



2023 Listening Tour with Mayor Yemi & City Council

Infrastructure Feedback Report

Overview: This report provides a comprehensive list of feedback related to **INFRASTRUCTURE** captured during the seven-stop Listening Tour, which took place Aug. 4-Sept. 9. The tour included six district-specific listening sessions, one in each of the six Colorado Springs City Council districts, as well as one citywide virtual listening session. Asterisks (*) indicate how frequently a piece of feedback or a sentiment was repeated. Feedback that is listed under a specific district indicates which district listening session feedback was received at and does not necessarily reflect feedback solely from residents who live in that district.

District 1

- Fix roadways (potholes).*
- Major traffic corridors don't have sufficient capacity.
- Need more public transportation.***
- Boost residential solar.
- Good economic growth in city, but infrastructure not keeping up.***
- Public transportation options need to be better (cleaner, more efficient, nicer) to incentivize more use.
- City is 'too addicted to cars' – need comprehensive public transportation throughout city.*****
- Need more bike-friendly lanes, infrastructure.**
- Sad that City Auditorium project is not moving forward (see additional comment regarding a ballot initiative).
- Need a 'regional' comprehensive public transit system for Front Range.*****
- Better participation in Front Range Rail projects.*****
- Expand PikeRide to more neighborhoods.**
- Use smaller buses to service more routes.**
- Powers Corridor needs more overpasses / less stoplights / alternative to I-25.****
- City curbs and sidewalks are not in good condition.
- Colorado Springs Utilities is 'good at public relations.'
- City needs light rail.
- 'Love free bus days'.*
- 'Hate traffic pattern on the bridge over Fillmore'.
- City needs unified municipal waste company / plan.
- City needs recycling centers / better recycling options.
- 'We need higher taxes to fund better infrastructure'.
- Need better east – west transit options.

- 'Stormwater control is good in Austin Bluffs neighborhood'.
- Restore parks, recreation, and cultural services budget to pre-recession levels.***
- Provide equitable distribution of parks and parks services throughout the city.**
- Put forward a ballot initiative to fund City Auditorium.***
- Put forward city bonds to fund City Auditorium.
- Need more city-funded dog parks, not just HOAs/neighborhood ones.**
- Garden of the Gods roadways need a dedicated bike lane.
- City needs to fund more youth sports options.
- Reclaim the old mining quarry on the west side as publicly accessible open space.

District 2

- Affordable housing must have public transportation access onsite or nearby.
- Colorado Springs Utilities does not have any accountability because of relationship with City Council.
- Citywide traffic study needed; some areas consistently bottlenecked.
- Require new roadways to have multi-modal transportation included (sidewalks, bike lanes).
- 'Abbey Detention Pond' for stormwater near Wolf Ranch overflows and is destroying adjacent properties.
- Developers should be required to build solar into new homes and developments.
- Traffic studies are done at the wrong time of the year.*
- Traffic problems getting much worse.***
- City public transportation is severely lacking; need more multi-modal public options.*****
- City needs a 'metro system' or light rail system for better public transportation.***
- Need Front Range Rail for connection to Denver.***
- Northern neighborhoods 'need downtown's biking infrastructure'.
- Offer more incentives for smart thermostats, native plants, less grass, more conservation.
- City lets weeds, natural grasses get way too long and out of control in medians and other public spaces – ugly and fire danger.**
- Colorado Springs Utilities has better customer experience 'than most other utilities'.
- City needs to build an east side highway or bypass – major north-south roadway without traffic lights.
- City roads in terrible condition.
- Not enough electric vehicle chargers in Colorado Springs.**
- Get Powers to I-25 connection completed.***
- Powers corridor needs sound barrier walls.
- Old Ranch Road needs bike lanes.
- Trash is expensive, recycling is not robust, and composting services not available.
- Roadways around the new amphitheater need to be expanded / built before it opens, including Powers connection.
- PikeRide needs better funding from city.
- Powers Corridor needs a dedicated bus line.

- East to West roadways in the city are severely lacking; need more than just Woodmen Rd.**

District 3

- Create community benefit agreement for Mill Street neighborhood related to decommissioning of Drake.*
- Build affordable housing, community center on Drake site.
- Sidewalks downtown need improvement / repair / better ADA access and 'walkability'.*****
- Free mass transit (ZEB) is very beneficial.
- Bathrooms needed at public parks / spaces downtown.**
- Create more public awareness about energy efficiency improvements / green energy initiatives.***
- Need better recycling options, especially downtown.***
- Water conservation should be prioritized in new development plans.*
- Ensure that developers deliver on promised parks & park funding.
- Potholes are major problem throughout the city.****
- Cleanup needed along Fountain Creek, want COS Creek plan to go through.*
- East-west connectivity is lacking.****
- Need better senior centers throughout the city.**
- Need rail-based public transportation options, more public transit in general.***
- Need rail connection north-south along I-25 & Front Range.**
- West side of city needs better stormwater drainage.
- City public transit is too confusing and not well funded.*
- Have more programs to help lower-income residents afford energy saving goods, greener energy.
- City buses need to be cleaner / feel safer.
- City needs to improve alleyways downtown and along S. Nevada for pedestrian safety.
- Invest in more solar power production, sustainability in general.***
- Public transit is 'incomplete' – some areas of town are completely inaccessible by public transit.
- Do not allow overhead power lines to cut across Concrete Couch property / downtown Colorado Springs.
- Reimagining the Old Colorado City Interurban Railway – the City needs improved public mass transit, including trams.
- Develop habitable spaces, including wooden structures in residential areas with walkable zones constructed close along the street.
- Parks funding has not been restored beyond 2007 levels, need to increase funding.***
- Upgrade Pioneers Museum.
- Love all the artwork / sculptures / activities downtown Colorado Springs.*

District 4

- Too many utility service outages in Southeast Colorado Springs; not reliable infrastructure.
- Need potholes in roadways to be fixed; not often being fixed 'correctly the first time'.
- D4 needs more green space, bike paths, and public transportation.

- Invest in better public transportation.*
- Construction too often blocks access to businesses and sidewalks.
- Need more greenery to reduce urban heat island effect; too much concrete.
- 'Should not have to pay a fee to pay Colorado Springs Utilities bills'.
- 'Took 2 hours to do a 5 mile bus trip – fix the buses'.
- Lots of streets with no sidewalks at all.**
- Need late night bus service.
- Commuter traffic is getting worse in Colorado Springs.
- Healthcare transportation is a problem.
- Not enough east-west transit corridors.
- Need more pro-active support and work on Front Range Rail project.*****
- Need more regional public transportation.
- Make solar street lights a priority.
- Good to see Drake decommissioning; redevelop it for something better.
- Need consolidated trash services, better recycling services.**
- Need public restrooms in Colorado Springs.**
- City's roadway medians are 'ugly, full of weeds, not maintained'.*
- Panorama Park is excellent, need more.
- City parks / forestry understaffed and underfunded.
- City needs relationship with YMCA – 'why have the pools closed?'
- City could provide more jobs for high school students in parks department.
- The 17th tee at Valley Hi has a 'lake that stinks'.
- 'City has to get out of bed with the YMCA'.
- Closure of Garden Ranch YMCA 'did youth a huge disservice'.
- Make Pikes Peak more affordable for families.

District 5

- Fix the east/west corridor issue.****
- Platte and Boulder not enough for east-west travel.
- Need public restrooms, perhaps even public showers.
- Don't make Platte and Boulder one-way streets.
- Sidewalks need to be fixed and maintained; better ADA access needed.*****
- Potholes need to be fixed, better road maintenance.**
- Yampa, Cache la Poudre, and Hancock have stormwater drainage problems.
- Hancock bus #12 route seems to strand people and senior citizens.
- More handicapped parking is needed downtown Colorado Springs.
- Is bus system still going to serve Hancock & Golf Acres after work is done at Golf Acres office park?
- Trails north of Uintah are nice.
- Upgrades needed to Monument Valley Park (to boost economy?).
- Stop removing trees in sidewalk / curb repairs.
- Bike lanes in Downtown / D5 are liked.

- Bike lanes need to be bigger.
- Need more multi-modal and public transportation.*****
- Need more public transit to military bases.
- Would be willing to pay more in taxes for better parks and cultural services.
- Traffic congestion is becoming an issue.*
- 'Taking an average of 7 years to get sidewalk work done.'
- Not enough bike infrastructure on roadways.
- Need to bury more electric lines, stop overhead lines (views, fire hazard, wind hazard).***
- Road construction – 'every road closed at the same time.'
- Appreciated free bus services this summer.**
- COS water services are great.**
- Like roundabouts, taxes well used for their installation, but public needs education on how to use properly.
- Need better smart traffic control / smart and timed stoplights.**
- Colorado Ave needs traffic calming measures.
- Need more xeriscaping.*
- Parking meters are good Downtown but shouldn't be used outside of downtown Colorado Springs.
- Parking meters charge too much and ending at 10pm is 'too late.'
- Expanding too much out east for water to keep up – not sustainable.
- City needs to do more to maintain city trees.
- Need municipal-run trash and recycling, too many different companies, tearing up streets and alleys, need zero-waste and composting centers.****
- 'Does the city have plans to recycle water?'
- Build a riverwalk (COS Creek Plan).**
- Support sustainable energy / utilities, more solar.***
- Need more sustainable / electric buses.*
- Do more for 'climate resiliency' – more trees and shade, use grey water to irrigate.
- Drake closed too soon.
- Need more park inter-connectivity, transportation via greenways.
- Restore city parks & rec budget.
- TOPS program is good.
- Support horticultural programs.

District 6

- Colorado Springs infrastructure is in poor condition****
- Need better public transport, especially in low-income areas**
- Build a light rail network.
- Not enough money being spent on roads and sidewalks****
- Many sidewalks / areas of the city are not safe for ADA access.
- Do construction crews provide warranty to the city for work completed to ensure poor workmanship isn't costing city extra money? *

- City planners 'more supportive of developers than citizens'*****
- City planners 'sloppy'**
- 'Crappy Tutt expansion'
- Potholes are dangerous and out of control***
- Increase reliance on clean energy*
- Utility rates are getting too high**
- Streetlights are being turned off or dimmed.
- What is happening with Drake site?
- Credit cards are barrier to access some forms of transit like e-bikes.
- Need recycling Downtown.
- Encourage more environmentally friendly city services and utilities*.
- City stop lights poorly timed / not 'smart'**
- Create a city 'wealth tax' on ultra-rich residents to fund new infrastructure.
- Restrict new development until roads are built to 'catch up' to demand**
- Need urban trails in D6.
- Need better East – West travel corridors**
- Build roundabouts instead of traffic lights.
- Build youth rec centers on the east side of the city.

Virtual (Citywide)

- Mayor should host an infrastructure-specific listening tour.
- City needs to centralize trash and recycling; too many service companies.***
- Need better public transportation system.**
- Need better ADA access to public transportation.
- Buses need to be cleaner, safer.
- Lack of walkability is hurting lower income individuals, preventing creation of 'community'.*
- Need to implement more 'smart traffic' solutions.
- Create more bike-friendly infrastructure.*
- 'Love Colorado Springs Utilities – appreciate their efforts for water conservation and environmental friendliness'.
- Public transportation 'doesn't reach Powers'; need better routes around the city.
- City's sidewalks and curbs are not being maintained, not ADA-compliant.*
- Use more roundabouts, roundabouts help slow down people who speed.
- Need better snow removal response time.
- More efforts to improving potholes, bike lanes, bike paths.
- City Forestry needs to improve greenery on roadways around town – 'every street should look like Nevada [in Old North End]'.
- Increase funding to Forestry Department – need more trees around city, ensure they stay alive by watering them.
- SE neighborhoods need more tree canopy.
- Increase funding for parks.