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MEMORANDUM

P.O. Box 4100 ♦ FRISCO, COLORADO 80443

**TO: MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL**  
**FROM: SUSAN LEE, PLANNER, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**  
**RE: DOWNTOWN COMPLETE STREETS DRAFT PLAN REVIEW**  
**DATE: FEBRUARY 8, 2022**

**Summary and Background:** On July 27, 2021, Town Council approved a resolution authorizing a contract with Toole Design for the creation of the Downtown Complete Streets Plan. As stated in the RFP, *"The primary goals for the Downtown Complete Streets Plan are to further develop the conceptual street cross sections from the Community Plan, and to develop policies that will serve as the regulatory standards for implementation by both private developments and public projects within the project area."*

Both the Frisco Community Plan and the Frisco Trails Master Plan include goals related to improving the Town's multi-modal transportation network, preservation of a walkable community, and the development of complete street policies in order to improve opportunities for safe and efficient multi-modal transportation throughout the community.

The 2019-2020 Town Council Strategic Plan identified the completion of a Granite Street Redesign Plan as a strategic priority and funds were allocated in the 2020 Budget to develop a complete streets plan for Granite Street in order to *"provide safe, alternative routes for bicyclists and pedestrians parallel to Main Street."* Due to ongoing changes within the downtown area, including the relaunched Pedestrian Promenade, infill and redevelopment, changes in use, and infrastructure changes along State Highway 9, Town Council directed staff to expand the scope and develop a complete streets plan for the area of downtown roughly bordered by Galena Street to the north, Granite Street to the south, Madison Avenue to the west and the Frisco Marina to the east. The 2020-2021 Strategic Plan update reflects this expanded approach.

**Analysis:** The Downtown Complete Streets Plan is being driven by a strong community engagement component that took place at the very beginning of the planning process. Over 150 community members took part in a three-day design charrette held in late September 2021. The charrette included drop-in listening sessions, stakeholder interviews, an open design studio, and two public open houses intended to educate attendees about the planning process and solicit feedback on issues and opportunities for the downtown street network. Concurrent with the community engagement component of the process, the consultant team conducted traffic counts and on-site assessments of existing conditions.

Throughout the plan development process, the consultant team has been advised by a project management team consisting of staff from Community Development, Public Works, and Recreation and Culture; Planning Commission representative, Andrew Stabile; and Town Council representative, Andrew Aerenson.

The Downtown Complete Streets Draft Report is the culmination of several months of studying the existing conditions of the project area, gathering community input, designing and refining proposed street cross sections, and identifying key projects and priorities to help advance Town goals for enhanced multi-modal access for the downtown area. The draft plan contains several important elements that will impact future development and street improvements for the project area.

- **Defines new cross section designs for downtown streets** – The plan proposes classifying Granite, Galena, the numbered Avenues, and the Granite and Galena alleys as four distinct street types with cross sections designed to optimize the right of way space for the highest and best use. For example, Granite's new cross section proposes a sidewalk and parking along the northern edge of the street and a separated shared-use path on the southern edge to tie into the existing north-south rec paths along 2<sup>nd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup> Avenues. The street designs allow for improved pedestrian and bicycle safety and mobility while still effectively accommodating motorized transportation, parking, landscaping, and snow removal.
- **Policy recommendations** – The plan outlines key changes to the Town Code Chapter 155, *Streets, Minimum Street Design and Access Criteria*, and Chapter 180, *Unified Development Code*, that are required to support the implementation of plan recommendations. The code modifications include a variety of changes ranging from adopting and incorporating the Downtown Complete Streets Plan street types and cross section designs to updating design speed requirements and other design details.
- **Proposed Projects and Prioritization** – The plan provides a list of the projects and steps required to see the complete street improvements through to completion. The projects are divided between two categories – quick-build projects that can be implemented in a short time and at a low expense, in order to quickly begin achieving the goals and vision of the plan; and transformative projects that will have a bigger impact but will require more time and resources to achieve. Projects with longer timeframes have been broken down into separate steps for design and implementation. Cost estimates have been provided for budgeting purposes.

**Financial Impact:** There are no direct financial impacts associated with reviewing the draft Complete Streets Plan. The plan does propose planning and infrastructure projects in order to further the goals of the plan. An estimate of the project costs is included in the plan for budgetary purposes. Should Council decide to pursue one of the proposed projects a future budget allocation for that item will be required.

**Alignment with Strategic Plan:** The development of a complete streets plan for the downtown core, specifically Granite and Galena Streets, is a Strategic Priority for the Inclusive Community component of the 2020-2021 Strategic Plan.

**Environmental Sustainability:** Complete street designs help reduce the environmental impact of the road network. Most notably, complete streets promote low-emission travel through the provision of improved bicycle and pedestrian facilities and increased transit ridership. Complete street design can also incorporate improved storm water management through bio-swales and other landscape elements.

**Staff Recommendation:** The consultant team, led by Toole Design is here to present an overview of the plan draft and listen Town Council feedback. Staff recommends Town Council provide feedback and comments on the plan especially the proposed new cross section designs and project priorities.

**Reviews and Approvals:** This report has been reviewed and approved by:

Don Reimer, Community Development Director  
Leslie Edwards, Finance Director  
Diane McBride, Interim Town Manager

**Attachments:**

Exhibit A – Downtown Complete Streets Plan Draft