

Southeast Strong Survey Results Analysis

October 18th - November 30th, 2024

Reflect and Celebrate Our Diverse Culture

- Propose creating cultural spaces like a permanent building for a year-round farmer's market/craft center, veteran's park, children's museum, western heritage/ranching museum, Native American center, Hispanic center, and a Buffalo Soldier museum to honor diverse histories and traditions.
- Establish an art district with local artists, muralists, and youth programs to beautify the area and celebrate Southeast COS culture.
- Organize city-sponsored events like festivals and markets to enhance community pride and attract visitors.
- Develop programs showcasing and directly supporting the unique cultures of the community.
- Promote diverse businesses, restaurants, and entertainment to reflect and serve the community.

Upgrade How We Move

- Improve public transportation infrastructure, including expanding bus routes with sheltered stops and ADA-compliant sidewalks.
- Encourage walkability and biking with better-maintained sidewalks, bike paths, and universal design features.
- Implement bike and scooter-sharing programs to make transit more accessible and sustainable.
- Repair and maintain main thoroughfares and side streets to improve safety and reduce congestion.
- Provide better lighting on streets, intersections, and trails to improve nighttime safety.

Support Our Safety

- Address pedestrian safety, especially near schools and high-traffic areas, with speed bumps, crosswalk guards, and visible traffic control measures.
- Increase police presence and patrols to deter crime and foster trust between officers and the community.

- Remove homeless encampments near residential and commercial areas, providing resources or transportation to shelters.
- Support initiatives like neighborhood watch programs, focusing on youth safety and community engagement.
- Ensure parks and public spaces are drug-free and safe for children and families.
- Install smart lighting and maintain clear sightlines in public spaces to reduce potential hiding spots for criminal activity.

Grow and Support Our Housing

- Encourage homeownership over rentals to foster a sense of pride and community investment.
- Incremental growth over fast development of dense housing and focus on creating open spaces and parks improvements as amenities for area residents.
- Enforce stricter regulations on property maintenance for landlords to maintain the quality of rentals through City Code Enforcement and partnerships with local non-profit cleanup efforts.
- Report on indicators of change where developing housing markets could create at risk neighborhoods with detailed breakdown of housing costs in the Southeast for better transparency.
- Develop tree programs and open space initiatives to improve air quality and reduce the effects of the urban heat island to improve the aesthetics and quality of life in residential areas.

Grow And Support Our Businesses And Entrepreneurs

- While preserving existing local small businesses, attract big-box retailers like Trader Joe's, Whole Foods, and Sprouts to anchor the local economy.
- Develop incentives for grocery stores and larger retail businesses to open in the area to support job growth for area residents
- Support small businesses with façade improvements, landscaping, and affordable advertising opportunities.
- Establish programs for startup businesses, including discounted rent or grants for the first 3-6 months.
- Encourage partnerships between businesses and the city for community events and educational initiatives.

- Advocate for fair pricing practices in fuel and other essential goods to prevent economic disparity.

Education

- Provide more funding for local schools to support tutoring, extracurricular activities, and sports programs.
- Collaborate with organizations like Pikes Peak United Way to create educational opportunities and support family success.
- Expand job placement and internship programs for older youth to ensure career readiness.
- Offer affordable spaces and resources for youth activities and community engagement programs.

Create Special Places and Community Hubs

- Redevelop and expand Van Diest Park and other parks to include green spaces, play areas, and sports facilities.
- Establish a Meanwhile Block at Mission Trace or underutilized areas for temporary community and business uses.
- Clean up areas like Mission Trace Shopping Center and Astrozon Boulevard to make them attractive and functional community hubs.
- Maintain landscaping along streets and medians to improve aesthetics.

Live Better Live Longer

- Prioritize beautification and safety. More natural landscapes will help with the pollution, utilize open spaces for parks, maybe a wildflower park.
- Revision the area brownfield site, the former land fill site at Astrozon, to be a park connected to Sand Creek and the trail, developing a natural area counteracts the harmful effects of industrial pollution to the south in the area. Furniture and trash are dumped there.
- Community vision for walkable neighborhoods, encourage e-bikes, and bike share programs as well.
- Focus on a tree canopy, priorities care and upkeep of the trees and create a tree program for homeowners.

- Clean up homeless camps near Sand Creek trail and create a greenway connecting the trail to other city trail systems.
- Maintenance of existing landscaping along city streets in the SE area needs attention, weed control in the medians.
- Disallow large iron storage facilities, such as the ones on Jet Wing – creates blight and invites crime.
- More lighting at street corners and Sand Creek trail for safety and to attract visitors to the Southeast for food, art, and culture at night.

Road Issues

1. Hancock and Academy Intersection

- Daily congestion and traffic flow issues require redesign or traffic light timing improvements.

2. Jet Wing and Fountain Boulevard

- Crumbling road edges and potholes make driving hazardous; urgent resurfacing and maintenance needed.

3. Harrier Ridge Road in Soaring Eagles

- High pedestrian and vehicle crash rates near schools; recommend speed bumps, crossing guards, or police presence.

4. Hancock Expressway (North Side)

- Lack of sidewalks forces families and individuals with strollers or wheelchairs to walk in the street. Construct complete sidewalks for safety.

5. S. Chelton Road and Clarendon Drive

- High-speed stop sign violations at this 4-way stop; potential for accidents. Consider traffic calming measures like raised crosswalks.

6. South Academy Boulevard Construction Impact

- Previous construction disrupted business access and cut profits by 50%. Include profit-loss analysis and better business planning for future projects.

7. Speeding on Jet Wing

- Racing cars and motorcycles near schools and residential areas necessitate stricter enforcement, stop signs, and traffic lights.

8. Fountain Boulevard Maintenance

- Roads are crumbling, medians are unkempt, and sand along curbs creates sliding hazards. Require CDOT maintenance improvements