Mile High Connects (MHC) is a multi-sector collaborative ensuring the Denver region’s transit system helps people access opportunity by connecting to affordable housing, healthy environments, quality education, and good-paying jobs.

While our policy focus and partners work across the region, in 2016, Mile High Connects will focus its place-based work in these geographies.

**ISSUE AREAS**

- Transit
- Health
- Education
- Housing
- Jobs

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**2016 WORKPLAEN**

- Engaging Residents
- Influencing Policy
- Leveraging Resources
**Priority Areas**

**Affordable Housing and Community Facilities**
- Preserve and create affordable housing and community serving facilities near transit
- Strengthen and promote renter protections for communities near transit
- Increase and align financial resources for affordable housing and community serving facilities

**Business, Local Workforce and Middle-Skilled Jobs**
- Connect community to good jobs at anchor institutions
- Connect community to middle skilled jobs in the construction industry
- Connect community to alternate paths to economic opportunity
- Support and incent businesses providing good jobs and community services to locate near transit

**First and Last Mile Connections**
- Enhance regional understanding of resources and strategies for first and last mile solutions
- Improve first and last mile connections in neighborhoods and job centers
- Increase and align financial resources for first and last mile infrastructure

**Key Strategies**

**EQUITABLE TRANSIT-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT**
- Drive discussion about regional affordable housing preservation goals and identify resources for preservation of prioritized properties
- Promote adoption of affordable housing preservation ordinances in cities outside of Denver
- Deploy regional Transit Oriented Development Fund
- Identify opportunities and work with developer partners to create affordable housing
- Build resident and stakeholder coalition to identify and advocate for local housing policies to prevent displacement and protect renters
- Support development of sustainable revenue streams for affordable housing at state and local levels
- Advocate for expiring tax increment financing to be dedicated to affordable housing
- Seek opportunities to create quality child care and early childhood education in transit oriented development sites
- Create mechanism to bring impact investment to affordable housing and community facilities deals

**BUSINESS, LOCAL WORKFORCE AND MIDDLE-SKILLED JOBS**
- Survey residents in prioritized geographies to understand needs, interests, and barriers relating to employment and economic opportunity
- Identify and engage with anchor institutions and other large employers near transit and support hiring local workforce based
- Partner with construction industry and apprenticeship programs to bring enhanced awareness of employment opportunities in construction
- Ensure training programs and employment pipelines are prioritizing communities of color and low-income communities
- Advocate with urban renewal authority for creation and/or meaningful use of employment and training opportunity funds
- Advocate for developers to include local hire provisions for construction
- Work with partners to explore child care co-ops and indentify other community wealth building opportunities in local neighborhoods
- Develop pipeline of community-oriented businesses and organizations who could be tenants in new or redeveloping transit areas
- Develop financing mechanism to support developers in putting community-serving tenants in transit oriented development

**AFFORDABLE HOUSES AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES**
- Convene and manage Affordable Fares Task Force
- Work with RTD to build out administration of low-income fare and pass program
- Cultivate and secure investors and support RTD in prioritizing its resources for low-income fare and pass program
- Support RTD in marketing changes to Nonprofit Fares Program
- Participate with RTD in broader evaluation of fare and pass discount programs and advocate for changes to support affordability
- Participate with City of Denver and Denver Public Schools in incorporating transportation benefit into MyDenver card
- Utilize UCD and DRCOG research methodology to help RTD better identify lifeline service routes
- Work with RTD around stakeholder and community engagement in service changes
- Monitor service changes and support resident-led efforts to preserve or reinstate key service routes

**FIRST AND LAST MILE CONNECTIONS**
- Share completed study on national, state, and local funding landscape with community and decision-makers
- Research the return on investment and conduct an equity analysis of first and last mile investments in the region
- Host WalkScope events for residents near newly opening transit lines
- Develop resident leadership training curriculum on advocating for local first and last mile solutions
- Identify first and last mile connection needs in prioritized geographies
- Convene stakeholders to engage in solutions around addressing needs

**ACCESSIBLE TRANSIT**