Creating Economic Opportunity at Transit Stations in the Denver Region: The Mile High Connects Job Access Initiative

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Overview

• Key Themes:
  – Spatial aspects of equity in job access
  – Importance of middle-skill jobs to economic opportunity

• Projects
  – Denver Regional Equity Atlas
  – Economic Opportunity Typology
The Regional Equity Atlas

How are the persons, places & things we care about connected?

Where are they?
Do I even know where they are?

How do I get there?
Can I get there?

Transit

Housing
Health
Education
Jobs
The Region is Interdependent

Jobs

Affordable Housing
FasTracks will improve access to opportunity, but gaps will remain.

Low & Middle-Skill Jobs

Low-Income Households
Economic Opportunity Typology

• Gain a better understanding of the economic and workforce development opportunities at each transit station
  – Assess each station’s strengths & weaknesses
  – Understand each station in a corridor context
  – Identify places to focus resources
  – Provide an evaluation tool for practitioners and decisionmakers
  – Devise recommendations on strengthening economic & workforce development at each station area

• View plans with an economic rather than pure land use lens
High Concentration of Industrial and Transportation Related Jobs
Diverse Industry Clusters along Corridor
West Corridor: Economic Opportunity Typology
Middle-Skill Job Centers

Legend:
- Frequent Bus Service
- Existing Light Rail
- Future Bus Rapid Transit
- Future Fixed-Guideway Transit
- Major Roads
- City Boundaries
- Half mile around stations
- Metropolitan area

Place Type:
- Low
- Medium
- High

Regional Transit System

Map showing locations and their corresponding economic opportunity levels.
Economic Opportunity Profile for the Decatur-Federal Station

Economic Strengths
- Work-Supportive Business Centers
- Middle-Skill Job Centers
- Skill-Building Centers

Place Type
- Work-Supportive Business--MEDIUM: Decatur-Federal is home to several small neighborhood-serving businesses, along with a recreation center, workforce training center, and soon a library and grocery store. It is also home to a public housing development, Sun Valley, and other affordable housing units.
- Middle-Skill Jobs--HIGH: The station area is a thriving industrial and entertainment job center, with large manufacturing and other light & heavy industrial warehouses directly south of the station. To the north lies Sports Authority Field at Mile High Stadium, home of the Denver Broncos, the region’s professional football team.
- Skillbuilding--LOW: Besides the one workforce training center, most other adult basic education, GED, community college and industry training providers are located elsewhere in the region. The Auraria campus is just a few stops away on the West Line.
So What We Do with This?

• Spatial mapping helps visualize access to opportunity

• Tools for engaging with practitioners and decisionmakers and helping them understand importance of jobs, economic & workforce development near transit

• Identify places to intervene and focus resources

• Understand strengths & weaknesses of different neighborhoods and how transit will level the playing field
Questions?

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