



Dec. 21, 2021

Ryan Tefertiller, Urban Planning Manager
Lt. Mark Chacon, CSPD
City of Colorado Springs

Dear Mr. Tefertiller and Lt. Chacon,

I am writing in regard to the proposed amendment to the Pedestrian Access Act.

Since its adoption in 2016, the Pedestrian Access Act has proved effective in creating safer pedestrian rights of way on Downtown streets. This has become even more important in recent months as 1) Downtown is experiencing a greater number of pedestrians due to the construction of new hotels and apartments; and 2) the growing use of, and need for, micromobility services, delivery services, etc., which is increasing the demands upon public rights of way to ensure reasonable access and passage for all people.

Further, as we had noted when this act was adopted, Downtown continues to provide more public seating than anywhere else in the city, as well as the opportunity for people to rest in our urban parks. We continue our commitment to public seating options so that no one needs to sit or lie in a manner blocking public passage.

As we all have seen, Downtown's commercial footprint is rapidly expanding, and with that comes increased pedestrian activity. In general, Downtown Partnership supports expansion of the Pedestrian Access Act boundaries.

However, we cannot support the expanded boundaries as proposed because they do not include an urban area undergoing meaningful growth and activity through large private investments. As I had recommended in earlier discussions, it is advisable to include the properties in the eastern portion of the DDA boundaries, which will be experiencing significant change in the near term, necessitating the support of the Pedestrian Access Act. In particular:

- Two apartment complexes now under construction in that area will add 538 units to our urban core and an estimated 750 new residents who will be walking Downtown sidewalks on a daily basis, particularly along Pikes Peak Avenue, an identified pedestrian priority street in the Downtown master plan.
- The increasing growth and activity in and around the Catalyst Campus and its adjacent properties also portends increased pedestrian activity in the near term.
- New commercial businesses such as 1350 Distilling and Mash Mechanix, and more to come, are responding to this new demand on the eastern side of Downtown.



For these reasons, it is advisable to include the portions of the DDA boundary east of Wahsatch, which are experiencing rapid new commercial and multifamily activity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan Edmondson".

Susan Edmondson
President & CEO