

DEVELOPMENT AND USE PURPOSE OF THE POLICY AGENDA

The purpose of the City of Boulder’s 2020 Regional, State and Federal Policy Agenda (the “Policy Agenda”) is to inform city advocacy on policy decisions that, while made outside the city’s jurisdictional authority, nevertheless have potential to significantly impact the city. This includes legislative decisions by the Colorado General Assembly or the U.S. Congress. It also includes the non-legislative decisions made at the federal, state and regional levels, including those of Colorado agencies (e.g., Air Quality Control Commission, Public Utilities Commission, Department of Transportation, Department of Regulatory Affairs); federal agencies (e.g., Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Transportation, the Federal Communications Commission); regional governments (e.g., Regional Transportation District); and intergovernmental coalitions (e.g., Rocky Flats Stewardship Council, Colorado Municipal League, Metro Mayors Caucus, US36 Mayors and Commissioners Coalition, Colorado Communities for Climate Action). The Policy Agenda is also used to inform decisions on judicial cases the city should participate in as an amicus curia, including whether to sign on to an amicus brief.

The city offers the Policy Agenda to regional, state and federal policy leaders for reference when considering decisions impacting the City of Boulder. Strategic, targeted, and/or abbreviated versions of this information will also be created throughout the year for use in specific communications.

The Policy Agenda was developed in advance of the convening of the 2020 Colorado General Assembly and the Second Session of the 116th U.S. Congress. Consequently, it does not address legislation by bill number. Instead, it describes the city’s goals on various policy matters as well as examples of specific approaches it would support or oppose to achieve those policy goals. With the coordination of the city’s Policy Advisor, it will be used by city officials to inform communication of city positions on proposed bills and non-legislative regional, state and federal policy decisions.

Council may revisit the Policy Agenda at any point. Before doing so, council will normally refer proposed changes to its Intergovernmental Affairs Committee to deliberate on the pros and cons of each change and make a recommendation for the full council informed by a staff analysis. It may do so as a body or through its Intergovernmental Affairs Committee. Council created this committee for the purpose of convening on an ad hoc basis with the Policy Advisor and other city staff as necessary when one or more of the following circumstances exist:

1. There is an immediate need for council members to participate with staff to develop a strategy to advance or defeat a proposed policy that is clearly addressed by the city’s Policy Agenda or other council-approved policy documents; or
2. A decision is expected to be made on regional, state or federal policy that affects a matter which council has previously provided general direction on and that could significantly impact the city, but which council did not provide sufficient specific direction on and with timing that will not allow for council direction to be obtained. In these limited situations, the Policy Advisor may turn to the committee for direction on such policy proposals so that the city can advocate accordingly. Council is to be informed whenever such

committee direction has been provided and council may choose to subsequently revisit such direction.

Council's Intergovernmental Affairs Committee is also turned to for input on revisions to the Policy Agenda and to plan agendas for meetings with regional, state and federal policy makers.

Council will consider adopting comprehensive revisions to the Policy Agenda once a year, typically no later than October. The Intergovernmental Affairs Committee will also regularly meet in December in odd-numbered years (after new council members have had the ability to be appointed to the committee) to determine whether further revisions are necessary. Council will then consider such additional changes in January, soon after the Colorado General Assembly has convened.

When adopting the Policy Agenda, council members may vote to support the agenda in its entirety and commit to supporting all of its positions when speaking on behalf of the city. In doing so, however, council members are still encouraged to express any reservations or personal opposition they have to one or more positions.

As has been done in years past, council is again adopting a goal that modifications to this Policy Agenda require consistency, when applicable, with the six criteria described below:

1. Uniformity with current city council goals;
2. Expected relevance in the upcoming year;
3. Uniqueness of issue or impact to the City of Boulder;
4. Viability or likelihood of achieving the policy goal;
5. Opportunity for providing funding for the City of Boulder; and
6. Availability of metrics of success that would allow the position to be deleted from future agendas if achieved.

Departures from these criteria are made in unique circumstances as determined by council, such as when adoption of a city position is important to support regional partners, even while the policy in question is otherwise of limited consequence to the city.

The city welcomes the opportunity to discuss its Policy Agenda. Please direct any questions to City Council members or to the city's Policy Advisor at 303-441-3009.