

AC Decision Support Framework

What is the Decision Support Framework?

A structured guide to deepen understanding, broaden perspectives, and foster strategic alignment in decision-making. This framework is meant to strengthen culture and decision-making capacity, not create more paperwork.

Use it to guide what matters—and make your thinking transparent. It supports the county in the development of a thinking discipline to guide and shape comprehensive discussions when decisions are needed. This is a lens, not a scorecard.

Purpose

This framework helps Arapahoe County institutionalize values-based, transparent decision-making. It is intended to assess strategies, initiatives, or decisions based on the County's Mission, Vision, and six strategic lenses (Sustainability, Data Informed, Community Engagement, Collaboration, Financial Implications, and Equity). In particular it intends to:

- Strengthen County operations and decision-making alignment with County strategic plan.
- Foster thoughtful discussion.
- Improve consistency and clarity in board-facing proposals.
- Serve as a thinking tool, not a mandatory pass/fail checklist.
- Cultivate analysis habits, not be a burdensome exercise.

When to Use the Framework

This tool is not required for every operational decision. It will be used:

- When preparing Board Summary Reports.
- Not for drop-ins or third party presentations.
- When presenting initiatives, policy shifts, capital investments, or new programs for BOCC consideration.
- As a training tool for strategic thinking across leadership.

How to Use the Framework

Review the statements in each section (6 strategic lenses + mission/vision). Hover over links for additional guidance and/or definitions.

Mark alignment*:

High – Strong alignment with criteria

Medium – Moderate alignment

Low – Weak alignment

No – Misaligned

N/A – Not applicable-provide justification in notes

Use the Notes section for short explanations (2-3 sentences maximum), if necessary. (Examples: "One-time cost from ARPA," "Limited engagement due to timeline.") Notes should be used to explain how or why it aligns, or doesn't align.

**Do not overthink alignment. Honest responses (including "low" or "no") are valuable to the discussion. Tradeoffs and imperfection are part of the process. The Notes are where the insight lives.*

Name and Title

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Department, Office, and/or Division

Public Works and Development Department

Issue/Initiative for Discussion

Strasburg Subarea Plan Update

Short Description of Issue/Initiative

Overview of the planning process for the revised 2002 Strasburg Plan. The updated Strasburg Subarea Plan will provide guidance to County officials and staff over the next 25 years.

Tips:

Hover your mouse over the links for more information.

Use the Notes field to describe the “why”—even if it seems obvious.

There are 6 categories, each with multiple questions.

Note there is a "Save and Continue Later" option at the bottom right of each page.

Mission & Vision Alignment

Vision: [Initiative](#) enhances quality of life through exceptional, responsible public service.

	High	Med	Low	No	N/A
Criteria	X				

Notes

The draft Strasburg Subarea Plan was created with significant input from residents, property owners, and business owners within the Strasburg area. Their concerns, thoughts, and suggestions provided the basis for the Plan's vision statement as well as its goals, policies, and strategies. This community-based Plan which was developed with a transparent planning process is considered to be responsible service to the Strasburg community.

Mission: Initiative contributes to a diverse and vibrant county where everyone can thrive.

	High	Med	Low	No	N/A
Criteria	X				

Notes

The draft Strasburg Subarea Plan identifies goals, policies, and strategies that promote and enhance the sense of community and quality of life for area residents. The Implementation Matrix identifies opportunities to promote thoughtful, managed growth; enhance the commercial area; improve transportation networks for all modes; support businesses; and enhance and promote the area's unique historical and cultural assets.

Sustainability

We analyze county activities through the lens of human, environmental, social, and economic sustainability, so our decisions lead the county toward meeting the needs of today while empowering current and future generations to thrive.

Holistic. Initiative promotes long-term financial (including one-time and ongoing cost considerations), human, environmental, and social sustainability.

	High	Med	Low	No	N/A
Criteria	X				

Notes

The policies and strategies in the draft Plan identify approaches for economic development to support and strengthen existing businesses and to expand employment opportunities. Other sections of the plan recognize the importance of preserving and protecting Strasburg's significant cultural, historical, and natural resources.

Enduring. The initiative builds lasting, resilient [systems](#) rather than offering temporary fixes.

	High	Med	Low	No	N/A
Criteria	X				

Notes

The draft Strasburg Subarea Plan identifies goals, policies, and strategies for a 25-year period with initiatives that address existing issues such as employment, transportation system improvements, economic development, etc., and identifies approaches for solutions.

Established. The systems and infrastructure are in place to support sustainability [over time](#).

	High	Med	Low	No	N/A
Criteria		X			

Notes

The draft Strasburg Subarea Plan identifies land use policies to promote sustainable and guided growth. It is expected that the Strasburg area will grow only modestly in population over the 25-year life of this Plan. Goals, policies, and strategies are in place such that when growth does occur, the location of new development and the needed infrastructure are identified.

Established. The people and culture are in place to support sustainability over time.

	High	Med	Low	No	N/A
Criteria		X			

Notes

The draft Strasburg Plan includes several strategies that support economic development to help ensure long-term economic opportunity and community well-being. Other sections of the plan promote preservation of the community's unique small town character which is accomplished through the on-going interpretation of Strasburg's culturally and historically significant buildings and places and building awareness of Strasburg's history.

[Data Informed](#)

We use varied data informed and [evidence-based best and promising practice](#) tools to inform how best to utilize resources to address challenges.

Quality. Initiative is supported by accurate, relevant, and timely [data](#).

	High	Med	Low	No	N/A
Criteria	X				

Notes

The draft Strasburg Subarea Plan was developed through significant public outreach such as community and business surveys, stakeholder interviews, attendance at Hometown Days, and open house events. This level of outreach was considered essential to have a realistic and implementable Plan.

Accuracy. Data is [interpreted and validated](#) by appropriately [qualified professionals](#).

	High	Med	Low	No	N/A
Criteria	X				

Notes

The demographic data and growth projections that are included in the draft Plan were developed by Adams County professional staff in consultation with Arapahoe County.

Application. Data is used to guide decisions rather than simply [justify them](#).

	High	Med	Low	No	N/A
Criteria	X				

Notes

The growth projections were used to guide the land use and housing goals included in the Plan as well as to inform revisions to the proposed Future Land Use Map and land use category definitions.

Community Engagement

We want to understand and respond to [community values](#) in decision-making, meeting people where they are.

Inclusive. Specific communities affected by the initiative have been engaged, as appropriate, and in accessible ways.

	High	Med	Low	No	N/A
Criteria	X				

Notes

The draft Plan was developed with significant public input through surveys, open house and outreach events, and in consultation with a Steering Committee which was made up of residents and business owners from the Strasburg community.

Open. We are transparent in sharing what we're doing and why, in a meaningful way.

	High	Med	Low	No	N/A
Criteria	X				

Notes

Adams County Planning staff led the effort to update the 2002 Strasburg Sub-area plan. All information about the project including survey results, open house materials, project timeframe, and the draft plan are posted on the Adams County project web page. Arapahoe County also created a website with general information about the planning effort and links to the Adams County site.

Responsive. Community input and feedback has been considered and reflected, where appropriate, based on genuine understanding.

	High	Med	Low	No	N/A
Criteria	X				

Notes

The draft Plan and its goals, policies and strategies for Land Use, Housing, Economic Development, East Colfax Avenue Design, and Cultural and Historical Resources were developed through significant community input.

Collaboration

We work within and across the county to implement outcomes, engaging key [internal and external partners](#) to maximize benefits and increase efficiency.

Strategic. Key partners have been identified and intentionally engaged in a [timely manner](#) to maximize benefit and increase efficiency.

	High	Med	Low	No	N/A
Criteria	X				

Notes

The project to update the Strasburg Subarea Plan was guided by a Steering Committee which was made up of residents, business owners, and representatives from key community organizations. In addition, stakeholders and a Technical Advisory Committee provided topic-specific information in their areas of expertise.

Participatory. Collaboration is transparent, inclusive, and responsive to both internal and external [stakeholders](#).

	High	Med	Low	No	N/A
Criteria	X				

Notes

From the beginning of the project, the objective was to create a community-based plan with significant public involvement.

Defined. County's role is clearly defined as lead, support, or defer.

	High	Med	Low	No	N/A
Criteria	X				

Notes

The project to update the 2002 Strasburg Sub-area Plan was initiated and led by a planning team from Adams County. Arapahoe County Public Works and Development staff supported this effort in every aspect from community outreach to participation on the Steering and Technical Advisory committees and plan development.

Financial Implications

We consider long-term and holistic financial implications in decision-making, prioritizing best overall value, responsible use of public funds, and sustainable financial health.

Prudent. Short- and long-term costs are understood, affordable, and balanced with current available resources (including non-monetary assets like equipment or facilities.)

	High	Med	Low	No	N/A
Criteria		X			

Notes

Because this is a long-range planning document, it does not identify any specific cost estimates. Rather, the Implementation Matrix identifies whether specific policies and strategies are capital expenditures and relative timeframes (short- or long-term), as well as potential funding sources..

Efficient. The initiative includes cost-saving measures, external funding, or partnerships where appropriate, and prioritizes best overall value.

	High	Med	Low	No	N/A
Criteria		X			

Notes

Because this is a long-range planning document, it does not identify specific costs. However, the Implementation Matrix does include potential funding sources and partnerships for some of the proposed policies and strategies.

Accountable. Public funds are used responsibly, with trade-offs and non-monetary impacts clearly considered.

	High	Med	Low	No	N/A
Criteria		X			

Notes

The draft Plan does not identify specific public funding sources. Instead, the Implementation Matrix includes only general, potential funding sources for certain proposed policies and strategies such as bonds and grants (federal, state, and local).

Disciplined. One-time and ongoing financial commitments are identified, justified, and planned for in alignment with long-term fiscal health.

	High	Med	Low	No	N/A
Criteria		X			

Notes

The Transportation and Mobility section of the draft Plan identifies several desired future improvements. However, since this is a long-range planning document, no specific costs are assigned to each proposed improvement.

Equity

We work with communities impacted by county policies, behaviors, beliefs, practices, and decisions. We seek their voice, consider historical context, and understand intersectional impacts. We anticipate potential obstacles, consider unintended consequences, and work to remove barriers for the betterment of all.

Precautionary. Benefits, challenges, and impacts are understood and addressed, with care taken to avoid unintended harm.

	High	Med	Low	No	N/A
Criteria		X			

Notes

The draft Plan was developed with significant public outreach and community involvement. Individual desires and opinions regarding future growth and development were weighed and considered with community data and future projections. Draft goals, policies, and strategies were developed accordingly.

Equitable. The initiative acknowledges and addresses both historical and current inequities.

	High	Med	Low	No	N/A
Criteria		X			

Notes

Specific goals, policies, and strategies in the draft Plan were developed to address the needs of all sectors of the Strasburg community from school-aged children through senior residents.

Adaptive. The approach is [flexible](#) and inclusive, removing barriers and meeting diverse needs.

	High	Med	Low	No	N/A
Criteria		X			

Notes

The draft Strasburg Subarea Plan is a long-range visionary document that provides a framework for the future growth and development of Strasburg over the next 25 years. It is understood that certain factors or assumptions that influenced the development of this Plan may change over time. As such, the Plan is considered to be a "living document" and to remain relevant and current, it may require amendment from time to time