

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

Molly Orkild-Larson, Principal Planner; Raye Fields, Planner I

Department, Office, and/or Division

Public Works and Development/ Planning

Issue/Initiative for Discussion

LDC25-001 EV Charging

Short Description of Issue/Initiative

The Colorado State Legislature passed HB24-1173, and Governor Polis signed it into law on May 21, 2024. The law requires subject municipalities (with 10,000 or more residents) and counties (with 20,000 or more residents) to implement one of the three compliance EV charger options into their land development codes. As per HB24-1173, "A county permitting agency shall approve, conditionally approve, or deny an application for an EV Charger permit using the county's administrative review process to determine if the proposed electric motor vehicle charging system is in compliance with the county's objective standards." This code amendment needs to be incorporated into the Arapahoe County Land Development Code (LDC) before the end of the first quarter.

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

Initiative is looking to update Land Development Code in order to make it easier for developers to install critical Electric Vehicle infrastructure around Arapahoe County through administrative processes.

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

	High	Med	Low	No	N/A
Criteria	X				

Notes

Initiative is looking to make the use of Electric Vehicles more ubiquitous throughout the County. This is in alignment with Colorado's goals to expand EV use, cost effectiveness, convenience, and viability across the state through a standardized and streamlined application process.

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.

Hollistic. 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 initiative promotes long-term sustainability by permitting businesses to implement EV Chargers through an administrative process with the county.

Enduring. The initiative builds lasting, resilient systems rather than offering temporary fixes.

	High	Med	Low	No	N/A
Criteria	X				

Notes

This initiative builds lasting, resilient systems by allowing developers to implement EV Charging stations administratively, but by holding EV Chargers to rigorous standards.

Established. The systems and infrastructure are in place to support sustainability over time.

	High	Med	Low	No	N/A
Criteria	X				

Notes

The goal of HB24-1173 is to expand EV use and viability across the state in order to advance Colorado's goals to reduce local air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions.

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

	High	Med	Low	No	N/A
Criteria	X				

Notes

Electric Vehicles are becoming more and more popular and continue to grow in demand, but without the proper infrastructure in place for charging these vehicles, they are superfluous.

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 initiative is supported by HB24-1173 which requires subject municipalities and counties to implement EV Charging options into their Land Development Code.

Accuracy. Data is interpreted and validated by appropriately qualified professionals.

	High	Med	Low	No	N/A
Criteria	X				

Notes

The data was initially interpreted and validated appropriately by the State of Colorado through the HB24-1173. The Land Development Code updates will be interpreted by trained staff with the County.

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

	High	Med	Low	No	N/A
Criteria	X				

Notes

The EV Charging updates to the Land Development Code will guide staff decisions- not simply justify.

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

All communities will be permitted to have an EV Charger as per Land Development Code update LDC25-001. Communities have been engaged with through public outreach and the County and State referral processes.

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

The County is transparent in sharing what we're going and why. We've posted all code updates to County websites for public comment and review, and have answered any and all public comments as they occur.

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

Community input and feedback has been considered and reflected. County has gone above and beyond, reaching out to the Colorado Energy Office to pursue potential funding options for underfunded and/or under trained fire departments.

[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

Key partners such as Colorado Energy Office have been identified and engaged in a timely manner to maximize benefit and increase efficiency of the Land Development Code Update. Staff have utilized tools and suggestions from the CEO office and staff.

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

	High	Med	Low	No	N/A
Criteria	X				

Notes

The Colorado Energy Office has been assisting the County publicly, and even attends Board and PC meetings for staff assistance.

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

	High	Med	Low	No	N/A
Criteria	X				

Notes

The county's role in the Land Development Code Update has been to lead through implementing changes and making the provided EV Charging updates fit into the existing code in a manner that is contiguous of existing code, support by assisting external referral agencies, fire departments, or customers that come to staff with questions about EV Updates and future implementation, and defer to CEO if there is any uncertainty when implementing the updates into the code to ensure that we have what the State is expecting of us.

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

Short and long term costs are understood, affordable, and balanced with current available resources. By allowing EV Charging as an administrative use, we are making the overall process affordable.

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

The County is working with CEO to get external funding for EV Charging fire preparedness in areas that require it, and the permitting process will be Administrative unless otherwise stated as a cost saving measure for applicants.

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

	High	Med	Low	No	N/A
Criteria					X

Notes

Public funds will not be used to implement EV Charging Station updates to the Land Development Code.

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

There will be no financial commitments required to implement EV Charging Station Updates to the Land Development Code.

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

Benefits, challenges, and impacts have been understood to the best of Staff’s ability and have been addressed with care taken to avoid unintended harm.

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

	High	Med	Low	No	N/A
Criteria	X				

Notes

By implementing LDC updates on EV Charging, staff is addressing the inequity of lack of mobility for EV users.

Adaptive. The approach is flexible and inclusive, removing barriers and meeting diverse needs.

	High	Med	Low	No	N/A
Criteria	X				

Notes

By implementing LDC updates on EV Charging, staff is addressing the inequity of lack of mobility for EV users. Each application will be reviewed by staff to ensure inclusivity to meet diverse needs.

