

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

Steven Buckley, Engineer III

Department, Office, and/or Division

Public Works and Development, Transportation Division

Issue/Initiative for Discussion

Safe Street for All Grant Application

Short Description of Issue/Initiative

SS4A Grant

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 Parker Road and Florida Avenue intersection has experienced 9 fatal and severe injury crashes since 2018, the highest of any intersection in unincorporated Arapahoe County. It also has a significant number of property damage only and mild injury crashes. Improving the safety of this intersection enhances the quality of life for everyone who travels through it.

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

	High	Med	Low	No	N/A
Criteria			X		

Notes

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

This grant application takes advantage of a federal funding opportunity, to reduce County funds that would otherwise be needed for roadway safety improvements.

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

	High	Med	Low	No	N/A
Criteria	X				

Notes

The treatments that would be constructed at the Parker Road / Florida Avenue are ones that are proven to reduce serious crashes, providing a lasting safety fix.

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

	High	Med	Low	No	N/A
Criteria		X			

Notes

Transportation Division CIP staff is in place and capable of delivering this project in the required five year time frame.

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

	High	Med	Low	No	N/A
Criteria		X			

Notes

Transportation Division CIP staff is in place and capable of delivering this project in the required five year time frame.

[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 SS4A grant application is highly data driven. By choosing to submit the worst traffic safety location in unincorporated Arapahoe County for this grant, we will have a compelling evidence-based and data-informed application.

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

	High	Med	Low	No	N/A
Criteria	X				

Notes

The crash data used to justify this project was analyzed by County staff and a consultant who is highly skilled in traffic safety issues and data analysis.

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

	High	Med	Low	No	N/A
Criteria	X				

Notes

The Parker Road / Florida Avenue Intersection was chosen for this grant application precisely because the data shows that this is the location in all of the unincorporated County most in need of safety improvements to reduce death and serious injury. Alternative candidate projects for this grant were considered and rejected by staff because they were not as strongly supported by the data as this project.

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

Staff presented on the Safety Plan at the Four Square Mile Neighborhood in February, and that Plan is providing the data by which this project was selected for the grant application.

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 CSAP commits the County to transparency in its ongoing efforts to improve transportation safety,

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

Public feedback gathered from the CSAP and the Parker Road Corridor Study has mentioned this intersection as a concern among residents.

[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

Staff has reached out to CDOT and DRCOG for their support for our grant application pursuit.

Participatory. Collaboration is transparent, inclusive, and responsive to both internal and external stakeholders.

	High	Med	Low	No	N/A
Criteria		X			

Notes

Staff has reached out to CDOT and DRCOG for their support for our grant application pursuit.

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

	High	Med	Low	No	N/A
Criteria	X				

Notes

The County will lead this effort.

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

The project costs are understood and anticipated to be up to \$5 million, with 80% covered by federal funds and further potential state matching funds.

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

This initiative seeks external grant funding.

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

	High	Med	Low	No	N/A
Criteria	X				

Notes

This project, being the worst intersection for safety performance in unincorporated Arapahoe County, is a responsible place to use local and federal funds intended for safety improvements.

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

This is a capital project with known one-time costs.

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

Safety benefits are understood here, with anticipated reduction in crashes involving vulnerable roadway users such as pedestrians.

Equitable. The initiative acknowledges and addresses both historical and current [inequities](#).

	High	Med	Low	No	N/A
Criteria	X				

Notes

This project acknowledges that more serious injuries and deaths have occurred at this intersection than any other in the unincorporated areas of the County in the last 7 years, and seeks to improve the safety of the intersection which will benefit everyone who lives and travels through the Four Square Mile area.

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

	High	Med	Low	No	N/A
Criteria	X				

Notes

The approach we took was flexible in terms of what project would be selected for this grant opportunity, as we allowed the data and the identified needs to drive our decision.