

# 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

Ernie Rose

## Department, Office, and/or Division

Public Works and Development, Planning Division

# Issue/Initiative for Discussion

Proposed Amendment to the Development Application Manual

## Short Description of Issue/Initiative

Amendment to the Development Application Manual to align with recent Land Development Code update related to wireless antennas

### 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

Creates clear application processes for various types of Wireless Communication Facilities

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

	High	Med	Low	No	N/A
Criteria		X			

### Notes

Enhance WCF opportunities that permit more effective communication within a diverse and vibrant community. county.

## 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

Includes a proposed fee for reviewing Eligible Facilities Requests (currently performed free of charge)

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

	High	Med	Low	No	N/A
Criteria	X				

**Notes**

The DAM amendment aligns with the 2025 Land Development Code Amendment, which comprehensively addresses all categories of wireless communication systems and removes the necessity for expedited wireless communication repairs.

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

	High	Med	Low	No	N/A
Criteria		X			

**Notes**

The 2025 WCF, LDC code amendment addressed previously approved federal regulations that focus on essential wireless functions and services. The DAM alignment addresses the WCF impacts into the future.

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

	High	Med	Low	No	N/A
Criteria		X			

**Notes**

Wireless communications have become and will continue to be the foundation of communication for current and future cultures and people

**[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**

Surveys of other jurisdictions' fees are provided

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

	High	Med	Low	No	N/A
Criteria		X			

**Notes**

The planning personnel engaged with wireless communication providers and relevant jurisdictions during the development and validation of the code amendments and the proposed establishment of the EFR fee.

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

	High	Med	Low	No	N/A
Criteria		X			

**Notes**

The initiative was mandated by federal regulations requiring updates to the national code from Commercial Mobile Radio Service (CMRS) to Wireless Communication Facilities (WCF), which aimed to eliminate gaps and enhance efficiencies.

## 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**

Engaged with stakeholders from antenna 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**

A diverse range of resources was employed in the development of the 2025 LDC code amendment and Wireless Communication Facility update, and feedback from wireless communication providers and citizens was duly reviewed and integrated.

**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 LDC amendment and the WCF update incorporated community feedback as well as input from wireless communication providers.

## [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

Wireless communication providers, citizens, and other jurisdictions were identified and engaged in both processes. Initial results demonstrate significant benefits and efficient reviews.

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

	High	Med	Low	No	N/A
Criteria	X				

## Notes

A collaborative effort was made by posting the code amendment on the county website and collecting input from internal and external stakeholders.

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

	High	Med	Low	No	N/A
Criteria	X				

## Notes

Federal legislation mandated the County's responsibility to update our wireless regulations and, consequently, the proposed DAM amendment.

## 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

A processing fee for Eligible Facility Requests (EFR) is proposed to cover the short-term costs incurred as a result of the proposed amendment, and staff is agreeable to the wireless fee structure.

**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

Cost-saving measures and external findings are not components of the Dam update.

**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 are not components of the Dam update

**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

One-time and ongoing financial commitments are not components of this code amendment

## 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

Keeps in compliance with FCC regulations.

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

	High	Med	Low	No	N/A
Criteria	X				

## Notes

The proposed WCF section has been reorganized and revised to simplify, modernize, and ensure compliance with federal, state laws, and industry standards, providing a cross-reference to these standards in the move of the CMRS Code to Wireless Communication Facility (WCF).

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

	High	Med	Low	No	N/A
Criteria	X				

## Notes

The proposed dam amendment is consistent with the 2025 LDC amendment, which was implemented to move the CMRS Code to Wireless Communication Facility (WCF).