

Measuring Transit Equity and Access to Opportunity in Metro Denver

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Rail~Volution
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About Mile High Connects

- **Mission:** Ensure the Metro Denver regional transit system fosters communities that offer all residents the opportunity for a high quality of life.
- Collaborative of nonprofit and philanthropic partners
- Diverse areas of expertise, but all committed to developing inclusive, affordable and livable communities around transit



The Denver Regional Equity Atlas

- Visual representation of the transit system and characteristics of our region
- Lens of equity and access to opportunity
- A tool for developing strategy and benchmarking progress



THE DENVER REGIONAL EQUITY ATLAS

Mapping Access to Opportunity at a Regional Scale

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



MileHighConnects

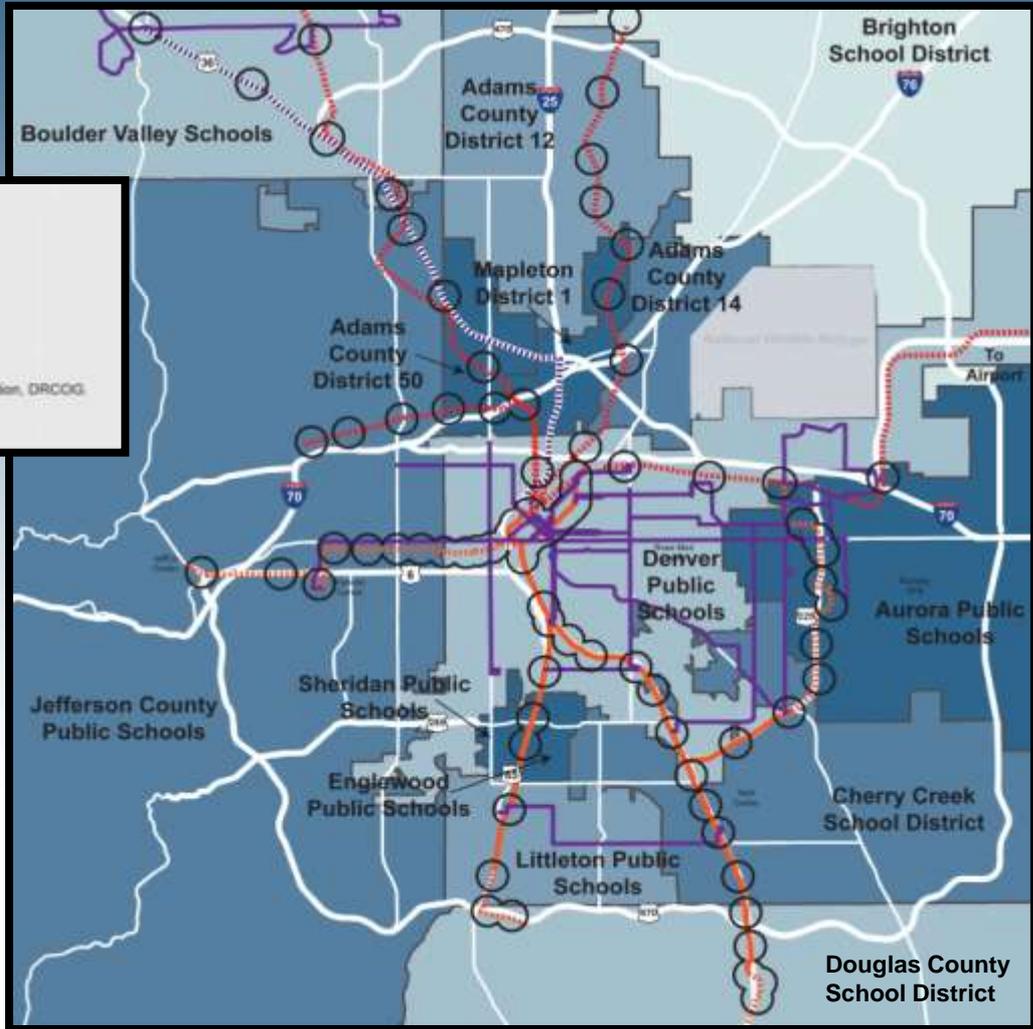
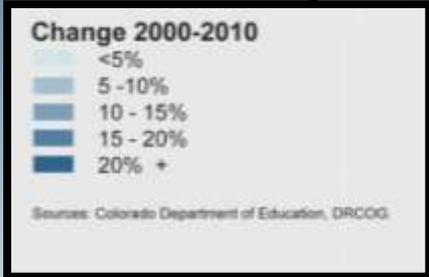
What is the story of our region?

Some key findings from the Atlas

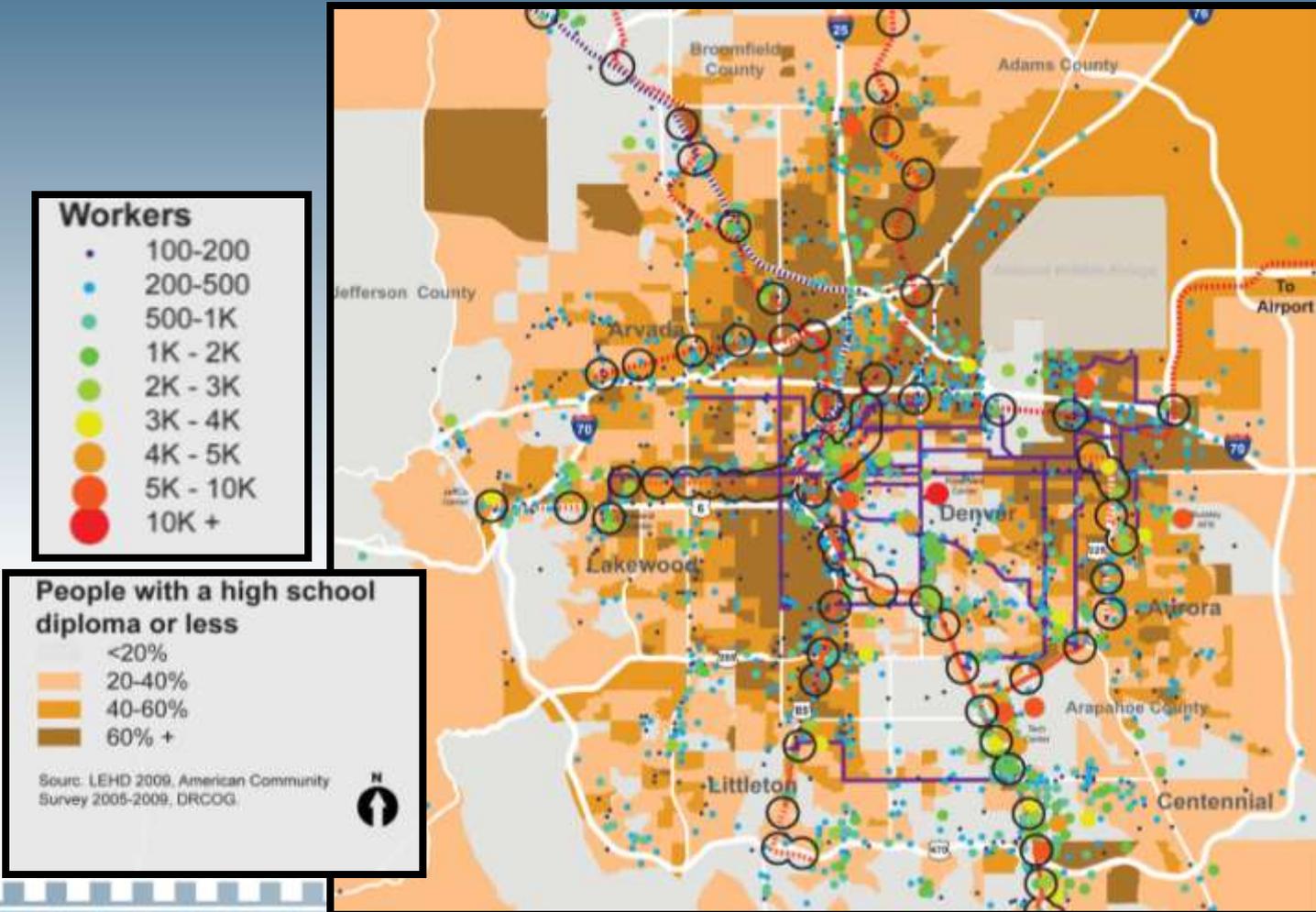


Poverty is a regional issue

Change in Free and Reduced Lunch



Access to opportunity will improve with FasTracks, but gaps will remain

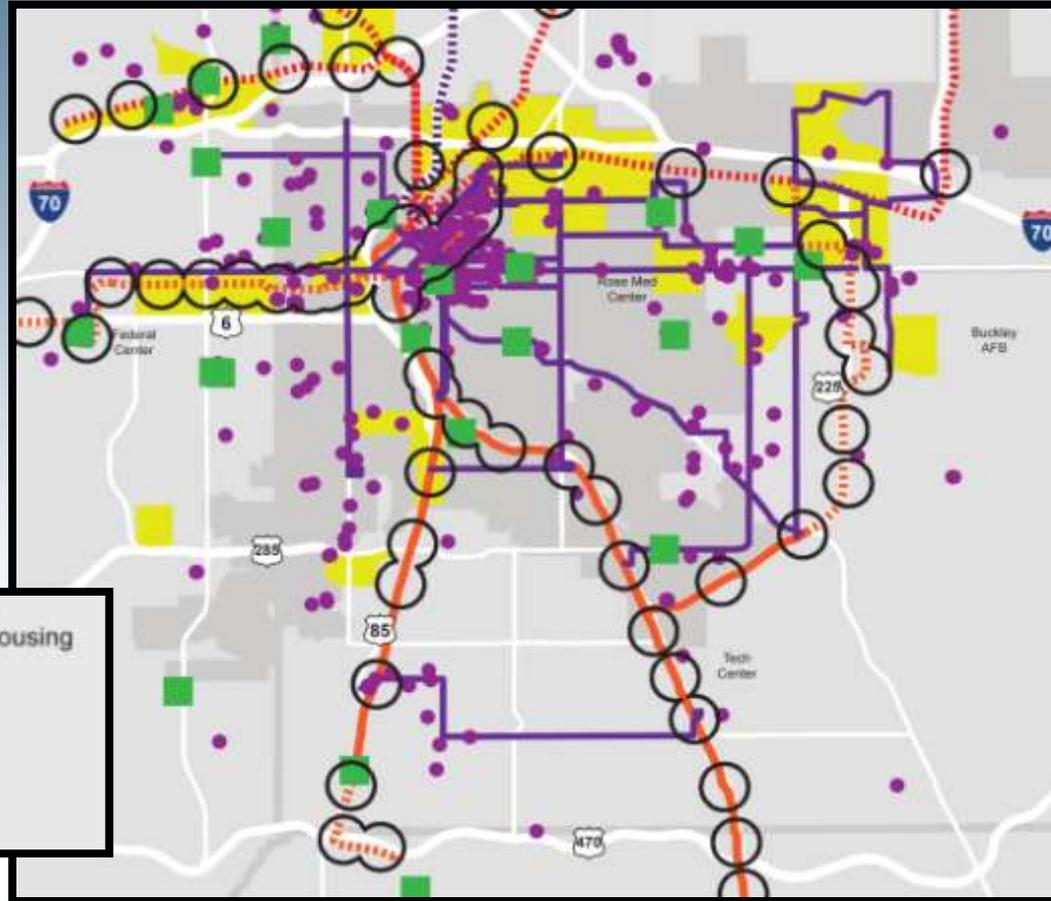


Educational attainment and jobs



Access to opportunity will improve with FasTracks, but gaps will remain

Access to Healthy Food

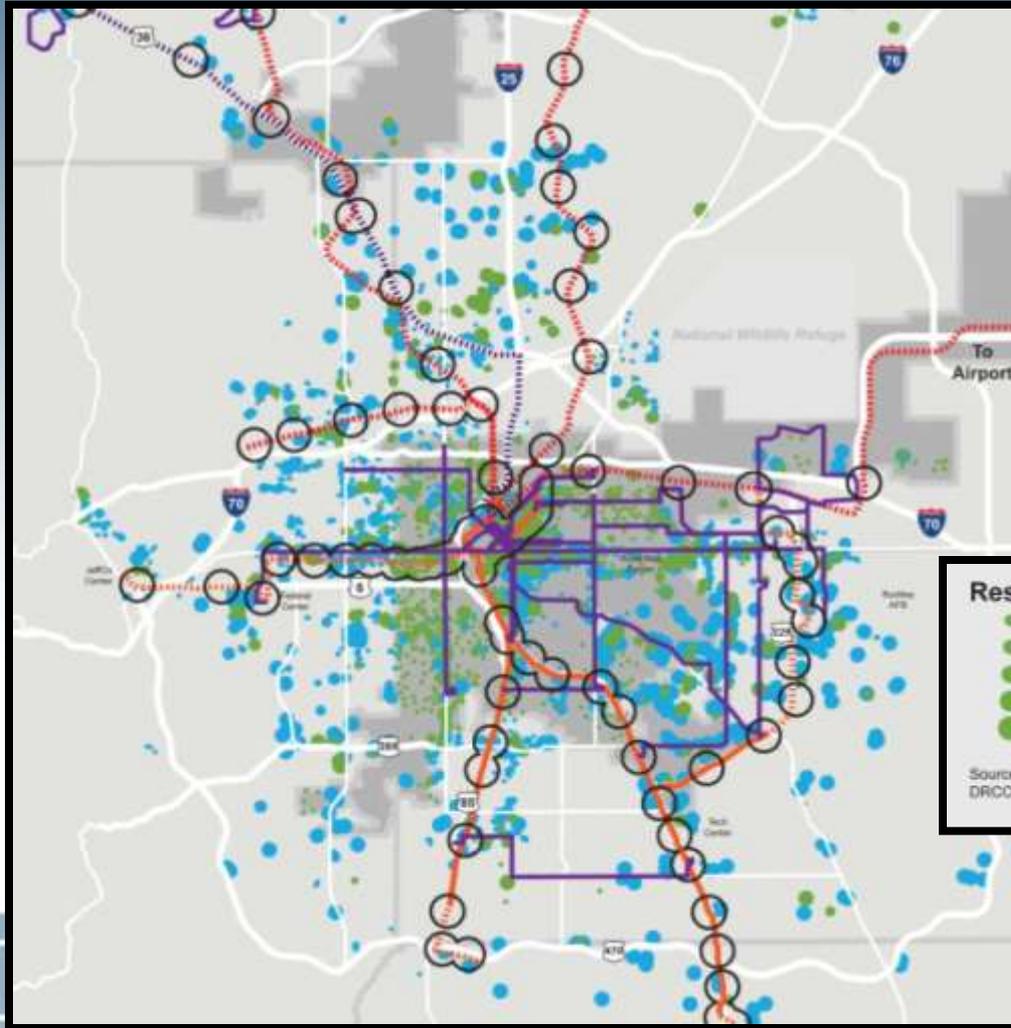


Last-mile connections are essential

Quality Early Childhood Programs



Increased demand for transit may cause gentrification and displacement pressures



Distribution of Affordable Rental Housing



**We know the current state of our region –
how will we know if MHC’s efforts are
successful moving forward?**



From Baseline to Measuring Success

- Equity Atlas creates momentum for moving forward
- Opportunity to measure success in new ways
- Where we are now:
 - Comprehensive list of possible indicators
 - Exploring ideas and frameworks from other efforts
 - Additional capacity needed to establish our model



Questions and Next Steps

- Hire a researcher/evaluator
- **Some questions at this stage:**
 - How do we prioritize from all possible indicators?
 - What set of indicators is most useful and relevant for MHC?
 - Which goals or indicators are “bigger than MHC”?
 - Where are there opportunities to align with other evaluation efforts in the region, in Colorado and nationally?



Thank You!

Visit www.MileHighConnects.org to learn more about MHC and view the Equity Atlas!

