestrian
- Transit & Parking
- Mixed-Use & Housing

**Site #3** Broadway ................. 12:30-12:45

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**Community Transit Network**

**Downtown Boulder Directory**
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Complete Streets

Downtown • Most downtown streets support pedestrians, bicyclists and transit in addition to the automobile. • Downtown pedestrian mall is easily accessible regardless of transportation mode. • 64% of downtown employees get to work using transportation options other than single occupant vehicles.

BROADWAY • A key multi-modal corridor in the 1996 Transportation Master Plan (TMP), it serves two of the city’s major activity centers. • Variety of high frequency local and regional transit services result in a 20% transit mode share in the Broadway corridor. • The Broadway Bongo is the parallel bicycle/pedestrian path.

Pedestrian Environment

PEDESTRIAN • Wide detached sidewalks. • Pedestrian underpasses connect student housing to CU-Boulder campus. • Raised interception at College Underpass prioritizes pedestrian crossing. • Pedestrian scale buildings and landscaping. • Countdown pedestrian crossing signals.

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Housekeeping

HOUSING & MIXED-USE DEVELOPMENTS • Mixed-use residential zoning has prompted redevelopment along the reconstructed segments of 28th Street.

Housing & Mixed-Use Developments

Transit Service

TRANSIT • Bus-only lanes on frontal road, with slip ramp onto 28th Street. • Transit “Super Stops” incorporating work by local artists. • Future BRT service.

Parking Management

PARKING MANAGEMENT • Proposed back-in parking along broadway parking. • Parking structures incorporated into new developments.

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