



January 13, 2017

Jeff Greene, Chief of Staff
Bob Cope, Economic Development Manager
Aaron B. Egbert, P.E., Sr. Civil Engineer
Ryan Tefertiller, Urban Planning Manager
Carl Schueler, Comprehensive Planning Manager
City of Colorado Springs
30 South Nevada Avenue
Colorado Springs, CO 80903

RE: Shooks Run Corridor Facilities Master Plan

Dear Gentlemen,

Please consider this correspondence a follow-up to my previous letters dated December 4, 2016 and December 20, 2016. After attending the Development Review Board hearing and spending many hours with the City's Shooks Run Facility Master Plan team, I believe we have reached a mutual compromise on several of issues identified by Catalyst Campus as potentially problematic, as follows:

1. The 'Pedestrian Corridor to Greenway' that previously bifurcated the Catalyst Campus parking lot, and eliminated internal vehicular and pedestrian connectivity was eliminated. In addition, the FMP plan identifies a previously discussed East Colorado Bike and Pedestrian bridge connecting Catalyst Campus to the Nor'wood property on the east side of Shooks Run.
2. Pursuant to Catalyst's potential acquisition of the BNSF and Transit Mix sites, the FMP team created an alternative, Redevelopment Option #2 as an inset within **Section VI., Subsection C. – Urban Waterway Segment** that illustrates the following options:
 - a. Elimination of a Cucharras Street vehicular bridge crossing;
 - b. Elimination of the South Corona Street and East Cucharras Street grid connection;
 - c. A possible vehicular entrance from East Costilla Street; and
 - d. Revision of the wording at East Vermijo Street from to expand possible development options at the entrance to the urban waterway space.

In addition, the FMP team has tirelessly worked with Catalyst Campus to accommodate both our planning recommendations and language revisions in various sections of the master plan document. Catalyst respectfully requests a continued 'participation role' in the creation of the Sustainable Infrastructure Plan specifically related to **Section VI., Subsection C. – Urban Waterway Segment** in order to:

1. Better understand City priorities (required vs. desired improvements), funding/financial plan, phasing of improvement and on-going maintenance obligations/sustainability of the proposed infrastructure improvements;
2. Continue to communicate updates regarding the potential acquisition and/or development of the BNSF and Transit Mix sites;
3. Communicate private market forces/opportunities, funding sources and recommended improvements that may play a role in the future development property to the south of Catalyst Campus;
4. Understand and participate in any policy recommendations regarding developer financial obligations related to the FMP and SIP proposed improvements.

As stated in previous letters, Catalyst Campus would have preferred that a companion Sustainable Infrastructure Plan (SIP) be approved in conjunction with the Facilities Master Plan. However, given the scope and timing of the plan, we have reached an understanding with the City's FMP team that additional details will be provided with the SIP.

A special thank you to Ryan Tefertiller, Carl Schueler and Aaron Egbert for their patience and cooperation in negotiating these issues with Catalyst Campus!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ingrid Richter". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ingrid Richter, Executive Director
Catalyst Campus for Technology & Innovation

cc: Susan Edmondson & Sarah Humbargar, Downtown Partnership



January 11, 2016

2017 GCS

To: Envision Shooks Run planning team

This memo serves as an update to an opinion issued November 2016 on the draft plan for the Envision Shooks Run Facilities Master Plan.

In our initial letter, our primary concerns were:

- Plan longevity and possible creation of uncertain conditions when schedule is left unaddressed;
- The amendment process should not be the same for short term and long term improvements;
- Consideration for private sector development plans and maintenance of new public spaces;
- Consideration for long range transit planning.

The planning team has provided us with edits to be made to the final plan. These additions to the plan satisfy our concerns with creating uncertainty around schedule and project prioritization as the additions better outline the roles of the Facilities Master Plan versus the Sustainable Infrastructure Plan, and also improve our understanding of the amendment process to the FMP, which was an additional concern. The additions also have better addressed transit as part of the plan.

We sincerely thank the project team for taking the time to make these additions that more clearly outline the role of the FMP and the vision for the corridor with consideration towards effective plan implementation over the long range plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sarah Humbargar".

Sarah Humbargar
Director of Business Development & Economic Vitality

January 18, 2017

TO: Colorado Springs City Council
107 North Nevada Avenue, #300
Colorado Springs, CO 80903

FROM: Nancy I. Brown
1127 North Prospect Street
Colorado Springs, CO 80903

RE: Approval of Shooks Run Facilities Master Plan

I live at the intersection of East Uintah and North Prospect. Shooks Run flows through my property. I am also a citizen member of the Envision Shooks Run Committee. I am writing in support of the Shooks Run Facilities Master Plan.

The Shooks Run Corridor is a historical asset to our city. The area between the Patty Jewett Golf Course and the Fountain Creek corridor has long been overlooked and underutilized by the City. The members of the Envision Shooks Run Committee have met for at least a year, researching and examining all aspects of the corridor. Great care has been taken to gather input from the immediate community and applicable city departments --- this due diligence is reflected in the Shooks Run Facilities Master Plan.

While there are numerous and admirable aspects of the proposed Facilities Master Plan, I am most directly concerned with the aging and undersized drainage structure of the corridor. This seriously impacts our overall stormwater drainage system.

I would urge you to carefully study the proposed Master Plan and lend your support by your approval. Your approval will ensure long-term support for the Shooks Run Corridor for the next thirty to fifty years.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Brown

Charles H. Castle

January 17, 2017

Colorado Springs City Council
107 North Nevada Avenue, Suite 300
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80903

Re: Approval of the Envision Shooks Run Facilities Master Plan

Dear Councilmembers,

Being in Colorado Springs is like living a postcard! Our City is a beautiful area to visit for a vacation or live and work here every day. One of our gems is the Shooks Run Corridor – it's approximately four miles long from Patty Jewett Golf Course to Fountain Creek and one mile wide from downtown going east.

When the Envision Shooks Run committee began, our Parks Board appointed me to be the Liaison on its Steering Committee. In meeting once a month, we have mapped out potential directions, listened to the Shooks Run neighbors at public meetings and given feedback to City staff and consultants. Some pessimists and naysayers have commented to me, "*Why spend time developing a plan to address creek infrastructure, decaying bridges, aging and undersized drainage structures and a lot of other needs...when we don't have money?*"

As a realist and an optimist, my answers have been and are:

1. By having an Envision Shooks Run Facilities Master Plan, opportunities for grants, federal/state funds, etc. can be identified and matched to those plans in the future;
2. Neighborhoods along Shooks Run may decide to incentivize, tax themselves to create opportunities, create community with fun projects – thereby increasing their property values;
3. As a city, Colorado Springs already has an identity dilemma. Neighborhoods are not defined with signage and distinctions that make them unique and close-knit. Shooks Run neighborhoods have the opportunity to define who they are...similar to Old North End, Old Colorado City, etc. It's better for business, because business owners know who their customers are and who to advertise and market to. And, when neighbors are connecting with neighbors – it's great for all of us!

I implore you to approve the Envision Shooks Run Facilities Master Plan!

Although I am a member of the Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Advisory Board and the Liaison to Envision Shooks Run, this is my personal opinion. No City funds or resources were used for this letter.

Sincerely,

Charles H. Castle

Community Relations Consulting Sales Creative Writing
Author of *Inspiration for the Heart*

6490 Perfect View, Colorado Springs, CO 80919-3725 719.459.2981
CharlesCastle07@comcast.net



102 S. Tejon Street, Suite 430 | Colorado Springs, CO 80903 | P 719.471.8183 | F 719.471.9733 | www.cscedc.com

January 18, 2017

Colorado Springs City Council
City Hall
107 North Nevada, #300
Colorado Springs, CO 80903

Colorado Springs City Councilors,

I am writing to encourage your support for the Shooks Run Facilities Master Plan. The Plan provides a rare opportunity to creatively and concurrently address multiple infrastructure needs in a sizeable area east of downtown. The Plan considered infrastructure including multimodal transportation; stormwater; land use/urban planning; and environmental, recreational and economic opportunities within the project corridor.

The Plan presents recommendations for support and implementation of the concepts for decades into the future. These recommendations inform City elected leaders, City staff, neighbors and the community at-large regarding transportation and connectivity, access and maintenance, and land use regulation and review. The recommendations also including project funding priorities which support public and private investment, and reinvestment for the benefit of area businesses and residents.

Our City staff and their consultant team developed the Plan during a broad, inclusive public participation process over the last three years. Prior to joining the Chamber & EDC, I worked with the consultant team and know that many ideas were raised and vetted, with due consideration given to businesses and public infrastructure, neighborhoods and neighbors.

The resulting Plan is a bold vision to address big needs.

On behalf of the Chamber & EDC, I encourage you to adopt the Shooks Run Facilities Master Plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dirk D. Draper". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

Dirk D. Draper
President & CEO

DDD/cmc



P. O. Box 204, Colorado Springs, CO 80901

January 18, 2017

Colorado Springs City Council
107 N. Nevada, Room 300
Colorado Springs, CO 80903

Dear Members of City Council:

Re: Support for the Facilities Master Plan, Envision Shooks Run

As members of the Board of the Middle Shooks Run Neighborhood we urge you to accept the Envision Shooks Run Facilities Master Plan and to work to implement it.

As you know, Envision Shooks Run has been an extensive process, larger-minded in its approach than is typical of government processes, bringing multiple City agencies, neighborhood organizations including ours, and civic and business organizations together to plan – in fact to **envision** -- the riparian environment, stormwater infrastructure, streets and bridges, parks and destinations along our historic watercourse, in relation to each other and to the City as a whole. Our neighborhood, Middle Shooks Run, has been privileged to be represented on the project's Steering Committee, and many of our neighbors have participated in the lively public meetings which have been a consistent feature of Envision Shooks Run.

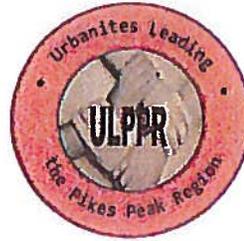
The Facilities Master Plan is the first major product of this process, and we have read it with great interest and respect. It presents a thorough and thoughtful assessment of the nature and prospects of five identified segments of the Shooks Run corridor: it correctly identifies Middle Shooks Run, the land along the creek from Uintah Street to Pikes Peak Avenue, as a "Residential Greenway." We note the plan's relationship to the Legacy Loop project for ringing downtown Colorado Springs with a bicycling and pedestrian trail and linear park, and promise to continue working with City and civic agencies to make that a real amenity. We note the ongoing problem of appropriation of public spaces, particularly in Middle Shooks Run, by our homeless fellow citizens.

As early as the City Beautiful plan of the early 20th Century, blight along what Charles Mulford Robinson called the "devastated banks of Shooks Run" has contended with the high value of this corridor as riparian green space. We are hopeful that this Facilities Master Plan marks a new beginning in realizing the potential of a close-in urban area we love.

Thank you for your constructive attention to this important document.

Yours sincerely,

Louise Connor, President
Owen Cramer
Nancy Strong



**Urbanites Leading
the Pikes Peak Region**

506 E. Moreno Avenue
Colorado Springs, CO 80903

T (719) 634-1525
F (719) 634-3357

www.ulppr.org

Tax ID: 84-0537544

January 17, 2017

City Council of Colorado Springs
107 N. Nevada Avenue, Suite 300
Colorado Springs, CO 80903

Dear Honorable Members of City Council:

Two years ago, a colleague suggested I attend an Envision Shooks Run Steering Committee meeting at the Hillside Community Center. The reason for my attendance was to observe the planning phases of the Facilities Master Plan and to be informed about the vision for connecting the lower Shooks Run area to downtown Colorado Springs. Most attractive about the plan was that natural space would be provided for our community to engage in recreational activity, while beautifying our trails and streams.

Our organization, located at 506 E. Moreno Avenue in Colorado Springs, sits at the base of Moreno Avenue along lower Shooks Run, and I am very concerned with maintaining the landscape and beautification along Fountain Creek. As a result of our location being within the boundaries of the affected area and my desire to see this plan reach fruition, I became a member of the Steering Committee. Now, in my second year of participating on the Steering Committee and meeting with community members who are vested in this effort, I can now envision the vitality of new business, job creation and the growth of our city's economic landscape, as presented by the consultants and the City storm water representatives.

Therefore, as Chair of the Board of Directors for the Urbanites Leading the Pikes Peak Region (ULPPR), I respectfully request that the City Council of Colorado Springs carefully review and APPROVE the Envision Shooks Run Facilities Master Plan. It's the right choice for our City moving forward!

Respectfully submitted,


Janice "JJ" Frazier, Chair
Board of Directors

The mission of the Urbanites Leading the Pikes Peak Region is to promote equality and opportunities for the socio-economically disadvantaged by providing and supporting educational programs, and fostering economic empowerment and public advocacy.

January 18, 2017

Colorado Springs City Council
107 North Nevada Ave. #300
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80903

RE: Approval of the Envision Shooks Run Facilities Master Plan

Members of the City Council of Colorado Springs,

As a Hillside neighborhood resident who was intimately involved in the creation of this document, I'm writing to encourage all of you to lend your full support to the Envision Shooks Run Facilities Master Plan.

This represents an opportunity to take something that has been neglected for years and create something positive that will benefit the entire community. It will tie together neighborhoods, resolve infrastructure problems, and address stormwater needs. It will not only fulfill its utilitarian obligations, but serve as a guide for future development of amenities in a thoughtful and integrated manner. The collaborative effort that led to this final document should serve as a model for future projects. This plan is the end result of a lot of hard work incorporating input from involved citizens, community leaders, and governmental officials.

The timing is right to begin the process of energizing the eastern edge of downtown Colorado Springs. New residential buildings are popping up, the Legacy Loop is becoming a reality, the downtown business district is booming, South Nevada Ave. is undergoing a massive redevelopment and the Shooks Run corridor provides an opportunity to link all these things together. With increased development will come the need for nearby recreational options, non-motorized transportation corridors, or even an urban oasis in the middle of a bustling city core. Moving water has the power to draw people in and Shooks Run could become so much more than just a channel to speed precipitation away.

This project will serve as an economic catalyst not just for the adjacent neighborhoods, but for the entire City. Surely that's a long term goal we should all approve of and support.

Jeff Cooper

Hillside resident
Shooks Run Steering Committee member



Board of Directors

Andrea Barker
Board Chair

Principal, HB&A Associates

Gary Barber

Vice Chair, Co-Founder
Sole Proprietor, Regional Water
Issues

Samantha Albert

El Pomar Fellow

Eileen Healy

Membership & Outreach Director
Trails and Open Space Coalition

Sean Holveck

Lead Creative, Holveck Designs

David Lord

Community Volunteer / Investor

Allison Plute

Fountain Creek Watershed
Project Manager,
Colorado Springs Utilities

Steve Rothstein, Ph.D.

(Acting) Executive Director,
Co-Founder

The Greenway Fund
702 E. Boulder St.
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80903

January 17, 2017

Colorado Springs City Council
107 North Nevada Ave., #300
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80903

RE: Approval of the Envision Shooks Run Facilities Master Plan

Members of the City Council of Colorado Springs,

On behalf of the Greenway Fund, I'd like to express our hope that the Envision Shooks Run Facilities Master Plan will garner your full support and approval.

This Plan is one our entire city should be proud of. The list of entities, organizations, and individuals involved in the effort alone is noteworthy. Not captured in the resolution, however, is the process that brought all of these entities together, kept us engaged, and over time built among us a sense of collaborative trust. This is not a plan being shoved down anybody's throats. It is a plan built from a sense of collective ownership across a wide array of otherwise disparate perspectives. That alone is impressive. (And kudos to the City Stormwater and consultant team that orchestrated and managed this effort).

More impressive still is the product that this process generated. The Envision Shooks Run Facilities Master Plan presents a vision that will fundamentally transform the eastern edge of our downtown landscape. It will connect neighborhoods to our economic core, it will provide dynamic and natural space in which to play, rest, meet, and engage. It will create a beautiful but safe conveyance of flowing water and trails, friendly to our environment and designed with our downstream neighbors responsibly in mind. Most of all, tomorrow's Shooks Run corridor will become an economic catalyst for our downtown and our city as a whole, attracting businesses, creating jobs, and growing our economic landscape.

The Envision Shooks Run Facilities Master Plan turns what today is a stormwater and infrastructure liability into a cultural, environmental, and economic asset. These are outcomes directly aligned with the Greenway Fund's mission and purpose. More importantly, these are outcomes that are good for our city—over the long term—and for all of us who will be living here in the years to come. Please, support and approve this Plan.

Steve Rothstein, Ph.D.
(Acting) Executive Director
The Greenway Fund



Trails and
Open Space
Coalition

702 E. Boulder St., Ste 200
Colorado Springs, CO 80903
719.633.6884

info@trailsandopenspaces.org
www.trailsandopenspaces.org

Mission: We work to preserve open space and parks, and create a network of trails, bikeways and greenways for the Pikes Peak region.

Dear Members of City Council,

We emphatically support the Envision Shooks Run process and Facilities Master Plan. As participants in the process from the beginning, our staff and members fully support the process and the product. We are excited about the potential for the corridor in terms of improved storm-water infrastructure as well as parks and trails integrated into the neighborhoods. Participants made their wishes quite clear: they want a plan that enhances their neighborhoods and community as well as provides for their safety.

We see Shooks Run as a community asset with great potential. Thanks to city staff and the consultants who took us through a comprehensive process and great plan.

We look forward to partnering with you every step of the way as we work to realize the plan.

Sincerely,

Susan Davies, Executive Director

Trails and Open Space Coalition

January 19, 2017

To: Colorado Springs City Council
107 North Nevada Ave., Ste.300
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80903

RE: Shooks Run Master Plan

The Envision Shooks Run Facilities Master Plan represents the culmination of a study by multiple organizations - City Engineering, Planning, Economic Development, Stormwater, Utilities, Traffic, Emergency Management, Parks & Rec, the consultant team, and others. Most interestingly and unusual – citizens input from multiple meetings. It is one of few such undertakings done with purposeful requested citizen input rather than citizens finding about a project and giving ‘outside’ / unsolicited input. About 15 years ago the SCIP (Springs Community Improvement Projects) got close but were presented to the citizenry in terms of what the City was going to do but were redirected by citizen input - more by demand than co-operation. A case in point, under SCIP the City advised a culvert replacement under Pikes Peak Avenue to be redone; the existing culvert was undersized for potential flood levels. The ‘Shooks Run Community’ [my designation] north of Pikes Peak Avenue, got together and suggested that rather than a culvert, an underpass and trail should be constructed. That trail is visible now when you drive by on Pikes Peak Avenue, and many people use it every day. There have been other single concept improvements such as Middle Shooks Run Park, but again, they were single concept improvements rather than an overall concept master plan for the Shooks Run area.

My regards to the City establishment for actively soliciting citizen input for a Master Plan. We should go forward with such over the long-term starting now rather than later when it cannot be done due to intervening one-time projects, and haphazard commercial and residential building.

The Envision Shooks Run Master Plan provides for needed infrastructure and cultural facilities making multiple uses of funds that must be expended, in any event, for deteriorating infrastructure. Further it will enhance City parks and social use by closing the loop with the Front Range and Monument Valley Park Trails that along with Shooks Run will compose a completed Legacy Loop. Envision Shooks Run will also allow for access to downtown facilities and businesses – a valuable business and social improvement with minimal infrastructure cost.

Envision Shooks Run is an integral part of a larger plan for downtown that includes the Parks System Master Plan and the Experience Downtown Plan. Without Envision Shooks Run those plans will be only partially fulfilled.

I encourage the City Council to look at implementing the Shooks Run Facilities Master Plan and to look further at the even bigger task of downtown development and the development of the impression of Colorado Springs as the “City of Champions” by providing facilities that encourage and support outdoor activities

Respectfully,
Charles Donachy

Aubrey Day
1507 N. El Paso St.
Colorado Springs, CO 80907

January 20, 2017

Colorado Springs City Council
107 N. Nevada Ave., Ste. 300
Colorado Springs, CO 80903

Re: Approval of the *Envision Shooks Run Facilities Master Plan*

Members of City Council,

As a member of the *Envision Shooks Run* Steering Committee, I'm pleased to express my support for the proposed Facilities Master Plan and recommend your unanimous approval.

I am proud to have been involved in such a **robust and intentional effort** and trust that you will see the community's investment reflected in the final product. As an advocate for healthier communities and multi-modal transportation, I have served on a number of long-range planning teams, and this process was **unprecedented in its community engagement and public involvement**. The way in which this plan was conducted – with several interactive community meetings and countless hours engaging residents – should serve as the standard for the City's public process.

Community input has resulted in **truly transformational improvement recommendations** along the corridor to benefit not only the adjacent neighborhoods and the greater downtown area but also the community at large and visitors alike. When implemented, Shooks Run will **realize its full potential as a treasured destination** and a catalyst for community development and economic vibrancy. The mix of recreation opportunities, bike and walkability, mixed-use development and natural surroundings offers something for everyone and will be valued by all.

It is on all of us, though, to find the funding to make this a reality. **Public investment will stimulate private investment, which is the only way this will come to fruition**. By aligning the plan with the Parks Master Plan and the Experience Downtown Plan, there is great opportunity for added benefit and exceptional return on investment.

As a native of Colorado Springs, I believe we're at a real tipping point, and projects like **what is envisioned for Shooks Run will attract more residents and businesses alike** to invest here and put down roots. I look forward to seeing it come to life.

Respectfully,



Aubrey Day



Council of Neighbors and Organizations
309 S. Cascade Avenue
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80903

Dave Munger executive director

Board of Directors

Jan Doran president emeritus
Rick Hoover president
Molly Merry vice president
Bruce Hutchison secretary
Chris Dorsett treasurer
Rachel Beck
Kristen Christy
Dana Cisneros
Dale Nesmith
Steve Sanchez
Grant Smith

Advisory Committee

Lisa Bachman Bachman PR
Tom Binnings Summit
Economics
Sallie Clark County of El Paso
Stuart Coppedge RTA
Architects
Stephannie Finley University of
Colorado Colorado Springs
Jill Gaebler City of Colorado
Springs
Jeff Greene City of Colorado
Springs
Kristy Milligan Rocky Mountain
PBS
CJ Moore Kaiser Permanente
Victoria Stone PPWFC
Fred Veitch Norwood
Development Group
Henry Yankowski County of El
Paso

January 19, 2017

Members of the City Council of Colorado Springs:

On behalf of the Board of the Council of Neighbors and Organizations, I am writing to express CONO's support for the Envision Shooks Run Facilities Master Plan, and to urge you to approve that Plan.

The Plan is the result of an impressive public process that brought together many concerned individuals and organizations to develop a thoughtful, sustainable approach to turning what is now largely an ignored liability into a community asset and amenity. CONO worked with the City staff and consultant team to help to promote the many opportunities provided for engagement in the Plan development.

The Envision Shooks Run Facilities Master Plan creates an approach which will reinvigorate many of our oldest neighborhoods while tying them more strongly to our downtown core. By addressing the stormwater and infrastructure issues now present along Shooks Run, it solves those problems while turning the waterway and its banks and adjacent land into a major recreational and social asset. That vision will encourage residential reinvestment and help to emphasize the desirability of living in those neighborhoods surrounding downtown.

The resulting beautiful waterway and trails address our need to provide environmentally responsible control over stormwater, demonstrates our stewardship to our downstream partners, and provides tangible proof of our city's determination to carry out the will of our responsible, engaged citizens. It is a great example of our intent to create and maintain a beautiful and economically dynamic City.

We strongly urge your approval of this Plan.

Thank you for your thoughtful and dedicated service to our City.

Sincerely,
Dave Munger, Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

Date: January 25, 2017
To: The Colorado Springs City Council, Mayor John Suthers, and City Planners.
From: Joe Barrera, Envision Shooks Run Steering Committee.
Subject: Shooks Run Facilities Master Plan and Redevelopment Project.

I have served on the Envision Shooks Run Steering Committee over the last year-and-a-half. During this time it has been a real privilege to work with professionals from City Planning and Development, the City Department of Public Works, Engineering Division, and community outreach and storm water consultants working with the City on plans for the complete make-over of the long-neglected waterway known as Shooks Run and its effect on adjacent neighborhoods. The Steering Committee is fortunate to include among its members many community leaders and neighborhood residents who want the City of Colorado Springs to address fundamental issues along the Shooks Run Corridor. The whole process has been completely transparent and inclusive of the diverse perspectives offered by engineers, redevelopment professionals and neighborhood and community leaders.

It is the consensus of the highly professional team comprising the Envision Shooks Run Committee that the City must act soon on the rehabilitation of Shooks Run. This is especially true in terms of storm water run-off. As we know, Shooks Run is just east of downtown, extending south from the Patty Jewett area and flowing into Fountain Creek. In spite of its importance as a vital storm water outlet, many citizens and even some elected officials are not aware of the potential that exists along the length of the stream for dangerous flooding in the event of the periodic localized deluges that occur in this part of the Front Range. One such rain and hailstorm occurred in the summer of 2016 to the east of Shooks Run, approximately in the area of East Bijou and North Logan streets, and caused significant damage, partly because of the lack of adequate drainage. We were fortunate that this storm did not occur in the Patty Jewett area because that would have caused severe flooding downstream on Shooks Run.

The Shooks Run Facilities Master Plan is coordinated with the City Comprehensive Plan, the Parks System Master Plan, the Experience Downtown Plan, and the Legacy Loop, as envisioned by the founder of Colorado Springs, General William Jackson Palmer. It is important to carefully note that the Shooks Run Facilities Master Plan emphasizes creek infrastructure, to include the replacement or rebuilding of forty bridges, retaining walls, and culverts. Some of the bridges are more than 100-years-old and in immediate need of vital attention. In addition, the Shooks Run Plan sees the construction of hike and bike trails, picnic areas, and other amenities that would convert the corridor to a dynamic asset from the eyesore that it is now in many places.

Finally, I would like to point out that the City of Colorado Springs has an unfortunate history of neglecting older parts of town, in this case the area known as Lower Shooks Run. Lower Shooks Run is only a few blocks from our revitalized downtown. Unless it is given the attention it deserves, Lower Shooks Run, both the creek and the neighborhood, will only detract from the successful efforts to transform our downtown core into what it always should be -- the vital heart of our community.

For many years, since I was a reading tutor at Helen Hunt Elementary School, now unfortunately closed, I have had an interest in the redevelopment of the Lower Shooks Run neighborhood. Lower Shooks Run is home to large numbers of Black and Latino residents. As a founding member of the Colorado Springs Black/Latino Coalition, it is my desire to make this neighborhood once again desirable for young families to raise children and participate in the civic and recreational life of our city.

Sincerely,
Joe Barrera, Ph.D.
Black/Latino Coalition
Envision Shooks Run Steering Committee

The Family of Sims, Rogers and Lopez
1220 North Wahsatch Avenue
2422 North Royer Street
Colorado Springs, CO 80903

January 24, 2017

Colorado Springs City Council
107 North Nevada Avenue, #300
Colorado Springs, CO 80903

RE: In support of the Envision Shooks Run Facilities Master Plan

Members of the City Council of Colorado Springs,

On behalf of myself and my family, I would like to express a sincere hope that you will recognize the effort and energy it has taken to organize and present the community ideas and hopes for our neighborhood and approve the Envision Shooks Run Facilities Master Plan. This plan addresses the infrastructure and drainage elements that will be repaired or replaced in the next few years, and meshes those with environmental, transportation, recreation and economic opportunities. It is consistent with other community plans such as "Parks System Master Plan" and the "Experience Downtown Plan".

When this project began, I represented ONEN, being a past board member and secretary. My husband was ONEN president at that time. We now weigh in as past ONEN board members, who have taken part throughout the entire process. We are familiar with ONEN's Master Plan and believe this plan is consistent with ONEN's interests as well.

It has been truly heartening to witness the professionalism and effort of this diverse group of citizens, city staff members, property owners, volunteer groups that have taken part in the process - who have turned out for meetings, brought differing perspectives, spoken up in public and written letters and made phone calls and looked at the evolving information - when as you know - it is always so much easier to sit back and complain at the end!

We share the enthusiasm we witnessed when a room of 600+ people voted overwhelmingly to encourage our leaders to Envision the possibilities! We all agreed that Shooks Run could and should, be an asset to our city - just as so many other municipalities have discovered - it has been there all along and we are ready to make it great!

We urge you to Approve the Plan and direct City Staff to identify funding sources for implementation.

Sincerely,
Jeanie C. Sims
William A. Rogers
Andrew L. Lopez
Virginia L. Lopez
Ruby A. Hawkins