



I. INTRODUCTION

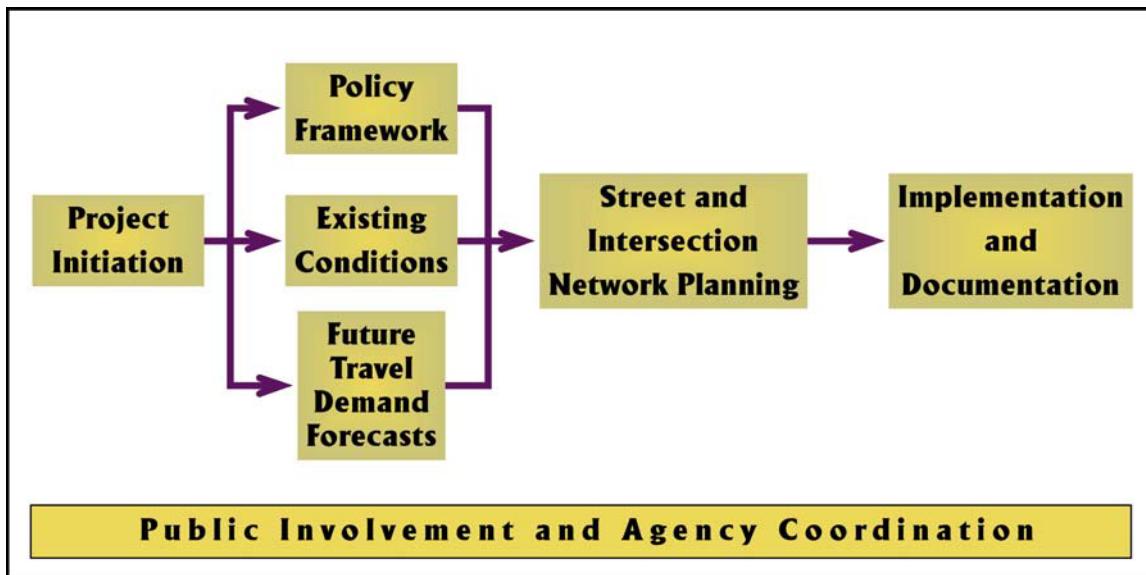
The Town of Milliken is a growing community located six miles east of I-25 in Weld County. Milliken serves primarily as a “bedroom” community having strong interactions with larger cities in Larimer and Weld Counties. Milliken currently has a population of 6,300 (2008); recent Census Bureau data show that Milliken’s population has approximately doubled since 2000. The Town expects to see both residential and commercial development continue in the foreseeable future.



A. *Purpose and Approach*

Transportation is a major component of community planning, and in response to the recent growth in the area, the Town has chosen to update its Transportation Master Plan. This plan contains recommendations and guidelines for various areas of transportation planning. It contains a multi-modal network plan that is intended to accommodate projected growth through 2035, and it includes a list of projects that would be necessary to realize the plan. Right-of-way requirements to accommodate buildout of the community are also identified within the plan. This plan contains guidelines to assist staff and policy makers in reviewing development and transportation improvements. It is intended that this plan be flexible enough to accommodate future revisions and adjustments as conditions dictate. As this plan is being completed in November 2008, the Town has initiated an update to the Comprehensive Plan. When the Comprehensive Plan or another major planning effort (such as a downtown economic development plan) is finalized, the Transportation Master Plan should be reviewed and updated to reflect changes in basic assumptions (such as forecasted land use, density, the pace of growth, etc.) or different goals and objectives for the community as expressed by residents.

The development of the Transportation Plan involved a number of specific tasks, coordination, and feedback from the public, elected officials, and staff involved in the study. Based on the policies and goals of the Town’s 2004 Comprehensive Plan, the first task was the development of the policy framework for the plan. At the same time, an inventory of existing transportation system and areas of deficiencies were documented so that immediate needs could be identified. Current and projected socio-economic data were obtained and used to update the travel demand model that was used to project future traffic. A list of short term, mid term, and long term needs was developed that serves as the basis for the Capital Improvement Plan. In addition, the Town’s streets and traffic design criteria were reviewed and updated. The diagram below depicts a flow chart of the sequence of the major work items comprising the project approach.



An essential part of the transportation planning process has been public participation. The community outreach program solicited public input at two key phases in the process. A public open house was held early in the process (May 15, 2008) to present the existing conditions and to ask citizens for their input on transportation needs and concerns. Attendees were asked to complete a brief survey and provide written comments, which are included in **Appendix A**. Near the end of the planning process, the public was invited to attend an Open House meeting (September 17, 2008) before a Planning Commission meeting at which the draft Transportation Plan was presented for discussion and comment. Workshops with the Town Board and the Planning Commission were held on April 23, 2008 and on August 13, 2008.

B. *Planning Efforts in the Milliken Area*

There have been several planning efforts and studies completed in the Milliken area in recent years that have been prepared by both regional and local agencies. Each of these efforts, as listed below, has been used to varying degrees in the development of the Transportation Plan.

- ▶ *Milliken Comprehensive Plan, 2004*
- ▶ *Johnstown, Milliken & Windsor Short-Range Transit Plan, November 2006*
- ▶ *Johnstown/Milliken Parks, Trails, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan, June 2003*
- ▶ *SH 60 Environmental Overview Study, March 2007*
- ▶ *SH 60 Access Control Plan, March 2007*
- ▶ *US 34 Corridor Optimization Plan, May 2003*
- ▶ *US 34 Access Control Plan, May 2003*
- ▶ *US 85 Access Control Plan, December 1999*
- ▶ *Two Rivers Parkway Alternative Alignment Study*
- ▶ *North Front Range 2035 Regional Transportation Plan, December 2007*



- ▶ *North I-25 Environmental Impact Statement* (in process)
- ▶ *Johnstown Transportation Master Plan*, February 2008
- ▶ *Greeley Comprehensive Transportation Plan*, June 2002
- ▶ *City of Evans Transportation Plan*, March 2004
- ▶ *Weld County Roadway Classification Plan*, June 2002
- ▶ *Weld County Comprehensive Plan* (draft – in process)

C. *Transportation Goals*

A work session with Town Board members, Planning Commissioners and staff was held to establish the policy framework for the Transportation Plan. Based on input received at the work session, the following Policy Recommendations, Goals and Objectives have been established to guide in the development of this plan and to provide direction for future transportation improvements.

Policy Recommendations

1. Coordinate with CDOT, Weld County, Fire District, and the School District to implement the *Milliken Transportation Master Plan*.
2. Improve pedestrian access within existing neighborhoods and require good pedestrian connections for all new development.
3. Implement short term solutions to reduce truck traffic through downtown and implement future truck route to minimize through truck travel through downtown.
4. Promote the development of a transit shuttle with services to Fort Collins, Greeley, Loveland, Windsor, and Johnstown.
5. Provide off-street parking to promote “near-to-shopping” convenience adjacent to downtown (as conditions warrant).
6. Maximize the opportunities presented by the existing rail line that runs through Town.
7. Proactively pursue the potential of a commuter rail station for downtown Milliken.
8. Improve regional airport facilities.
9. Address traffic issues with appropriate signaling, signing and enforcement.
10. Identify regional transportation needs and participate in planning efforts.
11. Amend the Transportation Master Plan, where necessary, to provide consistency with the Smart Growth and Placemaking Goals of the Comprehensive Plan.



Goals and Objectives

Goal #1: Provide a safe, efficient, attractive transportation system that promotes all modes of transportation and is sensitive to the environment.

Objectives:

- A. Implement the *Milliken Transportation Master Plan* as the community grows.
- B. Review and update the Town's *Transportation Master Plan* as development occurs.
- C. Establish a safe street, sidewalk and trails network that accommodates the future land use and development plan for the community by establishing the trails network identified in the *Johnstown/Milliken Parks, Trails, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan*.
- D. Support implementation of the Preferred Alternative identified in the *Johnstown, Milliken, and Windsor Short-Range Transit Plan*.
- E. Support implementation of *SH 60 Access Control Plan* and recommendations from *SH 60 Environmental Overview Study*.
- F. Require new development to identify transportation impacts associated with the project and provide safe and efficient access to local and regional transportation systems.
- G. Preserve adequate right-of-way to accommodate the transportation needs associated with buildup of the Town.
- H. Establish a transportation impact fee so that new development pays a fair share for the impacts to the transportation network within the community.

Goal #2: Minimize the impacts of local and regional traffic traveling through Town.

Objectives:

- A. Cooperate with CDOT to actively pursue various measures to reduce the speed of traffic on SH 60 (Broad Street) and SH 257.
- B. Provide safe pedestrian crossings at key intersections on Broad Street using bulb outs, angled parking, and other means, where possible.
- C. Provide safe, off street, pedestrian access along SH 60 between Milliken and Johnstown.
- D. Adopt a policy and guidelines for transportation impact studies for all new development and require new development to identify transportation impacts associated with the project so they can be mitigated.



- E. Establish a level of service standard so that new development is responsible for mitigating their impacts to maintain the standard level of service for nearby roadways.
- F. Actively monitor and participate in regional transportation issues and planning efforts.
- G. Establish and develop easily accessible public parking areas.
- H. Work with CDOT to implement alternative truck routes to minimize through truck travel through downtown.

Goal #3: Design and construct pedestrian friendly, attractive streets and sidewalks to ensure their proper function and reinforce Milliken's small town character using the principles of Smart Growth.

Objectives:

- A. Require all new development to comply with the Community Design Principles for Transportation established in the Milliken Land Use Code.
- B. Enhance pedestrian and bicycle connections to the Town's parks, schools, open spaces and activity areas such as downtown, and other commercial areas.
- C. Upgrade streets and sidewalks in the older parts of Town as necessary.
- D. Increase traffic enforcement in areas around schools and through the downtown.
- E. Cooperate with Johnstown, Weld County and other surrounding communities to expand trail links to surrounding communities, open space areas and regional trail systems.
- F. Encourage the use of roundabouts at key locations in the Town to provide traffic control that is also aesthetically pleasing and safer.
- G. Maximize street connectivity and minimize roadway right-of-way and street width, where possible.



D. Acknowledgements

Town Board

- ▶ Mayor Janie Lichtfuss
- ▶ Mayor Pro-Tem Ted Chavez
- ▶ Collen Anthony
- ▶ Julie Cozad
- ▶ Jack Eckert
- ▶ Milt Tokunaga
- ▶ Peggy Wakeman

Planning Commission

- ▶ Rich Ekwall
- ▶ Dave Bernhardt
- ▶ Linda Measner
- ▶ Dave Watson
- ▶ Kim Wheeler
- ▶ Tim Woodcock

Town Staff

- ▶ Sheryl Trent – Town Administrator
- ▶ Mike Woodruff – Public Works Director
- ▶ Steve House – Community Development Director
- ▶ Karen Bryant – Associate Planner