

40 West ArtLine

URBAN DESIGN AND MOBILITY ENHANCEMENTS

Executive Summary

PREPARED FOR
CITY OF LAKEWOOD

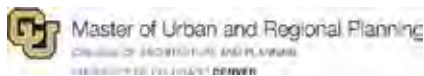
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MASTER OF URBAN + REGIONAL PLANNING PROGRAM

Spring 2020 Capstone Project



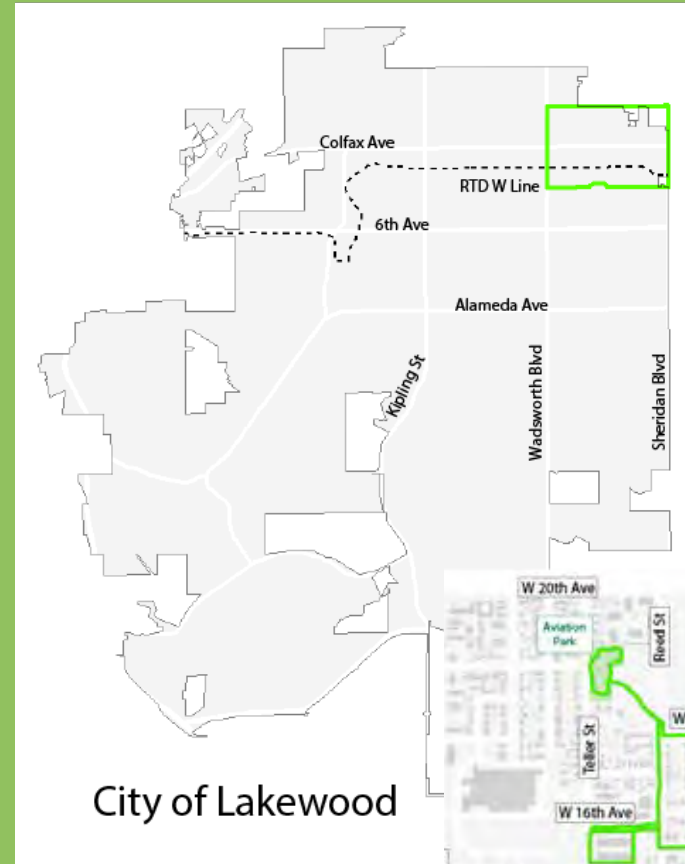
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

The 40 West ArtLine, which opened in 2018, is a 4-mile urban arts trail located off of the W Colfax Ave corridor in Lakewood, CO, and within the city's 40 West Arts District. Users travel the ArtLine via a green route that is painted on the ground, and incorporates art in the form of murals, sculptures, fence features and more to create one of the longest continuous art experiences in Colorado.

Since its opening, the ArtLine has successfully connected residents and visitors to transit, three community parks, and other public spaces while simultaneously immersing the community in public art and art and culture-focused events, and improving pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure in the area.

The city wishes the ArtLine to be a popular and accessible alternative transportation and recreation option that creates artistic experiences and opportunities, connects people, and celebrates Lakewood West Colfax as a vibrant arts, cultural, and economic destination.



40 West ArtLine Map

Site context:
ArtLine Location in Lakewood, CO



THE CHALLENGE

The ArtLine has seen great success over the last four years. However, the city does not fully understand how the ArtLine is used and perceived, nor is the data available to allow the city to identify where there are gaps in pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, placemaking and wayfinding, and connections to local amenities.

The City of Lakewood and 40 West Arts District hopes to improve pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, connectivity to community amenities, and activate corridors along the ArtLine, as well as better understand how the ArtLine can be maintained and funded in the short and long-term.

This project team was tasked with creating a GIS database of trail features and gathering property owner, business owner, employee, and other community member feedback to plan to further develop the ArtLine as an active transportation experience, placemaking tool, and community connector.

ELEMENTS OF THE PROJECT

3

MAIN SECTIONS

Study and Survey
Analysis of Results
Recommendations

2

PROJECT COMPONENTS

Mobility and Transportation
Art and Placemaking

3

AREAS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

Mobility and Access
Placemaking and Wayfinding
Maintenance and Funding



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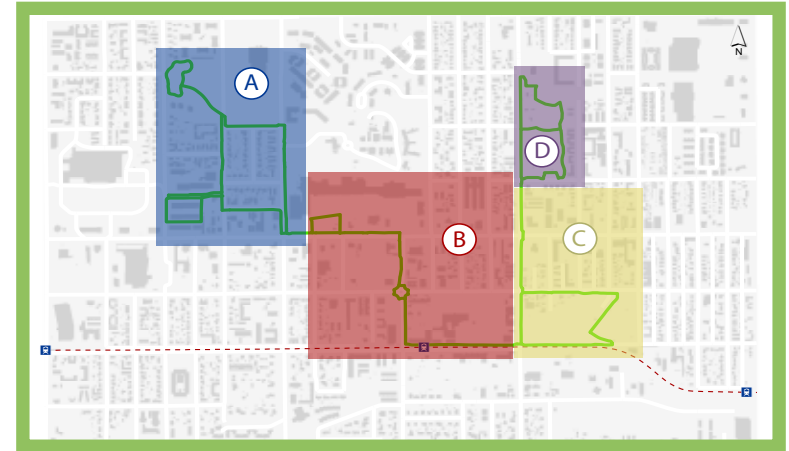
PROJECT OBJECTIVES

This capstone project aims to locate the missing links along the 40 West Artline and determine the best strategies for improving accessibility, activity, and community interaction. Additionally, understanding how residents and users are currently interacting with the trail, what they enjoy, and where they have identified areas of opportunity are necessary for the future success and evolution of the ArtLine.

1. Perform GIS mapping to reveal where there are gaps in design and infrastructure.
2. Identify priority areas and recommendations for how to activate those corridors.
3. Discover opportunities for new art installation locations and placemaking.
4. Develop and distribute an online survey that will ask key questions regarding how users currently enjoy the trail and what can be improved upon.
5. Generate ideas for maintaining and financing the trail for the short-term and long-term.
6. Provide actionable steps to enhance the pedestrian and cyclist environment's connection to community amenities and landmarks, including three neighborhood parks.

METHODOLOGY

The project team's methodology focused on three key elements: data collection, survey distribution, and subject expert interviews. Data was collected in order to develop a GIS database of existing amenities and features along the ArtLine as well as to identify missing links along the trail. Data collection was done by visiting the ArtLine on four separate days, each day tackling one section of the trail. As seen in the map to the right, the day one correlates with subarea A, and day four correlates with subarea D. The team also developed a survey and survey advertisement materials that were distributed to 5,000 households, businesses, employees, and potential future residents. Lastly, the project team gathered important information and knowledge from subject matter experts that aided the team in understanding the development of urban trails, GIS database creation, survey best practices, traffic and transportation infrastructure, and more.



These components together shaped the steps necessary to complete this project successfully: existing conditions analysis through data collection, community survey development and analysis, identification of priority areas and solutions, and finally, comprehensive short and long-term recommendations and action steps.

Step 1: Existing Conditions

Mobility and Access Counts

Sidewalk Stretches	42
Crosswalks	26
Stop Signs	18
Bike Racks	8
Timed Crossings	5

Placemaking and Wayfinding Counts

Drinking Fountain	1
Trash Bins	28
Seating	30
Street Trees	43
Pedestrian Lighting	50
Street Lighting	61
Wayfinding	101
Art Pieces	136

A full existing conditions analysis was performed by collecting data across the ArtLine and mapping all infrastructure and amenities while in the field. This information was used to help inform the next steps of the project: developing a community survey. Observations from walking each section of the trail helped to determine potential priority areas that could be supported by community feedback/input.

Step 2: Survey Development and Analysis

The survey sent to 5,000 recipients was broken into five sections and asked questions regarding who the respondents are, their familiarity with the ArtLine and 40 West Arts District, how they use the ArtLine, how they feel while experiencing the ArtLine, and how they rate ArtLine infrastructure and amenities available. 359 responses were found to be legitimate and were studied.

Comments from survey respondents were overall positive, with many comments on how the ArtLine is a valuable community asset that improves user's moods significantly. The art has been met with overwhelming positive feedback and the following favorite art features were found in survey results:

#1 Murals

#2 Fence Art

#3 Ground Murals/Games

However, it was found that many residents feel uncomfortable and often unsafe along the route due to high speeds along W Colfax Ave, a lack of lighting, missing sidewalks, worn down crossings, insufficient resting places, and inconsistent signage. There was also a large number of responses that wished for more landscaping along the ArtLine. The bicycle infrastructure available is another issue addressed by respondents, who would like better connectivity from the ArtLine to other trails and parks. The four most prominent areas noted in need of overall improvement included:

#1 Reed Street

#2 W 16th Avenue

#3 Lakewood Place

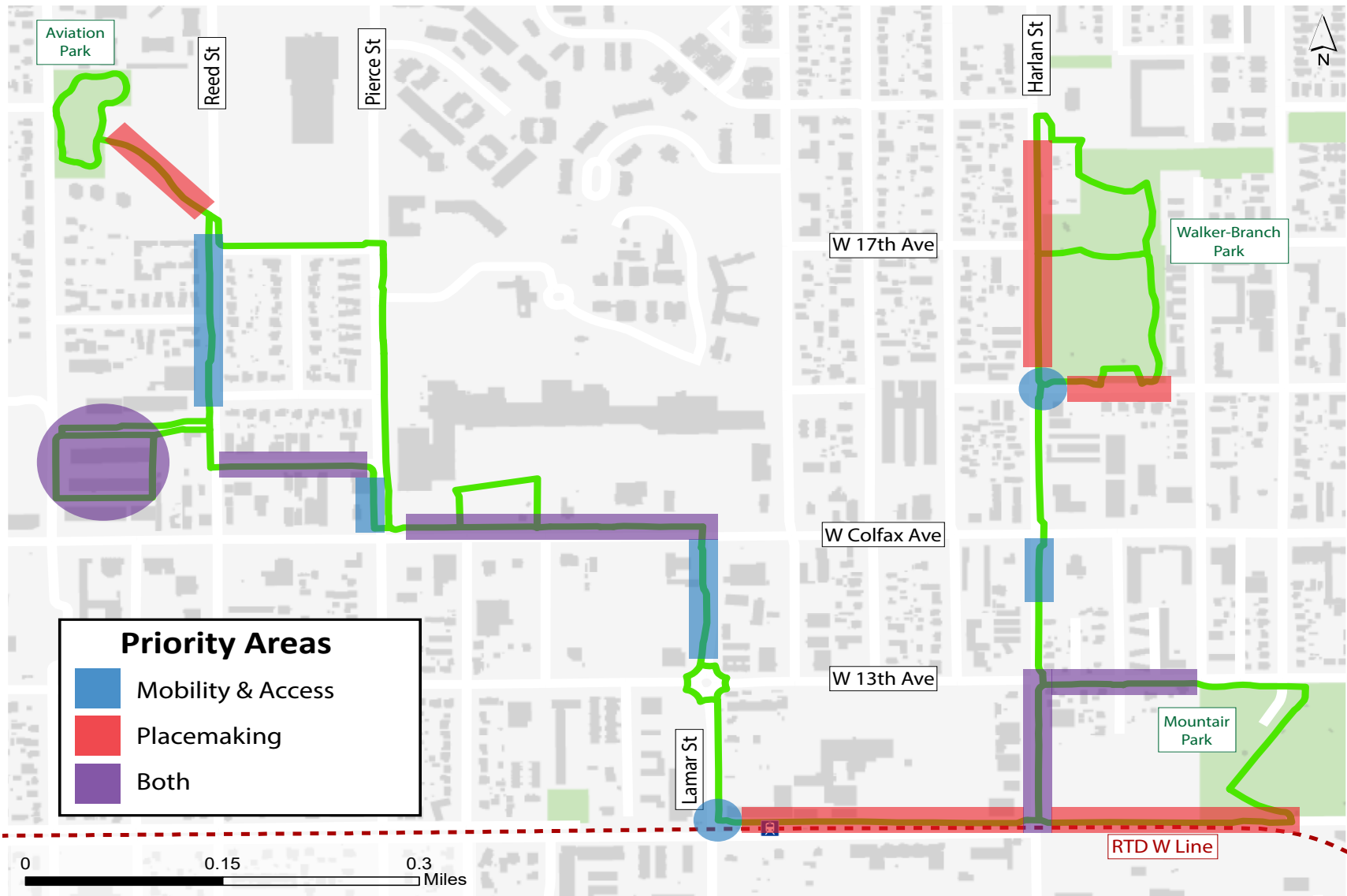
#4 W 17th Avenue

Results did, however, reinforce many of the original problems identified while studying existing conditions. Specifically looking at sidewalk and crosswalk conditions, the project team noticed that sidewalks were most severely lacking in section A of the ArtLine. Survey respondents tended to agree, noting the main areas they see need improvement are all in **Subarea A**.

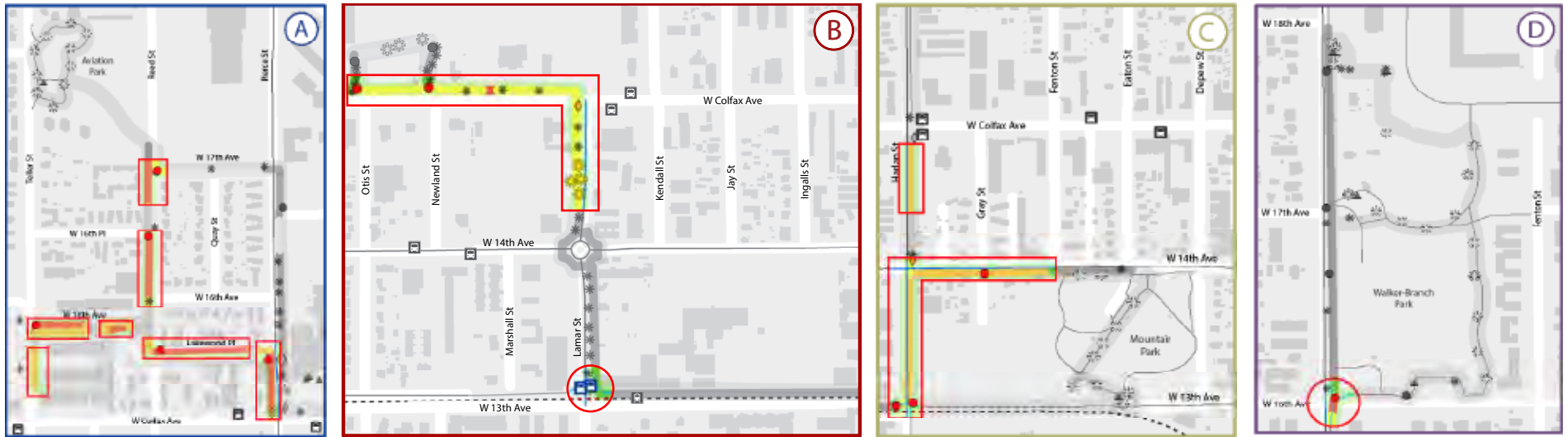


Step 3: Identification of Priority Areas

Upon reviewing both existing conditions data and survey results, the project team found several gaps along the ArtLine route and identified priority corridors (circled in red) in need of the most attention and improvements. Priority areas were identified by subareas A-D identified on the map on the previous page, and further broken down by mobility and access and placemaking amenities



Mobility and Access



These corridors were selected based on gaps identified in these areas as well as the need for **bicycle infrastructure, street features and infrastructure, and sidewalk and crosswalk improvements.**

Placemaking Amenities



These corridors were selected based on gaps identified in these areas as well as the need for **lighting and pedestrian amenities improvements.**

Step 4: Recommendations and Action Steps

To assist in addressing gaps in infrastructure and priority areas that the City of Lakewood and its partners should focus efforts on immediately, a recommendations matrix was developed. Below are the highest priority recommendations broken down by planning elements: mobility and access, placemaking and wayfinding, and maintenance and funding mechanisms. The previous step identified priority corridors and offered solutions that are immediate short-term, cost effective solutions. Recommendations for the long-term future of the project, largely informed by the visioning completed by survey respondents and information gathered from subject matter experts, are found in the following matrix.

Problem/Priority Area	Recommended Improvement/Solution	Time Frame	Budget
Paint touch ups	Green ArtLine paint and Crosswalk paint needs touch ups at several places throughout the trail. There are also instances where green paint is nonexistent and should be incorporated.	>1 year	\$\$
Litter Cleanup and Landscaping	Debris and litter clutter several stretches of the ArtLine. There is also overgrown shrubbery and trees blocking the ArtLine path. Cleanup efforts are recommended immediately.	>1 year	\$
Bicycle Facilities near Aviation Park	Bicycle rack needed at Aviation Park	<1 year	\$
Sidewalks on Reed Street	Remove green line from roads and allocate to sidewalks.	1-2 years	\$
	Build missing sidewalks and improve existing sidewalks.	2-3 years	\$\$\$
Crossing Reed Street at W 17 th Avenue	Build a marked crosswalk and include pedestrian crossing signage	1-2 years	\$\$
Crossing Reed Street at Lakewood Place	Build a marked crosswalk and include pedestrian crossing signage	1-2 years	\$\$
Sidewalk on west side of Pierce Street north of W Colfax Avenue	Build a sidewalk outside of Cordial Lounge	2-3 years	\$\$\$

Crossing Lakewood Place at Pierce Street	Build a marked crosswalk	1-2 years	\$\$
Sidewalk and general parking lot area on Teller Street outside of Art Hub	Extend sidewalk and designate driveway areas into parking lot	3-5 years	\$\$\$\$
W Colfax Ave Safety Improvements	More areas for pedestrians to safely cross are needed to avoid dangerous interactions between vehicles and people. (This recommendation is guided by the ongoing West Colfax Safety Project)	2 years	\$\$\$\$
	Consider indicating that bicycle travel is encouraged on the W Colfax sidewalk stretch between Lamar St and Pierce St.	<1 year	\$
Timed crossing at W Colfax Ave and Lamar St	Provide more accommodation to those who need a longer time to cross	1-2 years	\$\$
Stop signs at train crossing on N Harlan St	Replace uncontrolled crossing with controlled crossing	<1 year	\$
Sidewalk outside happy motors	Bar cars from parking on the ArtLine route	2-3 years	\$\$-\$\$\$

Placemaking and Wayfinding

Problem/Priority Area	Recommended Improvement/Solution	Time Frame	Budget
Seating and Trash Bins	Seating and Trash bins should be paired wherever possible and placed primarily at transit stops. These amenities can double as marketing using the bright colors associated with the 40 West Arts District.	<1 year	\$\$
Entrance to Aviation Park from Teller St	Add pedestrian scale lighting	1 year	\$
Lakewood Place	Add pedestrian scale lighting	1-2 years	\$
W Colfax Ave	Add pedestrian scaled lighting throughout the arterial	1-2 years	\$\$
W Line Bike Path	Add pedestrian scale lighting	1 year	\$

Art and Programming

Events and activities can encourage community development and create a sense of identity around the ArtLine. Many other urban trails across the country host events centered around arts and culture which bring diverse residents together to create lasting memories. The project team recommends the following:

- Bike sharing
- Farmers and arts and crafts markets with local vendors held in the parks during warmer months
- Audio tours of the art along the trail
- Holiday lights tours in the winter
- Events where the community can create and install temporary public art
- A scavenger hunt that encourages users to visit local businesses along the trail
- Art classes, social clubs, or after school and summer programs hosted in the parks

Additionally, many survey respondents expressed a desire for more accessible and informative wayfinding. More wayfinding could be placed outside of the trail throughout the city to garner interest especially for residents or community members who are not familiar with either the arts district or ArtLine. Suggestions for more wayfinding types and placement include:

- Postcards or wallet sized mailers that residents can keep on them
- Pamphlets placed at transit stations, on RTD buses, in libraries, or other community centers throughout Lakewood
- Directional signage at transit stops within the district
- Signage at nearby commercial hubs such as at the intersection of Colfax and Wadsworth or the Belmar Shopping Mall
- Advertisements in local publications
- Street furniture designed using the bright colors associated with the 40 West Arts District

Maintenance and Funding Mechanisms

Problem/Priority Area	Recommended Improvement/Solution	Time Frame	Budget
Delegate maintenance, funding, and programming of the ArtLine.	Develop 40 West Arts District Community Coalition	1-2 years	\$

Funding public art and public space initiatives does not have to come from grants alone. Other solutions can include:

- Implementing an overlay zoning in the arts district can generate funds by providing incentives to encourage new developers to dedicate a small percentage of their budget to the funding of public art and public spaces.
- Tax increment financing can allow for a percentage of property or sales tax in an area to be directed towards funding public projects.
- Percent-for-art programs could supplement more funding as it distributes a portion of new construction or renovation budgets to commission, installation, and maintenance of public art.
- Coalition building can address a municipality's concerns of funding and capacity to manage implementation and maintenance of public art.

“Make it bright! Make it known! Make it safe!”

By focusing on lighting throughout, better placemaking across the trail and extended to adjacent neighborhoods, and enhancing infrastructure to create safer travel, the ArtLine can continue to better create, connect, and celebrate Lakewood West Colfax as a vibrant arts, cultural, and economic destination.